37th Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon
February 22
2014
Welcome and Introductions

Mitch Hardeman
Alumni Board president

Susan Byus
Director of Alumni Relations & Student Leadership

Invocation

Ivy Odom
FACS Ambassador

LUNCH

Remarks and Recognition of the 35th anniversary
of the FACS Ambassadors Program

Dr. Linda Kirk Fox
Dean

Awards Presentation

Catherine Stockman
Past-President

Presenters

Danny Stevens
Alison Clune Berg
Connie Crawley
Catherine Stockman
Dr. Anne Sweaney
Dr. Don Bower

Honor Hall of Recognition Induction

Dr. Jay Mancini
Department Head, Human Development and Family Science

Passing of the Gavel

Past FACS Alumni Association Presidents

Closing

Susan Byus
Director of Alumni Relations & Student Leadership
Dear FACS Alumni and Friends of the College,

On behalf of the FACS Alumni Association Board, we welcome you to the 37th Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon. We are so pleased that you have joined us for this day of celebration.

This event continues to be a special day for us to recognize the accomplishments of several of our most deserving alumni.

The work they have accomplished in their professions and communities represents some of the very best of what a Family and Consumer Sciences graduate embodies.

Additionally, it is our pleasure to induct Dr. Gene H. Brody into the Honor Hall of Recognition, especially with so many of his Center for Family Research staff and UGA colleagues on hand as well as family and friends.

The FACS Alumni Board strives to keep alumni, students, faculty and friends interested in, involved with and connected to the College.

Our college is strong and well-positioned to continue producing successful, prepared graduates.

Thank you for your support of FACS!

Sincerely,

Mitch Hardeman
Alumni Board President
2013-14

Theresa Glasheen
Alumni Board President
2014-15

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FACS Alumni Association Activities

Leadership and support are provided by FACS Alumni annually at these events:

Chilly Dawg 5K – January
Alumni Awards Luncheon - February
UGA Designing Dawgs Events in Atlanta – February, April, September & November
Exam Survival Kits for students – April & December
FACS Convocation for graduates – May & December
Leadership FACS Retreat at Rock Eagle – August
South Campus Tailgate – Fall
“Dogs with the Dean” for FACS Community – October
Donor-Scholar Recognition Reception – November

FACS Alumni Association Board
2013-2014

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Jason Payne, President-Elect & VP-Development
Lauren Coheley, Secretary
Catherine Hube Stockman, Past-President

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Anne Corinne Huggins

Dr. Corinne Huggins has strived throughout her career to promote a deeper understanding of human development and wellness in a variety of areas.

Now an assistant professor of Research and Evaluation Methodology at the University of Florida School of Human Development and Organizational Studies in Education, the 2004 FACS graduate’s research has focused on fairness in statistical procedures in large-scale assessment of K-12 students.

Huggins’ commitment to her research was evident early on, according to Carlos Perez Benitez, Assistant Research Professor of the University of Miami.

“Dr. Huggins is very ethical, hardworking, scientifically rigorous and dedicated to the application of her learning and expertise in the development of projects that are critical to developing a better understanding of minority mental health,” he said. “She has demonstrated a passion for conducting research that contributes to the fields of community and human wellness and development.”

While at Miami, Huggins also established the Research Methodology Help Desk, designed to offer advanced statistical and methodological consultation, analysis and training assistance to UM faculty, students and community partners. Her work on this project left an indelible mark on her colleagues.

“With no hint of intimidation or self-doubt, Corrine took our general blueprint and gave it form into something considerably better and more effective than we ever anticipated,” said the Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Etiony Aldarondo. “Initially projected to provide around 100 hours of consultation services over the course of the academic year, under Corrine’s leadership, the Help Desk provided over 300 hours of consultation. She achieved this extraordinary feat while gracefully completing her own dissertation research and applying for her first academic job.”

Huggins also is currently working with Vanderbilt University on developing an in-class measurement tool designed to assess the educational needs of students struggling in math, including students from at-risk environments.

“Dr. Huggins is a bright and talented researcher who will undoubtedly make significant contributions to the academic community,” said Dr. Ora Prilleltensky, clinical assistant professor at the University of Miami. “She has an impressive publication record and is committed to the well-being of children, families and communities and using her research toward that end.”

Pacesetter Award

This award goes to an individual who has graduated from the college within the last 10 years and who actively promotes the beliefs and values of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Creswell Award

Named for the first dean of our college, this award recognizes a current or retired faculty or staff member who has provided leadership in motivating and guiding students.

Mary Ann Johnson

Passionate about the issue of obesity, Dr. Mary Ann Johnson has served as the graduate coordinator in the Department of Foods and Nutrition since 1995, and is active in many areas such as gerontology, exercise science, kinesiology and sports nutrition.

