President’s Message

I hope this message finds you happy and safe. Last February, as I sat down to write my message for the spring newsletter, I was looking forward to attending a work conference in Montana, a family vacation over the summer and seeing all of you at the annual meeting in April. I didn’t have “Make it Through a Pandemic” on my calendar, did you? Even in the late weeks of spring I naively thought this would all “blow over” soon and my life would be back to “normal” (what’s even normal?) by fall.

As we adjust to new ways of teaching programs, attending events and socializing with friends, we can’t let our work slow down or go unnoticed. Oklahoma Extension was born in 1914; it has been a staple in our state for 106 years. While we might be the first FCS Ambassadors to live and work in a pandemic, this isn’t the first time Extension survived one (Spanish Flu, 1918). Organizations don’t last for 106 years unless they know how to be flexible and grow.

The same applies to Ambassadors, next year we will celebrate our 30th anniversary. We haven’t made it 29 years without overcoming some challenges and setting some goals. The tests of 2020 give us a chance to prove our dedication and relevance in the face of adversity. I know your board and committee chairs have been working hard to make necessary adjustments, so the goals of Ambassadors keep moving forward into 2021 and beyond.

That brings us to this fall. You will find updates in the newsletter about the annual meeting, which has been rescheduled. It will be a virtual event, and we hope to see all of you there! Grant awards for 2020-2021 have be selected, and winners will be announced at the meeting. If you haven’t made your membership donation this year, you can do that at any time. And as a quick reminder, if you would like to donate above just your membership fee, we are 94% of the way to reaching our $1 million endowment fund goal. Help us reach this goal by our 30th anniversary!

In closing, I want to say thank you to our board of directors, committee chairs and committee members who have had to go above and beyond what is asked of them in “normal” years. Thank you, all our members who applied for grants this year. And thank YOU, for being a member and continuing to support FCS Ambassadors.

Sincerely,
Amanda Ford
Dear FCS Ambassadors:

Greetings from the FCS Extension State office! Our new college was officially launched on July 1. The College of Education and Human Sciences has GREAT potential for FCS programming. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cooperative Extension and CE-FCS Ambassadors have needed to rethink and retool efforts. I am proud of the work we are able to accomplish during COVID-19. Thank you for your commitment to making an impact in Oklahoma.

Gina Peek
Interim Associate Dean,
Extension & Engagement
Assistant Director, Cooperative Extension-FCS

Public Relations Committee Report

Due to the state OHCE meeting being cancelled for 2020, the Ambassador Auction was not held in 2020. We look forward to the July 2021 silent auction and hope it will be our best ever. Watch for further details to be sent out next Spring.

Brenda Hill, Ph.D., CED
Public Relations Committee

Communication Committee

We belong to a wonderful organization!

Ambassador Grant funds assist County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Educators create projects within their counties, to provide research-based education (and fun) to youth as well as adults. Grant funds helped create, among the numerous programs and projects, “4-H Yoga for Kids,” “Mix It Up” (purchased equipment to “provide classes and demonstrations making homemade pasta, healthy salads and bread dough with the latest technology”); and “The Creative Edge” - a multi-county grant applicant that provided funds to offer programs and painting projects on ‘Barn Quilts,’ ‘Stars & Stripes Stack’ and ‘Terracotta Pots’ with educational programs including Culture and History, American Flag Etiquette and Cooking with Fresh Herbs.

Many programs were and continue to be provided with the assistance of Awards and Grants available from FCS Ambassadors. You can help “Ensure a Bright Future by Helping Build the Endowments” by contributing to the Ambassador General Fund and or the Margaret Edsel Fitch Extension Fellowship. Thank you for your support!

Tara Brown
Communications Committee Member
Slate of Officer Nominees

According to the CE-FCS Bylaws, “the Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominees for each office and director positions to be filled in a given year.” The following is the slate of officers provided by the current Nominating Committee for the upcoming election during the Annual Ambassador Meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020 to be held via Zoom.

President-Elect: Dana Baldwin
Secretary: Tara Brown
Treasurer: Jan Dawson

Board Members: Sonya McDaniel
Joyce Sherrer
Brenda Hill
Trinity Brown
Rachel Lockwood

Please note that the Bylaws also state that “additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting if prior approval from the nominee has been obtained, and if they meet the qualifications of that office.”

Jan Maples
Past-President, Nominating Committee Chair
Awards and Grants

Congratulations to all the 2020-21 CE-FCS Ambassador’s grant recipients. A total of 18 grants worth $28,494.97 were given for this grant cycle. Additionally, three Margaret Edsel Fitch Fellowships were awarded, which totaled $6,160. The total awarded for 2020-21 is $34,654.97 out of a potential award amount of $44,500. As we are all aware, The Southeast District OHCE winners were announced. The announcement of the remaining OHCE grant winners has been postponed until the Annual Board meeting.

NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS! You have just a little more time to think about projects you have been dreaming about providing for your county or state project. The 2021/2022 grant applications will be due on January 10, 2021. Announcements of successful grants will take place in the spring, with project implementation and spending between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Put on your thinking caps for ideas the CE-FCS Ambassadors can help you achieve in the future. All grant applications can be found at the Family and Consumer Sciences Ambassador website. All applications should be sent to Susan Routh (susan.routh@okstate.edu) by the January 10th deadline. Early applications will be accepted, however no early awards or funding will be permitted.

Here is a list of grant categories to help get you started.

- County Grants (6 available) = $1000 each
- OHCE County Grants (5 available) = $800 each
- State Specialist Grant (can fund more than one) = $3,000 cap for category
- Multi-County Grant (3 available) = $1,000 each
- Blackwell Legacy Award (1 available) = $15,000 up to three year project
- Blackwell Supplemental Award (1 available) = $1,000
- Margaret Edsel Fitch Fellowship (can fund more than one) = $11,000 cap for category
- Outstanding Individual OCES Staff = $500
- Outstanding Team Award (up to 5 people) = $500
- Outstanding Group Award (more than 5 people) = $500

Applicants Needed for FCS Honor Awards

We have many qualified educators, teams and groups who could easily win this award. Besides, it would look great for your career ladder! The Honor Awards available are Individual; Team (up to five people); and Group (more than five people). The winner in each category will receive $500.00. Applications are due January 10th and forms are available on the Family and Consumer Sciences Ambassadors website.

Attention 2019-2020 Grant Recipients – Big Change for Reporting Impact!

Those who received grant funds for 2019-2020 will need to spend their funds prior to October 1, 2020. Written grant reports should be submitted by December 15, 2020 and sent to Dr. Gina Peek, 135 HSCI Stillwater, OK 74078 or e-mailed to kimberly.nolting@okstate.edu

Due to the pandemic, the 2019-2020 grant recipients will provide two photos and a program description to Susan Routh (susan.routh@okstate.edu) by October 1st. The photos and program description will be featured in a presentation during the virtual Annual Meeting on October 21st.

Thank you for your cooperation during this unusual year!

Susan Routh
Awards and Grants Committee Chairperson
Notice of Proposed By-laws Change

The Bylaws Committee proposes the following amendment to the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Ambassadors Bylaws. This proposed amendment has been presented to and approved by the CE-FCS Ambassadors Board of Directors at their meeting on February 12, 2020. This notice given in the CE-FCS Ambassadors newsletter fulfills the requirement of giving notice of the proposed bylaws amendment in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

Proposed Amendment:
Under Article II. Annual and Lifetime Ambassadors
Section A. Annual Contributions
6) Ambassador .......... $10.00 $25.00 to $99
   Strike the amount of $10.00 and insert
   the amount of $25.00.
   If adopted this change would increase the
   minimum annual donor contribution
   from $10 to $25.

   Rationale for the change: The minimum annual contribution level was set at $10 when the organization was formed 29 years ago. This minimum amount has not been increased.

   The goal for this increase is to potentially create a small amount of increased revenue for CE-FCS Ambassadors and to create a greater commitment to the organization, especially for those who submit grant proposals.

Tracy McKaughan
By-laws Committee Chairman
SAVE THE DATE

October 21, 2020
2:00 P.M.

CE-FCS AMBASSADORS AWARDS AND ANNUAL MEETING

via Zoom
Ensure a Bright Future by Helping Build the Endowments

**Ambassador General Fund**
You can support the educational endeavors of Ambassadors that benefit Oklahoma families and youth by making a contribution. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

I pledge: $ _______ to be paid ____ monthly ____ quarterly ____ annually.

Enclosed is a check for $_______ payable to OSU Foundation/CE-FCS Ambassadors.

Charge to my credit card __________________

Brand __________________

card # __________ expiration date

Signature __________________

Name __________________

Address __________________

Phone __________________

This gift is in memory of:

________________________________________

This gift is in honor of:

________________________________________

Send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

________________________________________

____________________________

____________________________

________________________________________

Ambassador $ 10 to $ 99
Pearl $ 100 to $ 999
Ruby $ 1,000 to $ 2,499
Emerald $ 2,500 to $ 4,999
Diamond $ 5,000 to $ 9,999
Grand $10,000 and up

**Margaret Edsel Fitch Extension Fellowship**
The Fellowship provides a mini-sabbatical experience for OCE-FCS staff to study a relevant program in another state or country. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

I pledge: $ _______ to be paid ____ monthly ____ quarterly ____ annually.

Enclosed is a check for $_______ payable to OSU Foundation/CE-FCS Fitch Fellowship

Name __________________

Address __________________

Phone __________________

This gift is in memory of:

________________________________________

This gift is in honor of:

________________________________________

Send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

________________________________________

____________________________

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Return to: M.E. Fitch Fellowship, 135 HS, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6111

________________________________________

Ambassador $ 10 to $ 99
Pearl $ 100 to $ 999
Ruby $ 1,000 to $ 2,499
Emerald $ 2,500 to $ 4,999
Diamond $ 5,000 to $ 9,999
Grand $10,000 and up
The Ambassadors newsletter is published twice yearly.
Newsletter Editor: Tara Brown