LeaderShip Message

Happy Birthday FACS!

Look Back or Move Forward?

When you’re celebrating any birthday, there’s always the inclination to do both, and when you’re celebrating your 100th year, as FACS does in 2018, it’s even more tempting to take a nostalgic trip down memory lane.

But that’s never been the nature of our programs – teaching, research or public service.

Responsiveness to needs of today and tomorrow will always be the lifeblood of what we do at the university.

Over the course of the coming months, to commemorate our century of programs and people, we invite you to engage with us through stories, images, events and recognition of the past and the progressive ways we shape the next generation of professionals.

One of the ways you can help is by nominating someone for our FACS 100 Centennial Honorees, our collection of 100 individuals we will recognize who have significantly contributed to our programs since our “birthday” in 1918.

All alumni, former and current faculty members and staff, friends and donors are eligible for this recognition, and deserving individuals may be honored posthumously.

We seek to honor those who brought strength, conviction and commitment to the ideals of our profession and through vision and hard work shaped our programs, advancing our ability to serve students and enrich lives through research.

We hope you’ll take some time to reflect on people you know who are deserving of this honor and tell us about them.

We’ll recognize these 100 leaders at the FACS 100 Gala: A Centennial Celebration, on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018 at the Classic Center in Athens.

We encourage everyone to nominate via “snail mail” or our website at http://www.fcs.uga.edu/alumni/facs100-nominations

You can read more about it on page 25. Keep in mind the deadline to nominate is November 5!

Another project to keep an eye out for is the release next year of a hardback pictorial history book documenting our college’s amazing history with historic photographs and little-known details about how we evolved over time.

Be on the lookout for more information about this project in future FACS communications. We trust you will want a copy of this one-of-a-kind publication.

While we’re deeply proud of our past, we’re also just as excited for our future. Our faculty, students and alumni are building on the fine tradition of the trailblazers who came before us, pursuing exciting research and innovative outreach projects that will positively impact Georgians for years to come.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of their exploits in the pages ahead.

Linda Kirk Fox
Dean

Patricia Hunt-Hurst
Associate Dean
Academic Programs

Deborah Murray
Associate Dean
Extension and Outreach
FEATURED STORIES

CAREE COTWRIGHT IS WILLING TO GO THE EXTRA MILE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD OBESITY

FACulty Member, Grad Student Go Live to Talk Money

FACs Grad Donna Martin Changes Lives Through School Lunches

FACs 2016-2017 Annual Report

FACs Facts

Alumni Association

Class Notes 2017

In Memoriam
Margaret Caughy

RISK, RESILIENCE & RESEARCH

By Cal Powell

Margaret Caughy’s father has a doctorate in organic chemistry. Her mother’s doctorate is also in chemistry. One sibling has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, another is a cell biologist and still another is a medical doctor.

“I always say the chemistry genes jumped right over me,” Caughy said, laughing.

Raised in a “hyper educated” family in Bryan, Texas, Caughy spent her pre-teen years reading books on children with developmental disabilities and would tell anyone who asked that she wanted to be a child psychologist someday.

“I think I was just always interested in the mind,” she said.

Caughy continues to nurture this early passion as the Georgia Athletic Association Professor in Family Health Disparities in the FACS department of human development and family science.

Her research focuses on studying the contexts of risk and resilience affecting young children, with a particular interest in racial and ethnic disparities in health and development of ethnic minority families.

“One of the things you find out, parents raising their kids in these very high poverty neighborhoods, they want the same things everybody wants for their kids,” Caughy said. “It just takes a hell of a lot more effort. You would see examples of resilience that were mind-boggling.”

Caughy eventually left Baltimore for her native Texas, taking a job with the University of Texas School of Public Health at its Dallas campus in 1999.

The move set in motion a collaboration with another noted researcher, Margaret Tresch Owen, that led to the birth of the federally-funded Dallas Preschool Readiness Project, designed to study why some low-income minority children thrive in school while others struggle.

Launched in 2009, the study is following more than 400 African-American and Hispanic children from preschool to second grade, along with their parents, to see how school readiness develops within the context of the family.

“A lot of people focus on do kids know their ABCs and 123s,” Caughy said. “My thinking is the socio-emotional foundations are more important. That’s where this whole concept of self-regulation comes through: the ability to sit and pay attention and follow directions when they get to kindergarten.”

Results showed that children in the study were between 8-12 months behind in self-regulation development, but when parents were more engaged, the children grew to demonstrate better academic performance and fewer behavioral problems.

“It’s a theme you see with these families,” said Caughy, “that despite the context they’re in, the kids do well. It takes a lot of organization and monitoring and engagement.”

Caughy was recruited to the University of Georgia by HDFS department head Emilie Smith in 2016, moving here with her husband, Dennis, a licensed clinical social worker, and teen son Aidan. Daughter Michaela remains in Texas and is studying psychology, like her mother.

Already, Caughy has begun collaborating with HDFS faculty member Assaf Oshri on a project that will study low-income Athens families with children between the ages of 9 and 12 to study self-regulation and risky decision-making on the part of the children.

"One of the things you find out, parents raising their kids in these very high poverty neighborhoods, they want the same things everybody wants for their kids..."

The project is modeled after the Dallas study, which has been renewed for five more years, with a goal of eventually recruiting 100 kids.

Caughy said she’s enjoying the energy of Athens, noting she’s never worked on a campus with undergraduates, and the sense of camaraderie that comes from working with like-minded researchers.

“They talk my language,” she said.

A self-proclaimed “data nerd,” Caughy said one of her major joys as a researcher is mentoring graduate students, particularly ones with an affinity for running data analyses.

“When they get excited about stuff, I find that really rewarding,” she said.
Margaret Caughy

Georgia Athletic Association Professor in Family Health Disparities
Department of Human Development and Family Science
B.S., Psychology, Texas A&M, 1986
M.Ed., Human Development, University of Maryland, 1989
Sc.D., Maternal and Child Health, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, 1992
At UGA: Since 2016

FALL 2017
President of American Society for Nutrition

Mary Ann Johnson, the Flatt Professor in Foods and Nutrition in FACS, has been named president of the American Society for Nutrition.

Johnson, who also serves as the associate director of the University of Georgia Institute of Gerontology within the College of Public Health, will serve a one-year term.

She previously has served ASN as a national spokesperson and vice president. Established in 1928, the ASN has more than 6,500 members in 75 countries who work in academia, government, industry and practice. “I’m honored for this opportunity to serve the American Society for Nutrition, its members and the community that this organization has championed for almost 90 years,” Johnson said. “ASN has played a pivotal role in shaping my career and my passion for nutritional science and I look forward to contributing to a new generation’s advancement of nutrition research as we plan ASN’s next century of leadership.”

Among Johnson’s key priorities during her presidency are endorsing strategic planning and vision for the future of nutrition science; leading the launch of Nutrition 2018, ASN’s new scientific sessions and annual meeting; and advocating for increased research funding for nutrition from government and the private sector. “ASN is the premier nutrition research organization in the world,” Johnson said. “Nutrition research is the foundation of everything we do as researchers, educators and practitioners. As president of ASN, I hope my impact on nutrition and public health will grow at the local and state levels and expand nationally and internationally.”

Johnson joined the FACS department of foods and nutrition in 1983 and was named the first Flatt Professor in 2008.

free tax prep help
JUST A WEBCAM AWAY

With the help of a webcam and some innovative faculty, FACS provided free income tax preparation help to residents in one of the farthest corners of the state this year.

The “Virtual VITA” program, created by faculty members Joan Koonce (pictured) and Lance Palmer in the FACS department of financial planning, housing and consumer economics, allows students from across the University the opportunity to gain practical experience as tax preparers while providing a valuable service.

Virtual VITA is an offshoot of the federal Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that offers free tax help to citizens who make less than $54,000 a year, those with disabilities and non-English speakers.

Palmer and Tom Cochran with the Georgia United Credit Union have overseen the VITA program at UGA for the last 12 years.

Koonce and Palmer worked with Andrea Scarrow, Southwest District Extension Program Development Coordinator, to conduct a one-month pilot of the Virtual VITA program this year, delivering free tax prep help to residents of Colquitt, Dougherty, Early, Lanier, Sumter, and Tift counties in southwest Georgia.

