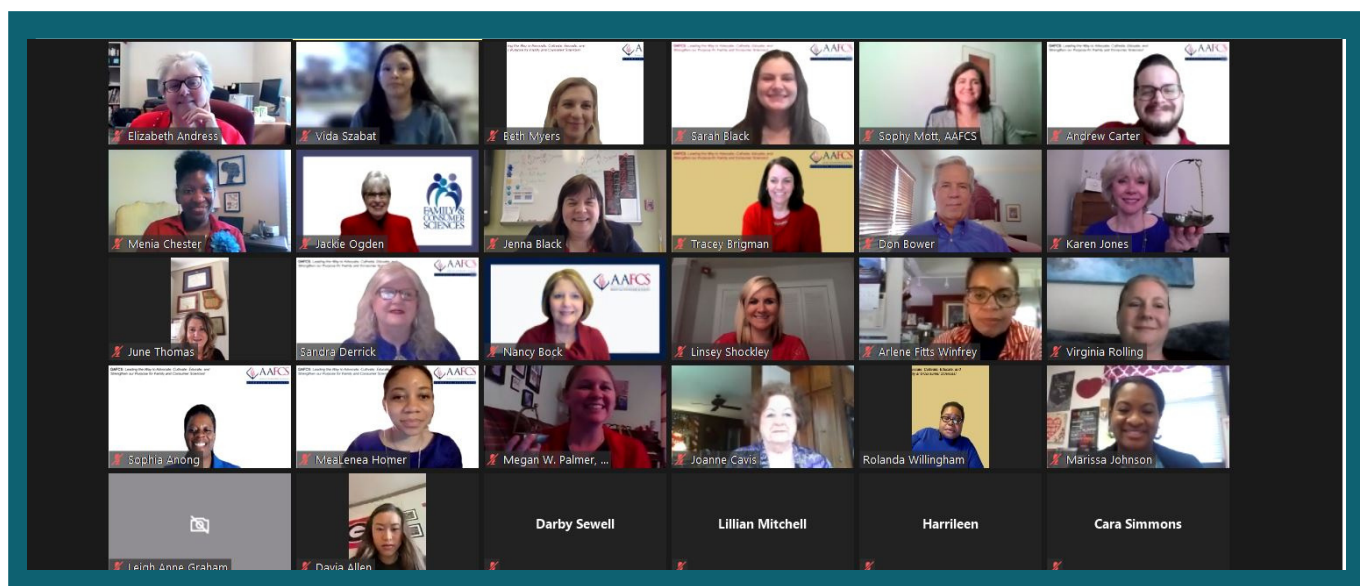


# GAFCS NEWSLETTER

*American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences*



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## Greetings, GAFCS!

*by Ashleigh Childs, GAFCS Co-VP for  
Communications*

Congratulations to all of our GAFCS student unit member graduates, retirees, teachers and professionals for making it through the 2020-2021 academic year! Your resiliency and resourcefulness is what makes our organization and the field of family and consumer sciences so relevant. As we are transitioning into new roles on the GAFCS Executive Board, I wanted to take the opportunity to invite our members to contribute to the quarterly newsletter! If you have an accomplishment you would like to share, a colleague you would like to lift up, or an announcement that will benefit the good of the membership, please feel free to contact me via email at [aec10754@uga.edu](mailto:aec10754@uga.edu). Also, be on the lookout for our monthly membership update emails following the Executive Board meetings, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook and connect with us on Twitter!

Sincerely,  
Ashleigh Childs  
Co-VP of Communications

# GAFCS **Shines** the Spotlight



## Committee for Diversity and Inclusion

*Submitted by: Megan Presley  
and Menia Chester*

The committee continues to develop strategies and practices to infuse diversity and inclusion within the board and affiliate membership. In the last newsletter, you learned what we've been working on for the last few months. In this feature, you'll meet two more committee members. The GAFCS Committee on Diversity and Inclusion is looking for new members! If you're interested, complete this quick form [here](#).



