Attendees of the GAFCS 2016 State Conference in Griffin, March 18, left feeling enlightened and informed regarding this year’s conference theme, Improving the Health and Well-Being of a Changing Society. Our day began with a walking tour of the ARS-USDA plant germplasm storage facility which maintains over 82,000 seed or germ plasm samples from more than 180 countries. We became aware of genetic plant resources and the significance of protecting them. Dr. Michael Doyle, Regents Professor of Food Microbiology, opened our eyes about our global food supply, food vehicles responsible for disease outbreaks, and food safety. We felt well-educated and vowed to be more careful when making food selections. Menia Chester gave and uplifting presentation about making a difference in our organization through AAFCS’ Leadership Academy.

During lunch, we heard about Brook Ann Dumont’s experience in The University of Georgia’s Legislative Aide Program, and had a visit from the Easter Bunny!

In the afternoon, we had the opportunity to view and discuss interesting poster topics displayed by students, faculty, GAFCS members, and other professionals. Dr. Ellen Bauske, Mr. Wade Hutcheson, and Dr. Mussie Habteselassie, formed a panel and provided an outstanding presentation on the Healthy Life Community Garden project in Spalding County, and indoor foliage plants that help detoxify the air in our homes and offices. Our conference ended with Ms. Annie Carr, Registered Dietician from CDC, who provided information on two community-based projects which promote walking for health, and obesity programs in rural counties.

Make plans to attend the GAFCS Annual Conference next spring for another interesting, educational meeting!

- Karen H. Jones, President-Elect
What FACS Means to Me

This year’s GAFCS conference had a special session for the college students in attendance, with a focus on the question “What does FACS mean to me?” Earlier this year at UGA, we as the Executive Board of the Student Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (SAFCS) made it a goal of ours to try to connect to the other Student Unit chapters of GAFCS. As the Assistant Director of SAFCS, one of my responsibilities is to serve as the liaison between the state and national affiliates, so I decided that holding a collegiate GAFCS conference session would be the perfect way to meet other emerging family and consumer sciences professionals. The session had a total of 12 college students from both the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University. Throughout our time together we shared information about the various FACS programs at our schools and gave tips on organizational practices. In our session we had a fun group ice-breaker, talked about the need of FACS in today’s society, watched a short inspirational video called “The Empathetic Civilization” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7AWnFPrC7g), and we concluded our session by writing personal motivation letters to ourselves while reflecting on the reasons why we have chosen to study FACS. I had everyone self-address their envelopes so that I could mail these letters later this semester, as a nice pick-me-up before finals start!

- Sarah Catherine Black

FCS Day at the Capitol

GAFCS and GEAFCs professionals and students, University of Georgia faculty and students, FCCLA teachers and students, gathered at the Capitol to have a photo taken of the group with Governor Deal, who proclaimed February 11, 2016, as FCS Day in Georgia, and hear Resolutions read in both House and Senate chambers of the Georgia Legislature. The group filled the stairs and spilled out onto the gallery above. Legislative aides (supported in part by GAFCS) met and interacted with the participants. College students and their faculty also attended public policy issues lectures as part of their course work. Just prior to FCS Day at the Capitol, the annual GAFCS “letter to the members of the Georgia Legislature”, was hand delivered to their Atlanta offices

GAFCS Members ---- Be sure to write personal thank you notes to your local legislators --- AND/OR --- even better, call or visit with them to express your appreciation of their continuing support of family and consumer sciences programs and professionals.

- Menia L. Chester, CFCS and Joanne S. Cavis, CFCS

A BIG Thank You GAFCS!

Another BIG thank you to all who participated in the December 3rd “Dining In Day for Healthy Families” which celebrated the birthday of AAFCS founder, Ellen Swallow Richards. It was a big success in Georgia due to your help. Governor Deal issued a proclamation, too!

Be sure to go to the AAFCS web site to get the latest information on “Taking It To The Streets” and use the Public Policy Tools for members. Remember, YOU can make a positive difference for individuals, families and consumers.

- Menia L. Chester, CFCS and Joanne S. Cavis, CFCS

American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

107TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

IMPROVING THE Health and Well-Being of a Changing Society

Please join us June 22-25, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue in Bellevue, Washington for the AAFCS 107th Annual Conference and Expo. This years focus is on Improving the Health and Well-Being of a Changing Society. Come together with family and consumer sciences professionals across multiple practice settings and content areas.