They were assisted by UGA Extension agents Kathryn Holland, Suzanne Williams, Ann Centner, Rachel Hubbard, Mitzi Parker and Roxie Price.

Student tax preparers from both FACS and the Terry College of Business completed 42 tax returns this year through the Virtual VITA program, counseling via webcam with residents interested in the service. The Virtual VITA program is expected to expand in the year ahead, with eight additional Extension agents interested in participating.

The program also received one of several Extension Innovation Awards, created to help fund projects designed for impact in areas of high need.

Meanwhile, the VITA program continues to impact Georgia residents. This year, students in the program completed more than 800 federal and state tax returns, providing residents an estimated savings of $218,750.

Cookbook has distinct FACS Flavor

You won’t find it for sale on Amazon, but University of Georgia athletes have their very own cookbook now thanks largely to two FACS grads. Savannah Veal, a dietetics major who graduated in 2015, and Maria Breen, a Double Dawg FACS grad and sports nutritionist with the UGA athletic department, helped put together the “UGA Student Athlete Cookbook” in 2015.

Carrie Rhodes Strawn from the College of Public Health and Jennifer Ketterly, former director of sports nutrition, also helped spearhead the project, Breen said.

The cookbook contains simple recipes pulled from the internet or contributed by coaches and staff. Under each recipe is a “performance point” with tips such as “add slices of banana for extra potassium” or “eggs contain phytonutrients that may specifically help with vision!”

“The whole idea was to get a cluster of recipes that were very simple,” Breen said. “A lot of the recipes you see have 100 ingredients. The recipes in the book are ones you can make in an apartment kitchen.”

Breen and the rest of the sports nutrition staff also hold occasional cooking demonstrations to show the athletes how to prepare various recipes from the book while stressing the importance of proper nutrition.

“The athletes are definitely excited to receive it,” Breen said. “(Cooking) is a life skill we don’t want to be missed while they’re here.”
The student loan debt problem in the U.S. only seems to be getting worse. Some estimates suggest more than 44 million Americans have student loan debt, with an average monthly payment of $351. One of the many factors contributing to the problem is a lack of education, said Sheri Worthy, head of the FACS department of financial planning, housing and consumer economics.

“Students are not necessarily going to the right sources to get their information when they’re making decisions about college and how to pay for it,” Worthy said.

Worthy is part of a team of researchers at several land-grant universities that produced a Student Loan Fact Sheet series to provide comprehensive, evidence-based information on student loan decision-making.

The fact sheet is available for free at articles.extension.org/pages/72895/student-loans and includes topics such as college savings options, choosing a federal student loan repayment plan and recovering from student loan default.

Research shows the student loan debt problem can have devastating effects far beyond the college years.

“It’s causing people to delay other things in their life, like home ownership and planning for retirement,” said Worthy, “because they’re still paying this burden of student loan debt. Some students think by the time they have to pay it back, they’ll be making so much money that it won’t matter. That’s not always the case.”

The research team’s ongoing and future projects will look at housing, retirement and health literacy, Worthy said.

Study abroad:

LIVE IN THE PAST

The Greek financial crisis has been analyzed and dissected by seemingly every major media outlet. Eleven University of Georgia students were able to study it on-site this summer as part of a study abroad trip led by FACS faculty member and Greece native Effie Antonoudi.

The trip focused on three main sectors of the Greek economy: shipping, tourism and food/agriculture.

“The program was incredible,” said FACS financial planning major Victoria Santini. “We spoke with distinguished analysts, bankers, economists and professors while in Greece. We toured museums, visited the Acropolis, swam in hot springs near a volcanic island, watched the sun set over the Aegean Sea and ate our weight in Greek food. I was there to learn and explore, and the program encouraged it.”

Students from the Terry College of Business made the trip, along with several students from various FACS majors, including consumer economics and fashion merchandising.

“The primary goal of this trip was to provide students with a spherical view regarding the causes and the aftermath of the recent financial crisis in Greece, including the current conditions and the way they affected consumers,” Antonoudi said. “We discussed the main industries in Greece and how those industries are coping with the current financial situation, and learned about entrepreneurship and innovation in this economic environment. Most of all, we explored and experienced the Greek heritage and the Greek culture.”

The Greece trip was one of two new study abroad opportunities led by a FACS faculty member this summer. Foods and nutrition associate professor Jamie Cooper led a trip to the British Isles that was practically a foodie’s dream.

In addition to the usual landmarks such as Westminster Abbey and Stonehenge, students visited London’s Borough Market, the Smithfield meat market, a creamery in Wensleydale, a brewery in York, the Dublin Cookery School and a sheep farm in Whitenham.

FACT SHEETS AIM TO CURB GROWING STUDENT DEBT PROBLEM

Worthy’s Top Three Pieces of Advice for College Students when Considering Student Loans:

1. Don’t borrow more in total than the expected annual starting salary for your first job out of college
2. Estimate your monthly loan payment will be about 1 percent of the total loan balance
3. Compare college costs and financial aid offers using this Consumer Financial Protection Bureau resource: https://tinyurl.com/jw2d472

Recently retired FACS faculty member Teresa Mauldin, along with current faculty member Swarn Chatterjee, also are members of the multi-state collaboration.
In 2005, as an undergraduate student in the FACS dietetics and consumer foods program, Janice Giddens wrote an essay as part of her application to the International Agriculture Certificate Program: “Teaching people the importance of growing indigenous and nutritious foods is as important as teaching them why they should consume them,” she wrote. “This program will give me the ability to do this.”

Fast forward a decade, and Giddens is doing the work she set out to accomplish. As a fellow with the Gardens for Health International, she developed nutritional programs for families in Rwanda by helping caregivers design and plant home gardens that promote both crop and diet biodiversity.

Giddens oversaw the implementation of a project aimed at preventing childhood malnutrition by targeting the health and nutrition of pregnant women. The goal of the Antenatal Care Program is to intervene during the 1,000 days between conception and a child’s second birthday – time when nutrition plays a crucial role in development and health.

She also managed a project involving three community groups – people living with HIV/AIDS, community health workers and mothers of children with malnutrition – and a demonstration garden that has crop-specific, nutrition-focused signage.

“We are constructing an educational path that contains signs providing nutritional messages targeting pregnant women and the mothers of young children,” she said. “The path allows participants to see the food growing and to learn about its specific nutrient benefits.”

- Denise H. Horton
Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics

Kim Skobba has been named the new Assistant Director for the UGA Lilly Fellow program.

Brenda Cude received a 2017 UGA CURO Research Mentoring Award and was named Educator of the Year by the Direct Selling Education Foundation.

Teresa Mauldin, emerita, was named an American Council on Consumer Interests Distinguished Fellow.

Patryk Babiarz was awarded the Richard L. D. Morse Mid-Career Award from the American Council on Consumer Interests.

Human Development and Family Science

HDFS graduate students Jenee Duncan, Erin Duprey and Megan Hicks won the 2017 Sloboda and Bukoski Cup from the Society for Prevention Science for exhibiting prowess against several teams from other universities in analyzing and presenting from a dataset on health disparities.

Gene Brody and the Center for Family Research received the 2017 Culture and Context Award from the Society for Prevention Science for their decades of research on rural African-American families.

Jerry Gale’s “Morning Mindfulness” program was named the Education Program of the Year by the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries.

K.A.S. Wickrama, Athletic Association Professor, has published an important volume on advanced statistical methodologies with Research Professor Catherine O’Neal and former HDFS doctoral student and now Research Scientist at the University of Miami, Tae Le, and Frederick Lorenz of Iowa State, entitled Higher Order Growth Curves Mixture Modeling.

Foods and Nutrition

Joe Kindler, who earned his doctorate in May 2017, received the 2016 President’s Award from the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research. His abstract was selected as the highest ranking abstract submitted by a student.

Jung Sun Lee was selected to receive the first “Mid-Career Award” from the American Society for Nutrition’s Nutrition Education & Behavior Science Research Interest Section. She also received the 2017 Joint Korean Society of Community Nutrition and Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior’s Achievement Award.

Graduate student Ruth Schade was selected for the DAAD RISE internship program, which is a competitive Research Internship in Science and Engineering in Germany with a three-month stipend.

Judy Harrison was named the recipient of the Elmer Marth Educator Award from the International Association for Food Protection.