### As a general member, what made you decide to join this committee?

*"This topic is very important to me, especially in the climate of today. There is so much happening in our nation and in our state that I felt like I needed to do more. I joined this committee in an effort to be a part of the conversation and to help lead our organization in a positive direction in the area of Diversity and Inclusion."*

**Name:** Menia Chester

**Position:** GAFCS Diversity and Inclusion Member

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## Megan wants to know: If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

*"I would like to live on a farm in middle Georgia. This farm would have all the things my family needs in order to live sustainably and comfortably. My cooking/lifestyle show would be filmed there too!"*



**Name:** Megan Presley

**Position:** President

## As the current president, how was your leadership philosophy shifted with this focus?

*"As a new professional when I thought of the term diversity, I initially thought of a group of people who all looked physically different; however, as I have grown in my personal and professional life as well as through recent current events, I have learned and experienced that diversity is so much more. I have appreciated having the opportunity to lead GAFCS through this time because I have had so many opportunities to shift my focus to promoting the necessity of educating others on the topic of diversity and inclusion as well as being able to demonstrate how having greater levels of diversity makes us so much stronger as an organization."*

## Menia wants to know: What is a successful day for you?

*"A successful day for me is one that I have spent time with loved ones and laughed a lot. Those two things bring me joy and I believe having joy in my soul is the best way to live a happy, healthy life."*



# GAFCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

*Submitted by: Dr. Cara Simmons*

On March 5, 2021, we held our first ever virtual annual conference. Last fall, we anticipated being able to host an in-person event. In the end, we decided to shift to a virtual event for the health and safety of our members. As the president-elect, I had the opportunity to create an engaging learning experience for our members. It also provided a unique opportunity to increase attendance and have AAFCS leaders attend. Below is a brief overview of conference highlights.

The conference opened with a roll call of members and polls to assess future member participation, what they hope to see from GAFCS, and how long people have been affiliated with the organization and conference.

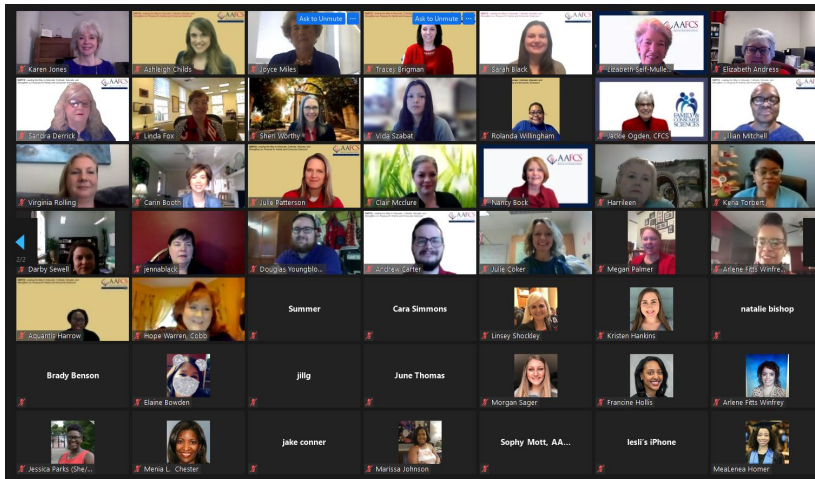
Clair McClure, a first time attendee and faculty member at the University of Georgia in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors stated, "As a first-time conference attendee, I was compelled by the impact of GAFCS both within the state of Georgia and nationally. I've always felt a strong connection to the college of FACS at UGA where I am a faculty member but attending the GAFCS conference showed me that I am part of a larger FCS family. I joined AAFCS before the conference ended, because I knew this was an organization I needed to stay connected with!"

In session # 1, Joyce Beery Miles provided a roadmap of how the profession is more relevant than ever before and how sustainability issues we face in this country addressed by our founder, Ellen Swallow Richards, over 100 years ago are more relevant than ever. She challenged us to take the best from our historic beginnings and use this information to practice our profession in the most scientific way possible in this 21st Century.

