

2016

# HAM & EGG

## LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST & GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL SHOWCASE



Tuesday, April 5, 2016  
8 a.m.

Fort Valley State University  
1005 State University Drive • Fort Valley, GA 31030  
C. W. Pettigrew Farm & Community Life Center



**FORT VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
A State and Land-Grant Institution • University System of Georgia

**FVSUag**  
**COLLEGE OF  
AGRICULTURE,  
FAMILY SCIENCES  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

**FVSU**  
**extension**  
*Knowledge for Inspiring Lives!*

## Our Honored Guests



### CONGRESSMAN SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. is serving his twelfth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Middle and Southwest Georgia's Second Congressional District. A leader among the fiscally responsible Democrats in Congress, Congressman Bishop has served on the House Committee on Appropriations since 2003. The top Democrat on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman Bishop also serves as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Military Family Caucus.

Bishop graduated from Morehouse College in 1968 and from Emory University Law School in 1971. He is an Eagle Scout, a 33rd Degree Mason (PHA), a Shriner, and a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and a Deacon and Trustee of the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Albany. He served in the U.S. Army, completed basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, entered Advanced Reserve Officers Training, and received an Honorable Discharge in 1971.



### LILLIAN SALERNO

Lillian Salerno, Deputy Under Secretary for the Rural Development Mission at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, oversees the development of strategies and policy initiatives. A former entrepreneur, business owner, and small town lawyer, she understands the unique challenges facing our food systems, the bioeconomy, and capital investments that are critical in supporting and strengthening America's rural communities.

Previously serving as Administrator of Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), Salerno oversaw numerous business development programs that obligated over \$11 billion in grants and guaranteed loans over the last six years and a multitude of programs that spurring economic development and job growth throughout rural America. During her tenure at USDA, Salerno has participated on The White House Business Council and played a crucial role in support of several Administration initiatives.

Salerno grew up in rural Texas, where her manufacturing business continues to thrive and support the local economy. Deputy Under Secretary Salerno attained a B.A. in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas, a Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of North Texas, and a J.D. from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.



### CHANCELLOR HANK M. HUCKABY

In May of 2011, the Board of Regents selected Henry "Hank" M. Huckaby as the University System's 12th chancellor.

Prior to becoming Chancellor, Huckaby was a teacher and administrator in the University System and has taught at private colleges and universities. He also served in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, first as a senior policy coordinator and later as its director, as well as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and as the executive director of the Georgia Residential Finance Authority. Huckaby has represented Georgia House District 113 as a Republican. He is a board member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. Currently, he is a commissioner for the Education Commission of the States, serves on the Georgia Higher Education Funding Committee, the Georgia-based Alliance of Education Agency Heads (AEAH) and is active in the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), the National Association of System Heads (NASH), and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). He was inducted into the National Academy of Public Administration in November 2014.

Huckaby serves as a trustee of Young Harris College, where he earned an associate's degree. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgia State University and continued his education through additional graduate studies at the University of Georgia. Huckaby was named 2015 Georgian of the Year by Georgia Trend and recently received the 2015 "J.W. Fanning Award" from Leadership Georgia.

Huckaby and his wife Amy have two grown children and six grandchildren.



## SENATOR JOHN F. KENNEDY

Senator John F. Kennedy was first elected to the state Senate in 2014 to represent Crawford, Monroe, Peach and Upson counties as well as portions of Bibb and Houston counties.

Senator Kennedy currently is a member of the Judiciary, Judiciary Non-Civil, Banking and Financial Institutions, and Science and Technology committees.

Senator Kennedy earned a degree in Economics from Mercer University in 1987. He completed his law degree at Mercer University School of Law in 1990.

Senator Kennedy is the immediate past Managing Partner of the Macon-based law firm of James-Bates-Brannan-Groover, LLP, specializing in commercial litigation,

transactions, and business law.

Senator Kennedy currently serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the Central Georgia Council, and the Boy Scouts of America. Senator Kennedy previously served as President of the Macon Bar Association and is a member of the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia.



## REPRESENTATIVE PATTY BENTLEY

Patty James-Bentley began her career of public service while working as Chief Registrar for the Taylor County Board of Registrars in 1996. She was elected to the Taylor County Board of Commissioners in 2004 and re-elected in 2008. She is the first woman elected to this position in this district of the state. Rep. Bentley ran unopposed in 2014 and began her second term of office in the Georgia General Assembly in 2015. House District 139 includes, Taylor, Macon and Dooly Counties and the south portion of Peach County. She serves on the following boards and committees: House Agriculture Committee, State Retirement Committee, Higher Education Committee, Intragovernmental Coordination Committee, Rural Caucus, Women Caucus, CARET Rep. (Council for

Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching) for the College of Agriculture of Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley State University Foundation Board, and serve as one of the three chairman of the Working Families Caucus.



