

GAFCS NEWSLETTER

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences



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Greetings, GAFCS!

by Vida Szabat, GAFCS President



Greetings! My name is Vida Szabat, and I am the current GAFCS president for the 2022-2023 term. It has been one of my greatest honors to be the leader of this organization that I got involved in 5 years ago.

If someone would have asked me 10 years ago that I would have the honor to be the Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Science President. I would have thought they had lost their mind, however, here I am writing my goodbye message to our members. This year has been a productive one for the organization but so much more needs to be done. Our profession is a crucial one in all aspects of life and we need to continue to fight.

It is important for us to be the voice so that others can continue to lead the way but not one single person can do that, we must rely on each other. Otherwise we become the post and memes of they need to teach this in school. We can't let that occur. As I prepare to hand over the presidency to Ashleigh, I know that we will continue to be in great hands with our 2023-2024 GAFCS Board and our new president. I want to end with a thank you for trusting me to lead the organization that has made a name for itself not only here in Georgia but also at the National level. Be proud and keep up the fight we have so much more to accomplish.



2023/2024 GAFCS Executive Board

Submitted by: Dr. Karen Jones, Nominating Committee

Members attending the March 3rd GAFCS Annual Conference elected the following individuals to serve as your 2023 Executive Board. Please welcome these amazing professionals as they continue to provide leadership to the membership and carry on the work of our organization.

- President - Ashleigh Childs
- President Elect - Dr. Tracey Brigman
- Secretary - Dr. June Thomas
- Treasurer - Dr. Don Bower
- Vice President for Professional Development - Menia Chester
- Vice President for Membership - Helen Carter
- Vice Presidents for Communications - DJ Youngblood and Kristen Hankins
- Vice Presidents for Public Policy - Joanne Cavis and Kena Torbert
- Vice President for Resource Development - Jenna Black
- Vice President for Awards & Communication - Vickie Rundbaken
- Nominating Committee - Dr. Carmen Pedersen (Chair), Dr. Darby Sewell, and Dr. Cara Simmons
- Student Unit Advisor - Sarah Catherine Fowler
- Counselor - Vida Szabt

Public Policy

Submitted by: Joanne S. Cavis, CFCS

Public Policy: The End and the Beginning



Now is the time to thank your local Georgia legislators for their support of family and consumer sciences professionals and the legislation that positively affects the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. A personal letter/note makes a difference. Take action today!

Call attention to the critical need for family and consumer sciences educators (classroom teachers and Extension FCS agents and educators) and FCS teacher education programs. Only UGA has a FCS teacher education program. There are no programs in south Georgia. Georgia Southern and ABAC need FCS teacher education programs. You need to let your legislators know that they must advocate for us with the Board of Regents to add these FCS teacher education programs. There are position openings and no one to fill them. We know how important the knowledge and skills learned through FCS subject matter are for life-long quality of life in home and work-place.

What are your local issues that affect public policy at the local, state and national level? How can you advocate? Talk and/or write to your legislators. Let them know how family and consumer sciences research can help in decision-making. Are there programs used in other localities or states that would work in your community to help solve critical community issues? Your AAFCS networks can help connect you to resources, organizations and professionals.

During the summer months, legislative agendas are developed, as well as the budgets to go along with them. Your actions can make a difference.



FACS Day at the Capitol

Atlanta, Georgia, February 16, 2023, found family and consumer sciences professionals and students coming together for a day of advocacy for the profession: Proclamation with Governor Brian Kemp, House Resolution sponsored by Representative Houston Gaines, Senate Resolution Sponsored by Senator Frank Ginn, Capitol tours with the UGA/FACS Legislative Aides, networking luncheon, and sitting in on a House committee on family issues.

Representatives from GAFCS, GEAFCs, GATFACS, FVSU, UGA/FACS administrators, faculty and students met with members of the Georgia General Assembly and presented Certificates of Appreciation to the House and Senate Sponsors of the Resolutions after receiving the formal copies of the Proclamation and Resolutions. The documents were displayed at the March GAFCS Annual Conference in Statesboro.

The GAFCS annual letter to the Georgia Legislators was delivered to them prior to FACS Day at the Capitol to call attention to the important work of family and consumer sciences in Georgia and the need for FCS educators in Extension, middle, high school and higher education.



FACS Day at the Capitol Picture with Governor Brian Kemp



FACS Day at the Capitol Senate Picture featuring Senator Ginn, Karla Buckholz, Vida Szabat, Dean Zvonkovic (UGA)



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

May 15, 2023

GAFCS is an organizational member of IFHE, which is the global voice for home economics and consumer science. IFHE connects research and education from almost 70 countries, fosters multidisciplinary exchange and represents our field's expertise at the United Nations. The aim of IFHE is to advance knowledge on the responsible use of household resources, because choices made at home affect the quality of life for all.

The family is the smallest building block of society, and no doubt, the most important one as well! Having strong familial bonds provides support and a safe environment which are necessary for an individual's development.

