The Department of Human Ecology constantly strives to meet the needs of individuals and families in our community, state and region. Our academic, outreach, and research efforts are organized around meeting needs in the real world. Collaborations are the rule, not the exception, as we seek to meet the ever-changing needs of our target audiences with shrinking resources. Everything we do in the department centers around improving the well-being of people. In this newsletter, you will read about the various activities of faculty and students as they address human needs in our community during the 2007-2008 year.

The Department of Human Ecology continues to be a dynamic unit. It is always a joy to work with such a committed group of faculty, who are small in number, but mighty in their impact. Enrollment increased five percent, which led to increased class sizes; additional course sections opened and adjunct faculty were hired to ensure that students’ academic needs were being met. As a result, we retained 61 percent of our freshman class.

Amidst growing pains, faculty submitted twelve grant proposals, of which nine were funded totaling $899,151; they had five refereed papers published; engaged students in eight service learning activities; gave 26 professional presentations; and organized or participated in 40 professional meetings and workshops. Thirteen students attended professional meetings and four gave presentations at these meetings. Thanks to our dedicated faculty and students, we excel in our work for and on behalf of people in our community and throughout Maryland.

I hope you enjoy reading SOARING as we continue to soar to new heights. I ask that you join us on February 14, 2009, for the Alumni Recognition and Scholarship Brunch. More information will be mailed in December—so save the date. Don’t forget to visit our website at www.umes.edu/he to learn about other exciting activities in the department. Should you desire to contact me, I can be reached at 410-651-6056 or shparker@umes.edu.

Shirley Hymon-Parker, Ph.D.
Chair

Interim Dean Appointed

Dr. Charles Williams, Vice President for Academic Affairs, appointed Dr. Gladys G. Shelton as Interim Dean for the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences. Prior to joining UMES, Dr. Shelton was Chair-Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University and hails over 25 years in the profession. As dean Dr. Shelton understands the unique mission and charge of our programs. The faculty, staff and students in the department welcome Dr. Shelton to UMES and wish her success in implementing the agenda of the 1890 land-grant system at UMES.
The National Coalition for Black Development in Family and Consumer Sciences (NCBDFCS) awarded Ms. Bridgett Clinton the organization’s “Most Outstanding New Faculty Award.” The award recognizes new teachers in the profession that have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique, and novel programs early in their careers. Ms. Clinton was lauded for her work with students and study abroad programs.

**Dr. Donna Long**, Director—Child and Family Development Center, completed the doctorate of education degree in January 2008 from Wilmington College. Her research “Working with Young Children Manifesting Challenging Behaviors: Childcare Providers’ Experiences” provided meaningful insight into efforts underway for young children and childcare programs in Maryland.

**Presentations**


 Publications


 Grants Awarded


Long, D. “Development and Implementation of a University and Community Tobacco Education Project.” Somerset County Health Department - $6,943.


Shaw, A. “Collaboration with Secondary Education to Enhance Agricultural Science Curricula.” USDA Capacity Building Program - $192,972.

*Italic names are students.*

### 2009 Study Abroad Opportunities

Join the Department of Human Ecology for two Study Abroad Travel Opportunities.

1) **Ten Day Fashion Study Tour to London & Paris** – June 3 - 13, 2009 (Cost: $3,500-open to students, family and friends), and

2) **Six-Week Summer Study Abroad in London** – June 16 - July 28, 2009 (cost $6,420, excluding travel and personal expenses-students only), and earn 6 college credits. To learn more about these opportunities visit our website: [http://www.umes.edu/StudyAbroad/](http://www.umes.edu/StudyAbroad/) or contact: Dr. Lombuso Khoza at 410-651-6065, lskhoza@umes.edu (Study Tour) or Ms. Bridgett Clinton at 410-651-8351, beclinton@umes.edu (Study Abroad).
Have you ever participated in a Canstruction contest or ridden on a mobile food pantry? Have you designed a really healthy menu for college students that they enjoyed eating? These are just a few of the experiences our three senior dietetic students had during their nutrition practicum this year. In addition, Community nutrition students were able to work with the local branch of the Maryland Food Bank and learned that an estimated 50,000 people rely on assistance from a food pantry each week in Maryland and donations are at an all time low. “It really opened my eyes to the food needs of people on the Eastern Shore and how just a few employees manage to get food to people in need,” commented one student.

Reaching out to the community around UMES and learning how to apply the theories and skills learned in class were big parts of this year’s activities. The year started with both the dietetic interns and some undergraduate students being able to attend the Food and Nutrition Conference and Food Expo sponsored by ADA and held this past year in Philadelphia. Students and interns were able to attend presentations on cutting edge research in the fields of nutrition and food science. They were able to interact with food vendors from all over the country and sample the newest food products to hit the market. The conference exposed them to the profession in ways not possible in the classroom, and we were thrilled the Maryland Dietetic Association was able to provide some financial support to make it possible for our interns to attend.

