

2017

HAM & EGG

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST & GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL SHOWCASE

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

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

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FAMILY SCIENCES
AND TECHNOLOGY

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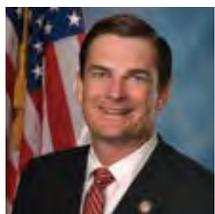
Our Honored Guests



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, 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.



CONGRESSMAN AUSTIN SCOTT

Austin Scott is in his fourth-term as the U.S. Representative for Georgia's Eighth Congressional District. Prior to his election to Congress 2010 he was a small business owner and spent 14 years in the Georgia state House, beginning with his first election at age 26.

Austin, who graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.B.A. in Risk Management and Insurance, owned and operated an insurance brokerage firm for nearly twenty years. He has Series 7, CLU, CHFC, RHU, and REBC, and, until his election to Congress, had been a long-time member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

He is known as a conservative on both economic and social issues and as a fierce defender of limited government, a strong national defense, and our 2nd Amendment rights.

Austin's political experience on the state level and background in risk management has given him a unique perspective in Washington. He utilizes that understanding to draft and promote legislation which works to open access to capital for American businesses, eliminate burdensome regulations on entrepreneurs and investors, and provide economic opportunities for the next generation.

Scott serves as the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Additionally, he is an active Member on the House Armed Services Committee, where he serves on the Readiness Subcommittee and the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee.

Austin and his wife, Vivien, reside in Tifton, GA with their son Wells and daughter Gabriela.



DR. SONNY RAMASWAMY

On March 9, 2012, Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The director of NIFA serves a six-year term based on legislation and is subject to reappointment for an additional six-year term.

Prior to starting at NIFA, Dr. Ramaswamy held a number of academic positions, including: dean of Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences, director of Purdue's Agricultural Research Programs, university distinguished professor and head of Kansas State's Entomology Department, and professor of entomology at Mississippi State.

Dr. Ramaswamy has been a successful scientist, educator, and administrator. He has received research grants from many federal agencies, including CSREES/NIFA, NSF, NIH, EPA, and USAID, as well as from state agencies, commodity groups, and industry for his research in the area of integrative reproductive biology of insects. He has published over 150 journal articles, book chapters, and a book. He is an award-winning teacher, and has mentored a number of high school, undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral students. He has received a number of awards and honors, including being named Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Fellow of the Entomological Society of America.

Dr. Ramaswamy has had excellent success in capital campaigns and fund-raising to create endowments for faculty professorships, student scholarships and fellowships, including creation of the Leadership Academy at Oregon State University, support of research, extension, and outreach, infrastructure improvements, and construction of new facilities for research, education, and outreach, including the Kansas State University Insect Zoo.

Dr. Ramaswamy received his B.S. degree in agriculture and M.S. degree in entomology from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India. His doctorate is in entomology from Rutgers University. He is also a graduate of Harvard University's Management Development Program.



GA STATE SENATOR JOHN F. KENNEDY

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

Senator Kennedy is currently the majority caucus chairman and a member of the Judiciary, Appropriations, Banking and Financial Institutions, and Regulated Industries 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 of the Boy Scouts of America. Senator Kennedy previously served as president of the Macon Bar Association and is currently a member of the board of governors for the State Bar of Georgia.



GA STATE REPRESENTATIVE PATTY BENTLEY

Rep. 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. She represents House District 139 which includes Taylor, Macon and Dooly Counties and the south portion of Peach County. She serves on the following boards and committees: House Agriculture Committee, Ways & Means Committee, State Retirement Committee, Higher Education Committee, Intragovernmental Coordination Committee, Rural Caucus, Women Caucus, Council for Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching for the Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture, Fort Valley State University Foundation Board, and is one of the three chairs 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 for 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.



GERALD LONG

Gerald Long is the 12th President of Georgia Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization. Mr. Long has been a Farm Bureau member since 1970. He serves on the Decatur County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and has served in many capacities in his local Farm Bureau, including the offices of secretary/treasurer, vice president, and president.

A lifelong farmer, Long and his family produce commercial beef cattle, hay, peanuts, cotton, corn, small grains, and timber on their Decatur County farm. They also grow vegetables and run a roadside pick-your-own operation.

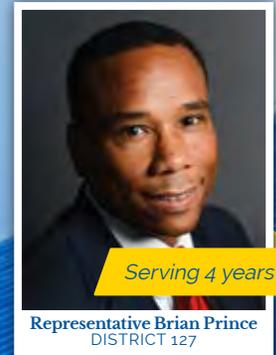
Mr. Long attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) and majored in Agronomy & Animal Science.

In addition to his Farm Bureau leadership, Mr. Long is active in the Decatur County and Georgia Cattlemen's Associations, and he has previously represented Georgia Farm Bureau on the Georgia Beef Board as its treasurer.

He is a founding member on the boards of Georgia Peanut Producers, the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, the Flint River Water Planning & Policy Center, and GFB Foundation for Agriculture. He formerly served on the Decatur County Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Long and his wife Janice have three adult children: Justin and his wife Kelli; Jared and his wife Lori; and Jeanie and her husband Diego Izurieta. They also have two grandchildren, Addie and Wyatt Long.