## COMMISSIONER GARY BLACK

Commissioner Gary W. Black began his career with the Georgia Farm Bureau leading the young farmer leadership development program. He served 21 years as president of the Georgia Agribusiness Council, a chamber-like organization representing all facets of Georgia's food and fiber industry.

During his career, Black led the development of AgriTrust of Georgia, a renowned workers' compensation insurance program for farmers and agricultural businesses. He has championed sound policies throughout Georgia ranging from private property rights to food safety, and from lower taxes to science-based environmental stewardship. Commissioner Black is an active supporter of agricultural programs that expand

opportunities for young people. He serves in advisory capacities for 4-H and FFA.

Black earned a degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in 1980 and is a past president of the college's alumni society.



## JEFFREY HARVEY

Jeffrey Harvey is the Legislative Director for Georgia Farm Bureau. The Georgia Farm Bureau was founded in 1937, with the goal of representing farmers in the legislative arena. As the Director of the Legislative Department, Harvey's role is to assist with the development and implementation of Farm Bureau's agricultural policy initiatives in Atlanta and Washington.

Harvey graduated with a General Finance degree from Georgia Southern University and later received his MBA in Business Management from Georgia Southwestern State University. In 2001 he joined the Farm Bureau as a Legislative Specialist and later served as Assistant Director.

Jeffrey grew up on his family farm in Wilcox County. His family farmed peanuts, tobacco, watermelon, cotton, and raised livestock. Jeffrey and his wife Tiffany currently live in Macon and they have a son named Hudson.

# Agenda

## PRESIDING

**Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.**  
House of Representatives (1993-Present)  
Georgia State Senate (1991-1993)  
Georgia State Representatives (1981-1991)

### INVOCATION

**Pastor Kelly Dawsey**  
Central Union Missionary Baptist Church

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF CHANCELLOR

**Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.**

### INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT

**Hank M. Huckaby**  
Chancellor, University System of Georgia

### GREETINGS & RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

**Dr. Paul Jones**  
President, Fort Valley State University

### OCCASION

**Dr. Govind Kannan**  
Dean, College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology, Fort Valley State University  
Chair, Association of 1890 Research Directors

### INTRODUCTION OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

**Dr. Mark Latimore, Jr.**  
Extension Administrator & Director of Land-Grant Affairs,  
College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology, Fort Valley State University  
Chair, 1890 Association of Extension Administrators

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

114th Congressional Update ..... Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-2)  
Georgia Senate Update ..... Senator John F. Kennedy (Dist. 18)  
Georgia House of Representatives Update ..... Representative Patty J. Bentley (Dist. 139)

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATE

**Lillian Salerno**  
Deputy Under Secretary, U.S.D.A.-Rural Development

### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATE

**Commissioner Gary Black**  
Georgia Department of Agriculture

### GEORGIA FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**Jeff Harvey**  
Legislative Director, Georgia Farm Bureau

### DIALOGUE WITH DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

**Audience & Elected Officials**

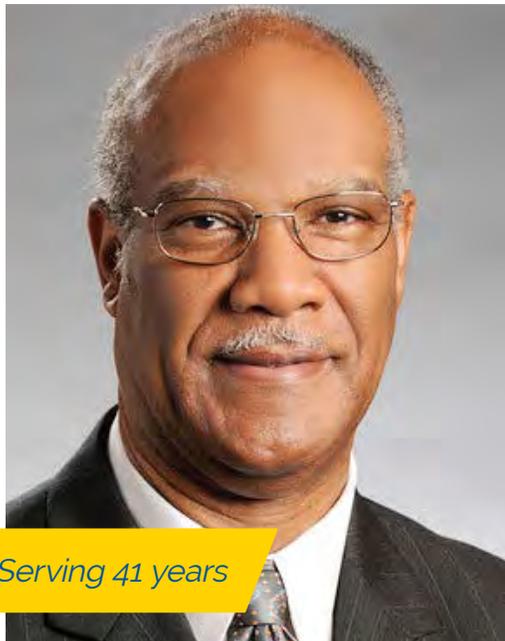
### RECOGNITION OF FVSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION FIELD STAFF

**Joy Moten-Thomas**  
Assistant Administrator for Community Development & Outreach,  
Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension Program

### CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Mark Latimore, Jr.**

# Fort Valley State University Alumni Serving in Georgia's Legislature



*Serving 41 years*

**Representative Calvin Smyre**  
DISTRICT 135



*Serving 11 years*

**Senator Freddie Powell Sims**  
DISTRICT 12



*Serving 3 years*

**Representative Valencia Stovall**  
DISTRICT 74



*Serving 3 years*

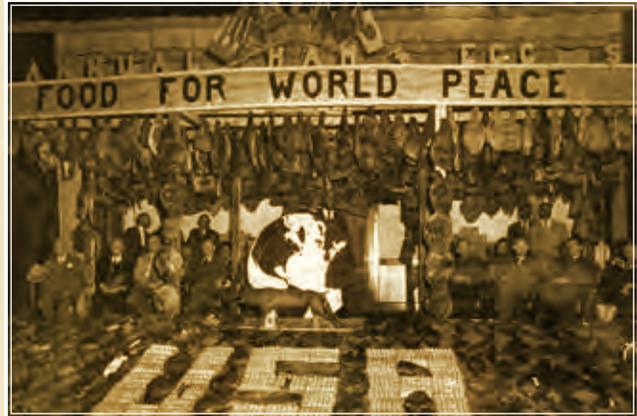
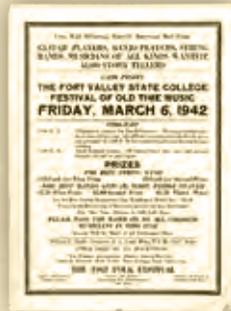
**Representative Brian Prince**  
DISTRICT 127

# The Fort Valley Ham & Egg Show



During the Principalship of Henry Alexander Hunt (1904-1938) at the Fort Valley High and Industrial School (FVHIS) 100 years ago, Otis Samuel O'Neal started the proud tradition of the Ham & Egg Show. O'Neal initially worked with his wife at the time, Jennie, the Houston County Home Demonstration Agent, on the event, which first took place on February 2, 1916, on the FVHIS campus. The initial show featured 27 "poorly trimmed, ragged hams, shoulders, and sides, and 17 dozen dirty mixed eggs" and had low attendance. However the event soon grew, and within a few years, the Ham and Egg Show was drawing thousands to the Fort Valley campus. The death of O'Neal's wife led to the hiring of a new Home Demonstration Agent Margaret Toomer who became O'Neal's longtime partner in the show and known as "Mother of Egg." As the show evolved, and largely thanks to Toomer, a 4-H celebration was added to incorporate youth, allowing them an opportunity to display their talents through oratorical contests, plays, and musical performances.

During the Presidency of Horace Mann Bond (1939-1945) a Folk Music Festival was added which brought to Middle Georgia the best folk and gospel musicians—blues pioneer W.C. Handy was a regular attendee—as well as story tellers. The United States government recognized that the Folk Music Festival represented the best in African American folk art and sent representatives down to record performances. The success of Fort Valley's Ham and Egg Show led other states including Alabama, Arkansas, and North Carolina, to duplicate it. The program drew national attention when it was featured in Life magazine, in 1943, and on the CBS radio program Country Journal, in 1945, and it remained a mainstay on the Fort Valley campus until it ceased operating in 1966. The centennial celebration of this groundbreaking agricultural event must be noted because it taught rural African American farmers how to properly cure



pigs, addressed how to get more and better eggs from their laying hens, and demonstrated the latest methods of safely preserving locally grown fruits and vegetables. Fortunately the legacy of the Ham and Egg Show is still practiced at the Lowndes County Ham and Egg Show which takes place every February.

## OTIS SAMUEL O'NEAL

Otis Samuel O'Neal was born on November 20, 1884, in Upson County, Georgia and was the fifth of 17 children. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper O'Neal, were born in slavery. In 1902, he entered Fort Valley High and Industrial School and graduated in 1908. He later attended Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. George Washington Carver, his professor at Tuskegee, became his inspiration and O'Neal brought Carver's ideas and techniques back to his alma mater.



On November 6, 1914, O'Neal became the Negro County Agent for Houston County and later Peach County when it was created in 1924. O'Neal taught the farmers to diversify their crops rather than depend on cotton alone. He found idle land which tenant farmers could buy, and arranged loans for them. He organized his territory into communities with a "key farmer" as leader of each.

