



AgFuture

A program of CLEMSON COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



2018-2019 State FFA Officers

SOUTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
VOLUME: 1 ISSUE: 2 2018

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SC FFA Leadership Center

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From Our FFA President

Hello FFA members, advisors and supporters!

I am Erica Wearing, and I am serving as your 2018-19 State FFA President. I am a freshman Agricultural Education major at Clemson University from the Seneca FFA Chapter.

On behalf of the 2018-19 State Officer Team, I want to welcome you all to another year in FFA! My teammates and I have been busy since state convention. We have traveled both near and far learning how to better serve you throughout this year. Our main goal for this year is to get to know all of you! I challenge you all to connect with us as we reach out to you. We want to know what's going on at your chapter and in your FFA journey.



Erica Wearing

The easiest way to connect with us is through social media. Follow us @SCFFAOfficers on both Facebook and Instagram. We will be sharing our experiences as state officers and keeping an eye out for what you are up to as well. No matter where you are in your FFA journey, know that we are here as a team to help you grow as an individual. We are excited to see what you all accomplish over this next year and will be here to support you along the way.

I am looking forward to an amazing year and cannot wait to meet all of you!

Erica Wearing
2018-19 State FFA President

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SC FFA Officers



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FFA Convention Ignites Students' Passion for Careers

By Tom Hallman

Those who don't believe in perpetual motion machines have never been to a South Carolina FFA convention.

Take more than 900 high school students. Suit them up in spiffy, matching blue corduroy jackets. Pack them into a Clemson University auditorium and crank up the volume in the speakers.

With all due respect to the first law of thermodynamics, energy indeed can be created.

The 91st annual convention of the S.C. FFA Association drew members from all 46 South Carolina counties who share the same passion: a future in the state's largest industry.

While other teen groups unite around sports, music or other activities, FFA members join in pursuit of a lifetime career. Formerly called the Future Farmers of America, FFA abbreviated its name decades ago as a nod toward the hundreds of agricultural careers that exist off the farm.

"Many of them are still future farmers, but they're also future biologists, chemists, horticulturists, food scientists, veterinarians, engineers and entrepreneurs," said William Keels, state director of agricultural education for South Carolina secondary schools. "FFA provides them a path to achievement in leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."

And that's why you'll find these teens sharing their summer with the likes of state Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers.

"I've served as commissioner of agriculture as long as some of you have been living, and somewhere out there I know I'm looking at the South Carolina agriculture commissioner in 20 years," Weathers told the teens in a darkened, packed Brooks Hall auditorium on the Clemson campus.

"If you take all of agriculture and forestry, it's the largest industry in South Carolina -- more than all the cars and airplanes and tires, more than all the tourists," he said. "Those of us who work for agriculture are always looking for ways to improve. Agriculture is constantly creating new careers."

Agriculture also finds new advocates in the young people who aspire to keep it healthy -- a commodity much needed as the American population increasingly becomes urbanized, said George Askew, Clemson vice president for public service and agriculture.

"The importance of FFA grows every year. We have fewer people today who understand where food comes from, what it takes to grow and produce it," Askew said. "We count on people like you to share the knowledge you gain."

Because they are designed and conducted to meet specific local needs, FFA clubs and the school agricultural education programs that sustain them are a highly individualized lot. But they share a communal sense -- deep in their bones -- of hands-on learning.

The kind of learning that gets your hands dirty. An education summed up in their motto, "Learning to Do."

It's an experience explained not only by their teachers, but by the students themselves.



South Carolina FFA members take the stage like rock stars at their state convention held annually at Clemson.

"Sometimes we make a bigger mistake by avoiding the opportunity to make mistakes at all. If we don't make mistakes, how do we learn?" intoned Allison Harmon, who retired as the 2017-2018 FFA state secretary at the convention, to her peers. "Making mistakes is an opportunity to grow. Never miss an opportunity to take chances, make mistakes and get messy!"

Keith Cox, who retired as executive director of the South Carolina FFA Association shortly after the June convention, devoted his career to helping students take those chances.

"If there's anybody who fits that 'Learning to Do' motto, it's Keith Cox," said S.C. State Rep. David Hiott, chairman of the agriculture committee, as he presented Cox a state house resolution honoring him. "What this says is thank you for what you have done for so many people."

