

# GaDOE E-Newsletter

## Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Division

### May 2006

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#### Youth Apprenticeship

##### “Youth Apprenticeship Student Named 2006 Star Student”



Apprenticeship student Jennifer Flowers was recently named as the 2006 STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) for Jefferson County due to her achievement on the SAT. She was honored on the evening of Feb. 16 at the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce's Annual STAR Student Banquet, and later at a dinner for all the county STAR students for Region 7.

Flowers currently serves as an apprentice at *The News and Farmer/The Jefferson Reporter* through the Apprenticeship

Program at Jefferson County High School in Louisville. As an apprentice at the newspaper, Jennifer works alongside her mentor, Parish Howard, during the school day and several hours after school as well. Her duties are similar to those of staff reporters.

Every week, she attends staff meetings where she is assigned stories to write and events to cover. She often takes pictures to go along with her articles. Her days are spent interviewing people, both in person and over the phone, taking photographs at special events and sporting activities, and assisting customers with their needs.

She also compiles the “Looking Back” section of the newspaper, which highlights the news from years gone by, and gathers responses for the “Your Voice” section, through which people have an opportunity to express their opinion about a national or local issue addressed in the question of the week.

Jennifer also shares in general duties at the workplace, everything from answering phones to assisting customers with their needs.

She has written articles about a New York nun seeking peace with Iran, the local library winning a signed copy of the latest Harry Potter book, the openings of a number of new businesses and a large bike tour coming to the area, as well as numerous sports stories about local high school teams.

On Tuesday nights, she stays at the office after regular closing hours to help proofread the paper before it goes to press and often works irregular hours to photograph sports games and special events.

“It’s one of the most challenging apprenticeships my school offers, but also one of the most rewarding,” Jennifer said. “I often work irregular hours, but that is what makes this apprenticeship different. I actually get to do most of the same things a real reporter does which is exactly what I am here to learn.”

Jennifer has been accepted to Mercer University in Macon where she plans to pursue a double-major in English and possibly communications.

“I know that I want to write in the future,” she said, “but I’m not yet sure in what capacity I hope to do this. My apprenticeship at *The News and Farmer* has helped me experience journalistic writing. I can only hope that my future will be peppered with other such opportunities to experience the many other types of writing out there.”

The school named her as a Jesse Mercer Scholar for which she received a sizeable scholarship.

One of the most talented and dedicated students at Jefferson County High School, Jennifer has been honored with a number of other awards.

This past summer she participated in the Governor’s Honors Program, where she majored in communicative arts and minored in visual arts.

She was a National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT) Commended Scholar as well.

Her peers voted her Most Likely to Succeed, and her teachers selected her to be a Super Senior.

Jennifer is also actively involved in a number of school activities and organizations. She is an avid community volunteer, having served on her own, as well as through Key Club and her church youth group.

Jennifer has been on the state board for Key Club International and is currently on the Lead Team in the youth group at First Baptist Church of Louisville.

She also serves as vice president of Beta Club and secretary of 4-H and has received numerous awards for writing.

She has participated in the spelling competition at the Region 3AAA Literary Meet every year of her high school career, receiving three second place awards and one third place award in the area, as well as fourth place in essay during her senior year.

Of all of her many activities, Jennifer considers her apprenticeship to be one of the most valuable undertakings.

“Working at *The News and Farmer* has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” Jennifer said. “I have gained so much valuable writing experience, as well as life experience, during my time there. I feel so blessed to have been a part of the apprenticeship program, and hope that many other students will choose to take advantage of this opportunity in the years to come.”

## VOCA

### “VOCA State Conference 2006”

The VOCA State Conference was held March 30 through April 1st at the Jekyll Island Convention Center. More than 800 people were in attendance for the two day conference. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from motivational speaker, Mr. Keith Davis, participate in competition, chapter free time and a celebration dance.



The General Session opened with Liberty County High School JROTC under the direction of Colonel Sutton presenting the National Colors. The VOCA State Officers facilitated the program on Thursday evening along with the assistance of the VOCA Board Chair, Mr. Joe Davis.

Mr. Danny Fleming, Program Manager for Career Technical and Agriculture Education was in attendance during the Opening General Session to bring greetings from the Department of Education.

The following schools were awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award for their



participation in the VOCA Children’s Healthcare Statewide Campaign. These chapters raised the most funds in their regions: Paulding County High, Dodge County High, Johnson High, Forest Park High, Dougherty Comprehensive High and Jenkins County High. Ashley Anderson from Children’s Healthcare was present to award Paulding County High for being the largest contributor overall. VOCA raised more than \$9,000 for

this worthwhile cause. Thank you to all schools for their participation and for making our statewide campaign a success.