In 1993, the United Nations passed a resolution to showcase the determination of the organization to encourage better living standards and social progress of families across the globe. In 1994, the United Nations officially declared the International Day of Families to be May 15th to celebrate the fact that families are the central part of any society.

Call attention to your work with families and how it makes a difference in their lives and, in turn, in communities. Plan something special for your family to do together this year on May 15th ! Take pictures and share on social media, too!!!

CAREERS IN FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



EXPLORE CAREER SUCCESS **with FCS**

SAY YES TO FCS!



2023 Annual Conference Recap

Submitted by: Ashleigh Childs, President-Elect

The Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences hosted the 2023 Annual Conference and Business Meeting in Statesboro, Georgia at the UGA Extension Bulloch County office on March 3rd, 2023.

This year's conference theme was centered around sustainability in food, fiber, and our family and consumer sciences profession. This conference was the first time our membership has gathered in person since the 2020 conference in Athens and we were delighted to have the opportunity to learn from our peers and fellowship with friends. We were very fortunate to have Leslie Wagner from the Southern Peanut Growers Association, Taylor Bishop and Zinia Chowdury from Sustain Southern, Dr. Virginia Rolling and Melody Hanchempour from Georgia Southern University to share with us about the sustainability efforts in their fields.

Our time together began with a special welcome from Rachel Stewart, Tatnall County Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences Agent and past president of the Georgia Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (GEAFCS). Our professional associations work closely to sustain family and consumer sciences and we are grateful to have many Extension current and retired professionals as members of both. Helen Carter, Vice President of Membership Development introduced a virtual post-secondary update from Dean Anisa Zvoncovik, Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia. Dean "Z" was unable to join us in person, but we are grateful for her willingness to share with us about the exciting things happening in Dawson Hall at UGA. Also virtually joining us from UGA was Olivia Sawyer to share about her experience in the UGA Legislative Aide Program, to which our organization provides support.

We also had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Francine Hollis of Fort Valley State University and Dr. Beth Myers from Georgia Southern University. They are true champions for filling the pipeline of up and coming FCS professionals in their early child care education, textiles, merchandising and interiors, and human sciences pathways.

Throughout the day, Jenna Black, Vice President for Resource Development encouraged participation in the silent auction, which held lots of goodies from handmade and collectors' items to teaching materials and more! The funds raised in the silent auction support scholarships for family and consumer sciences students in their academic endeavors.

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The Annual Business Meeting was led by outgoing GAFCS President, Vida Szabat and included review of officer and committee reports, association budget, and revisions to the bylaws and handbook. Vida was recognized for her service to the board and was presented with a token of appreciation. Vickie Rundbaken, Vice President for Awards and Recognition, presented awards to the following recipients in recognition of their achievements:

-Dr. Virginia Rolling, Julius Benton Professional Improvement Award



DR. VIRGINIA ROLLING,
JULIUS BENTON
PROFESSIONAL
IMPROVEMENT AWARD

-DJ Youngblood, Georgia Teacher of the Year

-Alianna Girod, Spirit of Giving Undergraduate Scholarship

-Sara Doster, TC Transcontinental Undergraduate Scholarship

-Rebecca Hardeman, Graduate Scholarship

-Jackie Ogden, CFCS, Georgia Outstanding FACS Professional

-Dr. Cara Simmons, Georgia Leader Award



DR. CARA SIMMONS,
GEORGIA LEADER AWARD



REBECCA HARDEMAN,
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



DJ YOUNGBLOOD, GEORGIA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR



JACKIE OGDEN, CFCS,
GEORGIA OUTSTANDING FACS
PROFESSIONAL

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During the awards and recognition session, membership achievements were also recognized for those individuals who had maintained their active membership for 5, 10, 15, 40, and 50 years of service.

- 5 years: Dr. Virginia Rolling, Andrew Carter
- 10 years (Bronze Level): Megan Presley, Menia Chester, Sarah Catherine Fowler, Angela Barnett-Brady
- 15 years: Dr. Carmen Pedersen
- 40 Years: Vivian Fluellen
- 50 Years: (Gold Level) Donna Curles, Rose Cotton



Dr. Virginia Rolling and Andrew Carter earning their 5 year membership



Sara Catherin Fowler earning her 10 years of membership



Dr. Carmen Pedersen earning her 15 years of membership



Jackie Ogden, CFCS, of Chatham County Extension and past American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) president installed our new Executive Board of Directors and presented them with a small light as a reminder to keep our Betty Lamp, the symbol of our profession, burning throughout their term.



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Taylor Bishop, Eco-Reps member and Zinia Chowdury, Graduate Assistant of Public Outreach and Events for Sustain Southern joined us as representatives from Georgia Southern University's campus sustainability organization. The students shared about the program's success in providing volunteering and advocacy opportunities through educational workshops, partnerships to support sustainable practices, and their campus community garden. Sustain Southern is also working to expand their programming by implementing a leadership model of sustainability and providing active experiences of sustainable careers.

