

100 year anniversary AAFCS

Dr. Janelle Walter attended the annual meeting of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences this past summer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was the 99th annual meeting of this professional group. The association was founded in 1909 and next year's meeting will focus on the 100 year anniversary of the organization. This year's meeting laid the groundwork for that celebration.

One of Dr. Walter's big activities at this year's meeting was to assume responsibility for the guidance of the new learning communities. Sandra Fry (Texas) and Sue Byrd (Tennessee) and Dr. Walters are the three new leaders elected from the current community leaders to do this task. They will continue to encourage the current community groups which have been formed, of where there were 15 in June as well as support new ones that will form. The learning communities encourage inter-discipline membership and are focused on current needs of families and communities.

Dr. Walter is currently the chair of the Nutrition, Food Science and Hospitality learning community. They had a most interesting speaker at our community luncheon and had 50 very interested professionals attend. This group focused on three issues;

- Food safety
- Childhood obesity prevention
- Maintaining the Food Preparation Handbook.

The thing that is so different about the current learning communities is that you can be a member of as many communities as you have interest. Go to the AAFCS web site to view the learning communities available.

Departmentally we are planning to have some special events pertaining to our 100 year anniversary and celebrate the impact our professional organization has had on American families these last 100 hundred years. We will focus our attention on Homecoming 2009, so mark your calendar and plan to join us at this celebration.

Currently Dr. Walter is treasurer of Texas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and that group will likewise have some special 100 year events for it's meeting in the spring of 2009, which will be held in Austin, TX.

Dr. Walter is also At large Director for district presidents for the Texas Dietetic Association. It is wonderful to be able to encourage the district's organization as we continue to try to get a practice act passed in Texas that would recognize the R.D. as the professional who should be allowed to deliver nutritional services in the state of Texas.

As you can see, there is much work to be done. Dr. Walter will begin her 30th year at Baylor this fall. Time passes so quickly. She hopes you are all well and doing the Lord's work where ever you are.