During the Opening General Session Mr. Keith Davis, strong man and motivational speaker, amazed the guests with his demonstration of strength and gave an inspirational message focused on “believing to achieve.”

Friday morning, students began competing in 41 categories. The projects were impressive and the competition was difficult.

On Friday evening, the individual students and chapters were awarded for their hard work at the Awards Ceremony. VOCA was honored to have in attendance at the Awards Ceremony Mr. James Woodard, Director of Career Technical and Agricultural Education for the Georgia Department of Education. Mr. Woodard shared with the crowd how belonging to a Career & Technical Student Organization helped to mold his future.

During the Awards Ceremony, 1st through 6th place in each competitive event was awarded. For the second consecutive year, Dodge County High School was named Chapter of the Year and Mr. Mark Tomcho from Chestatee High School was named the 2005-06 Advisor of the Year. Congratulations to all schools and winners. Everyone celebrated after the Awards Ceremony at the Celebration Dance.



## **Trade and Industrial Education**

### **“McEachern High School Construction Students go on a Jobsite Tour”**

As part of its mission to promote careers in construction, Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFCA) and its partners host jobsite tours for high school students throughout Georgia. Recently, McEachern High School students went on a tour hosted by CEFCA partner, Manhattan Construction.

Students arrived at the real-life construction site. The project under construction was West Cobb High School located near Powder Springs, Georgia. Construction instructor Kevin Ward and his students were welcomed by a team of professionals from Manhattan Construction Company, the general contractor for the \$32.5 million West Cobb School Project.

The students were thoroughly briefed by Jason Osterberg, Project Engineer, on what to expect during their visit. Osterberg acted as the official tour guide. He made the tour interesting by telling the students stories about the “behind the scenes” things that one never sees when the building is complete.

The tour covered virtually all the 400,000 square foot building. The Manhattan team had some special surprises in store. At one stop in the cafeteria, the students got to try their hand at laying tile in the kitchen area. They got to try out a grid that they had never seen.



**Patrick Beckham and Casera Sparks volunteer to lay tiles in the kitchen floor of West Cobb High School.**



**Instructor Ward discussed the differences between commercial grade tile and residential grade tile with Beckham and Sparks.**

“I like this grid,” Sparks said. “It makes it much faster to lay the tiles straight. It’s a time saver.”

“It is almost unusual for the students to get to do something hands-on on a jobsite tour,” Ward noted. “This is the best tour I have ever been on in all my years of teaching.”

The next stop on the tour was the main stairwell where masons were laying block. Tour leader Jason Osterberg had the foreman standing by to give some volunteer students a chance to actually do some block masonry. Students Shane Sowder, Megan Harris and Michelle Fraser all volunteered. All three are specializing in masonry in Mr. Ward’s class.

Dakota Burgener is the president of the local Skills USA club. He wants to become a journeyman electrician and also learn welding.



**Dakota Burgener looks over the drawings for the details going into the upper floor atrium.**

“I want to be a part of a big company like Manhattan. Mr. Osterberg told me that you get to move around and learn a lot,” Burgener said. “I want to continue to learn the skills that will make me valuable to a company as a long-term employee.”

The tour ended with a delicious barbecue luncheon and a question and answer session with the Manhattan team. The students got to hear the real world story from successful people in the industry. They saw MSDS sheets, OSHA regulations and vapor barrier specifications in use on the job. They learned that math is vitally important and that to be successful you must be able to read and understand reams of specification books and drawings.

Thanks to CEFGA, these McEachern High School students got to experience first hand real world of construction and receive advice from the successful Manhattan experts in the field. Mostly, however, the students took away an understanding that there are great careers available in construction.

## **Healthcare Science Technology**

### **“Westlake High School Receives Donated Ambulance”**



Westlake High School has just received a donation of a real ambulance for their HSTE program. The city of Hapeville donated the 1986 Ford E-350 ambulance with a modular on a chassi.

Mr. Elsey, Healthcare Science Instructor at Westlake High School has big plans for the donation. He plans to partner with the Automotive Department at Westlake to refurbish the ambulance and use it for practice simulations for his Emergency Medicine students. This will be a first at the Georgia high

school level. It will offer the first responder students the chance to familiarize themselves with the rear patient compartment of an ambulance.

Central Education center in Newnan, which is a joint venture between Coweta Schools and West Central Technical College, is building an ambulance simulator in the classroom for the same purpose.