Following a delicious lunch provided by Beverick's Char House Grille from Metter, GA, Leslie Wagner of the Southern Peanut Grower's Association presented the latest research on the sustainable ways that peanuts are grown and harvested, the zero-waste nature of the peanut plant, and the uses that peanuts provide as a source of nutrition for all. Leslie also shared with us about innovation in peanut allergy research and considerations for early introduction to infants to prevent peanut allergies.

Our third session was a joint presentation by Dr. Virginia Rolling, Assistant Professor of Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design at Georgia Southern University and Melody Hanchempour, INDS Marketing Coordinator and Lecturer at Georgia Southern University. Their presentation described an innovative textile waste workshop where students learned how to convert discarded textiles into upcycled new materials to be included in an art exhibit on campus.

Our time together concluded with an amazing report from the International Federation of Home Economics 2022 World Congress in Atlanta, GA from the GAFCS IFHE World Congress committee members. Dr. Don Bower, Dr. June Thomas, Helen Carter, Dr. Karen Jones, and Joanne Cavis, CFCS, shared a presentation full of fun pictures from their planning process and the multi-day event. The committee also took the opportunity to recognize Joanne Cavis for her fearless leadership over the last few years in making this event a success! Not present but also acknowledged was committee member Virginia Richards.

We are so grateful for our conference sponsors, presenters, donors and participants. Special thanks to the UGA Extension Bulloch County Office for allowing us to meet in their beautiful facility and to our conference donors Joanne Cavis, CFCS, Dr. Karen Jones, Jenna Black, Dr. June Thomas, and Helen Carter.

We can't wait to see you all next year!

*Sincerely, Ashleigh Childs
2022-2023 GAFCS President Elect*

FCCLA Scholarship and Recognition

Submitted by: DJ Youngblood

GAFCS President - Vida Szabat presented Peggy Sue Croizer, a student at Early County High School, with a certificate for the \$1,000 Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Scholarship. This presentation was done during the Georgia Family, Career and Community Leaders of America State Leadership Conference Recognition Session on March 24, 2023.

GAFCS Executive Board members, Kena Torbert, Dr. Carmen Pederson and DJ Youngblood also received honors. Kena was recognized as a outgoing Georgia FCCLA Board of Directors Member. Dr. Pederson received the honorary membership to the Georgia FCCLA organization. DJ Youngblood was presented with the Georgia FCCLA New Adviser of the Year Award, which recognizes a chapter adviser with 3-5 years of experience who has made significant contributions for Georgia FCCLA at the local, region and/or state level. In addition, Mr. Youngblood began his term as the Georgia FCCLA Board of Directors Chair. Both DJ and Carmen were also presented with a State Executive Council (SEC) Adviser Plaque for finishing a term as a SEC Adviser. We are proud of you all!



Pictured above is Peggy Sue Crozier with Vida Szabat



Below are GAFCS Board Members Vida Szabat and Kena Torbert



DJ Youngblood (left) is pictured with Caitlin Roberson, GA FCCLA Executive Director.



Above is Dr. Carmen Pedersen (center) with Region Officers Kendall Oglesby (left) and Joseph Carter (right)

Toot Your Own Horn

Dorothy Lowe

Wilkinson County Middle School
Teacher of the Month and Who's Who
Among CTE Teachers



June Thomas

On New Year's Day 2023 at 2:31pm, our
first grandbaby was born.

Tate Winn Thomas

Congratulations!



Ashleigh Childs

Received the 2022 National
New Achiever Award at the AAFCS
Conference in Orlando, FL.



DJ Youngblood

Recognized as the GATFACS
New Teacher of the Year

Harrileen Jones

Organized volunteers to create
7,938 meals to deliver to children
in Butts County

Thank You

GAFCS Conference Sponsors

CONFERENCE WELCOME BAG/GIFT

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Charlie Mustard, Master Coffee Roaster at Jittery Joe's in Athens, Georgia, continues to be a remarkable Friend of GAFCS. He generously donated cans of Attack the Day coffee for each of our guest speakers at this year's conference and for our coffee pot to assure that we were alert and could "attack the day" of our information-filled conference. Additionally, two cans of Attack the Day coffee caused a bidding war, helping us raise approximately \$600 for our scholarship funds. We are extremely grateful for the support from Charlie Mustard!



From Joanne Cavis - What a special surprise --- A HUGE basket filled with all kinds of wonderful goodies from GAFCS members who attended the March GAFCS Conference in Statesboro. I was soooo surprised and thankful for your gift. . . You know, it really took a team of dedicated people who met monthly for YEARS to "pull off" the Southern Hospitality at the XXIV IFHE World Congress in Atlanta, September 6-10, 2022. We had our challenges - including a pandemic - but enjoyed doing our part in welcoming visitor/colleagues from around the world. I'm glad that I had a part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience with five special friends.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!!



If you would like to share anything in the monthly newsletters or annual newsletter, please send to gerogiafacs@gmail.com.