Fort Valley State University Alumni Serving in Georgia's Legislature



Agenda

PRESIDING

Congressman Austin Scott (GA-8)
House of Representatives (2011-Present)

INVOCATION

Dr. James Brown
Interim Extension Program Leader for Agriculture & Natural Resources,
FVSU Cooperative Extension Program

WELCOME

Dr. Paul Jones
President, Fort Valley State University

SPECIAL VIDEO GREETING

United States Senator David Perdue

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE ACADEMIC & RESEARCH UPDATE

Dr. Govind Kannan
Dean, FVSU College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology (CAFST)

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM UPDATE

Dr. Mark Latimore, Jr.
Extension Administrator & Director of Land-Grant Affairs, CAFST

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

115th U.S. 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

Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy
Director, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATE

Commissioner Gary Black
Georgia Department of Agriculture

GEORGIA FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Gerald Long
President, Georgia Farm Bureau

DIALOGUE WITH DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

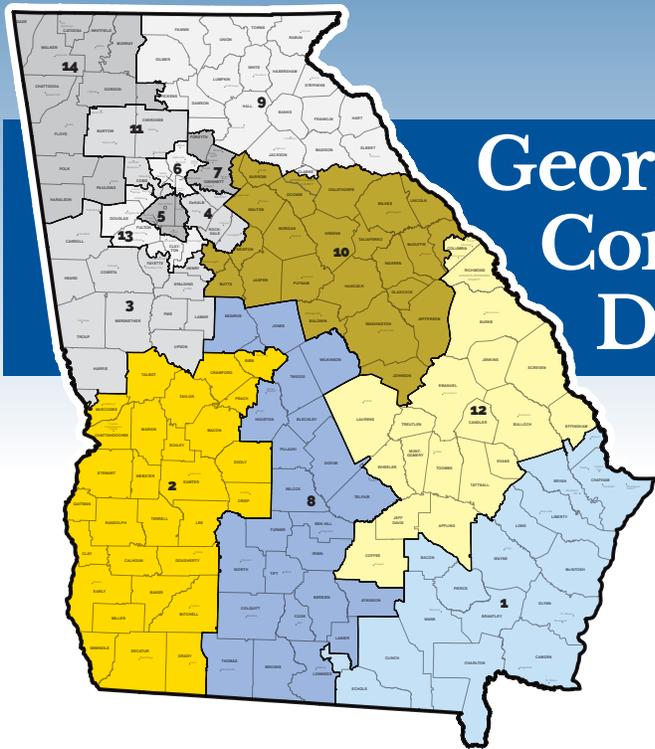
Audience & Elected Officials

RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Joy Moten-Thomas
Assistant Administrator for Community Development & Outreach,
FVSU Cooperative Extension Program

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Mark Latimore, Jr.



Georgia's U.S. Congressional Delegation



SEN. JOHN "JOHNNY" ISAKSON
SENIOR SENATOR



SEN. DAVID PERDUE
JUNIOR SENATOR



REP. BUDDY CARTER
1ST DISTRICT



REP. SANFORD BISHOP, JR.
2ND DISTRICT



REP. DREW FERGUSON IV
3RD DISTRICT



REP. HENRY "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
4TH DISTRICT



REP. JOHN LEWIS
5TH DISTRICT



REP. ROB WOODALL
7TH DISTRICT



REP. AUSTIN SCOTT
8TH DISTRICT



REP. DOUG COLLINS
9TH DISTRICT



REP. JODY HICE
10TH DISTRICT



REP. BARRY LOUDERMILK
11TH DISTRICT



REP. RICK ALLEN
12TH DISTRICT



REP. DAVID SCOTT
13TH DISTRICT

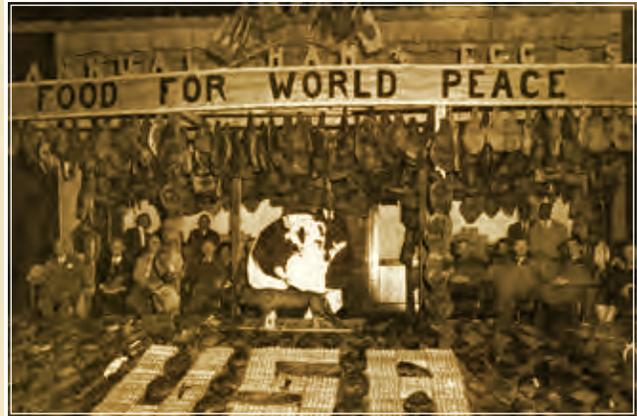
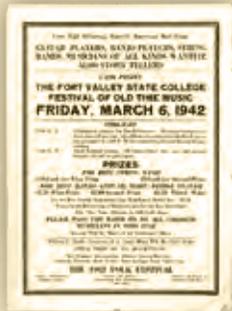


REP. TOM GRAVES
14TH DISTRICT

The Fort Valley Ham & Egg Show

During the principalship of Henry Alexander Hunt (1904-1938) at the Fort Valley High and Industrial School (FVHIS) 101 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.

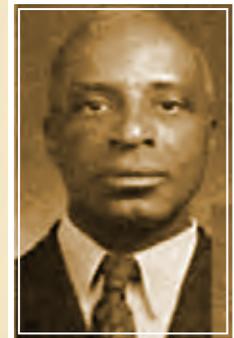
During the presidency of Horace Mann Bond (1939-1945), a Folk Music Festival was added which brought to Middle Georgia the best folk and gospel musicians—blues pioneer W.C. Handy was a regular attendee—as well as story tellers. The United States government recognized that the Folk Music Festival represented 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 evident 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 U.S. 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 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 raise 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. Toomer also taught the way to can safely so that families could save produce for the lean winter months, expanding and developing a tradition at Fort Valley High and Industrial School. 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.

After broadening 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 to demonstrate agricultural achievements and later to compete 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 in January 1950. Ms. Toomer died in May 1972. Today, Margret Toomer is still known as 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; having 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 for 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 in 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 special purpose local option sales tax 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 14th and 15th 2017, Lowndes County celebrated its 67th 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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