Diversity and inclusion was the focus of Session #2. Dr. Cara Simmons provided a state affiliate update and Dr. Jacqueline Holland provided the national update. Following the updates, Menia Chester, GAFCS Diversity and Inclusion Committee member, moderated the panel discussion focusing on the role of diversity and inclusion in family and consumer sciences. Panelists included:

- Dr. Sophia Anong, GAFCS State Student Unit Advisor
- Andrew Carter, Current Georgia Southern Student, 2020-2021 AAFCS Student Unit Board First Vice Chair
- Dr. Jacqueline Holland, CFCS, Interim Department Director and Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at Morgan State University
- MeaLenea Homer, Fort Valley State University Alumna and Former Student Unit Member
- Megan Presley, GAFCS President

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***Photo: Attendees at GAFCS  
2021 Virtual Conference***

One attendee emphasized the importance of Diversity and Inclusion in our profession. “Diversity and inclusion is the future for AAFCS/GAFCS and we must grow and adapt to meet those new standards and goals.”

In Session #3, we highlighted GAFCS 2020-2021 board accomplishments. The best part of the session was celebrating and recognizing member accomplishments and announcing scholarship and award winners.

Davia Allen, a student attendee, noted, “I decided to attend the GAFCS conference to discover what opportunities GAFCS could provide to me for professional and personal development. As I attended the sessions, I began to think maybe I should be wondering what I can contribute to this organization. I also learned that GAFCS is a supportive community and that involvement can be a lifetime commitment.”

The virtual format allowed national leadership to attend. In our fourth and last session, we heard updates from AAFCS leaders through a moderated panel discussion to keep us connected and engaged. Panel members included:

- Nancy Bock, Executive Director
- Sophy Mott, Director of Affiliate and Member Programs
- Dr. Liz Self-Mullens, 2020-2021 President

Coordinating the event takes months of planning with the president-elect leading the bulk of the work. Current board member Dr. Karen Jones remarked, “I have coordinated or helped plan four GAFCS annual conferences. When the long-term impact of the pandemic became a reality, President-Elect Cara Simmons, and President Megan Presley pivoted and moved the 2021 GAFCS Annual Conference from a face-to-face format to a Zoom reality. And, what a success it was! Session topics varied from a review of our history and how to keep it relevant to ways our association needs to be involved in diversity and inclusion. Conference speakers included several national officers and board members, something that may not have been possible with a physical conference.”

It was an honor to serve my affiliate and membership through conference planning. Be sure to view the 2021 Annual Conference Infographic [here](#) for a snapshot of the conference experience and look out for the 2022 conference [save the date to join us!](#)





# IFHE 2022 World Congress Report

*Submitted by: Joanne Cavis, CFCS*

Every four years, the International Federation of Home Economics holds a World Congress and, the postponed XXIV Congress, will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Hyatt Regency, September 4-10, 2022. The host organization is IFHE-US.

Your GAFCS is involved in Learning Day on the Move, on Friday, September 9th, by leading three of the twelve educational tours: Atlanta History Museum, Atlanta Area Community Food Bank and Fernbank Science Museum. The GAFCS committee members working on this component are: Don Bower, Helen Carter, Joanne Cavis, Karen Jones, Virginia Richards, and June Thomas. We have been meeting monthly since 2017 – at first to plan the home visit component and then, in May, 2020, switched to submitting tour proposals which were accepted in March, 2021.

In April, 2021, the Second Announcement about World Congress gave us information about the Congress schedule, registration options and costs, choices for Learning Day on the Move, and more. (Go to [www.ifhe.org](http://www.ifhe.org) and click on World Congress 2022, and select from the various options for more detailed information.)

There are daily registration options – for example, you could just participate in Learning Day on the Move, or attend the educator track on Monday and Saturday, which are non-school days for teachers.

The next deadline is the CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS: June 1 through August 31, 2021. Take advantage of showcasing your research, best practices, or exhibit textiles (new for 2022). This opportunity is International! In our State! No long-distance travel expenses! Abstract acceptance will be announced January 1, 2022.

Congress and hotel registration opens January 1, 2022.