Find out more information at: http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/16/reg.html
UGA SAFCS Service Outreach

The entire GAFCS community has shown awesome participation this year in the AAFCS Student Unit community service project “Cardz for Kidz.” At the 2015 AAFCS national conference students from across the country came together to create this yearlong project working with “Cardz for Kidz.” This non-profit is dedicated to uplifting the spirits of hospitalized and/or traumatized children across the globe by delivering inspiring homemade cards. This year Georgia FACS has donated a total of over 150 cards from groups such as: the University of Georgia Student Association of Family and Consumer Sciences members, Fort Valley State University students, GAFCS conference attendees, AAFCS Leadership Council members, FCCLA chapters, FACS professionals and their families – the list goes on!

Our goal is to have AAFCS recognized by the organization for donating over 1,000+ cards by the start of the AAFCS conference in June. More information can be found here: http://www.aafcs.org/Membership/ServiceProject.asp

For those of you attending the 2016 AAFCS conference in Bellevue, look out for information regarding the AAFCS Student Unit Level 2 Project that will be completed at nationals!

The UGA Student Association of FACS has recently collaborated with an organization called Embark UGA to create a Hygiene Closet in the private unisex bathroom on the first floor of Dawson Hall, where the College of FACS is located. This organization attempts to increase the available opportunities in college to UGA students who have experienced foster care or homelessness by providing a network of support. We were approached with this project proposal last year, and after working out the logistics we have officially launched the Hygiene Closet as of March 21st, 2016. The closet seems to be well received so far with comments like “Thank you, I really needed this service.” We have received hundreds of donations. The items we accept for donations include shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, etc., and taking items from the closet is regulated by the honor system. We plan to continue this program in the following years as it solves a critical need on campus that previously hadn’t been addressed by any other group on campus.

Currently the person in charge of inventory and running the Hygiene Closet is our Director of Service, Nicole McEwen.

- Sarah Catherine Black

Toot Your Own Horn!

During our 2016 GAFCS Annual Meeting, we celebrated members who shared accomplishments they had made during the 2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP YEAR!

- Dr. Elizabeth Andress
- Helen R. Carter
- Joanne Cavis, CFCS
- Harrileen Conner
- Dr. Cynthia Johnson
- Dr. Linda Johnson
- Lauren Travis
- Arlene Fitts Winfrey

Special Recognition

Carmen Pedersen

Moved to Lubbock, Texas in August 2015 where she has received a graduate assistantship as a Graduate Part-Time Instructor while pursuing a Ph.D. in Family & Consumer Sciences Education at Texas Tech University. Awarded a four-year J.T. and Margaret Talkington Graduate Fellowship. Awarded the American Association of Career and Technical Education Family & Consumer Sciences Division Fellowship for one-year. Recipient of AAFCS Scholarship: Crum-Koehler National Graduate Fellowship

Laura Shipman

Represented the Student Association of Family & Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia. The organization received special recognition from AAFCS: “Congratulations to the UGA Family & Consumer Sciences Student Unit!!! You received third place registration in “Top Organizations in November of individual Sign-Ups” for the December 3, 2015, FCS Dining in Day event, by the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.”
AWARDS

During the Georgia Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Conference on March 18th, 2016, the following individuals received awards and/or recognitions:

- **Dr. Don Bower** was recognized as the recipient of the AAFCS Distinguished Service Award (DSA) which will be awarded at the AAFCS 107th Annual Conference & Exposition in Bellevue, Washington June 22 – 25, 2016.

- **Megan Whitworth Palmer** was recognized for being selected by AAFCS as the National Teacher of the Year. She also will be honored at the AAFCS 107th Annual Conference & Exposition.

- **Arlene Fitts Winfrey**, will be recognized as a “Legend” in our field at the AAFCS 107th Annual Conference & Exposition.

- **Harrileen Conner** was the recipient of the Julius Benton Professional Improvement Award. This award will enable her to become a “Certified Etiquette Professional” that will enhance her skills for providing workshops for youth groups (i.e. 4-H and FCCLA) to help them learn etiquette.

- **Arlene Fitts Winfrey, Vice President**
  **Awards & Recognition**