As always, I am thankful for the support of the community and the many wonderful speakers who volunteered to share their experiences and expertise with our nutrition and dietetic students. We had presentations ranging from “chicken paws” and why the Chinese love them to demonstrations on how to make French Press Coffee from Starbucks. It was an engaging year of new and varied experiences that provided our students with something more than just theories and principles.

The year culminated with the graduation of three senior dietetic students and four interns. We wish them much success in their future graduate studies and careers. They are our ambassadors for the dietetics program as we endeavor to expand our student enrollment so we can train practitioners who will make a difference and improve the health of residents on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

Eleven child development students had the distinct pleasure of participating in the Child Care Rally held in Annapolis, Maryland (February 2008). The rally was an effort organized by child care educators designed to inform legislators of the urgent needs of small children in the state. After attending a meeting sponsored by the Maryland Committee for Children, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children, and several other groups, as well as visiting with the Maryland Senators and Representatives, Brittany Long and Karena Jackson, (shown here) waved a sign pushing for support of early childhood educators.

The Department of Human Ecology, working in conjunction with the Lower Shore Child Care Resource Center and Wor-Wic Community College Continuing Education Division, conducted a mathematics workshop for early childhood professionals in February. UMES students participated in several ways including tracking attendees and helping the presenters conduct their sessions. Everyone learned a great deal about integrating mathematics into the early childhood curriculum. Two departmental faculty presented during the workshop. Malinda Cecil, dietetic program director, talked about using food for fractions, patterns and measuring, while Donna Satterlee, child development lecturer, used mathematics in conjunction with gross motor skills.
Program Highlights

Professional Development Student Symposium
by Bridgett Clinton

On Friday April 25, 2008, the Human Ecology Department hosted its first Professional Development Student Symposium. This year’s theme was professionalism in the workplace. Six alums shared their career experiences, both positive and negative with students. Alumni speakers included: Shayla Howard (2002), Expansion Visual Merchandiser for H & M; Ayana Lateef (2005), Account Administrator in the sales department at Zac Posen; Marissa McDonald (2006), Sourcing Coordinator for Eileen Fischer Inc.; Tiffany Penn (2004) Marketing/PR and Private Events Director for Tuscania West Restaurant; and Latisha Perry (2006) sales representative for Philip Van Heusen. The panel of alums gave students advice about interviewing for jobs, salary negotiations, inter-office relationships with co-workers, trusting your instinct, learning how to play the “game” in the workplace with integrity and wisdom, and going after your dreams. During the symposium students were able to ask the panel questions and gain more insight about their careers and make valuable industry contacts for possible future internships and jobs. The department plans to conduct the Professional Development Symposium twice a year involving as many alums and industry professionals as possible. We invite any alums interested in speaking during one of the symposiums to contact Bridgett Clinton at 410-651-8351, beclinton@umes.edu or Dr. Nina Lyon-Bennett at 410-651-6063, nlbennett@umes.edu.

Fashion Show Benefits UMES & Wicomico High School Sophomore Class
by Dr. Nina Lyon-Bennett

Sophomores from Wicomico High School and students from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore strutted down the catwalk during the UMES Human Ecology Club’s annual Spring Fashion Show “In Wonderland” on Wednesday, April 9th, in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center.

Student models showcased the latest in spring fashions for young men and women designed by UMES students in the Department of Human Ecology and apparel and accessories from Salisbury merchants. “The university and high school students exhibited exemplary leadership and worked diligently to assure a quality production,” said Dr. Nina Lyon-Bennett, Associate Professor, UMES Human Ecology Department. “They were very creative in their interpretation of the theme and produced an outstanding show.”

Family Financial Planning Program Registered with CFP Board

The Department of Human Ecology at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) has registered with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. (CFP Board) to provide a new family financial planning certificate program. This program is made possible through the 1890 Family and Consumer Sciences Distance Instructional Alliance (1890 FCS-DIA) which is comprised of faculty from eight institutions throughout the south.

An independent certifying organization, CFP Board awards certificates to individuals who meet its education, examination, experience and ethics requirements. Students completing the financial planning program from UMES will be eligible to sit for the national CFP® Certification Examination administered by CFP Board.

Student Receives Hazel Scholarship

Bridget Heyden, a family and consumer sciences education major, was among eighteen students selected as a 2007-2008 Hazel Scholar. This honor comes with a tuition scholarship and is awarded to students who meet the academic criteria and are enrolled in a teacher education program.
Leadership Honors Bootcamp
by Feyi Okulate

I would like to thank the Department of Human Ecology for nominating me to represent the department at the Leadership Honors Bootcamp in Arlington, Virginia. The Bootcamp was a five day intensive program designed for university students all over the United States. The program’s goal is to train students on the skills needed to lead others effectively now and in the future.

