President’s Message

In the previous edition of this newsletter, I stated that we were 75% of the way to reaching our goal of $1 million in the Ambassadors endowment fund. We continue to get closer and closer to this goal. In December, it was brought to the attention of the board that we had an excess of cash in our checking account. The board came together and voted to transfer this excess money to the endowment fund. This brings our total to $944,302. If you are doing the math that means we are 94% of the way to $1 million! Ambassadors was founded in 1991, which means next year we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary. How great would it be to say we have reached $1 million when we celebrate 30 years in 2021?

Thank you to everyone who has donated thus far. And don’t forget — if you haven’t made an Ambassadors donation in the last 12 months, now is the time. You can donate anytime by visiting the OSU Foundation website or FCS Ambassador website.

I want to thank the committees that have been working hard over the last few months to serve FCS Ambassadors. The Program Committee has set a date for the annual meeting in April, we hope everyone will be able join us! In February, the Grants & Awards committee reviewed grant applications and will be announcing winners soon. And the by-laws committee is continuing to make sure our by-laws and standing rules grow as the organization does.

We couldn’t do any of this without you, the members. Thank you to everyone who has donated. A special thank you to everyone who applied for grants this year. Applications were up and it means a lot to me that you see the importance of FCS programs in your area. And special thanks to Dr. Atiles and Sheri Carter at the OSU Foundation, their direction helped and is continuing to help reach our $1 million goal.

See you all in April!

Sincerely,
Amanda Ford
Dear FCS Ambassadors:

Greetings from the FCS Extension State office. We are happy to see progress in the creation of a new college that will grow the potential for FCS programming. Our new college will officially start on July 1, 2020, with the name of College of Education & Human Sciences. As part of the new college, we have a new team of OSU Foundation development officers. The development officer assigned to us is our own FCS alumna, Sheri Carter. She and I have been working on a strategy to raise funds to grow the CE-FCS Ambassadors Endowment. Stay tuned. In the meantime, thank you for your commitment to FCS Ambassadors and know what your donations mean to our educators and others who impact lives through OSU Extension.

Jorge H. Atiles
Associate Dean, Extension & Engagement
Assistant Director, Cooperative Extension-FCS

Comments from the Communication Committee

As I looked back at FCS Ambassadors’ History, I discovered a copy of the newsletter from September 1998. I found it interesting to read the President’s Message from June Cash; Ambassador Annual Meeting announcement by Norma Shipman, Vice-president; Ambassadors 2000 report by Mary Selk, Recruitment Chair; Nominating Committee report by Dottie Goss; and the By-laws Committee report from Susan Murray which included “The name of this organization has been changed to: Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Science Ambassadors. The term ‘Home Economics’ will be replaced with ‘Family and Consumer Sciences’ each time it appears in the by-laws. The ‘Cooperative Extension’ will be replaced in front of ‘Family and Consumer Sciences’ (Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Ambassadors, instead of the current order of Oklahoma Home Economics Cooperative Extension Ambassadors). This order is consistent with the way the Family and Consumer Sciences program is referred to on campus. The letters ‘OCEFCS’ will replace the letters ‘OHECE’ each time they appear in the by-laws. At the annual meeting, a corrected copy of the by-laws will be distributed prior to the vote. However, the changes were not listed individually in this newsletter due to length.”

I am reminded that although there may be times of feeling overwhelmed, we have a history of individuals who were willing to make a difference. We, too, are a part of this history as we continue to do our best to make a difference in the lives of Oklahomans. Thank you for your willingness to continue this strong history through your work with CE-FCS Ambassadors.

Tara Brown
Communication Committee Member
Public Relations Committee Report

Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Submitted by: Brenda Hill

Report from 2019 Silent Auction, Monday, July 8, 2019:

- 50 items/baskets donated:
  - Representing 33 counties
  - 33 “buyers” of baskets
  - Basket amount-- $3,081

- Checks received in lieu of baskets or Other donations: 20 additional counties
- Monetary donations $1,051

TOTAL SILENT AUCTION-RELATED PROCEEDS $4,132

Completed: July 8, 2019
Thank you sent for donations

The forms for the 2020 Ambassador Auction will be due to Brenda Hill by June 26. Watch for details that will be sent later.

Notice of Proposed By-laws Change

The By-laws Committee proposes the following amendment to the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Ambassadors By-laws.

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 by-laws 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 to $99

Strike the amount of $10 and insert the amount of $25.

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

Budget Snapshot January 23, 2020

Total Revenue: Budgeted – $185,132.54
   Actual - $58,261.40

Total Expenses: Budgeted – $42,305.77
   Total Actual and Encumbered - $9,503.52
Slate of Officer Nominees

According to the CE-FCS By-laws, “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, Tuesday, April 7 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, Airport, on Meridian Avenue in Oklahoma City.

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 By-laws 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

2020-21 OCES/FCS Ambassador Awards Chosen!

On February 12, the OCES/FCS Ambassador Grants and Awards committee met to review the 2020-21 grant applications. The committee recommended to the Board for the new program year, which will begin July 1, 2020, 18 grants and awards totaling $28,494.97. Additionally, three Margaret Edsel Fitch Fellowships were awarded sending Extension Educators on educational trips, which totaled $6,160. The total awarded for 2020-21 is $34,654.97 out of a potential award amount of $44,500. Announcements of OHCE grant awards and recognition of the winners are scheduled to be announced during the 2020 District OHCE Meetings in March. Educators and State Specialists who are grant recipients will be recognized during the OEAFC$ Awards Luncheon in April. Notifications to winners are being sent at this time. The Grants and Awards committee thanks each individual or team who applied and congratulates the recipients.

Susan Routh
Chair of Grants and Awards Committee
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: ______________________
Name ______________________
Address ______________________

Return to: Ambassadors Fund, 135 HS, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6111

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**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: ______________________
Name ______________________
Address ______________________

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

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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