



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2007-2008

- **Career Panels** - One event that we sponsor each semester is the Family Science Professionals in the World panel. We invite 4-6 alumni to participate on a panel and address: what they do professionally, how their HDFS/FCS degree has helped them to attain their professional goals, and how their Christian faith interfaces with their occupation and the work that they do. These two events have been well-attended and very informative for current students. In addition, this year Raeann organized a Careers in Aging panel using funding from a Careers in Aging Week Grant she received to help support activities which highlight many professional opportunities in the field of gerontology.
- **Building Strong Families Conference** - The Department of HDFS annually hosts the Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations' Building Strong Families Conference. The 2007 conference was held in Boyer Hall on October 11 with the theme "Families and Health."
- **Faculty & Student Scholarship** - We continue to foster a research and scholarship culture within our department. Faculty in our department produced a variety of articles, workshops and presentations this year, many of which were co-authored or co-presented with students. Faculty also received grant monies to work on some specific projects: Careers in Aging Week Grant (Raeann); Faculty Scholarships Grant (Abraham) for a Marriage Enrichment book for Christian Chinese married Couples. These activities help to increase the visibility of Messiah College's HDFS Department and are an important experience, particularly for our graduates who plan to attend graduate school.
- **Professional Conferences** - Both faculty and students attended and, in some cases, presented at professional conferences around the country. Specifically, students attended the following conferences with faculty: Association for Gerontology in Higher Education in Baltimore, MD, PA Association of Family & Consumer Sciences in Lancaster, PA, and the National Council on Family Relations in Pittsburgh, PA. Seventeen students attended this conference this year.
- **MCCFR** - The student organization in our Department, Messiah College Council on Family Relations (MCCFR), hosted a healthy relationships dinner and spring retreat. In addition, this group is organizing a team to take part in the Relay for Life fundraiser.
- **Senior Honors Projects** - Amanda Schoenberger, Tawny Smay, and Kate Nesterwitz, all May 2008 graduates, will complete an honors project in the major before graduation.
- **Retreat Weekend** - The HDFS Department in conjunction with the Ministries Office provided the students with a unique "couples" experience. Paul Johns and his wife hosted 22 couples for a weekend retreat called "Are you Serious?!" Engaged couples or nearly-engaged couples took part in the weekend event.
- **Endowment Update** - Last year the Department established a department-specific endowment to be used to provide professional development funds to current Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) and Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) students. We continue to receive contributions and are getting closer to achieving our goal amount.