

# GAFCS NEWSLETTER

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Georgia Affiliate | May 2018



## Georgia Archives Materials Needed

GAFCS has been organizing materials to take to the Georgia Archives in Atlanta. We are especially in need of documents from the last 12 to 15 years, especially programs from GAFCS conferences. If you have documents, pictures or items you feel need to be included, please send them to:

Dr. Don Bower  
1111 Meriweather Drive  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

## 109th AAFCS Annual Conference - Calling All Volunteers

Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, is a big day for our Georgia hosts. Back Office Operators will stuff conference tote bags, fill hospitality bags and snack sacks, organize brochures and walking directions. . . Getting ready to meet and greet the AAFCS 109<sup>th</sup> Conference attendees, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis hotel. Saturday volunteers do not have to be registered for the conference.

Educational Excursions need a host (chaperone) for Sunday and Wednesday adventures. Visit the AAFCS Conference website for a complete description of each specially designed tour.

Perhaps one of these will peak your interest:

SUNDAY: SCADfash (12:30 - 3); Atlanta History Center (11:30 - 4:15); Chutney Canning at Sweet Auburn Curb Market (12:30 - 4:15)

WEDNESDAY: Sweet Auburn Curb Market (1:45 - 6); CDC Museum (2:15 - 6); Americasmart (1:45 - 4:15)

Other volunteer options --- staffing the GAFCS Booth, monitoring/facilitating concurrent sessions, taking tickets, staffing AAFCS registration --- occur throughout the Conference from Sunday to Wednesday. Find opportunities for all to volunteer while attending sessions.

Please contact Joanne at [JSCavis@gmail.com](mailto:JSCavis@gmail.com) to confirm your willingness to volunteer.

## FCCLA National Leadership Conference

The FCCLA National Leadership Conference is June 28- July 2 in Atlanta.

Judges and volunteers are needed for the event. Potential judges can email: [competitiveevents@fcclainc.org](mailto:competitiveevents@fcclainc.org)

Other volunteer opportunities can be found on Sign Up Genius link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4fafa72aa5fc1-registration>

The Georgia FCCLA chapter will have a host state hospitality table. If you have suggestions (or contacts) of companies that will provide them with goodies for the table, please contact Traci Bryant at [gafccla@gmail.com](mailto:gafccla@gmail.com).



## GAFCS Annual Conference Recap

The Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences held their spring conference in Griffin, GA on March 23, 2018. Using the theme *Financial Fitne\$\$: Trends, Innovations, and Impacts*, guests learned from various professionals in the field, and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and converse with topics most important to them. Shawn Conroy, the Communications and Outreach Coordinator with the Georgia Department of Law in the Consumer Protections Unit, shared information about various consumer protection laws in Georgia, how they are enforced, and some of the services offered to the public. Lori Silverman and Sue Gatliff, from Team Clark's Consumer Action Center, discussed ways to manage and track credit, including why these scores are important, and they shared different calls they have screened and experiences they have had during their time working with Clark Howard. Jake Conner, Legislative Aide from the University of Georgia, brought greetings from the legislature and updated attendees the goings-on at Capitol Hill. During the awards and recognitions portion of the luncheon, the newly acquired Coveris Americas scholarship was awarded, in addition to several other recognitions and the officer installation for the upcoming term. Joanne Cavis, Chair for the AAFCS 2018 Planning Committee, shared the progress made toward hosting the national conference this summer and expectations of the membership before and during that time. Educational excursions were discussed, and various opportunities for volunteers were presented. Dustin Dyer, VP of Operations at Coveris Americas, introduced membership unable to attend the Pre-Conference Coveris Tour to the workings of the local Coveris plant and how their flexible packaging created benefits consumers. Kirk Kealy, UGA Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center (FoodPIC), ended the day by sharing with us the steps being taken to help aspiring food entrepreneurs or food companies take new products through the steps to a successful market launch. Attendees were also able to participate in a walk-through poster session, create cards for Cardz 4 Kids, and donate hygiene and toiletry items to homeless shelters in Atlanta.

## Coveris Americas Awards Scholarship

For the first time, GAFCS awarded a \$1500 Undergraduate Scholarship, provided by Coveris, to **MeaLenea Homer**, a junior at Fort in Valley State University. MeaLenea is majoring in foods and nutrition and plans to pursue a master's degree in food science, after completing her bachelor's degree. In her words, "I'm so honored I that the GAFCS committee choose me to be the first recipient of the Coveris Undergraduate Scholarship and for the scholarship money from the Coveris Company."

Coveris, a leading international manufacturing company, based in Griffin, Georgia, is dedicated to providing solutions that enhance the safety, quality and convenience of products we use every day. For example, they make packaging for brands we see in the grocery stores, such as Campbell's, Coca Cola, Nestle Waters. Coveris also partners with other respected brands around the world and develops vital products that produce everything from the food we eat, to medical supplies, to the touch screen devices in our pockets. They contribute to the lives of millions every day.

On March 23, 2018, GAFCS presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Coveris, honoring the company as a "Friend of the Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences" - for donating an Undergraduate Scholarship.



## GAFCS Awards Winners

**Dr. Linda Johnson**, received the **Julius Benton Professional Improvement Award**. Dr. Johnson is a professor at Fort in Valley State University. Project Description: "A qualitative study of the perceptions and behaviors of respondents to the "Say Yes to FCS" campaign will be conducted. Select tools will be used to promote public relations strategies."