I met students from across the United States including Chicago, Atlanta, Washington, DC., and the states of Kansas, California, Missouri, and Washington. Topics covered during the week included Leadership and Groups, Effective Meetings, Designs (such as Leadership Wheel, Learning from Inner/Outer, Mind Mapping), Tools of Leadership, and Personal Development. Personally, I had a great time at the Leadership Bootcamp because through it, I believe my leadership skills improved substantially. I also established a network of friends from other states with whom I still keep contact. I recommend the Leadership Honors Bootcamp to any student because I really learned a lot during the training.

Natasha Jackson Receives Travel Award

Natasha Jackson, senior dietetics major, received a $500 travel grant to attend AAFCS 94th Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to present her undergraduate research on “Comparison of the Dietary Habits of Latchkey and Non-Latchkey Children.”

Fashion Students Study Abroad

Summer 2008 marked the beginning of the Department of Human Ecology’s first Summer Study Abroad Program. Two students from UMES, Brittany Dunham and Shayla Hunter, along with two students from North Carolina A&T State University, completed a two month Study Abroad Program in Fashion at the London College of Fashion. Students completed courses in European culture, product development, European fashion marketing & merchandising, fashion forecasting, and design processes, coupled with one week in Paris studying its fashion industry. Other students will have a chance to enhance their academic studies abroad as this program is now available annually during the summer. For more information on the Study Abroad and Study Tour (two week program conducted biannually) programs, visit www.umes.edu/he/StudyAbroad.

Sean Danahy Receives Outstanding Student Award

Sean Danahy, senior dietetics major, was floored to be recognized by the National Coalition for Black Development in Family and Consumer Sciences (NCBDFS) as “Outstanding Student.” This award is presented to a student who has an exemplary record of scholarship, leadership, professional and community service. Sean provided outstanding leadership for two campus organizations (President-Kappa Omicron Nu; and Vice President-Human Ecology Club), while maintaining excellent grades in class.

Hudson Interns with MINT Jodi

Human Ecology student Jarrel Hudson, who spent his junior year at the Fashion Institute of Technology, recently completed his Spring internship at MINT Jodi Arnold. Hudson began his experience at the end of January as a sales intern in the New York City based showroom. MINT, which is designed by Jodi Arnold, is a women’s contemporary clothing line that combines construction and elegant finishing techniques common in vintage couture garments found throughout the world.

Hudson gained extensive hands-on experiences during his internship due to his tasks in sales, production, and public relations. “MINT has given me great insight to the real world of the fashion industry,” says Hudson.

Kappa Omicron Nu Initiation Held


Ashley Stewart and Thurgood Marshall Present Scholarship

Ashley Stewart Stores Community Foundation Executive Director Renua Daniels and Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) Vice President for Government Affairs and Development Larry V. Green, Esq. teamed up to make a surprise presentation of a “Dreams Delivered” scholarship to UMES junior Jalesa Washington during the 55th Annual Honors Convocation. The scholarship is part of the Ashley Stewart Foundation’s continued support of TMCF in benefiting students attending public HBCUs nationwide. Washington, recognized for academic excellence, is a fashion merchandising major. She was awarded $4,400, which she said would be put to good use. Shyreeta Keitt, a junior in fashion merchandising, was also awarded a $4,000 scholarship courtesy of the TMCF’s “Dreams Delivered” Scholarship Program.

Shyreeta Keitt
The department mourns the passing of Sandra (Smith) Whitaker (1985), who died on January 22nd. Sandra was an avid supporter of the department, having attended all annual alumni programs since 1994, sponsoring college days at her church, and getting her employer to donate computers to the department. A former Miss University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Sandra will always be remembered for her radiant smile, warm heart, and unwavering commitment to her alma mater.

Sherry Allen (’07), child development, is an Instructional Assistant with the Wicomico County Board of Education.

Jenné Johns, MPH (’02), nutrition, is currently working at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as Program Associate on the Quality/Equality Team. In this role she supports a team that works to improve healthcare systems by addressing quality of healthcare and reducing racial and ethnic disparities. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jenné was the Assistant Director of the Students Run Philly Style Program, a sports-based youth mentoring program that trains inner city youth for a marathon. In her spare time, Jenné provides nutrition, health and strategic consulting to small non-profits and religious institutions in the Philadelphia Metro region (visit www.jennejohns.com). Jenné also enjoys volunteering with local food banks around the holiday seasons and traveling. My next travel adventure is South Africa to "voluntour" (volunteer and tour) by the fall of 2009.

Alumni Update

Alumni Spotlight

Melanie Brooks (’06), fashion merchandising, is enrolled in the Mass Communications and Media graduate program at Howard University.

Laura Carter (’06), child development, is a lead teacher at the Princess Anne Head Start in Princess Anne, Maryland.