Institute on Human Development and Disability

Carol Britton Laws received the Service-Learning Teaching Excellence Award from the UGA Office of Service-Learning.

Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors

Huipu Gao, Ph.D. student, was selected to receive the 2017 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant from the UGA Graduate School to support innovation and interdisciplinary research.

Apurba Banerjee, PhD. student, received third place in the Herman and Myrtle Goldstein Student paper competition and was elected to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Greg Vessels, Georgia Soft Goods Distinguished Professor, was selected to participate in the Spring 2017 Sustainability Across the Curriculum Faculty Development Workshop.

Katalin Medvedev, associate professor, has been selected as a Senior Teaching Fellow by the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning and also received the FACS Bill and June Flatt Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Leann Birch served as a member of the Expert Panel who developed the document, “Feeding Guidelines for Infants and Young Toddlers: A Responsive Parenting Approach.” The Expert Panel on Best Practices for Promoting Healthy Nutrition, Feeding Patterns, and Weight Status was convened by Healthy Eating Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This Feeding Guidelines document presents evidence-based recommendations for promoting healthy nutrition and feeding patterns for infants and toddlers from birth to 24 months, with an emphasis on dietary quality, portion sizes, and mealtime environment.
The lights are dim, by design, in Siobian Minish’s classroom. Books are scattered about the floor, and large hand-cut letters spell out the word “EXPLORE” on one wall.

Minish takes a seat on a small couch and is immediately swarmed by three or four wobbling infants. Here in this room surrounded by infants and cribs and books in the Child Development Lab at the McPhaul Center, Minish is at home.

Now in her 10th year with the CDL, Minish knew even as a sophomore in high school she’d end up there. “We toured here and I knew this was the place I wanted to be,” she said. “I just kind of did my life plan around that.”

Minish, a lead infant room teacher at the CDL, has brought unprecedented exposure to the program.
She was named the Child Caregiver of the Year by the Georgia Association on Young Children in 2015 and received the Helene Marks Award as the National Child Care Teacher of the year from the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation earlier this year.

“Her innovative approach toward our infant program has resulted in an amazing classroom that is unique and built on a strong philosophical and developmentally appropriate foundation,” said Amy Kay, director of the CDL. “That, coupled with her commitment to promoting the early childhood teaching profession, is particularly exciting to watch develop.”

Starting out as an assistant teacher as a teenager, Minish was promoted quickly, owing largely to her obvious passion for the job and her relentless desire for knowledge. She was named lead teacher in the infant room in 2012.

“She never stops learning,” said Lori Treff, program coordinator at the CDL. “She just devours research.”

Minish often applies what she learns in her classroom, which is why the lights in her room stay dim (research suggests fluorescent lights can be too bright for infants’ eyes) and the walls have been painted in natural tones.

After earning her master’s degree in 2016, Minish eventually hopes to start on a doctorate.

“She gathers information and implements it in her classroom, even though it might not be easy,” Kay said. “She knows what’s best for children and that’s what guides her.”

The recent recognition is gratifying, Minish said, but the greatest benefit is the elevated platform it grants her to speak to bigger issues in education.

“I’d really like to get more involved in child advocacy and speaking out about early childhood issues and helping people be aware of how important the first five years are,” she said. “I really feel like I’ve been given this opportunity so I need to be able to talk about how important these babies are and help inform people.”

At its core, Minish’s passion remains helping children and families.

In her first year in the infant room, Minish recalls a young couple that was having a particularly difficult time adjusting to life with a baby.

Over the course of the year, Minish watched the child, and the family, “blossom” together.

“And I remember they said something to me about how they don’t know what they would have done without the teachers here,” Minish said. “That’s what did it for me. I feel like I’m actually making a difference and doing what I was called to do.”

- Cal Powell

“She NEVER STOPS Learning”
A new radio program, “Nothing Funny about Money,” was launched this year by a FACS faculty member and doctoral student to explore topics like these in hopes of making personal finance more accessible, less scary and maybe even fun.

Matt J. Goren, a faculty member in the FACS department of financial planning, housing and consumer economics, and doctoral student Michael G. Thomas Jr., record the show at WUGA in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

The show airs on WUGA and can be heard via live stream at www.wuga.edu or at www.nothingfunnyaboutmoney.org

Goren and Thomas met when both began working on a financial literacy program, “Discovering Money Solutions,” part of a federally-funded outreach program led by FACS faculty member Ted Futris.

Goren expressed a desire to expand their reach, so he pitched the idea to Jimmy Sanders, station manager at WUGA, and a show was born. The duo recorded their first episode in November 2016.

Here, Goren and Thomas answer a few questions about the project.
What’s the premise behind the show and who do you consider your target audience?

GOREN: Most of the personal finance resources available are dry, boring, and even rude. We want to be on the opposite end of the spectrum. Our intended audience is people who find personal finance a bit scary and frustrating but still need help. If someone finds this stuff fun on its own, great! We’re more aiming for the person who throws away the mail from the bank without opening it.

THOMAS: Foundationally, I think we want our listeners to know that we are people with an expert opinion on a particular matter as opposed to experts with an opinion. We want to have a conversation with our audience and not speak at them or down to them. We want our audience to know that they are not alone on their financial journey. This show is intended for anyone who feels overlooked and lacks access to competent and compassionate financial service providers.

How do you come up with topics to discuss?

THOMAS: Matt and I both read a lot and stay current on the latest happenings in personal finance. Once we have an idea, we spend some time brainstorming the financial and psychological components of the topic. When we are comfortable with that aspect of the process, we then try to find as many ways as possible to make the subject accessible, light-hearted and funny.

How do you prepare for a show?

THOMAS: A lot of late nights! And, to be fair to Matt, he has been carrying more of the load than I have. This show would not be where it is without him driving it. That said, once we’ve gotten a script down, we try to our very best to capture the funny as much as possible. If that means I’m singing off key or Matt is barking like a miniature poodle to drive a point home, we’ll do it. We’ll read and re-write over and over again until we are both comfortable with the delicate blend of information, humor and sincerity we try to bring to each and every show. It’s a labor of love - we care!

How would you describe your friendship?

GOREN: Michael and I both want to “make the world a better place” and focus a lot of our energy into social entrepreneurship. We agree that the best long-term solutions to the nation’s growing inequity is to create sustainable models that promote equity. Say, for example, finding a way to make money providing pro bono advising and connecting lower-income clients with halfway decent financial institutions. The bar in this world is extremely low: the typical low-income person is more likely to get “advice” from a salesperson than a fiduciary; they’re as likely to use predatory lending with accompanying high interest rates as to have a checking account. So, we’ve got this idea - if we can do something, it’s better than the disaster status quo.

We bonded a lot over this idea of doing what we can while building our own brand and trying to make a living. And we both have experience with many different delivery models. What works? What doesn’t? Between us, we’ve been at this a decade and have some strong opinions. The show is just one part of a broader effort to do more of the work we think will really help people.
Two-thirds of Americans have less than $500 in savings. Planners recommend having three to six months’ worth of living expenses saved up ($5,000 to $10,000 for most Americans)

Average student loan debt for the 2017 graduating class is about $35,000

About half of 2017 professional degree graduates (law, med, etc.) have more than $200,000 in student loan debt

A recent ThinkAdvisor survey found that 68 percent of Americans don’t receive any financial advice

In 2014, the American College of Financial Services ran a financial literacy survey, finding only 20 percent of Americans “passed”

FINRA reports 22 percent of credit card holders were sent to collections in 2015
Cotwright and FACS graduate and current UGA grad student Nathalie Celestin (in her role as a carrot) are joined by Cotwright's daughter, Camara, and G.K. Goetz, son of FACS faculty member Joseph Goetz and his wife Lindsay Elwood-Goetz. Photo taken at the UGarden on Milledge Avenue.
In the middle of making an omelet, eggs already cracked, the power on the mobile food cart went out.

Luuly Nguyen was not flustered. In a room full of senior citizens fresh off a hotly contested round of Bingo at the Athens Community Council on Aging, Nguyen carried on, unbothered by the hiccup.

She took questions from the audience, 20 or so folks assembled in clusters, about the health benefits of calcium and the cholesterol content found in the lukewarm eggs before her. “Moderation is key,” she told them.