The standing ovation that followed -- 900 teenagers strong -- set a record for heartfelt sincerity.

All that was left was a challenge. It came from Breanna Holbert, a California college student and national FFA president. In the perpetual motion machine, Holbert is the highest gear.

"It's amazing what FFA can do if we'll take one opportunity," she said. "The more times we tell ourselves we can't, the farther away we get from our goal. The more times we tell ourselves we can, the closer we get to our goal."

"What will you say 'I can' to next?"

Annual conventions also present a time to honor achievement of students and FFA chapters around the state. Please see page 4 for a list of S.C. FFA awards and scholarships presented at the 2018 meeting.



FFA members in their traditional blue corduroy jackets line the aisles as officers enter the S.C. FFA convention.

Awards

RETIRING 2017-2018 STATE OFFICERS

Philip Rhodes - Calhoun Falls - President
Allison Harman - Gilbert - Secretary
Lauren Kirkley - McBee - Vice President
Matthew Bonnette - Center for Advanced Technical Studies - Vice President
Samantha Parker - Pendleton - Vice President
Christle Tindall - Edisto - Vice President

2018-2019 STATE OFFICERS

Erica Wearing - Seneca - President
Mariah Swygert - Batesburg-Leesville - Secretary
Amanda Taylor - Battery Creek - Vice President
Jessica Comer - York - Vice President
Payton Busbee - Abbeville - Vice President
Emily McDaniel - McBee - Vice President

REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNERS

Piedmont Region

Justin Michael Allen - Pendleton

Mid-State Region

Gracie Herrin - Strom Thurmond

Pee Dee Region

Keon Singletary - Conway

Lower State Region

Hayden Lafontaine - Barnwell Co.CC

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Hilton V. Rogers Memorial Scholarship

Joshua Bobo - Belton-Honea Path

SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Scholarships

\$500

William Justin Price - Clinton FFA
Samantha Parker - Pendleton FFA

\$1000

Gracie Herrin - Strom Thurmond FFA
Payton Busbee - Abbeville FFA

2018 PROFICIENCY AWARD WINNERS

Agricultural Communications: Dessie Smith - Crescent
Agricultural Education: Jason Smith - Pendleton
Agricultural Processing: Torry Kelley - Crescent
Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship: Mackenzie Campbell - Clover
Beef Production- Entrepreneurship: Catherine Faulkner - Clover
Beef Production - Placement: Calen Rainey - Crescent
Dairy Production -Entrepreneurship: Constance Gambrell - Crescent
Diversified Agricultural Production: Dawton Davis - Aynor
Diversified Crop Production - Placement: Gracie Herrin - Strom Thurmond
Diversified Horticulture: Cale Craig - Aynor
Diversified Livestock Production: Cody Clary - Saluda
Equine Science - Entrepreneurship: Abi Clinkscales - Crescent
Equine Science - Placement: Samantha Parker - Pendleton
Forage Production: William Bowman - Crescent
Forest Management and Products: Brooklyn Latham - Crescent
Goat Production: Josh Bobo - Belton-Honea Path
Grain Production - Placement: Carson Strickland - Aynor
Home and/or Community Development: John Ammons - Pendleton
Landscape Management: Jared Carnes - Crescent
Outdoor Recreation: Matthew Finch - Nation Ford
Poultry Production: MaKayla Kelley - Crescent
Small Animal Production and Care: Sydney Lewis - Conway
Specialty Crop Production: Ethan Gore - Aynor
Swine Production - Entrepreneurship: Lydia Swygert - Batesburg-Leesville
Swine Production - Placement: Dawson Richardson - Aynor
Turf Grass Management: John Adams - Crescent
Vegetable Production: Justin Allen - Pendleton
Veterinary Science: Kaitlyn Christenbury - Crescent
Wildlife Production and Management: Noah Smith - Crescent

SC FFA Agronomy CDE



State Champion: Pendleton

l to r: Allison Miller (3rd Place Individual), Justin Allen (1st Place Individual), Jason Smith (2nd Place Individual), Blake Berry (Advisor)

2018 SC FFA Tool Identification CDE



State Winning Team: Belton Honea Path

l to r: Ben Woody (BHP FFA Advisor), Anna Scott (1st Place Individual), Jada Patterson (1st Place Individual), Odessa Poore (1st Place Individual), Christina Knotts (1st Place Individual)