Get out your calendar. Mark the World Congress dates. Plan your budget. Ask for financial support from your employer. Submit an abstract. Review the World Congress website. ([www.ifhe.org](http://www.ifhe.org)).



**IFHE**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR HOME ECONOMICS



# GAFCS Student Unit Graduates

*Submitted by: Sophia Anong*

**Graduate:** Andrew Carter

**College/Institution:** Georgia Southern University

**Major:** Interior Design

**Student Association Involvement:** Member since 2017, 2020-2021 National Student Unit First Vice Chair



## How has FACS shaped/supported your life?

*"FACS has been a part of my life as far back as I can remember with my mom working for Extension and being involved in 4H. It has helped me become the professional I am today by giving me the experiences necessary, such as networking and professional events."*

## What would say to someone who is considering FACS as a career?

*"I would say that you will be greatly surprised by the amount of industries and careers that fall under the FACS umbrella, and that they should get ready for a rewarding experience."*

## Do you have any advice for incoming freshmen or your fellow graduates?

*"When the going gets rough, hang in there. You are not alone. There are fellow students and even faculty that are ready and willing to help you. Do not be afraid to ask for it."*



# Dr. Elizabeth Andress Retires

*Submitted by: Dr. Don Bower*

Elizabeth Andress was an Extension food safety specialist with Georgia Cooperative Extension since 1994 and a Professor in the Department of Foods and Nutrition. Her Extension programs in food safety and quality included home food preservation and foodservice sanitation, including the ServSafe® food handler certification program. She was the Director of the National Center for Home Food Processing and Preservation (NCHFP) for 20 years until her retirement. She is also a co-author and lead contact for the USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning and the University of Georgia So Easy to Preserve book and videos.



Dr. Andress led development of the National Center for Home Food Preservation website ([nchfp.uga.edu](http://nchfp.uga.edu) or [www.homefoodpreservation.net](http://www.homefoodpreservation.net)) and was responsible for all content on the site. This website usually attracted over 1.4 million unique visitors per year since 2002; in 2020, the number of visitors jumped to 1.9 million during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Andress also taught FDNS 4640/6640, Food Sanitation and Safety, in the Department of Foods and Nutrition. For three years, she taught a First Year Odyssey seminar for freshman, and for two years, she also co-taught a Maymester original course on food preservation.

Dr. Andress has previously held positions as National Program Leader for Food Science with the Extension Service-USDA, food safety specialist with the Florida Extension Service, Extension Research Assistant in Food Science at Penn State University and County Extension Home Economist, in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. At USDA she was team leader for the first national Extension Food Safety and Quality Initiative and managed an annual special projects funding program for land-grant universities.

Dr. Andress was program leader for all Georgia Extension foods and nutrition programs from 1994-1996 and Interim Director of FACS Extension for 18 months in 2010-2011. She is a Walter B. Hill Distinguished Public Service Fellow at UGA. Among the other honors Dr. Andress has been awarded are the National Excellence in Extension Award from USDA and the Association of Public and Landgrant Universities (APLU), the Outstanding Engagement Award from the Board on Human Sciences with the national association for land-grant universities (NASULGC), the Walter B. Hill and D.W. Brooks awards for outreach work at the University of Georgia, and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences faculty outreach award twice.





# Thank you, Dean Fox!

*Submitted by: Cal Powell*



Linda Kirk Fox, who has served as dean of the University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences since 2011, has announced her plans to retire on Aug. 1, 2021.

Fox became the college's seventh dean in July 2011 with the vision of building a college of cohesive faculty and staff of well-funded and distinct programs for diverse and global learners.

Under Fox's leadership, enrollment in the college has increased by more than 20 percent; funded research has more than doubled and the number of endowed professorships has grown from five to 15, in addition to the establishment of numerous new scholarships and student support funds.

"I cannot imagine a time when I'm not the dean of this college," Fox said. "Nothing has given me more fulfillment and more joy than working with the dedicated faculty and inspiring students of our college."

Fox called her time at UGA as "the richest and most rewarding" of her career. "I can say with confidence that UGA President Jere Morehead and Provost Jack Hu know and respect our college," Fox said. "They value our work and our efforts to support and strengthen individuals, families and communities."