Her presentation concluding, Nguyen retreated to a back kitchen and quietly finished the meal, delivering a performance – and a spinach and egg omelet – worthy of applause.

Cotwright’s students have appeared as Freggie – and as singing, dancing, life-sized fruits and vegetables known as “Freggie’s Friends” – in Head Start classes scattered about the Athens area for the last three years to promote healthy eating.

“I simply want to be known as the lady who gets kids to eat their fruits and vegetables,” Cotwright said. “Whatever it is, if it’s a cooking cart demo, if it’s Freggie, if it’s me rapping, I’m going to make it fun and interesting and I’m going to meet you where you are.”

“Some of my students have appeared as Freggie – and as singing, dancing, life-sized fruits and vegetables known as “Freggie’s Friends” – in Head Start classes scattered about the Athens area for the last three years to promote healthy eating. “I simply want to be known as the lady who gets kids to eat their fruits and vegetables,” Cotwright said. “Whatever it is, if it’s a cooking cart demo, if it’s Freggie, if it’s me rapping, I’m going to make it fun and interesting and I’m going to meet you where you are.”

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She’s like the most enthusiastic person ever,” said recent graduate Dorothy Dupree, who spent a healthy portion of her time as a grad student in a fruit costume. “The one thing she has made me realize is you can teach nutrition in a variety of ways and that it can be interactive and fun, especially with young people.”
Cotwright’s passion, so evident in her classes and interactions with the community, is rooted in a heart for the hurting and hungry.

In her early days as a researcher, she recalls volunteering at a local food bank on a food distribution day. The parking lot of the church was full of cars of folks needing food, and the line snaked down the street – right here in Athens.

“I was just overwhelmed,” Cotwright said. “I knew the need was great, but until you see it, you don’t really know. We’re so blessed, and until you go without, you don’t necessarily understand that.”

The plague of hunger speaks to a troubling trend in what Cotwright calls the “war on wellness,” one she sees as a major obstacle in the low-income communities her efforts often target.

“I’m trying to tell you to eat healthy, but then I hear parents tell me ‘I give my children chips every day after school because I can afford 50 cents but I can’t afford to buy a bag of apples or other fresh fruit,’ ” she said. “They just want their child’s tummy full and they’re going to try to get cheap foods that make them full. That’s what touches my heart. I have to be really creative in terms of problem solving.”

Besides the school performances, one of Cotwright’s grand dreams is securing funding for “Freggie’s Green Machine,” a food truck that would deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to communities without access to them.

“My vision is to see kids chase the fruit and veggie truck the way they chase the ice cream truck,” she said.

Cotwright, the mother of two little girls herself, primarily targets preschool children in her research and outreach.

Cotwright instructs two students with the Young Urban Farmers program during the School Lunch Challenge in March. Cotwright served as emcee for the event.
CAREE COTWRIGHT

Assistant Professor
Department of Foods and Nutrition
B.S., Biology, Howard University, 1999
M.S., Nutrition, University of Georgia, 2004
Ph.D., Nutrition, University of Georgia, 2008
At UGA: Since 2013

NOTABLE:
Cotwright was named to Georgia Trend Magazine’s “40 Under 40” list in 2016... recipient of the Sweeney Innovation Fund within FACS to fund the purchase of a mobile food cart to deliver nutrition education via cooking demonstrations in the community... received $190,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Healthy Eating Research Grant to examine the degree of implementation of healthy beverage policies in child care programs in Georgia.

efforts. She sees this generation as critical in correcting the current “trajectory toward poor health.”

“Overweight children become overweight adults and we’ve just perpetuated the problem,” she said. “So we can start to use children as change agents to change families and their behaviors. I think if we do that we’ll have healthy generations to come, and that’s my role, to leave the world a better place.”

To that point, she sees progress, pointing to statistics showing steady decreases in the rates of childhood obesity in Georgia.

She attributes the decline to a team effort, from legislation to research-based interventions and programs like Georgia Shape (Georgia Student Health and Physical Education), a multi-agency initiative launched in 2012 targeting the problem.

She also recognizes the role of policy in promoting health and is currently conducting a statewide study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to examine the degree of beverage policy implementation among child care providers in Georgia.

“We have all these people working on the problem,” Cotwright said. “If you hit a problem at a lot of different angles, you can make a difference, and I think that’s what’s happening.”

“You can tell she’s very passionate, but she’s also very compassionate,” said Bee Gee Elder, child nutrition manager of the Northeast Georgia Food Bank. “The very first time I met her, she gave me a hug – she said she was so excited to be working with us. Her face just lights up when she talks about the work she does.”

Last year, Cotwright was invited to speak at the TEDxUGA event, created to promote “ideas worth sharing” among faculty and students.

She opened her talk with a quote attributed to Hippocrates, known as the father of modern medicine: “A wise man should consider that health is the greatest of human blessings.”

Without health, Cotwright added, “we really don’t have anything.”

It’s that thought, and the hope and promise she sees in the next generation, that reminds her the pursuit is worth the effort, even when the power goes out and when discouragement creeps in.

“If we can maintain that valuable resource, health, we just might have a better world,” Cotwright said. “This is my little way of doing it.”
Waynesboro, Ga. — There’s a sack of grits on Donna Martin’s desk, and not the instant, stripped down, processed kind.

These are “old timey grown and milled, sifted white grits” from just down the road in Statesboro, according to the packaging.

“These are the only grits we serve because they have to be whole grain,” Martin said. “Our kids love them.”

We are in the South, of course, and folks here take their grits seriously. Martin, the school nutrition director for Burke County, does too.

On this day, sitting at her desk inside the Burke County Public Schools central office, in between the constant pings of incoming emails and phone calls from a CNN producer, Martin is talking about sending grits to Washington, D.C.

She wants to prove to newly-tapped U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, that kids will, in fact, eat these whole grain grits.

It is not an idle threat, if you know Martin at all.

Prior to testifying before members of Congress in the summer of 2015 in support of the new school nutrition standards, Martin delivered some colorful gifts to the desks of each of the committee members: fresh Georgia peaches and blueberries.

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**FACS graduate Donna Martin, is turning heads with her innovative approach to fighting childhood obesity**

By Cal Powell

FACS graduate Donna Martin, is turning heads with her innovative approach to fighting childhood obesity. Martin, the school nutrition director for Burke County, does too.

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Prior to testifying before members of Congress in the summer of 2015 in support of the new school nutrition standards, Martin delivered some colorful gifts to the desks of each of the committee members: fresh Georgia peaches and blueberries.
“And I said to them ‘Tell me you would not eat that,’ ” Martin recalled, savoring the exchange. “That’s what we serve in our lunchroom, and tell me you want to stop requiring these kids to pick up a fruit or vegetable on their trays.”

She called the performance “a home run,” this relatively unknown school nutrition director from Waynesboro, Ga., taking a grilling from Congress but not backing down or apologizing in what has become a hotly-debated issue.

Reared in Miami, Martin is fully Southern in both her hospitality and grit.

Here, in this far flung pocket of east Georgia, amid heartbreaking poverty, Martin has fashioned a school nutrition program that is the envy of the entire country, even warranting a nationally-televised segment on CBS and a visit from the former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama.

“We’ve got this diamond of an employee down here in basically this rural school system,” said Chris Henry, Burke County’s administrative liaison to the superintendent. “I’m not sure a lot of people know what we have – I think the kids know – but we’ve got a diamond down here, no doubt about it.”

Martin was the first member of her family to attend college. She received her bachelor’s degree in dietetics from FACS in 1975 and has spent the last 40 years in Georgia, including a 10-year stint as the Richmond County school nutrition director, before taking her current job in 1999.

She began her career as a dietitian at the university hospital in Augusta, but was soon drawn to school nutrition.

“What attracts me to school nutrition is the prevention aspect,” she said. “And I think with the (rising) healthcare costs, our only hope is to do prevention. We are about to break the back of government on healthcare costs, and it’s heart disease, diabetes, renal disease, and all of that is lifestyle-related.”

In Burke County, Martin oversees a staff of 60 employees who serve meals to more than 4,000 students in five schools. Among them are 68 pre-K students, the youngest of them only eight weeks old.

What the students eat has become the subject of national attention. You won’t find processed chicken nuggets and greasy pizza.