## **Agriculture Education**

### **“FFA Hosts Annual Convention”**

FFA members from throughout the state, clad in their traditional blue and gold corduroy jackets, gathered in Macon April 27-29 for the 78<sup>th</sup> Georgia FFA Convention. Over 2,600 FFA members, advisors and guests attended the convention held annually to recognize the successes of FFA chapters and members and to conduct the business of the Georgia FFA Association.

Highlights of the convention were addresses by Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré, National FFA President, Travis Jett and motivational speaker, Dave Weber. FFA members explored the diverse career fields of agriculture during the convention career show, competed in FFA career development events and elected a new state FFA officer team to serve during the 2006-2007 school year. Coffee County High School FFA member, Sean Blankenship, was elected state president. Elected to serve as state secretary was North Hall FFA member Brandi Saxon. State Vice Presidents elected to lead the Georgia FFA Association were Raymond Fitzpatrick, Franklin County High; Janet Jones, Dade County; Taylor Sills, Putnam County; Deana Veal, Johnson County; Stacia Bennett, Jeff Davis High; and Justin Hand, Tift County.



During the Friday evening convention session, four members were named 2006 Georgia FFA Stars. These stars were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in their respective Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) areas. Franklin County High FFA member Kayla-Dale Roberts was named the Star in Agriscience, and Irwin County High member Haley Gibbs was named the Star in Agricultural Placement. Named Star in Agribusiness was Donald Leroy Lewis, III, a member of the Union Grove FFA Chapter. Dustin Farmer, a member of the Franklin County High chapter, was named the 2006 Star Farmer.

During the seventh convention session, over 335 FFA members received their State FFA Degree, the highest degree that can be obtained on the state level.

FFA is a national youth organization of over 490,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. There are over 7,200 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Georgia has the third largest FFA membership in the nation with over 25,000 members. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

### **Trade & Industrial Education**

#### **“Automotive Students Compete for Scholarships”**

Johnny Rickerson, automotive instructor at Peach County High School, was the "coach" of a two-man team suited up in baseball caps and T-shirts and competing against the top automotive students in Georgia. His team had 1 hour to fix all the "bugs" planted in their car. A mock work order included information about the car not starting and lights not working.

Two Middle Georgia teams, Hutchings High School in Macon and Peach County High School in Fort Valley, qualified in February for the state competition after an hour long written test administered at 13 sites across Georgia.

For more than a decade, automotive students have competed for scholarships, prizes, bragging rights and the chance to compete in the national competition which is in Dearborn, Michigan, this year.

The Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry is the first of 50 state competitions that will take place across the country.

The team of automotive specialists from Evans High won and will represent Georgia in the national meet in June. More than \$6 million in scholarships and prizes are awarded in the series of competitions, according to the sponsors.

The advance of technology and a perceived stigma attached to the automotive field have hindered some students from pursuing this career, teachers said.

"You used to walk into a class and see dirt, grease, oil and things like that, and now there's a class with 28 computers," Rickerson said. "This is going from the shade-tree-type atmosphere to very high-tech atmosphere. Not just anyone can get into this field."

Sonny Reeves, a former co-owner of an auto care center and five-time master certified automotive technician, said there are opportunities in the field that can pay up to \$100,000 a year.

One of his students, Levon Tarver, is an aspiring automotive engineer. He wants to combine his interest for computers and cars for his future career. He has researched the field since middle school.

"I'm a person who just always liked cars when I was young," said Tarver, a junior.

Tarver's team placed seventh in the state meet, and the Peach County High team finished in fifth place.

"It's easy to overlook things when you are under pressure like that. Some pretty tough things are done that's not noticeable," said Kurt Starling, a junior on the Peach County team.

"But I think we've done pretty well since our school has done this only one other time," said Jonathan Pope, his partner.

The Peach County High students plan to coach a team for next year. Students can only participate in the competition once.

"We're going to win next year," Starling said.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences (FCCLA)**

Congratulations to all participants in the FCCLA STAR (Students Taking Action for Recognition) Competitive Events.



The State Meeting was held April 20-22, 2006 at the Gwinnett Place Marriott. This year 365 participants, from 91 schools, across the state of Georgia attend. This was a great increase over the 288 participants last year.

Seventy five students will advance to the National FCCLA STAR Events Competition to be held in Nashville July 9-13. Congratulations to all FCCLA members who competed at the regional and state level, and best wishes to those 75 going to Nashville!

FCCLA is the largest state association in the nation with 25,000 members in 243 chapters. They are also the largest Alumni and Associates chapter in the nation. In addition, Georgia FCCLA elected the first male president in our 60 year history - Willie Wimberly from Early County High.

