Whats new with HDFSA?

K. Medley

The HDFSA has started the 2013-2014 school year with the election of new officers.

Keith Medley – President
Joe Belan – Vice President
Jenny McCandless – Secretary
Taylor Davis - Treasurer (in training.)

Over the summer the HDFSA participated in the spring clean up at Mount Macrina and have been invited back to participate again next year. The sisters enjoy our participation and it was a great way to give back to the community.

October was Domestic Violence Awareness month and HDFSA presence was felt all over the campus. We decorated the campus with purple ribbons and signs making everyone aware of Domestic Violence. We also set up an information table at the entrance of the Eberly Building and with the help of Jenn Soissen, a display was put in the Cultural center. Ribbon pins were also sold and we raised enough money to donate $100.00 to the Domestic Violence Service of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

In November we took a trip down to the Cubs Den to have a craft day with the children. Led by Taylor Davis, we made hand turkey magnets.

There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.

- Woodrow Wilson
The HDFS Handbook
Everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask!
E. Barry

Did you get your 2013 HDFS Handbook? It’s been called “Riveting – I couldn’t put it down!” (Dr. J. Rapano) . . . “Even better than the DSM V!” (Dr. J. Jankowski) . . . “The best career and life manual, ever!” (Ms. G. Jones) . . . “Better than CATS – I laughed, I cried, I made all my children read it” (Dr. E. Barry).

Seriously, though, the HDFS faculty at Fayette have worked very hard to create a handbook for the major that is useful no matter what your semester standing is – freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior. As you read through it, please let us know what you like or don’t like about it, or what else should be included.

Our goal is that you will use the Handbook as a reference throughout your years at Fayette. We want it to be a comprehensive reference manual that supplements, but doesn’t replace the one-to-one advising relationship between faculty and students.

Make sure you have received your copy of the HDFS manual – free to HDFS majors who attend one of the orientation sessions at the beginning of the year; only $5 for HDFS majors who missed it. Proceeds from purchasing the Handbook go toward supporting HDFS programs and endeavors on and off campus. Contact any of the HDFS faculty if you would like to purchase a copy.

HDFS Summer in Italy
J. Rapano

Each summer for the last eleven years the HDFS Program has sent a group of students to Italy to study human development and families while immersed in the Italian culture. In summer 2013, two Fayette campus faculty, HDFS Senior Instructor Dr. John Rapano and HDFS adjunct Robyn Chotiner, along with Dr. Cheryl Cheek from Mt. Alto campus, led 19 students on this adventure.

The first course was HDFS 499B: Historical Roots of the Modern Italian Family. The purpose of this course was to examine the Italian family system as it has evolved from antiquity to modernity. The course started with a week in Rome, where students visited the Coliseum, the Forum, the Vatican, and the Pantheon. This was followed by field trips to Pompeii, Venice, and hilltop Italian towns in other parts of Italy where we saw first-hand the communities that families and children have lived in, and live in today.
Awards Season

HDFS students sweep campus awards – again!
E. Barry

It’s no secret that HDFS students are exceptional students, and the HDFS department has long been seen as a model for faculty-student interaction and engagement. The proof is in the pudding!

In 2013, HDFS students raked in the awards:

Bachelors of Science in HDFS — departmental award:
Noelle Winkler
Joanne Genova Sujansky

Memorial Leadership Award:
Rachael Franks

Drozd Family Humanitarian Assistance and Community Service Award:
Emily Marchewka

Second Place, Spring 2013 Learning Fair:
Rachael Franks (Suicide Ideation study)

Honorable Mention, University Park Undergraduate Research Fair: Rachael Franks (Suicide Ideation study)

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We then settled in for six weeks in Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, and one of the world’s most beautiful and livable cities. Situated in beautiful Tuscany, Florence contains many museums and art galleries, and is one of the fashion capitals of the world. In conjunction with the Institute at the Palazzo Rucellai in Florence, classroom work was enhanced by trips to places of historical and artistic importance.

The second course was HDFS 499C: Italian Relationships, Both Cultural and Familial. The purpose of this course was to examine the cultural factors affecting business, friendship, and family relationships in Italy. Issues to be explored included the implications of economic, political, religious, and social factors on Italian families, the influence of the Catholic Church on family and social roles in Italy, the status of Italian women over time with regard to legal rights, roles, societal expectations and cultural values, and the attitudes toward and practices regarding child rearing.

Students explored the sights, sounds, history and culture of contemporary Florence, while taking this course. With activities that include learning to buy fresh fruit and vegetables in the mercato, playing with children in Italian schools, seeing masterpieces in the Uffizi Gallery, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience Italian life.

The third course was HDFS 499A: Early Childhood in Italy. This course gave students the opportunity to examine the way in which Italians structure the early childhood years, and the social policies that support this structure. Students will observe children in public, as well as having the opportunity to visit preschool and day care programs for young children. Students conducted nine-hour service learning projects in six nido, childcare centers for children age three and under.

All of these courses can be used as supporting courses for HDFS, or as fulfilling a General Education or 400 level course requirements. However, students in Early Childhood or Elementary Education, developmental psychology and sociology also benefited from the program.
HDFS Students at PA Crisis Annual Conference

J. Jankoski

The Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) faculty is committed to enhancing our student’s academic experiences by providing opportunities for our students to participate in ongoing professional development. Providing student development opportunities including professional conferences, workshops and inviting community leaders who they may be working for or in collaboration with to be guest speakers in our classes.

This fall semester 2013, eighteen students attended the Pennsylvania Crisis Annual Conference which was held November 14, 2013 @ Nemacolin Woodlands Resort and who were active participants during Penn State Fayette CEO conversations. Students attended sessions to learn about domestic violence, working with the LGBT community, dealing with suicidal clients, and others.

Feedback we received regarding our student involvement included statements, “your students are leaders,” “your students are bright, articulate and professionally dressed,” and that our students “come prepared with resumes and professional demeanor.” Students felt the conference was moving, educational, and enlightening as they established professional contacts.

CD in DC: Career Development in Washington, D.C.

G. Jones

Each year, the faculty of the Human Development and Family Studies program connect to identify new ways to enhance the learning experience of the students. Adding a travel experience to one or two of our courses seemed like the best opportunity. During spring break of 2014, students enrolled in HDFS 414 and HDFS 418 will have the opportunity to travel with faculty to Washington, D.C. to gain invaluable experiences in service and learning. Alumni from Penn State Fayette and professionals from DC Child and Family Services Agency, Federal Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigations will host the students for facility tours, job-shadowing, service and volunteer opportunities and much more.

Throughout the year, students are raising funds through the HDFS Snack Shack, a mini snack store located in the Career Services office. The trip is also supported by university funds from the Honors Travel Program, the Alumni Society, and the Student Life Office.