Burke County’s students eat fresh fruits and vegetables sourced from local farmers, from white acre peas to squash casserole, from tomato cucumber salad to spaghetti and meat sauce made from beef that comes from nearby Washington, Ga.

School menus list the source of the food: eggs from Statesboro, hydroponic lettuce from Sardis, tomatoes from the Wagon Barn Market just down the street.

The ambitious farm-to-school program began about a decade ago when a local farmer approached the school looking to sell off a surplus of watermelons.


Before long, Martin had farmers practically begging to sell their crops, from tomatoes to okra to collards.

“I told them there’s not an item y’all grow that we couldn’t use in large quantities,” Martin said.

Demand for fruits and vegetables became so great that Martin arranged a weekly farmers’ market, the first of its kind in the community. Fruit and vegetable consumption has doubled since the farm to school program launched, Martin said, and students have embraced the changes.
"I thought, ‘Are you kidding? Our kids would love watermelons!’"

“What you envision, the worst-case scenario where kids walk out in protest, we didn’t have anything like that,” Henry said. “The changes were so well thought out and the quality of the food so good and explanations so clear. We didn’t go from steak to cardboard. The food got better.”

Burke County, the second largest county in Georgia at 835 square miles, is a “total food desert,” Martin said.

Poverty is rampant, and the school system operates under the Community Eligibility Program, a federal program that allows districts in low-income areas to serve meals at no cost.

Because of Martin’s vision, students in the system won’t go hungry, even after the final bell rings.

Today, 15 buses deliver healthy meals to students even in the far reaches of the county as part of Martin’s summer feeding program, which has since been replicated in school districts across the country.

“I just thought, ‘We’ve got to do something to help these kids,’ and I have the resources to do it,” Martin said. “We didn’t know if it would work, but we were willing to try. Oh my gosh, has it worked! We were the first school district in the U.S. to do that because I have a staff that will go to the ends of the earth to make it all happen. And we all see the benefits of it.”

Earlier this year, Martin was voted president of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the first school nutrition director to serve in the role, another testament to her vision and national impact.

She is asked if she ever gets discouraged, because the thought seems so foreign in light of the passion that radiates from her when she talks.

It happens, she said. But then, she tells you a story.

She was out visiting one of her schools recently. An assistant principal approached, and Martin braced herself.

“I thought, ‘Here it comes, they want fried chicken back on the menu,’ ” Martin said. “He said, ‘When you started all this stuff, I was not a believer. I was negative. I wouldn’t eat the meals and I thought it was all a waste of time.’ ”

Martin had heard it before, but the man continued.

“But he said ‘Oh my gosh, I have seen the change in these kids,’ ” Martin said.

“‘There’s been a change in their behavior eating this healthy food. And it has changed how I eat, too. I’m eating organic and going to farmers’ markets. I just want to thank you.’ ”

Martin smiles.

“When I get discouraged,” she said, “those are the kinds of stories I play in my head. It takes time and not everybody is going to be on board, but I just think it’s worth it in the end.”
Not long after Donna Martin testified to members of Congress in support of the meal standards associated with the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act in 2015, she got an interesting phone call.

“I got a call from the office and (secretary Daphne Callison) said ‘The White House has called you three times,’ Martin said, laughing. ‘My husband owns White House Dry Cleaners. I said ‘Tell my husband I’ll call him when I get back to the office.’ She said, ‘No, Donna, it’s the actual White House.’”

First Lady Michelle Obama was convening a panel of school nutrition directors at the White House to discuss the new standards and wanted Martin to participate.

Of course, Martin accepted, and soon found herself staring at a bank of media cameras while seated next to the First Lady.

The next day, Martin’s friends saw her photo in newspapers across the country and even on “Good Morning America.”

The First Lady later repaid the favor in April 2016 when she visited Waynesboro to work in the school’s garden as part of her American Garden Tour. She and her entourage left with 20 to-go plates prepared by Martin’s cafeteria staff.

Finally, in October 2016, the First Lady invited Martin back to the White House to celebrate the Let’s Move! initiative and help with the final harvest of the White House Garden.

All the attention has been thrilling, but Martin said mostly she’s grateful the spotlight is being shined on improving kids’ lives by making healthy meals accessible.

“Feeding children healthy meals should be a non-partisan issue, something we can all get behind,” Martin said. “I’ve been in school nutrition for about 25 years. The joy for me is having the opportunity to have a national stage where I can share my passion and allow other people to get on the train and move us down the road.”

- Cal Powell
Talk to enough people about Zo Stoneman, and a pattern emerges. They’ll mention her quiet, almost demure, demeanor, her soft voice that oftentimes barely rises above a whisper.

Then, they will laugh. First impressions, they’ll tell you, are misleading.

“She’s a very tiny and petite person,” said longtime friend Beth English, the executive director of Easter Seals Southern Georgia, “but she’s just a fireball, like a stick of dynamite. She truly is.”

Stoneman herself might agree. As a young girl, long before she became a giant in the field of disability research and advocacy, she developed a stubborn streak – some have politely called it “tenacity” and “persistence” – that has served her well in her 40-year career at UGA.

“Even as a kid,” she said, “the one thing that would motivate me to do something is if somebody told me I couldn’t do it or I didn’t have the ability to do it or girls shouldn’t be doing it or whatever. That would be the one thing I’d set my sight on.”

Though it became an asset in a field marked by agonizingly slow, often frustrating, progress, this character trait was not always so endearing, Stoneman admitted.

“My mother had other, less flattering, words for persistent,” she added, laughing.

Stoneman arrived at UGA in 1976 as an assistant professor in what was then called the department of child and family development, fresh off the campus of George Peabody College – now Vanderbilt University – in Nashville.

She also served as director of the children’s program of the University Affiliated Facility located at River’s Crossing, where students received training to work with children with developmental disabilities, many of whom were housed there during the week.

Stoneman and colleague Mary Rugg soon established one of the state’s first inclusive preschool classrooms in 1984 by having the facility’s students join with students at the McPhaul Child Development Center, the UGA lab for typically-developing children.

This innovative approach became a hallmark of Stoneman’s career, as she has worked to promote inclusion and acceptance in a society that often has been resistant to it.

“These are people who have gifts to give to their families, to others, and they’re being stuck away as if they’re unimportant in places where they have little to no control over their lives,” Stoneman said, “and very little ability to reach out and be a part of the world we all live in. Not only are their lives being compromised, but the communities are losing their gifts.”

Among her many career accomplishments, Stoneman, founder and director of the Institute on Human Development and Disability, has been instrumental in several efforts to foster change. Among them, she has:

• Worked to chronicle the struggle for disability rights in Georgia through the co-founding of the Georgia Disability History Alliance.
• Served as a founding member of the Children’s Freedom Initiative, formed to promote the idea that children belong with loving, permanent families – not in institutions or nursing homes.
• Worked with colleagues to establish a Disability Studies Certificate program at UGA.
• Documented the transition of 39 former residents of River’s Crossing, the first institution in Georgia to close, into the community, providing valuable data on the importance of inclusion.

“When she speaks, everyone stops and listens,” said Katie Chandler, who studied under Stoneman during graduate school and now works as the developmental disability coordinator for the Georgia Advocacy Office. “Her passion to support people with developmental disabilities is obvious.”
The College of Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni Awards ceremony took place in February and honored eight leaders who represent the college. Winners, pictured here (Sonia Steffes’ husband and daughter-in-law attended on her behalf), are detailed below.

For full bios, please visit fcs.uga.edu/alumni/awards-and-honor-hall

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Joan Fischer
M.S. ’82, Ph.D. ’92
Professor Emerita, UGA Department of Foods and Nutrition

EMILY QUINN POU PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Meredith Johnson
BSFCS ’00, M.Ed ’16
Executive Director, UGA Alumni Association

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Cindy Culver
BSFCS ’95
Director of School Nutrition, Marietta City Schools

PACESETTER AWARD
Amy Goss, Ph.D.
BSFCS ’06
Assistant Professor, University of Alabama-Birmingham Department of Nutrition Sciences

FACS APPRECIATION AWARD
Sonia Steffes
Owner, Sonia Says

CRESWELL AWARD
Tracey Brigman
M.S. ’92
Clinical Assistant Professor, UGA Department of Foods and Nutrition
Total Economic IMPACT

The University of Georgia has an economic impact of $5.25 billion annually on the Georgia economy through a combination of its teaching, research and public service and outreach programs.