An accomplished scholar with more than 175 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters to her name, Johnson, the Bill and June Flatt Professor in Foods and Nutrition, also has helped secure more than $10 million in grants.

Despite an impressive list of professional accomplishments, however, it’s Johnson’s role as nurturer and mentor to dozens of graduate students that most point to when reflecting on her impact.

“She became my biggest advocate and provided me with her unwavering support," said Dawn Brewer, now a Lecturer/DPD Director in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition at the University of Kentucky.

When Brewer experienced “a very low point” during her doctoral studies, it was Johnson who was there to help walk her through it, Brewer said.

“Essentially, Dr. Johnson changed my life by taking a chance on me and being an amazing mentor who fostered an environment of learning, support, and opportunities that allowed me to develop further as a scientist,” Brewer said. “She always pushed me whenever I questioned myself, she restored my confidence and provided me with great career advice.”

If Alison Berg, a doctoral student in UGA’s department of Foods and Nutrition, said Johnson’s commitment to her students is one of the hallmarks of her legacy.

“Graduate school is not easy, but I can always count on Dr. Johnson to provide her quintessential ‘You’re doing great!’ when I’m at a low, and that picks me right back up,” Berg said. “I feel completely comfortable coming to her with questions, concerns, ideas and suggestions because I know I will be treated with consideration, compassion and respect.”

No doubt Brewer, and dozens of other former Johnson students, would agree.

“She is an amazing person who is a role model to all as she demonstrates that it is possible to be a phenomenal major professor, excel as an educator in the classroom and be a leading scientist in her field of research, all while balancing a happy family life,” Brewer said.
Both Olga Jimenez and the American Cancer Society have been consistent supporters of FACS Extension for nearly 10 years both financially and programmatically.

The two partnered to work closely with the University of Georgia Extension to educate women who are rarely or never screened for breast and cervical cancer.

“Olga co-chaired the Georgia Team Up planning committee meetings, obtained epidemiological data about the counties with the highest incidences of breast and cervical cancer, helped to design and evaluate the intervention, and over the years has provided nearly $105,000 from the ACS to fund the implementation of the Cooking for a Life Time Cancer Prevention Cooking Schools,” said Connie Crawley, a Senior Public Service Associate and Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist.

Throughout years of supporting additional trainings for new counties, Jimenez and the ACS not only encouraged women to participate but made sure those who did received follow-up attention.

Recently, the program published a very popular cookbook in both English and Spanish.

“Not only does Olga give statewide leadership, but she has often personally attended schools that are offered to Spanish-speaking communities in the metro Atlanta area,” Crawley said. “Her calm and friendly demeanor makes Spanish-speaking attendees feel more comfortable participating.”

In 2012, The Cooking for a Lifetime Cancer Prevention Cooking School was chosen as one of 16 programs to visit across the country as a Promising Practice for promoting breast and cervical cancer screening.

“I feel a great debt of gratitude to Olga and the ACS for their continued leadership, friendship and support,” Crawley said. “Certainly we would not have this program without them.”

Camille Kesler has difficulty defining what community service means to her in just a few words.

“Community service is such an integral part of who I am,” the 1994 FACS grad said. “It drives what I do and how and why I do it.”

So you might see Kesler talking with a homeless teen at the Atlanta Day Shelter; chatting with a sex abuse survivor at Wellspring Living; preparing and delivering food to restore the homebound through Project Open Hand; or taking her Girl Scout troops to sing to elderly residents at Wesley Woods Center.

She also teaches her three daughters the same value of service by taking them to donate toys and school supplies to at-risk children.

“I don’t think about community service,” Kesler said. “That’s because voluntarism lives within me and I am passionate about it. My passion for service to others and the belief that everyone should have a chance at happiness has been my guiding principle.”

Besides simply providing service, Kesler also pursues higher commitment and responsibility as a leader, including serving as president of the Atlanta Junior League, the third largest JL chapter in the world.

Terri Duckett, CEO of the American Red Cross of Georgia, met Kesler when the two served on the Junior League’s Community Advisory Board.

“It’s her interpersonal skills and initiative that have positioned her to move rapidly from direct service volunteer roles to holding volunteer leadership roles with prominent Atlanta-based institutions, all achieved while balancing and building her career and family,” Duckett said. “In my decades of volunteering in Atlanta, I have met many young women. I find Camille and her commitment to community service to be among the most outstanding of all.”

Sandra Keating, Executive Director of Atlanta Children’s Shelter, said that during Kesler’s time on the board, she has helped their community break the cycle of homelessness.

“Camille is a dynamic and impactful woman with a great capacity to not just inspire and mentor individuals but to also inspire and lead organizations,” Keating said. “We have helped more than 500 homeless children reach academic milestones and more than 350 homeless families reach self-sufficiency through gainful employment and permanent housing during Camille’s time on the board.”
Tommie Mullis claims to have “retired” 20 years ago. It’s not true, said her pastor at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church. “Her continued service to the Athens-Clarke community and to its faith community belie the reality that she remains an effective educator and ambassador for her vocation and university,” said Dr. Edward Bolen. Mullis received her bachelor’s degree in home economics from UGA in 1956. Later, she enjoyed a successful career as a teacher and as a UGA Extension agent. “She was very strong in her compassionate leadership skills in working with (young Extension Agents),” said Tal C. DuVall, the Retired Director of Cooperative Extension Service at UGA. “Her work is still evident today in the effective work of those she supervised.”

Since her “official” retirement in 1993, however, Mullis has not stopped giving back to the community. Mullis’ love for her family and her belief that “traditions help build strong families over a lifetime” sets the foundation for her career and community service accomplishments. Simply put, Mullis said she hopes her legacy will be that she made a difference. Mullis volunteers at the Athens Regional Medical Center while supporting Interfaith Hospitality Network, and she proudly serves as a board member of the University Woman’s Club and the Athens Community Council on Aging. She has a special involvement at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, taking part in the ministry as an advocate for the aging. “I have marveled at Tommie’s passion for creating and sustaining thriving communities,” Bolen said. “Fostering effective adult education, building healthier people and developing flourishing communities have been the hallmarks of Tommie Mullis’ retirement years.”

Distinguished Alumni Award
Since 1980, the Distinguished Alumni Award has recognized a graduate of Family and Consumer Sciences who has made lifelong contributions that reflect the beliefs and values of the College.

Tommie G. Mullis

Emily Quinn Pou
Professional Achievement Award
Established in 1999 in honor of the fourth dean of the College, this award is presented to graduates who have attained substantial achievements and are at the midpoint of their careers.

Jody Rosen Atkins

Upon graduation in 1991 with a master’s in Housing & Consumer Economics, Jody Rosen Atkins landed a job as a Financial Field Representative for a state retirement agency. Later, she was promoted to Director of Communications. But Atkins had a bigger dream, and she eventually founded her own company, The Association Source, LLC, out of her garage with no more than a phone, a computer and a fax machine. What started off in a modest garage with minimal technology and resources has become a successful family-led business with nearly 10,000 association members under its management. Atkins’ company provides executive management and administrative support to volunteer-driven organizations.

In her role as president and CEO, Atkins also serves as executive director to two Cooperative Extension associations: the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. “Personally and professionally, Jody is one special person,” said Jeff Holland, immediate National Past President of the NAE4-HA. “Both her name, along with the Association Source name, are synonymous with excellence and quality.”

The former president of NAE4-HA at the University of Florida, Debbie Nistler, agreed. “Jody and her company provided a fresh eye, efficient services, and a passion for our association,” Nistler said. “She is also a forward thinker and looks for holes in a process or ways to do something a bit better.”

A recent diagnosis of Stage 2 breast cancer has done little to deter Atkins. In fact, she’s now looking for ways her company can build a platform to support breast cancer research and awareness. “I found strength that even I never knew that I had,” she said. “Through it all, I have continued to tackle work and family with determination and my head held high.”
FACS Honor Hall of Recognition

Dr. Gene Brody

Forty years ago, on an Indian reservation in southwest Arizona, Gene Brody’s career took shape.

As a young grad student at the University of Arizona, Brody was sent to the Papago Indian reservation west of Tucson on a research project funded by the Children’s Television Workshop, makers of Sesame Street.

For three years, Brody, who grew up in a working class family in the shadow of Hollywood, studied these American Indian children, whose realities differed greatly from his own. The experience had a profound impact on the young researcher.

“It made me appreciate how different children’s environments really shape how they think and what they believe,” Brody said. “And I carried all that, all those experiences working with all those children, with me to the University of Georgia.”

Brody showed up at UGA in 1976, and the salesman’s son who grew up washing dishes, waiting tables and working in drugstores in California learned quickly he had to be self-reliant if he wanted to pursue the type of research that interested him.

The story, now famous, goes like this: Brody needed a tape recorder to record parent-child interactions for his research. He approached his department head, Dr. Betty Sheerer, who loaned Brody a broken one from her collection.

“She needed the others for her class, so I said, ‘OK, this means I have to go get some money to support my research,’” Brody recalled, smiling.