2018 SC FFA STATE CONVENTION CDE WINNERS

Agriscience Fair

Division 3

Animal Systems - Carson Towe, Seneca
Food Products and Processing - Cayden Gates, Nation Ford
Power, Structural, and Technical Systems - Cameron Laye, Seneca

Division 4

Environmental & Natural Resources - Loni McKenzie & Hailey Williamson, Lexington Tech. Center
Plant Systems - Kristina Gleaton & Hannah Williamson, Lexington Tech. Center

Division 5

Environmental & Natural Resources - Matthew Finch, Nation Ford
Plant Systems - Sabrina Bell, Lexington-Richland 5

Division 6

Animal Systems - Shelby Humphries & Kelly Rauch, Lexington Tech. Center
Environmental & Natural Resources - Kayla Atkinson & Alexandria Delgado, Lexington Tech. Center
Plant Systems - Kaitlyn Mazurkewicz & Taylor Pond, Lexington Tech. Center

Creed Speaking

Greenhand Division - Jasmine Burgess, Bryson Middle
Upper Division - Ellie Canon, Seneca

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

John Ammons, Pendleton

Farm Business Management

Strom Thurmond

Greenhand Knowledge Bowl

Calhoun Falls

Job Interview

Gracie Herrin, Strom Thurmond

Meats Evaluation and Technology

Lexington Technology Center

Novice Parliamentary Procedure

Belton-Honea Path

Parliamentary Procedure

Abbeville

Prepared Public Speaking

Payton Busbee, Abbeville

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS

Gold Chapters

ATEC - Kershaw Co.
Belton - Honea Path
Buford
Calhoun Falls
Crescent
Lakewood
Lexington-Richland 5
Nation Ford
Pickens County CTC
Seneca
Strom Thurmond
W J Keenan

Silver Chapters

Ashley Ridge
Aynor
Batesburg-Leesville
Carolina Forest
Clinton
Clover
Colleton County
R D Anderson ATC
West Oak

Bronze Chapters

Conway
Gilbert

PERCENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

75% Membership

Union Co.

85% Membership

Abbeville
Ware Shoals
West Oak

90% Membership

ATEC - Kershaw Co.

100% Membership

Anderson I & II CTC
Ashley Ridge
Barnwell Co. Career Center
Chesterfield
Crescent
Greer
Landrum
Landrum Middle
Lexington Technology Ctr.
Loris
McBee
Pendleton

Ridge Spring - Monetta
W.J. Keenan

100% Plus Membership

Andrew Jackson
Aynor
Batesburg Leesville
Belton Honea Path
Calhoun Falls
Clinton
Colleton Co.
Gilbert
Indian Land
Laurens District 55
Lee Co. Area Vo School
Lexington-Richland 5
Manning
Pickens Co. CTC
RD Anderson ATC
Socastee
Strom Thurmond
Walhalla
York



SC FFA Turfgrass CDE

State Champion: Strom Thurmond

l to r: Merissa MacDonald (1st Place Individual), Weston Whitfield (3rd Place Individual), Gracie Herrin (2nd Place Individual), Johnathon Kemp, Jeremy Brooks (Advisor)



2018 SC FFA Forestry CDE

State Winning Team: Saluda

l to r: Jessica Killian, Dallas Nivens (1st Place Individual), Michael Moses (2nd Place Individual), Blair Abernathy, Kelsey Anderson (Clover FFA Advisor)

State Star Farmer

By Tim Keown

The 2018 SC Star Farmer is Matthew Brownlee of the Laurens FFA Chapter. Brownlee works as a farm assistant at Bullhill Ranch and Cedarstump Farms in Laurens, S.C. At Bull Hill Ranch, Brownlee is responsible for supplying mineral and nutritional supplements during transition times to reduce stress-related weight loss. He keeps accurate records on each animal in order to monitor growth and create EPD data for when the animal has reached maturity. Brownlee uses this data to estimate future offspring growth numbers and aid in decisions regarding future breeding stock. Brownlee assists with all equipment maintenance and operation at Bull Creek Ranch. Brownlee calibrates all farm equipment in order to more efficiently operate this enterprise.

At Cedarstump Farm, which is his own enterprise, Brownlee grows potted nursery plants, a large produce garden, raises poultry and swine, and operates a sawmill. Brownlee has an extremely busy work schedule after school. He ensures all potted plants are cared for by applying water and nutrients as needed. Brownlee has further diversified his operation by adding 150 chickens and nine pigs as a livestock and poultry enterprise. Brownlee also has a share in the acreage for the production of tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, green beans and okra. He has invested his earnings to purchase shares of various equipment used within the



enterprise including a tractor and tiller.

Brownlee is the President of the Laurens FFA Chapter. He has participated in numerous career development events. He is also active in the Laurens County Young Farmers, Laurens County 4-H and the SC Cattleman's Association. Melanie Birchmore and Kyle Penland are his FFA advisors.

State Star in Agribusiness

By Tim Keown

Mackenzie Campbell, an active member of the Clover FFA Chapter, is the 2018 State Star in Agribusiness. Mackenzie is the owner and operator of Kenzie's Kountry Krafts. This is a business she created that specializes in the production handcrafted barn quilt art, using wood as the palette.

Campbell prepares all the boards using her table saw that was purchased with business profits, and hand paints all of the designs on each barn quilt. Each barn quilt she designs is representative of agricultural equipment and commodities. Campbell markets her barn quilts and travels as a vendor to local tractor and farm shows.

Because of the growing demand for her barn quilts, Campbell keeps her shop and all of her tools and equipment well organized in order to maximize productivity.

Campbell has begun to market her barn quilts through the internet, using sites such as Etsy, Instagram and Facebook to reach more customers. She also uses technology



to track her expenditures and profit margins in order to more efficiently operate her business.

Campbell is a member of Smyrna Baptist Church where she teaches Sunday school. Her FFA advisor is Ms. Kelsey Bridges-Anderson.

Growing Minds *for a* Growing Industry



Spartanburg Community College provides students with the knowledge and skills required for a successful career in the horticulture industry. Thanks to a widely respected campus arboretum with many gardens and greenhouse production facilities, SCC students gain hands-on experience with plant production, landscaping, nursery operations, greenhouse management and more. Students also attend conferences and field trips for diverse horticulture experiences and many complete internships with various companies such as Walt Disney World, The Greenery and the Biltmore House.

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**SPARTANBURG
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



Superintendent Spearman Receives the Prestigious John W. Parris Award

By Pat Earle

The South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators recognized Molly Spearman, South Carolina State Superintendent of Education, with the coveted John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award. Spearman received this honor during the annual Summer Conference of the SCAAE.

Superintendent Spearman's career has spanned 18 years as a public school music teacher and an assistant principal. In addition to teaching and administration, she has served four terms as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, six years as Deputy Superintendent of the South Carolina Department of Education and 10 years as the Executive Director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. She holds a B.A. Degree in music education from Lander University, a Master's Degree in education supervision from George Washington University and an Education Specialist degree from the University of South Carolina.

As the South Carolina Superintendent of Education, Spearman has shown her support of Agriculture Education by maintaining lifelong associations with the world of agriculture. She is a native of Saluda County, where that agriculture experience began. She has been honored by local chapters and our State FFA Association. She has stood with those blue jackets on many occasions such as our Legislative Appreciation Day and our SC FFA Plant Presentation Day. Her vision is that we all work together to facilitate personalized learning for every student, every day which epitomizes our own FFA motto. She has worked through the South Carolina Department of Education to make sure funds be directed toward maintaining our SC FFA Leadership Center.

The John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award is the most esteemed recognition presented by the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators. This award was established several years ago by the association and named in honor of Mr. Parris of Columbia, S.C., a nationally recognized leader in Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation with more than 50 years of professional service.

SCAAE AWARDS

The Lee County Young Farmer Program was recognized as the 2018 South Carolina Outstanding Adult Program of the Year. The Young Farmer advisor, Beth Tolson, was there to accept the award on behalf of the Young Farmers.



Desiree Still from the Swansea FFA Chapter, was awarded the SCAAE Teacher Turn the Key Scholarship. This award is to encourage those with four years or less of teaching agriculture to continue in the profession. Ms. Still will receive a trip to the NAAE Convention held in San Antonio this November.



Clair Hammonds, from the Loris FFA Chapter, was recognized for her outstanding classroom ideas as the 2018 SCAAE Ideas Unlimited Award Winner. Winners of this award exchange classroom, SAE, leadership and other teaching ideas with teachers from around the country.



The 2018 South Carolina Outstanding Teacher of the Year goes to **Christina Addis** of the Seneca FFA Chapter. Ms. Addis has been teaching at Seneca High School now for 10 years and has had state winning CDE teams, actively competed in the AgriScience Fair and has watched her agriculture program grow extensively throughout the years.

2018 SC Agricultural Teachers Conference Travels to Sumter

by Billy Keels

Sumter County played host to agriculture teachers from across the state at the 2018 South Carolina Agricultural Education Teachers Conference held in July.

Participants of the conference were housed at the newly constructed Hyatt Place hotel in downtown Sumter. Lakewood High School served as host for the General Session and all workshops.

The general session, held at Lakewood High Schools Fine Arts Center, provided an opportunity for some major announcements of changes in Agricultural Education in South Carolina. Jillian Lash, newly hired FFA Executive Director for the SC FFA Association was introduced and had the opportunity to outline her goals and initiatives for the SC FFA

Association. In addition, it was announced that the state's regions have been realigned. Several counties will be moved to different regions which will now go by the names of Regions I, II, III and IV.

In addition teachers were provided an update from Jim Armbruster, with National FFA and Kama Staton, with the

SC Department of Education, who outlined to teachers how they could utilize their students SAE projects as Work Based Learning.

Teachers were also informed of the growth of the Ag Ed Program in South Carolina. With the addition of 14 new teachers in 2018-19 school year, the number of agriculture



teachers in South Carolina now totals 148.

The remainder of the conference was focused on providing educational programs for the teachers in attendance to prepare them for the coming school year. Teachers had an opportunity to choose from a variety of workshops, which covered such topics as, Briggs and Stratton small engine training, advocating Agricultural Education, AET Recordkeeping, Project Learning Tree, the basics of turfgrass management and many other timely workshops to assist in their classroom instruction.

Always a highlight of the Conference is the The SCAAE Banquet. This year's banquet was held at Serendipity, a character-filled banquet hall in downtown Sumter. At the banquet, the SCAAE presented awards and recognition to deserving teachers from across the state for their success in the classroom as well as recognition of those who provided support to agricultural education in South Carolina.

The South Carolina Agricultural Educators Conference is held annually to provide in-service to Agricultural Educators to ensure that they are kept up-to-date with developments in both education and the agricultural industry.



Rose Jordan, of the Carvers Bay FFA Chapter, was recognized for her outstanding contribution to the Agriculture Education profession. Ms. Jordan has been in the classroom for three and a half years and is grateful for her community support. Thankfully she has no plans of leaving the classroom anytime soon!



The Clinton High School Agriculture Program was awarded the 2018 SCAAE Outstanding Program of the Year award. Advisors **Annette Bodie** and Katie Holley (not pictured) credit the program's community activity and support for its success.



Mike Haynes, formerly the advisor of Manning High School FFA Program but now advisor of the Manning Middle School FFA Chapter, was honored for his years of dedication and service to South Carolina Agriculture Education, SCFFA Association and to the thousands of students he's taught over the years with the Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award.

6 Great Leaders to *retire*



Glenn Stevens, of Belton, S.C., recently retired after 33 years of service to South Carolina Agricultural Education. Stevens began his teaching career at Travelers Rest High School then Belton-Honea Path High School (BHP).

Highlights from his teaching career include: seven State FFA Officers, over 200 state degree recipients and multiple State Champion CDE teams in Equine, Forestry, Livestock and Public Speaking. He created a very strong Animal Science, Horticulture and Natural Resources program at BHP that includes a large outdoor laboratory. He was named Teacher of the Year once at Travelers Rest and twice at BHP. The SCAAE honored him twice as the Teacher of the Year, twice named the Program of the Year and his most coveted award was being named the Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher.

Stevens served the Ag. Ed. profession in many capacities. He was the SCAAE Board for five years where he served as the VP and President. He was also on the FFA Leadership Camp Board of Directors, FFA Foundation Board, FFA Advisory Board and the FFA CDE Advisory Committee. He and his wife of twenty-eight years, Maureen, have three children, Ryan, Neal, and Erin.



Audie Green, of Belton, S.C., recently retired after 30 years of service to South Carolina Agricultural Education. Green began his career as a County Extension Agent in Georgia for three years before moving to the Anderson One & Two Career Center where he taught for 27 years.

Highlights from his teaching career include: multiple state winning Nursery and Landscape CDEs over his career. He is proudest of having taught multiple students who went into the Landscape, Horticultural, and Agricultural industries. He is also a National Board-Certified Teacher.

Green served not only the Ag. Ed. profession, but he also served in the South Carolina Army National Guard for 21 years. He was a SCAAE Officer for five years and he also sat on the FFA Leadership Camp Board of Directors.

Green holds a B.S. and a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education both from Clemson University. He and his wife of 26 years, Jane, have two sons, Austin and Carson. He has served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Belton. His retirement plans include maintaining his family farm and enjoying the outdoors with his family.



Chris LeMaster, of Gaffney, S.C., recently retired after 33 years of service to South Carolina. He had 19 years of service as a South Carolina Agricultural Education instructor. Before entering into the education field, LeMaster was an employee of South Carolina Land Resources and Department of Natural Resources. He began his teaching career at Midland Valley High School and then began the Sports Turf Program Aiken Technology Center. He then taught Natural Resources at Gaffney High School before transitioning to, and retiring from, the Cherokee Technology Center.

Highlights from his teaching career include: over 20 State FFA degree recipients and multiple regional CDE winners. LeMaster created a very strong Horticultural and Natural Resources program at Cherokee Technology Center, which served his community well.

LeMaster served the agricultural profession in numerous ways beyond his classroom. He was a SCAAE Officer for five years. He also helped implement the first GIS program in the state while working with Department of Natural Resources. He developed many technical and educational programs for the Department of Natural Resources, many of which are still active today. He and his wife, Beth have three children and have fostered five children, whom they consider their own.

Thank you!



Michael Haynes, Manning High School, announced his retirement with over 30 years of service. Haynes' career produced numerous State officers, CDE State winners and his most prized Governor's Citations.

Haynes has spent his entire teaching career at Manning High School. One of the traits he is most noted for is his enthusiasm for his student's successes. His legacy will be left firmly implanted on Manning High School as well as hundreds of students that have had the privilege of being in one of Coach Haynes' class. One of the most outstanding achievement is his abilities to attract students to his programs. Once there, his demand for involvement was evident. Manning High routinely had the largest FFA Chapter in South Carolina with a one-teacher program. His crowning honor was having one of his own students, Deshawn Blanding, being elected as part of the 2014-15 National Officer team. Not only was Mr. Haynes outstanding in the classroom, he is a retired Army Major and was deployed as part of his service.

Tom Willingham, of Blythewood, S.C., recently retired after 18 years of service to South Carolina Agricultural Education. Willingham began his teaching career at Ridge View High School and then taught 15 years at Blythewood High School.

Highlights from his teaching career include: one State FFA Officer, one American Degree recipient, over 20 state degree recipients and multiple regional CDE winners. He created a very strong Animal Science program at Blythewood, which served the equine industry in that area very well.

Willingham served the Ag. Ed. profession in numerous ways beyond his classroom. He was a SCAAE Officer for five years and he also sat on the FFA Leadership Camp Board of Directors.

Willingham holds a B.S. and a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education. He is currently managing a 900-acre game preserve, and he also breeds, trains and sells Llewelin Setters for upland bird hunting.

Pat Earle, after serving 38 years in the classroom, retires from McBee High School. He had the unique privilege of following his father in the same position where he taught for 41 years. That makes over 70 years of "Mr. Earle" at one school. While teaching, Pat had countless FFA State Officers, won numerous FFA Governor's Citations and was no stranger to state winning FFA Teams. Pat has served numerous terms on both the SCAAE Board as well as the SC FFA Board of Directors and SC FFA Foundation Board. Over the many years, Pat has received many awards and recognitions. Some of his most noted accomplishments, include the Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award, presented by the SCAAE, the Honorary American FFA Degree and, being one of only two teachers from South Carolina ever to be named to the National Teachers Hall of Fame. He was honored with the National Association of Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Award for Region V. Most recently, Pat also received the Order of the Palmetto from the state of South Carolina, the highest honor bestowed to a citizen in our state.

Haynes Named Distinguished Teacher

By Billy Keels

Michael Haynes, agricultural educator at Manning Jr. High School and formerly teacher at Manning High School, was recently named the 2018 Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher. The South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators (SCAAE) presented this award during their statewide conference, which was held in Sumter, S.C.

Haynes taught his entire career at Manning High School before announcing his retirement in 2018. However, this retirement did not last long as Haynes saw the need to fill a vacant position and stepped in to accept the teaching position at Manning Junior High School in order to save the program — an action fitting for a man who worked unselfishly his entire career for the benefit of the students in Clarendon County.

While at Manning High School, Haynes received numerous honors. He had countless state winning CDE teams, especially in Leadership contests, where his students have won numerous speaking contest and he consistently won the state Parliamentary Procedure CDE year after year.

Haynes always worked to ensure the success of his students, many of them who have followed in his footsteps to teach Agriculture. The leadership skills that Haynes taught his students was no more evident than in the selection of his student DeShawn Blanding as a National FFA officer. DeShawn is only the fourth person from South Carolina to receive such an honor.

The Award was presented to Haynes by his longtime friend and colleague Pat Earle. In his presentation, Earle stated that the prestige of this award is that it is an award voted on by fellow teachers. There is no greater accomplishment than when a man is recognized by his peers.

Agricultural Education Program at Clemson University CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

by P. M. Fravel, Ph.D.



Professor Verd Peterson

A centennial anniversary event held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 attracted more than 225 supporters of Agricultural Education to Clemson University's Madren Center ballroom. A diverse agenda highlighted the accomplishments of the Agricultural Education program, which was founded in the summer of 1917 and produced its first graduates in the spring of 1918. Vice President of Agriculture George Askew delivered greetings on behalf of the college and university administration.

Ms. Verd Cunningham of Columbia, S.C., represented the family of Professor Verd Peterson, the

first Agricultural Education professor at Clemson College who also served for nearly 30 years (1917-1946) as South Carolina's state supervisor for Agricultural Education. Ms. Cunningham reflected on her grandfather's love of agriculture and his accomplishments not only as an administrator but as a loving family man.

Current undergraduate students of Agricultural Education Mariah Swygert and Joseph McCannon delivered an entertaining dialogue featuring The Past and Future of Agricultural Education at Clemson University.

Additionally, undergraduate students helped construct over 100 linear feet of historic exhibits lining the rear of the Madren Center ballroom. These displays highlighted the evolution of Clemson University and the Ag Ed program over the past 100 years.

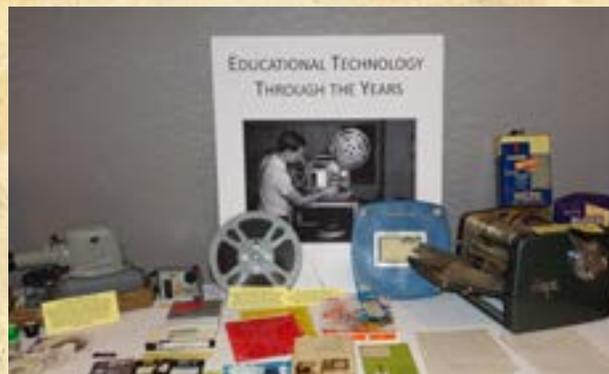
A special recognition of the accomplishments of the Agricultural Education program was provided by Senators Daniel Verdin of Laurens and Thomas Alexander of Oconee County. The two legislators introduced a concurrent resolution unanimously approved by the South Carolina Senate and House recognizing the numerous



Ms. Verd Cunningham



Mariah Swygert & Joseph McCannon



The Evolution of Instruction Teaching



WW II Casualties of Clemson Agricultural Education Graduates

accomplishments of the Clemson University Agricultural Education program over the past 100 years. Both members participated in presenting the resolution which was received by Phil Fravel on behalf of the faculty and program.

Fravel, professor of Agricultural Education at Clemson University, concluded the event with a synopsis of the program's history as well as the future trends for Agricultural Education at Clemson University. The Clemson Agricultural Education program is grateful for the financial support and the remarks provided by ArborOne Farm Credit, AgSouth Farm Credit, and South Carolina Farm Bureau which helped make the event possible.



Senator Daniel Verdin presenting a concurrent resolution to Dr. Phil Fravel (photo by J. W. Parris)

Agricultural Education Hires New Staff

By Billy Keels

Jillian Lash was named the Executive Director for South Carolina Agricultural Education on July 1, 2018 by Clemson University.

Lash is a graduate of Clemson University with a degree in Agricultural Education. She has 17 years of classroom experience. Her teaching experience includes 14 years at Lakewood High School in Sumter County, SC and 4 years at Marbury High School in Alabama.



Jillian Lash: SC FFA Executive Director

Lash has numerous noteworthy professional accomplishments, to include: producing 3 state officers in South Carolina and one state officer in Alabama, recipient of 5 Gold National Chapter Awards, produced 4 national CDE teams and produced 19 top 3 South Carolina top 3 state teams. In addition to her accolades with the FFA, Lash has also served as SCAAE Region VP on two occasions. Lash was also recognized as the SCAAE Region Teacher of the Year, SCAAE Region Program of the Year and SCAAE Region New Teacher of the Year.

Lash will have an office at the Clemson University's South Carolina Water Resources Center in Pendleton.

Pat Earle has been named as the Region 3 and 4 Coordinator with the Agricultural Education Program Team with Clemson University.

Earle joins the Ag Ed Program team after retiring from McBee High School after 38 years of distinguished service. While teaching, Pat had countless FFA State Officers, won numerous FFA Governor's Citations and was no stranger to state winning FFA Teams. Pat has

served numerous terms on both the SCAAE Board as well as the SC FFA Board of Directors and SC FFA Foundation Board.

Over the many years, Pat has received quite a few awards and recognitions. Some of his most noted accomplishments, include receiving the Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award, presented by the SCAAE, receiving the Honorary American FFA Degree and, being one of only two teachers from South Carolina ever to be named to the National Teachers Hall of Fame. Most recently, Pat also received the Order of the Palmetto from the state of South Carolina, the highest honor bestowed to a citizen in our state.

Earle's office will be located in Darlington County.



Pat Earle: Region 3 and 4 Coordinator

Betsy Hwang has been named as the Administrative Assistant for the Agricultural Education Program Team with Clemson University.

Betsy has a Bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN in graphic design. She was previously employed by Vanderbilt University where she held the positions of Administrative Assistant and Associate Program Manager.

Betsy's will have an office at the Clemson University's South Carolina Water Resources Center in Pendleton.



Betsy Hwang: Administrative Assistant

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Brodie had always loved the outdoors, plants — and FFA. When he came to Clemson he found that all his interests could come together in one even bigger passion — feeding the world.

At Clemson, Brodie conducted research on plant pathology with professors who shared his goals. He then applied that research to the campus' Tiger Gardens where he also taught nutrition and sustainability. Brodie is now in graduate school, with plans to travel to third-world countries to help them solve their food crises.

It's a big task. But with knowledge, enthusiasm and the support of his mentors, Brodie is up to the challenge.



    @ClemsonCAFLS
Email us at CAFLS_recruit-L@clemson.edu

Learn more about Brodie's story at
clemson.edu/moments.

South Carolina Young Farmers Tour Historic Sumter County

By Tim Keown

A large attendance of 231 SCYFAA members, advisors, sponsors and their families, arrived in Sumter County for the Annual SCYFAA Summer Farm Tour. The Sumter County Young Farmer Chapter, along with advisors Adam Gore and Katie Long planned the tour. Members of the Sumter County Young Farmers and the Lakewood FFA Chapter chapter led the efforts for registering all of the guests and meal planning.

The Friday tour stops included Garnay, Inc., historic Swan Lake Gardens, followed by a BBQ meal at Lakewood High School. Greetings were brought to the attendees from Lakewood advisor Adam Gore and the meal sponsors.

The Saturday tour stops included a tour of Modern Turf, CCC Farms, Riverdale Farms, Bradford Watermelon Company, and ended with a quail lunch and facility tour at Central Carolina Technical College.

The Sumter County Summer Tour was educational, well planned, family friendly, and will be remembered by all who attended. The newly formed Abbeville County Young Farmers will be hosting the Summer Tour in July of 2019. Make plans to attend this event!





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