The College of Family and Consumer Sciences, combined with Cooperative Extension, contributes $203 million of this total.

Source: Jeffrey Dorfman, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

A STRONG FOUNDATION

IVY ODOM LEARNED THE VALUE OF SELFLESS GIVING BY WATCHING HER PARENTS

My parents didn’t set foot in Dawson Hall until my freshman orientation in June 2011.

I can’t imagine what they must have felt when they passed under Pou’s Pillars and through the double doors that very first time.

Did they know they were walking into the building where their only child would spend the majority of her time over the next four years, so much so that the building would feel almost as much like home as the one they provided her?

Were they aware the people they met would soon become their daughter’s second family?

I don’t know what was going through their minds that day, but I do know this: every single time after that, when I made that same walk under the Pillars and through the double doors, they were there somewhere, taking that first walk again with me.

Be it in my mind or on the other end of a phone call, their presence was always known.

That’s pretty much how it has been my entire life.

No matter what, my parents have always been my never-failing foundation. In both triumphs and failures, I have always known they are the people I can count on most to cheer me on or cheer me up.

That is why I didn’t expect any less when I called them after attending my first FACS Leadership retreat in the fall of my sophomore year and told them I wanted to set up a fund benefitting future students like me.

At the time it seemed like one of my far-away dreams, something I’d get to as a middle-aged alumna.

But for them, my dream was an opportunity to be supportive parents to not only their biological child, but to anyone benefiting from the fund in the future.

I was the lucky recipient of three FACS undergraduate academic scholarships and benefited from a number of other generous donor funds throughout my time in the college.
responded with the same answer. “FACS turned you into the person you are today. We loved watching you grow there and benefit from donors like the Elliott family, and we can’t wait to be able to do the same for countless other students in the future.”

My four years in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences taught me more about myself than I ever thought possible.

Without the support of my parents, my time in Dawson Hall, and the student leadership fund given in my name, would not be possible.

Since I can’t begin to thank them for everything they have done for me, it’s my sincere hope that they are able to see future generations of students benefit from their generous support like I have.

I hope, for now, that can serve as thanks enough.

As a FACS Ambassador, I was fortunate to attend the FACS Leadership Retreat for three years, where we learned just how important private giving is to the college.

While every single one of these scholarships and donations helped make my four years at the University of Georgia possible, the one scholarship that impacted me the most was the last one I received as a student.

Julia Ann Simpson Elliott was a graduate of the College of Home Economics. She loved the college and she loved the Dawgs.

As an only child of a farmer from my hometown of Moultrie, she was raised to be strong and independent, much like my parents raised me to be.

Mrs. Julia Ann passed away before she was able to see me become the first recipient of the scholarship given in her memory by her family, but I like to think if she could have been there that day, she would have been extremely proud.

Her legacy, like those of many other donors and donor families, lives on through the lives of scholarship recipients like me.

When I asked my parents why they wanted to give, and why they wanted to do it now, they both immediately responded to provide support for student leadership activities at the college, with a preference to support the FACS Ambassadors and their mission to “represent our fellow students, facilitate relationships and impact Athens and the UGA community through intentional service.”
Honor Roll

Thank you for viewing the College of Family and Consumer Sciences Honor Roll of Donors! Here we have honored donations of $1,000 and up made between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. All donations of $50 and above during the same period are recognized on the FACS website at fcs.uga.edu/those-who-give. Gifts of all sizes are important to us and we remain dedicated to using them wisely as we invest in our students, faculty and alumni. If you prefer anonymity or an alternative name format in future publications, we welcome your requests. Send them to Libby Shepherd at libby989@uga.edu

1785 Society

The 1785 Society recognizes cumulative gifts of $1 million and above to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. It is named for the year that the University of Georgia was chartered by the Georgia General Assembly, which pays homage to our impressive history and tradition of achievement as the first state-chartered university in the nation.

The Coca-Cola Foundation
Dr. Bill Flatt and Dr. Marihope (Shirey) Troutman Flatt
Jennifer (Fairchild) and Greg Holcomb

President’s Club Benefactors
$10,000 and Up

The Charles Schwab Corporation Foundation
Tom and Frances Cochran
Connie and Dr. Art Crawley
Bill Elliott
Elsevier Science Ltd.
Dr. Bill Flatt and Dr. Marihope (Shirey) Troutman Flatt
Frances and Dr. Arthur Garrison
Georgia Power Company
Georgia Soft Goods Education Foundation
Georgia United Credit Union
Jayne (Causey) and Mike Godwin
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Dr. Sharon and Rev. Sam Nickols
National Retail Federation Foundation
Sabrina and Wayne Odom

President’s Club Fellows
$5,000 to $9,999

Mark and Laura Cooper
Dean Linda and Wayne Fox
Louise (James) and Johnny Hyers
Mike and Katie James
Joel and Kathy Katz
Dr. Jane Lamb
Don and Erin McNeill
Dr. Ruth McNeill
Sandy and Lee Sanford
Jeff and Cathy Tucker
Dr. Charles Yang

FACS Dean’s Circle
$2,500 and Up

The Dean’s Circle recognizes those who’ve made an annual minimum financial commitment of $2,500 or above to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. To our Dean’s Circle members, thank you for your commitment to FACS and those impacted by your generosity!

Anonymous
The Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education
  Dr. Lynn Bailey and Dr. Gary Rodrick
  Dr. Carolyn (Kiebler) Balkwell
  Jean (Griffeth) Bauerband
  Dr. Gajanan and Vanita Bhat
  Victoria Dorsey
  Finameetrica PTY Limited
  Dr. Joseph Goetz and Lindsay Elwood
  Drs. Silvia and Luis Giraudo
  Dr. Patti Hunt-Hurst and Thomas Hurst
  Dr. Josephine Martin
  Dr. Debbie and L.D. Murray
  Claudia (Stowers) and John Noell
  Vivion (Young) and Dwight Palmer
  Doreen and Alec Poitevint
  Victoria Prevatt
  Betty (Sewell) Ragland
  Dr. Emilie Smith and Phillip Reid
  Sonia Says, Owner, Sonia Steffes
  Lynda (Cowart) Talmadge
  TrueWealth Management
  Jerry Vereen
  Dr. Sheri and Mark Worthy
  Lisa (Vereen) and David Zeanah

President’s Club Associates
$1,000 to $2,499

Dr. Carla Abshire and Michael Giles
Matt and Natalie (Simons) Barber
Dr. Don and Julie Bower
Franklin Cancel
Consumer Federation of America
Corporate Environments
Sandra (Whaley) and Sid Derrick
Matt and John Dixon
Dr. Joan (Guilford) Fischer
M. Joshua Frank
Tammy (Tate) and Geof Gilland
Dr. Wanda Grogan
Cheryl (Miller) and James Guynn
Dr. Ian Hardin and Carol McKay
Dr. Jan (Montgomery) and Jim Hathcote
Robin Hein
Homrich Berg
Ann (Cliett) Howell
International Association of Assessing Officers
Dr. Laura and David Jolly
Dot (Meadows) and Bob Knox
Dr. Michael Martin
Marian (Chesnut) McCullers
Jenny Mittelman and Bill Thompson
Pam (Shirah) and Dink NeSmith
Dr. Lance and Leann Palmer
Honorable Kathy (Stephens) and Danny Palmer
Bonnie (Stephens) and Clark Petersen
Lucy (Branch) and Bob Reid
David Reynolds
John and Wanda Robertson
Drs. Tom and Janie Rodgers
Beth (Maddox) and Robert Schuler
Dr. Martin and Katie (Reeves) Seay
Edie (Edwards) and Byron Smith
Dr. Zolinda Stoneman
Julie (Toland) and David Suppes
John Taylor
Sue (Renfroe) and Frank Tetterton
David and Dr. Kara Ward
Blake and Madeline Williams
**FACS FACTS**

**FACS CONTRIBUTORS**

- **UGA Alumni**: 75.33
- **Friends**: 15.07
- **Corporations**: 4.97
- **Organizations**: 4.64

Where FACS DONORS ALLOCATE their dollars:

- **Department and Program Designations**: 49%
- **FACS Alumni Association**: 19%
- **Endowment Funds**: 30%
- **FACS Fund for Excellence**: 2%

**Percentage of Alumni Giving by College**

- Ag and Environmental Sciences: 11%
- Arts and Sciences: 9%
- Engineering: 9%
- Ecology: 6%
- Education: 11%
- Environment and Design: 11%
- Family and Consumer Sciences: 11%
- Forestry and Natural Resources: 16%
- Journalism and Mass Communication: 12%
- Law: 25%
- Pharmacy: 16%
- Public and International Affairs: 14%
- Public Health: 8%
- Social Work: 7%
- Vet Med: 16%
Growing up in tiny Jackson, Ga., Jessica Parks was fascinated with money.