The **Julius Benton Professional Improvement Award** is a national award but was only offered by our State Affiliate this year. This award will not be offered next year (2018-2019). Dr. Johnson will report on the results of her study at the 2019 GAFCS conference.



**Mrs. Jenna Black**, was selected the "2018 Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year" (TOY). Jenna has taught Early Childhood Education for over twenty-five years and serves as the director of the Frasier Child Development Center, which is the practical laboratory for her students. Jenna will compete in the **AAFCS National 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year (TOY)** Competition.



**Dr. June Thomas** received the "2018 Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences **Wiley-Berger Award for Volunteer Service**". Dr. June Thomas, has also been selected to receive the **National AAFCS Wiley-Berger Award** for Volunteer Service at the upcoming AAFCS 109th Annual Conference & Expo, in Atlanta, Georgia (June 24 - 27) - Congratulations June!

*As Vice President of Scholarships and Awards, I (Arlene Fitts Winfrey) would like to share one of the outstanding letters of support that was received on June's behalf, on pages 5-6.*



To Whom It May Concern:

*June Winn Thomas exudes an enthusiasm that envelops all who meet her, and which garners her praise because her focus is always, "Where can I make a difference? How can I help? What else can I do?" Her efforts to make a difference in her community clearly qualify her for the AAFCS Award for Volunteer Service as evidenced in her work to beautify her community, to conserve its natural resources, and to promote awareness through education.*

*June has been president of the Odum Garden Club since 2009. She is currently Director and Newsletter Editor of the Oleander District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., which includes twenty-five counties with sixty garden clubs in South Georgia. When the Wayne County Board of Education announced a new Odum Elementary School was to be built, one June's first concerns she shared with her fellow garden club members conserving the shrubbery and flowers at the old school for replanting to the new campus. Now that the new school is complete, she is working with the grounds maintenance department to incorporate those plants into the landscape and to add native plants while making certain that ease of maintenance is assured.*

*The entrance signs to Odum, GA are another example of her beautification initiatives. Securing funding from the City of Odum with matching funds from the Odum Garden Club, this volunteer once again demonstrated her selfless efforts to beautify the community with the construction and installation of two lighted signs of brick masonry surrounded by greenery at the juncture of the city limits on the major highway which bisects the town. Furthermore, she has played a leading role in organizing the annual Christmas decorating at the Odum Train Depot and Wayne Memorial Hospital.*

*Always thinking of what else could be done, for Christmas 2017, she initiated a new activity as club members gathered at a local nursing home on Christmas morning to deliver candies and Christmas stockings to the residents, thus beginning a new tradition. Within the realm of the community, June's involvement in the Odum Garden Club has brought a growing awareness of concern about surface mining in Wayne County and the dumping of toxic coal ash at the local landfill. When residents learned in 2015 that a company planned to begin surface mining that would encroach within 25 feet of residential property lines and leave a gaping hole afterward, June joined with garden club members and others in a campaign to stop the potential blight to the landscape and devaluation of property. She encouraged letters to the local newspaper and emails to legislators to stop this destruction to the pristine landscape of Wayne County. In addition, in 2016 when Republic Waste Management proposed to bring in thousands of tons of toxic coal ash to the Broadhurst Landfill, June invited representatives of No Ash At All, Inc.(NAAA), a group of concerned citizens, to speak to the Odum Garden Club, the Wayne County Garden Club Council, and at the Oleander District meeting. She urged members to write to their State representatives and senators as well as to county commissioners imploring them to enact and support legislation to stop the possible harm to the surrounding rivers and streams from coal ash contamination.*

*continued on page 6*

Monthly garden club meetings included an environmental update on these and other issues. She carried her message of action to the Patterson, Georgia Eagle Station Board of Directors whose members eagerly joined and donated funds to NAAA. As a retired educator, June was chosen as 2016 and 2017 Volunteer of the Year by the Wayne County Retired Educators for the thousands of hours she has donated to her many endeavors. One of those endeavors, which reflects her lifelong love of education, is a program endorsed by the National Garden Club, Inc. of providing books to children which highlight the environment such as the life cycles of plants or the threats to destruction of habitat facing a plant or animal species. Under her direction, for the past two years, the Odum Garden Club raised funds to place copies of these books in every elementary school, the public library, and The Boys and Girls Club.

When Odum Garden Club members learned that a plant on the endangered species list could be present at the Broadhurst landfill and possibly annihilated by plans to bring in coal ash, June mobilized members to become baptisia arachnifera, or rattle weed, experts, reading and sharing all that they learned about it.

Perhaps the most far reaching project that June has spearheaded is the club's work at Reynolds Mansion on Sapelo Island as both historic preservationists within the mansion and horticulturists outside its walls. Under June's guidance, furniture repairs and flower plantings reflect the RJ Reynolds, Junior era to maintain the mansion's integrity. Now two Odum Garden Club members are docents at the annual Sapelo Island Christmas tours sharing their knowledge of Reynolds Mansion and the Geechee culture of Sapelo Island, all of which began because June saw a need to help others. June is a volunteer and leader in her community, but she also is a wife and mother who places God and family first in her life. Please give June Thomas serious consideration for this award.

Sincerely,

Betty Benner

Odum Garden Club Vice President

## Did we miss something?

GAFCS strives to make the quarterly newsletters informative and fun. If you have any updates you would like to see in the next issue, please contact Ivy Odom, Vice President of Communications at [ivyodom@gmail.com](mailto:ivyodom@gmail.com).

