

GAFCS NEWSLETTER

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences



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Greetings, GAFCS!

by Ashleigh Geurin, CNWE, GAFCS President



To say this year has flown by would be a complete understatement! As my term as President comes to an end, I would like to highlight some of the great work done by the 2023-2024 Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Executive Board of Directors.

Our board members have been busy with spreading the word and promoting advocacy efforts for the profession of family and consumer sciences this year as part of the AAFCS Pilot Advocacy Grant. This grant gives \$1,000 to state affiliates to support efforts to meet with legislators and stakeholders and emphasize the impact of our profession. We are so proud to be on the ground floor of this pilot program and look forward to the work that will be done in the next year!

In April, our affiliate met in Athens for annual conference and had the opportunity to hear from our post-secondary institutions about the exciting updates to programs offered and how they are adapting to meet the needs and demands of the world, while staying true to their FCS values.

We have also had the opportunity to lift up one of our very own dedicated and special board members, Joanne S. Cavis, CFCS, as she was selected as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Joanne will be recognized at the AAFCS Annual Conference in June in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and we could not be more proud or grateful to her for allowing us the opportunity to celebrate someone so deserving!

I am excited about the future of our profession and our organization under the leadership of Dr. Tracey Brigman as your 2024-2025 GAFCS President. Her field expertise, passion for the profession, and leadership skills will serve her well in this role and I look forward to supporting her as she takes us into this next year! Thank you all for your dedication to this special organization and I hope that your Betty Lamp continues to burn brightly for the Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences!

AAFCS DSA THANK YOU FROM JOANNE CAVIS, CFCS

I am honored and humbled by your support of my nomination for the AAFCS Distinguished Service Award which I received in June at the AAFCS Annual Conference in Minneapolis. The financial contributions and gracious letters are very meaningful to me. I give thanks to my outstanding DSA Team of Don Bower, Karen Jones and June Thomas who guided the year-long process. I was proud to wear the lovely corsage of real dried roses created by Harrileen Connor; enjoyed reading the Book of Letters; and treasure keepsakes of recognition, a DSA medal and glass award plate. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!



*If you would still like to donate to Joanne's DSA Fund, you can do to
<https://www.aafcs.org/donate> and make the donations online.*

GAFCS Annual Conference Recap

by Tracey Brigman, GAFCS President-Elect

We are thrilled to share the success of our annual conference in April. Here's a glimpse into the highlights that made it such a success:

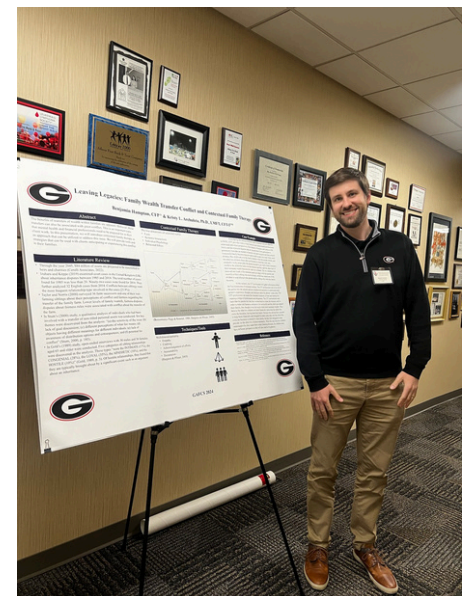
From thought provoking sessions to panel discussions, our lineup of sessions was curated to inspire, educate, and empower. Attendees heard from a variety of speakers including TV personality Rebecca Lang, post secondary update participants Dean Z (UGA), Dr Francine Hollis (Fort Valley Statue University), and Dr. Beth McGee (Georgia Southern University), Legislative Aide panelists (Representative Houston Gaines, Lisa Shirreffs, Deesha Hagwood, and Lindsey Lee), UGA FACS Assistant Professor Dr. Sha'Mira Covington, and media personality Skye Estroff. Sarah Catherine Fowler led a student unit session with several undergraduate students from around the state.



Legislative Aide panel featuring Representative Houston Gaines, Lisa Shirreffs, Deesha Hagwood, and Lindsey Lee



Guest Speaker Rebecca Lang



Poster Sessions Presenters

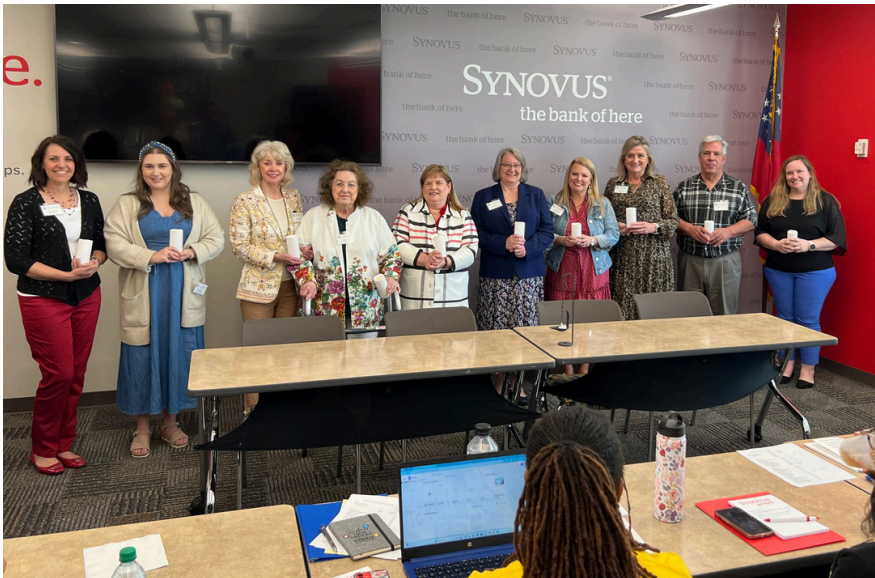


GAFCS Annual Conference Recap

by Tracey Brigman, GAFCS President-Elect

In addition to our speakers, attendees had an opportunity to network throughout the day. During our annual business meeting, the following officers and appointed officers were installed:

2024-2025 Executive Board
President- Tracey Brigman
President Elect- Kena Torbert
Professional Development- Vacant
Resource Development- Karen Jones
Communications- DJ Youngblood and Kristen Hankins
Public Policy - Joanne Cavis and Jenna Black
Membership- Helen Carter
Awards and Recognition- Vickie Rundbaken
Secretary- June Thomas
Treasurer- Don Bower and Carmen Pedersen



APPOINTED OFFICERS

Dr. Cara Simmons, Nominating Committee
Vida Szabat, Nominating Committee, Chair
Megan Palmer, Nominating Committee
Megan Presley, Nominating Committee
Sarah Catherine Fowler, Student Unit Advisor
Ashleigh Geurin, Counselor

As we reflect on the success of this year's conference, we're already setting our sights on the future. Plans are underway to build upon this momentum, incorporating feedback and ideas to make next year's event even more impactful.

In closing, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our annual conference. Your passion, enthusiasm, and unwavering support inspire us to push the boundaries of what's possible. Here's to many more years of innovation, connection, and shared success!

GAFCS Annual Conference Awards

Submitted by: Vickie Rundbaken

The Annual Business Meeting was led by outgoing GAFCS President, Ashleigh Geurin and included review of officer and committee reports, association budget, and revisions to the bylaws and handbook. Vickie Rundbaken, Vice President for Awards and Recognition, presented awards to the following recipients in recognition of their achievements:

Graduate Scholarship:

Gracie Potts

Spirit of Giving Scholarship:

Sara Doster

TC Transcontinental Scholarship:

Lillian Gardner

Julius Benton Award: DJ Youngblood

Outstanding FCS Professional Award:

Dr. Carmen Pedersen

New Achievers Award:

Sara Catherine Fowler

GAFCS Leader Award: Jackie Ogden

Friends of GAFCS: Grady Thomas



SPIRIT OF GIVING SCHOLARSHIP - SARA DOSTER



OUTSTANDING FCS PROFESSIONAL AWARD- DR. CARMEN PEDERSEN



NEW ACHIEVERS AWARD- SARA CATHERINE FOWLER

GAFCS LEADER AWARD - JACKIE OGDEN



FRIENDS OF GAFCS - GRADY THOMAS

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP - GRACIE POTTS



GAFCS Annual Conference Awards

Submitted by: Vickie Rundbaken

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: Rebecca Hardeman, Ashleigh Geurin, Rolanda Willingham
- 10 years (Bronze Level): Ginger Chastine, Brenda Salter, Lilliam Mitchell
- 45 Years: June Thomas
- 50 Years (Gold Circle): Don Bower



Ashleigh Geurin earning her 5 years of membership



June Thomas earning her 45 years of membership



Dr. Don Bower earning his 50 years of membership and entering into the Golden Circle

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GAFCS Scholarship

GAFCS PRESENTED SAVANNA TAYLOR, A STUDENT AT BACON 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 20, 2025.



AAFCS Annual Conference Recap

Submitted by: DJ Youngblood, CNWE

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June of 2024. This conference served as a pivotal gathering for professionals dedicated to Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and a networking opportunity for fellow Georgians. Attendees from across the nation converged to participate in workshops aimed at advancing their careers and advocating for FCS education.

Celebratory moments were abundant at the conference, with several distinguished awards recognizing outstanding contributions. Don Bower received special recognition for his 50 years membership to the organization. Joanne Cavis was honored with the prestigious Distinguished Service Award, acknowledging her exemplary leadership and impact within the profession. Additionally, DJ Youngblood was named Georgia Affiliate Teacher of the Year. Looking towards leadership and future directions, Dr. Cara Simmons and Menia Chester were sworn in as upcoming officers of the National Board.

The conference not only celebrated achievements but also provided a platform for professionals to enhance their skills and knowledge through a diverse range of workshops. Topics ranged from innovative teaching methodologies to leadership development, equipping attendees with tools to excel in their roles within the organization and beyond. One of the conference's focalpoints was the Advocacy Cohort workshop, where members diligently prepared strategies for engaging with legislators to promote the importance of FCS education.



Above the Betty Lamp lighting ceremony. Below DJ Youngblood presenting during the Curriculum Showcase.



Don Bower receiving his 50 year pin with other members and AAFCS President



Georgia Delegation after the Opening Session

Joanne Cavis and Georgia Delegation at the Distinguished Service Award Celebration



AAFCS Advocacy Update

Submitted by: Joanne S. Cavis, CFCS

AAFCS 2024-2027 PILOT ADVOCACY PROGRAM COHORT



Your GAFCS Executive Board voted to apply for the first year Advocacy Grant Pilot Program in February, it was accepted in March and we began attending Advocacy Cohort meetings in April and May, then continued with three June training sessions in Minneapolis.

GAFCS Advocacy Cohort co-chairs are Jackie Ogden (jogden@uga.edu) and Joanne Cavis (JSCavis@gmail.com). We will be meeting monthly with policy makers throughout the state. Teams of two-to-four will lead each group beginning in July. The focus will be on (1) increasing the visibility of Family and Consumer Sciences and our role in solving complex societal problems, and (2) the affordability and availability of quality child care.

We need all GAFCS members and their like-minded networks to be involved in this Advocacy program. . . Numbers make a difference. . . Please join us today!!! Contact either Jackie or Joanne. For more information, please go to the AAFCS.org website and click on [Advocacy program](#). There is a lot to see and use.

Georgia FCCLA Update

Submitted by: Dr. Carmen Pedersen, CFCS



GEORGIA
STATE ASSOCIATION

Georgia FCCLA is the Career and Technical Student Organization associated with Family and Consumer Sciences. Take a look at the active involvement Georgia FCCLA provides to our middle and high school members, alumni, and advisers.

FCCLA encourages FACS participation during secondary school and beyond.

2023-2024 Numbers:

- Affiliated Chapter Members- 24,389
- Affiliated Chapters- 277
- National Leadership Conference (July in Seattle, Washington) - Results in Fall/Winter Newsletter
- 2024 State Leadership Conference, Athens, GA
 - S.T.A.R. Event Competitors - 518 students
 - State Event Competitors - 237 students
 - Statesmen Testers - 289 students
 - Online Proficiency Testers - 185 students
 - Total Attendees: 1882
 - Students - 1597
 - Advisers - 285

Upcoming Events

2024 AAFCS
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT



2024 AAFCS Leadership Summit -
Kansas City, MO
September 20-23, 2024



2025 Day at the Capitol
Thursday, February 13, 2025



2025 AAFCS Annual Conference-
Kansas City, MO
June 25-28, 2025