Some of her favorite memories involve going grocery shopping with her parents and rolling coins from her dad’s coin jar.

“I noticed many people in my hometown talk about struggling to pay their bills, so I sprang into action,” she said. “I read many personal finance books hoping to help them.”

Parks seemed destined for a career in finance, and indeed received her undergraduate degree in the field from the Terry College of Business in 2015.

She then received her master’s degree from the FACS department of financial planning, housing and consumer economics, during which time she interned at a microfinance institution in Vietnam and participated in various outreach projects under the direction of faculty member Joan Koonce.

“These experiences have allowed me to see the value in both outreach and university instruction,” Parks said.

She’s now a Ph.D. student in FACS and plans to pursue a faculty position that combines her love of outreach with her passion for teaching.

Parks is also the grateful recipient of numerous scholarships and travel awards, including the Don Bower Extension Experience Fund that assisted her work with Koonce, the Virginia Wilbanks Kilgore Scholarship and an award from Merrill Lynch that helped pay for her graduate studies.

Parks also has had the opportunity to study abroad three times with the help of several scholarships.

“To all my donors, your giving says to me that you see potential in me,” Parks said. “Donors, in general, express through their gift giving that a student’s education is worth way more than any other high-yielding investment. In addition, gift giving promotes community and collaboration, communicating to the student that they are not in the world to fend for themselves.”

If you’d like to help make a difference in the lives of students like Jessica, contact Libby Shepherd at (706) 542-4881 or by email at libby989@uga.edu
FY2017
EXTERNAL PROJECT FUNDING

FACS Faculty Received $13.5m

- Non-Federal $7.1m
- Federal $6.4m
- State of Georgia Agencies $5.3m

Yearly Funding:
- 2012: $6,000,000
- 2013: $8,000,000
- 2014: $10,000,000
- 2015: $12,000,000
- 2016: $14,000,000
- 2017: $16,000,000

$77,469,022 Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
$29,743,628 College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
$29,313,700 College of Veterinary Medicine
$16,446,706 Vice President for Public Service and Outreach
$13,458,214 College of Family and Consumer Sciences
$13,268,289 President, Other Vice Presidents
$12,538,836 College of Public Health
$11,444,890 College of Education
$10,503,697 Vice President for Research
$10,137,384 Warnell School of Forest Resources
$5,604,076 College of Engineering
$4,181,263 College of Pharmacy
$4,181,263 School of Public and International Affairs
$2,849,855 Eugene Odum School of Ecology
$2,524,706 School of Social Work
$2,117,117 School of Law
$535,595 Terry College of Business
$386,667 College of Environment and Design
$375,794 Grady College of Journalism
$362,612
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Dear FACS faculty, staff, students and alumni,

One of the things I love most about FACS is its commitment to involving all of us in so many aspects of its programming. This carries over into the FACS Alumni Association Board as well. The mission of the Alumni Association Board of Directors is “to keep alumni, students, faculty, and friends interested in, involved and connected to the College.”

This new school year will coincide with the 100th anniversary of FACS programming at UGA when the first degree program was approved, allowing women to enroll in what later became known as the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

So as we near 100 years of FACS programming, let’s all show our passion for FACS in our deeds, dollars and declarations and get involved!

I am honored to serve as FACS Alumni Association Board President this year, and I want to thank the Alumni Board of Directors for their support of the college.

We have such an accomplished and talented group of FACS alumni and friends on the board this year! Come meet them at the Homecoming Tailgate, FACS Week events and other FACS events and opportunities for involvement.

**OCT 14, 2017: Homecoming Tailgate, Dawson Hall**

**OCT 19, 2017: Dogs with the Dean, Dawson Hall**

**JAN 15, 2018: FACS 100 Kickoff Day of Service**

**FEB 24, 2018: FACS 100 Gala: A Centennial Celebration**

We are especially excited to present the FACS 100 Gala: A Centennial Celebration on Feb. 24 at the Tate Grand Hall! Please be sure to mark your calendars and join us!

FACS enjoys a proud tradition of excellence in its programming, faculty, students and diverse alumni.

I am proud to be a FACS alumna and I invite you to reconnect with the College, get involved and celebrate the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Go Dawgs!

Camille Kesler
2017-18 Alumni Association Board President
CLASS NOTES 2017

1970s
VerStewart (BSHE ‘74), host of The Very Vera Show, recently spoke to alumni in Macon, Ga., at the UGA Alumni event, “A Night with Vera Stewart.”

Donna Martin (BSHE ‘75) began her one-year term as President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the world’s largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, on June 1. She lives in Augusta, Ga., and is the School Nutrition Director for Burke County Public Schools.

1980s
Stephanie Bradshaw (BSHE ‘89) was No. 28 on the 2017 UGA Bulldog 100. She is the co-owner of The Stitchery in Rome, Ga.

Clara June Hayes (MS ‘83) retired after 38 years of service to public education through UGA Extension Service and the Coffee County Board of Education. She now serves as Director of Douglas First United Methodist Preschool.

1990s
Sidney McDougald David (BSFCS ‘94) joined Colonial House of Flowers as a floral designer. She has been featured in the wedding blogs Wedding Sparrow and Ruffled.

Terrell Davis (BSFCS ‘95) was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on February 4, 2017.

Malinda Dean (BSFCS ‘94) is the school counselor at Cairo High School in Grady County. Prior to working at Cairo, she spent 18 years as the counselor at Bainbridge Middle School.

Marie Spano (MS ‘99) is a nutritionist for the Atlanta Falcons. She also works with the Atlanta Hawks and Atlanta Braves.

Christie Shepard (BSFCS ‘95) is the co-founder of the online marketplace DearKeaton.com. The site specializes in resort furniture, decorative accessories, lighting, resort clothing, jewelry and gifts.

2000s
Deven Cason (BSFCS ‘07) is the project manager for Partnership Gwinnett. She works with companies in the manufacturing and supply chain industries.

Scott Edwards (BSFCS ‘02) is co-owner of Adaptive Medical Partners and was a 2017 UGA Bulldog 100 honoree.

Leslie Friedman (BSFCS ‘09) is the author of “Dressing Your Personal Brand: The Ultimate Guide to Leveraging your Appearance to be Happier, More Successful, and Less Stressed.”

Kristi Greer (BSFCS ’00) is an education and development officer for Oconee State Bank. In 2015, she was an Athens Athena nominee.

Ashley Johnson (BSFCS ‘03) was No. 35 on the 2017 UGA Bulldog 100. She is the co-owner of Rumor Boutique in Macon, Ga.

Nikki Hawthorne (BS ’00, MS ’00) is the School Food Service Director for the Putnam County School Board and the co-founder of Feed the Need, a weekend backpack program for hungry students. She was awarded the “Service Above Self” award for 2016 from the Palatka Rotary Club.

Chase Lawrence (BSFCS ‘05), principal and broker at CollegeTown Properties, was honored as a member of the 2016 UGA 40 Under 40. He also earned for a third time a spot in the 2017 UGA Bulldog 100 at No. 19.

Charlotte Lucas (BSFCS ’05) is the owner of Charlotte Lucas Interior Design and a 2017 UGA Bulldog 100 honoree.

Kregg Lumpkin (BSFCS ’07), former NFL football player, became a firefighter in Clayton County in November 2016.

Katie Nichols (BSFCS ’05) is the owner of Entourage Clothing & Gifts and a 2017 UGA Bulldog 100 honoree.

Chris Raiford (BSFCS ’06) was named branch manager of the Ameris Bank in Richmond Hill, Ga.

Harold Jackson (BSFCS ’08) has been hired as a certified Family Nurse Practitioner with Urology Associates of Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Ga.