In 1937, he was offered a full professorship opportunity from the faculty of Tuskegee Institute, however, he declined the opportunity. He later would become a professor at Fort Valley State College. Due to his contributions to the agricultural profession, O'Neal received the Superior Service Award for Distinguished Service in Agriculture from Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan in 1949. When he retired in 1951, over 1,000 pieces of pork – 600 hams, 300 shoulders, 100 sides of bacon, 200 quarts of canned pork and 100 pounds of sausage – and 200 dozen eggs decorated the Founder's Hall auditorium at the thirty-sixth Show. He died in September 1957, survived by his wife Mrs. Addie Perdue O'Neal. Today, he is still known as being the Father of the Ham & Egg Show.

## MARGARET LOUISE TOOMER



Margaret Louise Jordan Toomer, a native of Fort Valley, was born on December 20, 1894. Toomer attended Fort Valley High and Industrial School. Upon graduation in 1915, Toomer attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta for one year before transferring to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to complete her baccalaureate

degree. In 1922, Toomer returned to Georgia and began her career as a teacher, becoming a Home Demonstration Agent in 1926.

As the Home Demonstration Agent for Peach and Houston Counties Toomer provided chicks and helped in raising them to be layers (not to mention fryers) that won prizes at the Ham and Egg Show. By 1948, Toomer's last year of involvement, the number of eggs shown had doubled to 300 dozen. Expanding and developing a tradition at Fort Valley High and Industrial School Toomer also taught the way to can safely so that families could save produce for the lean winter months. By the early 1930's, farmers describing their successful efforts to provide adequately for their families year-round were a regular part of the Ham and Egg Shows. Additionally while food remained central, Toomer's influence can be seen from the inclusion of subjects like nutrition, syphilis, tuberculosis hookworms, and homemaking topics.

Having broadened the shows to domestic life, in those days largely the province of wives, Toomer also began to include young people to help ensure that the next generation of rural Middle Georgians got off on the right foot. She arranged for farm wives to make presentations about improvements in their lives, and starting in 1929, 4-H Club members demonstrating agricultural achievements and later competing in essay and oratorical contests to present their compositions.

Toomer worked the shows for more than twenty years as a Home Demonstration Agent; however, after two decades, illness pushed her to decrease her load until her retirement January 1950. Ms. Toomer died in May 1972. Today, Margret Toomer is still known as being the Mother of the Ham & Egg Show.

## ROBERT T. CHURCH, SR.

Robert Thomas Church, Sr., was born in Athens, Georgia, on September 26, 1909. Since his father was a sharecropper, Church learned how to plow a field, pick cotton, cut hay, and raise hogs. He attended elementary and junior high school in Athens before earning an undergraduate degree



at Hampton Institute in Virginia in 1934. After his return to Georgia, Church worked as a high school agriculture teacher and assistant principal in Wilkes County. In 1937, he relocated to Jenkins County to become principal and agriculture teacher, where he also met his wife, Ruby Summers. To that union Robert T. Church, Jr. and Ruby Annette Church were born.

Church became familiar with the Fort Valley Ham and Egg Show through his agricultural work; he heard how outstanding the program was. He initially held his own Ham and Egg Shows in Jenkins and Clarke Counties and when selected to become the Extension Agent in Peach County in 1938, he began assisting with the Fort Valley show; in 1949 he was selected to lead it. Church used the Ham and Egg show to raise issues not only about product quality but also about social policies; he wanted African American 4-H members to have the same opportunities as white ones, and he fought for equal pay amongst African American Extension Agents.

Church led the show until it ceased in 1966, and he retired from Extension work in 1969. After his retirement, Church continued to help the community by serving on the Fort Valley City Council from 1974-1982, working with the Department of Family and Children Services, assisting African American farmers in obtaining loans, and donating scholarship funds to Fort Valley State. Robert T. Church died December 2008 at the age of 99.



## JOHN W. SAUNDERS

In 1950, John W. Saunders and the Black Farm Bureau established the first Ham and Egg Show and Sale in Lowndes County. Saunders was the first African-American County Extension Agent appointed in Lowndes County. He retired in 1975, and died in 1987. Sanders was instrumental in the development of the agricultural and human resources in the region. In 2005, the City of Valdosta invested \$1.5M in SPLOST funds to renovate and rename the City's Barber Park in his honor. Today, Lowndes County is the last county holding an annual Ham and Egg show. On February 16th and 17th 2016, Lowndes County celebrated its 66th year of hosting the show at the Lowndes County Extension Office.

Sources: Dr. Dawn Herd-Clark, Dr. Fred van Hartesveldt, Joy Moten-Thomas, Kymara Sneed and Kenneth Wilkerson. Photos courtesy of Hunt Memorial Public Library.



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