Theima Douglas (’07), child development, is a lead teacher with Princess Anne Head Start.

Ashley Harris (’06), family and consumer sciences, is a fashion teacher at Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Prince George’s County Public Schools.

Tania Hightower (’05), fashion merchandising, is the Production Coordinator/Line builder for Gina Group, a licensed Enyce women’s footwear company in New York City.

Natosha Jackson (’08), dietetics, was accepted into Marywood University graduate – dietetics internship program. Ms. Jackson also received a $3,900 scholarship for the 08-09 academic year.

Ayana Lateef (’05), fashion merchandising, is an Account Administrator with fashion designer ZAC Posen in New York City. In this role Ayana manages the accounts for boutiques throughout the country and at Nordstrom.

Elizabeth McCallum (’07), family and consumer sciences (FCS) education, is an FCS teacher at Ballenger Creek Middle School in Frederick County Maryland and enjoying every moment. In her first year teaching she was asked to serve as the school’s Education that is Multicultural (ETM) spokesperson/advocate; co-sponsor a dance group; and start a girls’ group for low-esteem/depressed girls.

Regina Pettit-Chandler (’07), child development, is a pre-k special education teacher for Accomack County Schools.

Brian Rojas (’02), fashion merchandising, is a merchandiser with Footlocker Inc.

Andrea Whitley (’05), dietetics, after two years as a dietician with DuPont Children’s Hospital, enrolled in graduate school at Iowa State University to complete a master’s degree in Human Nutrition.

Alumni Highlights

Cheryl Willis – Child Development
Daryl Berry – Fashion Merchandising
Chiara Ali – Child Development
Nya Williams – Fashion Merchandising
Monelle Williams – Fashion Merchandising
Christen Handy – Child Development
Jennifer Price – Fashion Merchandising
Meaghan Ferguson – Fashion Merchandising
Kelli Davenport – Child Development
Ayisha Thompson – Fashion Merchandising
LaQuana Hussey – Fashion Merchandising
Shareeda Bennett – Fashion Merchandising
Laura Carter – Child Development
Deborah Brown – Fashion Merchandising
Tirra Robinson – Fashion Merchandising
Sharae’ Green – Fashion Merchandising
Natosha Jackson – Dietetics
Ayana Lateef – Fashion Merchandising
Chermia Lucas – Fashion Merchandising
Kelli Davenport – Child Development
Feyi Okulate – Child Development
Deborah Brown – Fashion Merchandising
LaQuana Hussey – Fashion Merchandising
ChariSee Burns – Fashion Merchandising
Kelli Davenport – Child Development
Jennifer Price – Fashion Merchandising
Tirra Robinson – Fashion Merchandising
Ayisha Thompson – Fashion Merchandising
Sharae Green – Fashion Merchandising
Natosha Jackson – Dietetics
LaQuana Hussey – Fashion Merchandising

Graduates

December 2007
Bachelor of Science

Shareeda Bennett – Fashion Merchandising
Natasha Croswell – Fashion Merchandising
Elaine Deale – Child Development
Gwen Deal – Child Development
Nicole Hunker – Fashion Merchandising
Shashonna Leak – Fashion Merchandising
Lisa Pardoe – Child Development
Regina Pettit – Child Development
Shortel Purnell – Child Development
Brenda Skinner – Child Development
Patricia Thomas – Child Development
Nya Williams – Fashion Merchandising

May 2008
Bachelor of Science

Chiara Ali – Child Development
Daryl Berry – Fashion Merchandising
Tishika Bonneville – Child Development
Grace Graham – Fashion Merchandising
Sharnell Grant – Fashion Merchandising
John Mara – Fashion Merchandising
Christen Handy – Child Development
Siobhan Hawkins – Fashion Merchandising
Grace Graham – Fashion Merchandising
Natosha Jackson – Dietetics
Roli Khetan – Dietetics
Amanda Leigh – Fashion Merchandising
Chermia Lucas – Fashion Merchandising
Kenisha McCoy – Fashion Merchandising
Chrisandra Mosby – Child Development
Feyi Okulate – Child Development
Tirra Robinson – Fashion Merchandising
Ayisha Thompson – Fashion Merchandising
Kristi Velkamp – Dietetics
Monelle Williams – Fashion Merchandising
Danielle Young – Fashion Merchandising
Yolonda Young – Child Development
**Alumni Update:** Dear alum, help us keep your information current in our databases. We would also like to stay informed about your personal and professional accomplishments and ask that you complete and return the bottom half of this page to Dr. Shirley Hymon-Parker, Department of Human Ecology, 2101 Richard A. Henson Center, Princess Anne, MD 21853, Fax 410-651-6285 or email: shparker@umes.edu. Please visit our website for exciting programs and activities in the department. [www.umes.edu/he](http://www.umes.edu/he)

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Soaring
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED