THE AGGIE REPORT

SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe

November-December 2022



Student leaders from our Student Council, FFA and 4-H programs gather around the tree laden with gifts that were collected as part of the school's Adopt-A-Family program, serving less-fortunate families in our community.

Happy Holidays!

Dear Aggie Family,

The early "Roaring 20s" have been productive in and out of the classroom for our Aggies! If you follow our monthly newsletters, you have read the numerous accolades, in both academics and competitive events. Our students never cease to amaze me, and I love having a front row seat to watch all of their successes!

We are already planning for an exciting Spring '23 semester. I encourage you to include our Ag Fest on your calendars. It will be held this year on Saturday, March 18. This will be our 3rd Annual event, and we expect a large increase in student participation, spectators, vendors, and competitive events.

Beginning in 2023 we will be renovating Charleston, Hessie Morrah, and Hester residential halls, De la Howe Hall, and constructing a new state of the art greenhouse facility! These renovations will allow our student population and course offerings to continue to grow. We are thankful to the General Assembly of South Carolina for all of their support in our mission.

Lastly, I am honored to serve our students, parents, and staff. We are a blessed school family. I hope each of you have a Happy Holiday season with your loved ones!

Respectfully,
Timothy R. Keown

MORTON RECEIVES NATIONAL TEACHER AWARD

Mr. Hunter Morton, a native of Seneca and teacher here at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture, was one of 33 agricultural educators nationwide who recently received the 2022 "Teachers Turn the Key" (TTTK) Scholarship Award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators

The prestigious award was presented to Mr. Morton during the 2022 NAAE Convention, held Nov. 29 through Dec. 3 in Las Vegas.

"We are extremely proud of Mr. Morton," said Timothy Keown, president of the Governor's School for Agriculture. "His accomplishments in and out of the classroom are second to none. Being named the 'Teacher Turn the Key' winner for South Carolina puts him at the top of the state's young agricultural educators. Mr. Morton has a bright future in his educational career, and this award is just the beginning."

Mr. Morton, a graduate of Pendleton High School and Clemson University, teaches on the environmental and natural resources pathway at the Governor's School for Agriculture, one of four agriculture-focused pathways offered to students.

The "Teachers Turn the Key" scholarship brings together agricultural educators with



three to five years of experience and immerses them in five days of professional development that addresses issues specific to the early years of teaching agriculture. Participants also have the opportunity to become involved in NAAE leadership and network with other NAAE convention attendees.

TTTK awardees come away from the experience with a long-lasting peer cohort and tools that will help them have successful careers as agricultural educators.

In addition to attending professional development, each of the TTTK scholarship recipients was also recognized at a general session during the NAAE convention.

The NAAE is the professional organization for agricultural educators with more than 8,000 members nationwide. The organization advocates for agricultural education, provides advancement through professional development for agricultural educators, and works to recruit and retain agricultural educators in the profession. The NAAE offers a variety of programs and services to support this three-pronged mission.

The mission of NAAE is "professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service."

The NAAE is headquartered in Lexington, Ky.

AGGIES COOK UP SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER

An industrious group of students gathered after-school the first week of December to bake chocolate-chip cookies for the annual Christmas Cookie Walk in downtown McCormick.

That weekend, a trio of Aggies welcomed patrons to the Cookie Walk and shared their baked treats at the Dorn Grist Mill Complex. The event also gave students a chance to share information about the Governor's School for Agriculture and our programs for students.







THE AGGIE REPORT November-December 2022

AGGIES LEAD STATE IN CERTIFICATIONS



Glenn Perryman (right) of CEV Multimedia visited our campus to present a poster to our ag teachers and our principal Mr. Thompson honoring our 2021-2022 Aggies who earned a variety of industry certifications.

The South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture now ranks among the top schools in the Palmetto State for earning industry-standard certifications from iCEV, the nation's leading publisher of Career & Technical Education curriculum and industry certification testing.

Glenn Perryman of CEV Multimedia recently visited the school to present principal Gregory Thompson and the school's ag teachers with a placard honoring all the students who received industry certifications from iCEV during the 2021-22 academic year. Through the iCEV's intensive certification program, these students demonstrated mastery of the knowledge needed for entry into their respective career fields. According to iCEV, these certifications "promote a successful transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce."

"Industry certifications are proof that our students are not only leaders outside of the class, but academic leaders as well," said Timothy Keown, president of the Governor's School for Agriculture. "Being the top school in South Carolina with the highest number of certifications is a testament to our rigorous instruction that creates graduates who are ready to enter college or move directly to the workforce."

Developed and issued by industry-leading companies and organizations such as Elanco and Southwest Airlines, and tested on the iCEV platform, these certifications enhance student résumés and help them stand out to prospective colleges and employers.

These certifications reflect the needs of real-world career expectations, boost employability and allow employers to identify and connect with qualified applicants.

To earn the certification, each student passed

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a rigorous exam based on weighted industry-valued and industry-accepted standards.

"Our goal in offering certification testing on the iCEV platform was to provide students with validation of the specialized skills they have developed and knowledge base they've built," said Dusty Moore, president of iCEV. "The certifications are meant to have an immediate positive impact on students as they plan for their future after high school, whether that is attending college or joining the workforce. On behalf of CEV Multimedia and our industry partners, we congratulate all students at the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture on this tremendous accomplishment and wish them the best as they pursue their career goals."

In 2021 and 2022, the following students have earned certifications from iCEV:

• **BASF Plant Science Certification:** J.C. Chandler, Kyle Gilreath, Lexie Hanna, Jake Parker, Jenna Tucker, Caleb Welsford.

• **Benz School of Floral Design Certification:** Kyleigh Adams, Riley Cox, Aestas Hodge, Emily Rodman, Sierra Tinsley, Valeria Vazquez, Allyson Wright.

• **EETC Principles of Small Engine Technology Certification:** Cole Hammond, Lexie Hanna, Caroline Jordan, Kaylee O'Neal, Preston Patterson, Harley Reeves, Ben Stone, Caleb Welsford.



• **Southwest Airlines Professional Communications Certification:** Cole Hammond, Evan Herring, Kaylee O'Neal, Kaytlin Smith.

• **Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science Certification:** Grayson Chassereau, Anna Grace Cross, Hampton Davis, Trey Haddon, Evan Herring, Garrett Jolly, Carolina Jordan, Caitlyn Krout, Austin Landreth, Lauren Locklair, J.D. Miller, Preston Patterson, Jake Simpson, Kaytlin Smith, Ben Stone, Sierra Tinsley, Valeria Vazquez, Lacey Willis.

• **NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification:** Kyleigh Adams, Colette Alston, J.C. Chandler, Caitlyn Krout, Coralie Davis, Lauren Fenn, Lilly Fox, Sidney Grantham, Brooke Grondski, Trey Haddon, Mya Kowalke, Caroline Jordan, J.D. Miller, Katie Ostergaard, Jake Parker, Jake Simpson, Sierra Tinsley, Jenna Tucker, Leona Weber.

HONORING OUR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH... SO FAR



CORDELL SWYGERT
August



COLLIN GREENE
September



KAYTLIN SMITH
October



MYA KOWALKE
November

Each month of the school year, the faculty and staff of the Governor's School for Agriculture select a Student of the Month who exemplifies the mission and vision of the school. Teachers nominate potential Students of the Month, and then the honored student is selected based on academic performance as well as participation in extracurricular activities and other campus programs.

Congratulations to these deserving Aggies on a job well done so far in this 2022-23 school year!

Great Job, Aggies!



STATE FORESTOR DISCUSSES CAREERS IN THE WOODS

Scott Phillips, South Carolina State Forester and Executive Director of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, visited the Governor's School for Agriculture campus the week before Christmas break to chat with students about the Forestry Commission, its mission and possible career opportunities with the state agency.



HONOR ROLL STUDENTS - 1ST QUARTER



Our first-quarter All-A Honor Roll students

The following students earned the distinction of being named to the Honor Rolls at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture for the first quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

In addition, the residents of Lethe Hall were honored for having the highest grade point average among the school's residence halls during the first quarter. They were presented the ceremonial "championship belt" during a brief ceremony at breakfast during the week of November 7.

Congratulations to these students for their hard work and commitment to their academics.

All-A Honor Roll

Kyleigh Ann Banks-Adams, Blake Arias, John Christopher Chandler, Elsa DeRosa, Timothy Carlyle Fulmer, Alexis Grace Hanna, Lynzie Nicole Hodge, Ryan Keith Joseph, Mya Grace Kowalke, Caitlyn Krout, Ian Joshua McCoy, Hannah Grace Mosley, Katharine Ruth Ostergaard, Emily Christine Rodman, William Robert Steigerwald, Kaley Grace Stevenson, Allie Marie Taylor, Grace Rebecca Viseth

HONOR ROLL STUDENTS - 1ST QUARTER



Our first-quarter A/B Honor Roll students

A/B Honor Roll

Samson Benjamin Bennett, Malori Merry Christopherson, Coralie Elizabeth Davis, Gordon Logan Doty, Lilly Kayte Fox, Jahira Elaine Freeman, Liam Britton Gesling, Brooklyn Leigh Glassburn, Sidney LeeAnn Grantham, Brooke Helena Grondski, Cole Hammond, Evan Laurence Herring, Ja'Davion Simeon Hicks, Dakota McKinlee Hill, Michael Kelly Johnson, Carson Elliott Jones, Caroline Lee Jordan, Kinley Marie Metts, James David Miller, Eli Davis Moore, Micah Robert Mother, Tamiah Jae Donae Nunnally, Preston Patterson, Harley Marie Reeves, Benjamin Neal Stone, Ella Reed Taylor, Anna Lee Wagher, Leona Joyce Weber, Emily Paige White.

Congratulations, Aggies!

ACADEMIC CHAMPIONS - 1ST QUARTER



The residents of Lethe Hall won the championship belt for the overall best GPA for first-quarter 2022-23.



PEACH BLOSSOM GARDEN CLUB VISIT

Members of the Peach Blossom Garden Club from Johnston visited the campus in November for a tour. They visited the greenhouse, Education Center and enjoyed lunch in the cafeteria. For many of the members, it was their first visit to the campus -- and they were impressed by its beauty.



JOHN DEERE EXECUTIVES VISIT CAMPUS

In mid-November, a delegation of John Deere executives visited the Governor's School for Agriculture campus and met with students and ag teachers. The visit was coordinated by Bert Bagley, who serves on the school's Board of Trustees.

BLANCHARD GIVEN HONORARY FFA DEGREE

Bo Blanchard from Blanchard John Deere was presented the Honorary Chapter FFA degree from our Agricultural Mechanics teacher Russ Abrams and members of the State Champion Tractor Safety and Operations FFA Team. Mr. Blancard serves as a board member for the school's non-profit Foundation.



TREE-PLANTING, SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMPUS



Board of Trustees members formally accept a Senate Resolution honoring the 225th anniversary of the campus.

As part of The 1797 Celebration on Saturday, November 5, several dignitaries visited the Governor's School for Agriculture campus to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the last will and testament of John de la Howe -- which established the first school on this site.

Paul Babb, state coordinator for the upcoming America250 national celebration in South Carolina, was on-hand to plant two small oak trees on the Governor's Green to honor French immigrants who fought in support of the American Revolution. Local historian Bob Edmonds attended and his essay on the history of nearby Fort Charlotte was read in commemoration of the day.

State Sen. Billy Garrett presented a Senate Resolution, co-sponsored with Sen. Shane Massey, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the school site. That resolution was later presented to members of the school's Board of Trustees. It was a special day to remember our school's rich heritage.



State Sen. Billy Garrett and former State Rep. Anne Parks present the Senate Resolution to agency president Tim Keown at the 225th anniversary celebration.



Paul Babb of the America250 committee presents two oak trees and commemorative medallion to the school.



ALUMNI HOMECOMING HELD AT 1797 FEST



Alumni from across the years of the John de la Howe School gather in McKissick Memorial Chapel for a group photo following the Alumni Homecoming held in conjunction with The 1797 Celebration.

During the 1797 Celebration weekend, members of the John de la Howe Alumni Association hosted the organization's first reunion since the pandemic.

Alumni from all across the country came together for a luncheon in the cafeteria followed by a meeting in McKissick Memorial Chapel. During that meeting, historian Gerald Moore offered a presentation on JDLH students who served in World War II, while alumni unveiled a recently discovered Blue Star Memorial flag that had been presented to the school shortly after the war.

The flag is adorned with more than 100 stars, each representing a student from the school who served in the war. A cluster of gold stars at the center of the flag honors those students who died in World War II.

Two newly-minted May graduates of the Governor's School for Agriculture, Trey Haddon and Jake Simpson, joined the past schools' alumni for the business meeting and were confirmed as new members of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

The Alumni Homecoming event ended with an evening social at the Dairy Barn, where alumni and their families enjoyed refreshments and danced to music played by DJ (and Governor's School staff member) Tony Baughman.

The JDLH Alumni Association is planning its next event in February, a Pre-Valentine's Dance with live music from the Carolina Coast Band featuring McCormick native beach music singer Rhonda McDaniel and Rickey Godfrey. The dance will be held Saturday, February 4 at Savannah Lakes Village, and proceeds benefit Alumni projects on campus.



CLASS RING CEREMONY

On Friday evening, November 4, on the eve of The 1797 Celebration and Alumni weekend, a class ring ceremony was held in McKissick Memorial Chapel. Members of the current junior and senior classes were presented their rings by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Keown. The event featured moving commentary from student leaders on the meaning and importance of the class rings as part of the high school experience.





OUR AGGIES' HARE-RAISING ACHIEVEMENTS

At the Oconee County Heritage Fair 4-H Rabbit Show in mid-November, Brooke Grondski won first place Senior Showmanship (and overall), first place Senior in the Knowledge test (and overall), first place Senior in the Judging Contest (and overall), and first place Senior in Breed ID (and 2nd overall). Brooke also was named the 2022 Upstate 4-H Rabbit Ambassador AND will be traveling to different events to teach youth about rabbits. Brooke's rabbit Hot Cocoa won Best of Breed French Lop, Best 6 class rabbit, and Best Reserve.



Brooke Grondski



Sidney Grantham

Sidney Grantham won her first rabbit competition belt buckle as the Abbeville County 4-H Program Senior Showmanship Champion in early December.

LIVING AND LEARNING IN THE REAL WORLD (CLASS)



Students in our Real World class traveled to Piedmont Technical College to visit with horticulture instructor Jeremy Brooks. He led a tour of the campus and taught our Aggies how to identify Boxwood Leafminers under a microscope. Students also participated in a plant pest identification lab, a look at machine operations and aloe propagation.





A delegation of Aggies ventured to Biltmore Estate Farm and Gardens in Asheville, N.C., in mid-November. The field trip, led by librarian Jennifer Brown, gave the students a chance to explore various sustainable agriculture strategies used at the historic mountain estate.

In late October, a group of Aggies toured North Georgia Technical College and were treated to in-depth presentations about their Environmental Sciences and Horticulture programs. The students also toured Toccoa Falls College and visited their sustainable community farm.

AGGIES GET IN THE SPIRIT IN CHRISTMAS PARADES



A festive group of Aggies donned their holiday gear and loaded up onto their Grinch-themed float for the Christmas parades in downtown McCormick and Uptown Greenwood in early December. The float, designed by student Lyle Fulmer, won first place in the Education category in the Greenwood parade and third place overall in the McCormick County parade. Caitlyn Krout and Sierra Tinsley also represented the Governor's School FFA in the parade.