Since then, Brody has become one of the most prolific, grant-productive researchers in UGA history, having obtained more than $81 million worth of grants to conduct high-impact research in the area of child and family development.

In 1994, Brody became director of the Center for Family Research, which receives more than $30 million in external funding to conduct various programs such as the Strong African American Families program.

This program and others are now used in cities around the country.

“He used to say ‘Think about where the field will be in 5-10 years and write that now,’” said Anita Brown, associate director of the CFR. “His grant proposals are always so forward thinking, just a step ahead of where everybody else is with behavioral science. He’s so visionary.”

The “visionary” tag is one that is most often applied to Brody.

“He is a man of ideas,” said Dr. Jay Mancini, HDFS department head. “And not just ideas – he makes things happen, for sure. But he’s excellent at conceptualizing what the key issues are related to children, youth and families and I think he’s one of those guys who makes other people better, whether they’re students or other faculty members.”

Brody attributed much of this well-earned reputation as a forward thinker in the field to his passion for learning. He reads widely on the subject, both scientific and popular press items, and simply interacts with people “from different walks of life” to get a better feel for where the science might be heading.

“From all of this, I get an intuition about the challenges people face and that helps me project where the science is going to be in five years and I try to propose it now,” Brody said. “We have a basic philosophy that we want to lead the field. We pride ourselves on being innovators in human development and family science, and we want to move the field forward because if we can do that, it’ll trickle down and benefit children and families.”

His colleagues agree that Brody has.

“If you look at his research, he does what I would call consequential research,” Mancini said. “It’s not just sort of interesting. It’s research that makes a difference and I think that’s really the mark of good scholarship.”

Brody also has drawn praise for his gifts as a teacher. In 1983, he began teaching a class called Development Within the Family to 30 students. Twenty years later, he was teaching the same class three times a year to more than 300 students each session. Eventually, more than 10,000 UGA undergraduates took the course from Brody.

“I always felt like when I walked into a classroom, I owed these people the best I could give,” Brody said.

While Brody’s research and professional success is widely noted, equally regarded is his reputation as a kind, compassionate colleague, boss and mentor.

Olive Conyers, a recruitment and retention specialist at the CFR since 2003, called him “a great humanitarian and friend” who helped give her unique insights into her own experience as an African American parent.

“As the single mother of a teenage boy, I can’t tell you the number of times he has stayed after work to listen to my struggles and triumphs,” Conyers said. “He has helped me through some major issues in my son’s life and has given me valuable advice on how I can be the best parent I can be. I value his presence in my life and will always be grateful for his help.”

Brody now serves as co-director of the CFR, which has 25 full-time and 60 part-time employees.

Retirement is many years in the future. He is a husband, a father and grandfather, and still is energized by the thought of continued research.

He said he is incredibly humbled to be inducted into the FACS Honor Hall of Recognition.

“When Dean Fox told me, I was flabbergasted,” he said, smiling. “I went around the table and gave her a big hug. There are several people on that wall (of recognition) that I have such great respect for and to think that I could be a part of that tradition means a lot to me.”
FACS Ambassadors

FACS Ambassadors promote pride in the College while serving as student representatives to prospective students and alumni alike.

Hannah Adair - Consumer Journalism, Moultrie
Emily Backes - Human Development and Family Science, Lake Park
Tyler Baker - Housing & Residential Property Management, Marietta
Beth Coffey - Human Development and Family Science, Roswell
Jaime Conner - Human Development and Family Science, Loganville
Hannah Dees - Furnishings and Interiors, Uvalda
Laura Eckhardt - Dietetics and Music, Peachtree City
Skye Estroff - Dietetics, Alpharetta, Ga.
Laura Higgason - Human Development and Family Science, Peachtree City
Laura Kathryn Hogan - Fashion Merchandising, Athens
Elizabeth Holland - Furnishings and Interiors, Quitman
Lindsay Hutchins - Human Development and Family Science, Marietta
Funmi Jemilugba - HDFS and Psychology, Staten Island, N.Y.
Savannah King - Nutrition Science, Marietta
Morgan Kupersmith - Human Development and Family Science, Marietta
Hope LoPresti - Consumer Journalism, Berkeley Lake
Sara Beth Naylor - Consumer Journalism, Winston Salem, N.C.
Christine Odom - Consumer Economics, Bishop
Ivy Odom - FACS Education and Spanish, Moultrie
Whitney Okie - Nutrition Science, Dallas
Sally Singletary - Furnishings and Interiors, Austin, Texas
Jordan Sylvester - Dietetics and Consumer Foods, Marietta
Lauren Tolbert - Fashion Merchandising, Bishop
The mission of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni Association is to keep alumni, students, faculty and friends interested in, involved with and connected to the college.

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