In addition to serving as dean of the college, Fox also serves as associate director of UGA Cooperative Extension and associate director of Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations for family and consumer sciences programs.

During her tenure, she has promoted community engagement research initiatives such as the college's leadership in the UGA Obesity Initiative and the Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance.

A 14-member search committee chaired by Kelly Smith, dean of the College of Pharmacy, has been appointed to conduct a national search for the college's next dean.

Assisted by the UGA Search Group, the search will begin in early May, with candidate recruitment occurring over the summer. The campus community will have opportunities to meet with the finalists, either in person or via Zoom, depending on health conditions, in the fall semester.

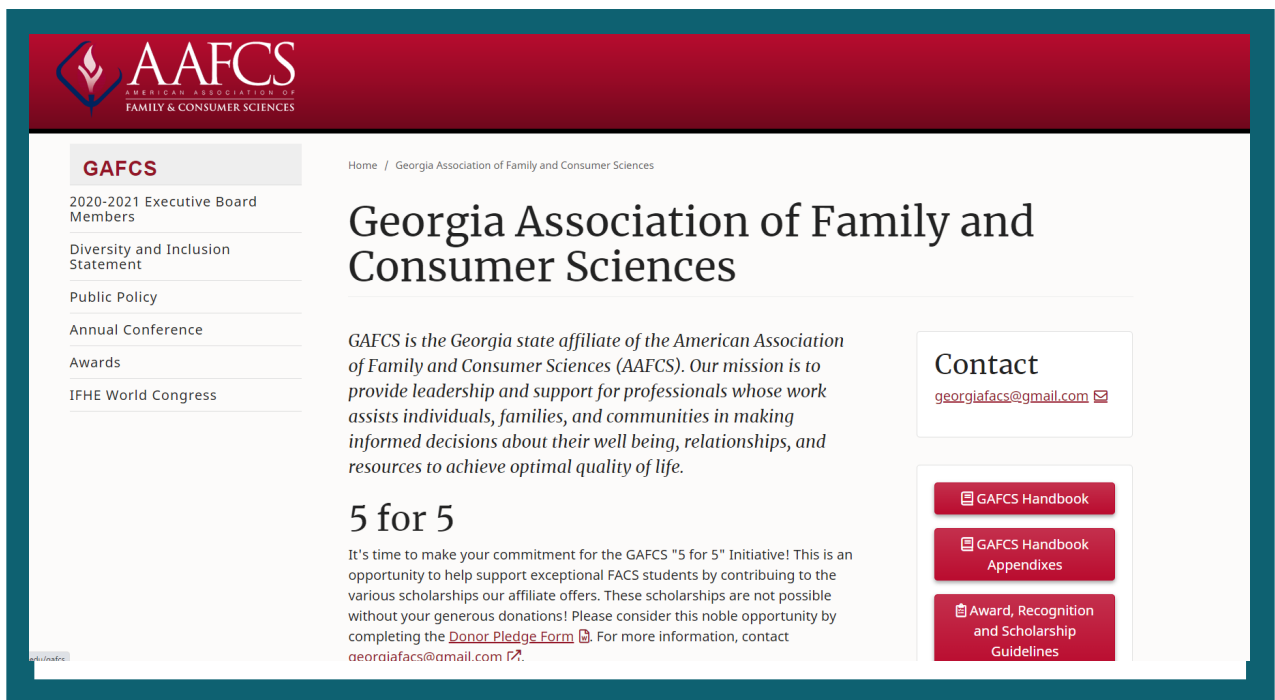
Updates on the search will be posted at [https://provost.uga.edu/facs\\_dean\\_search/](https://provost.uga.edu/facs_dean_search/)

"It is a privilege to serve as dean, and I'm excited for what I know will be a tremendous future for all of the FACS family," Fox said.



# Special Thanks

*The Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Executive Board would like to thank Dean Fox and Jimmy Hansen of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences for their support in maintaining the GAFCS website. You can check it out [here](#)!*



# Thank You!



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