Merry Christmas
SOUTH CAROLINA FFA ASSOCIATION



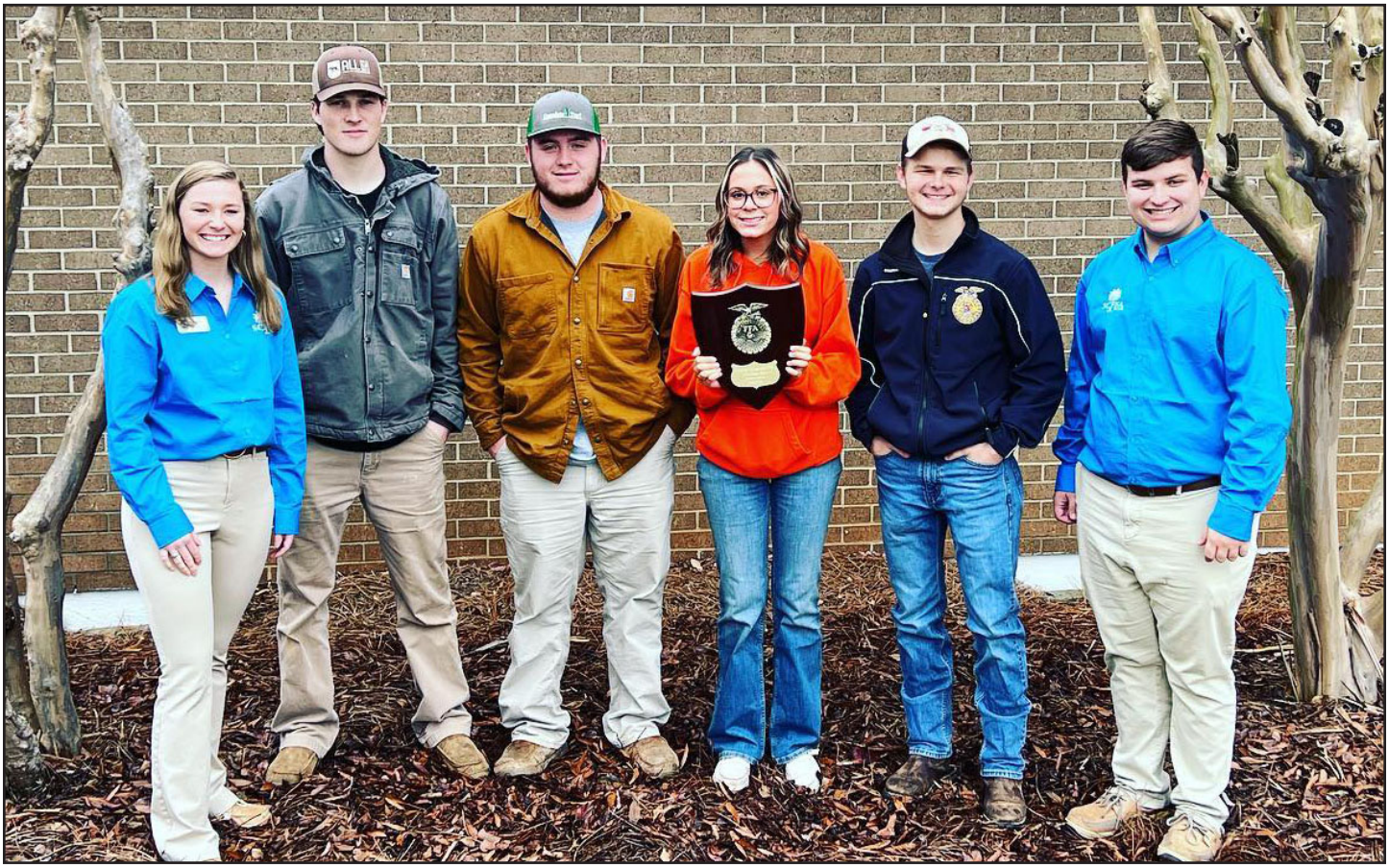
GETTING THE JOB DONE DOWN ON THE FARM



Students in our plant sciences classes participated in the late-November harvest of broccoli as part of their Farm-To-Cafeteria projects.



The 1797 Celebration in early November featured a barrel-racing competition, just one of numerous projects and events now being held at our equine center.



In early December, our Turfgrass CDE Team finished third in the State FFA Super Saturday CDE Event at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood.



Students in Mr. Abrams' class completed their bluebird box projects in early November, one of many hands-on construction projects taught in our ag classes.

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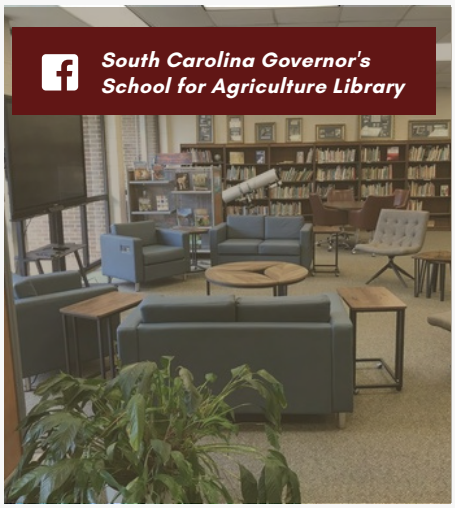





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