Callie Walker (BSFCS ’09) joined the family business, Hughey & Neuman, Inc. The firm was No. 39 on the 2017 UGA Bulldog 100.

2010s
Danielle Baker (BSFCS ’12) is a business lines underwriter for State Farm.

Courtney Batchelor (BSFCS ’15) is attending Yale University’s physician assistant program.

Kethia Booker (BSHE ‘12) has joined the Parents & Leadership Giving team at UGA as an Engagement & Annual Leadership Officer.

Courtney Kupets Carter (BSFCS ’10) was named the head coach of the UGA gymnastics team.

A.J. Green (M ‘12) received the Young Alumni Award from the UGA Alumni Association at the 2016 Awards Luncheon.

Haleigh Darnell (BSFCS ’16) works as Social Service Technician for McIntosh Trail Community Service Board.

Lauren Flowers (BSFCS ’13) works in the UGA College of Education as a Student Affairs Professional. Her main responsibilities are recruitment, retention, and working with student ambassadors.

Taliah Ayers (BSFCS ’16) recently became the EFNEP Extension Educator in Fulton County.

Rebekah Herum (BSFCS ’15) is attending the University of Texas-Austin, pursuing a master’s of Social Work.

Julianne Roche (BSFCS ’16) was accepted into the accelerated nursing program at the University of North Florida.

Hudson Swafford (BSFCS ’11) claimed his first PGA Tour title in January 2017 by winning the CareerBuilder Challenge.

Savannah Thaler (BSFCS ’16) started her own business, Savvy Wellness and Health, offering nutrition counseling and hosting freezer meal prep events and group virtual wellness workshops.

Ivy Odom (BSFCS ’15) is featured in Southern Living magazine for her 18-layer chocolate cake. Video was posted on People Magazine’s Facebook page.

Darius Phelps (BSFCS ’15) was named Georgia Child Caregiver of the Year and recently presented at a TEDxUGA event.
## In Memoriam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1930s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth A. Pannell</td>
<td>BSHE ’37, August 23, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazel Pittman</td>
<td>BSHE ’39, June 2, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mildred Ray</td>
<td>BSHE ’39, April 23, 2017</td>
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<th>1940s</th>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine E. Burrell</td>
<td>BSHE ’40, September 1, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daisy J. Christian</td>
<td>BSHE ’45, October 10, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Myers Comolli</td>
<td>BSHE ’47, August 12, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary C. Crawford</td>
<td>BSHE ’42, January 27, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth S. Downs</td>
<td>BSHE ’49, November 9, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amelia A. Dreese</td>
<td>BSHE ’41, December 29, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doris B. Goode</td>
<td>BSHE ’45, January 21, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy M. Mainlin</td>
<td>BSHE ’40, February 7, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Hudson</td>
<td>BSHE ’49, November 5, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary G. Marchant</td>
<td>BSHE ’46, December 9, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myrtle V. Meeks</td>
<td>BSHE ’44, July 8, 2016</td>
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<td>Ruth M. Nix</td>
<td>BSHE ’45, September 7, 2016</td>
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<td>Kathryn E. Norris</td>
<td>BSHE ’46, July 18, 2016</td>
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<td>Gervaise Perdue</td>
<td>BSHE ’46, August 14, 2016</td>
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<td>Julia L. Renfroe</td>
<td>BSHE ’41, October 25, 2016</td>
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<th>1950s</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly H. Bremer</td>
<td>BSHE ’52, January 22, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nan Cole</td>
<td>BSHE ’50, September 19, 2016</td>
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<td>Martha R. Elkins</td>
<td>BSHE ’54, October 23, 2016</td>
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<td>Martha T. Fitzgerald</td>
<td>BSHE ’52, October 3, 2016</td>
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<td>Martha M. Hamill</td>
<td>BSHE ’50, February 28, 2017</td>
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<td>Madaline D. Huie</td>
<td>BSHE ’53, April 4, 2017</td>
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<td>Shirley A. Kinney</td>
<td>BSHE ’57, April 11, 2017</td>
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<td>Ruby F. Little</td>
<td>BSHE ’59, November 20, 2016</td>
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<td>Deborah P. Loper</td>
<td>BSHE ’56, December 7, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte A. McNeil</td>
<td>BSHE ’56, MS ’69, August 27, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary A. Roberts</td>
<td>BSHE ’51, December 24, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary J. Stephens</td>
<td>BSHE ’56, January 3, 2017</td>
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<th>1960s</th>
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<tr>
<td>Betty J. Cook</td>
<td>MSHE ’64, March 3, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judith A. Finleyson</td>
<td>BSHE ’66, March 19, 2017</td>
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<td>Harriett R. Hulsey</td>
<td>BSHE ’61, April 14, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ouida Walker</td>
<td>BSHE ’68, June 14, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly E. Webb</td>
<td>BSHE ’65, January 4, 2017</td>
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<th>1970s</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne T. Bryan</td>
<td>BSHE ’74, August 19, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Smith Chandler</td>
<td>BSHE ’70, June 5, 2017</td>
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<td>Kathy J. Grahl</td>
<td>BSHE ’70, January 14, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tee I. Harbin</td>
<td>BSHE ’74, October 22, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia L. Mackay</td>
<td>BSHE ’75, April 26, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura K. Norman</td>
<td>BSHE ’81, October 5, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candy L. Pyron</td>
<td>BSHE ’80, May 17, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<th>1990s</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marci A. Salyer</td>
<td>BSFCS ’98, March 24, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie E. Hortman</td>
<td>BSFCS ’99, April 21, 2017</td>
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<th>2000s</th>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha D. Vedua</td>
<td>BSFCS ’06, November 14, 2016</td>
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**Mildred Ray lived to be 108 Years Old.**

She earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics in 1939, but began her college career in 1931 in the home economics department at the State Normal School for Teachers. During her education, she lived in the newly-built home management houses, and later taught home economics and managed school lunch programs at a variety of high schools. From 1946-64, she taught home economics to the wives of returning soldiers at what was then known as the North Georgia Vocational and Technical School in Clarkesville. She retired as a social worker for the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services. Ray was profiled in the Fall 2012 issue of FACS Magazine.
Journal article recounts Creswell’s trailblazing journey

The scene opens with 12 women being escorted to the chancellor’s office at the University of Georgia.

It was September, 1918. After a long and contentious struggle, women had finally earned the right to enroll at the university in the newly created division of home economics.

Among the women in the office of Chancellor David Barrow that day was Mary Creswell, who later became the first female to receive an undergraduate degree from the university and founding dean of what would become the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

FACS dean and professor emerita Sharon Nickols, with co-author and FACS graduate Gina Peek, recount the scene in an engaging article about Creswell and the “protracted struggle” women faced to gain admission to the university entitled “The Opening Wedge: Mary E. Creswell, Home Economics, and the University of Georgia.”

The article appears in the June 2017 issue of the Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal. Peek, who received her Ph.D. in housing and consumer economics in 2009, is now an associate professor at Oklahoma State University.

The article’s title was inspired by a quote from Creswell in a 1951 Atlanta Journal piece:

“Young women of today,” she wrote, “with their easy acceptance of many privileges another generation had to fight and brave ridicule to win, simply cannot understand that not only the men students, but many mature men of influence, were absolutely rigid and rockbound in their opposition toward swinging the University gates wide to women. Wide, did I say? We were to be the opening wedge!”

Nickols, who served as FACS dean from 1991-2006, conducted the research to fill in some gaps in the history and to address some incorrect assumptions about the profession.

Among the highlights of the research was uncovering a letter Creswell wrote to her mother shortly after she was chosen to lead the new home economics program at the university.

Creswell was presented her degree in 1919, having earned credit from courses she had already taken at the Normal School, the University of Chicago and “by arrangement” at the University of Georgia, Nickols said.

The 12 women who enrolled in 1918 were awarded degrees in 1920.

“I came to understand Mary Creswell as a woman of integrity and perseverance, and a person who radiated strength and beauty of character,” Nickols said.

The article can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/ybtn385g

- Cal Powell
We’re turning 100 in 2018! Join us for the third annual FACS WEEK

Countdown to FACS 100
A Centennial Celebration

October 14-20
www.fcs.uga.edu/facsweek