



## Our Honored Guests



Regent Larry Walker

Larry Walker is an attorney with Walker, Hulbert, Gray & Moore, LLP. He served in the Georgia General Assembly for more than 30 years, where he served as Administration Floor Leader for Governor Joe Frank Harris and as Majority Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives from 1986–2002.

Walker also served as Chairman of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation for four years and was named one of “The 100 Most Powerful and Influential People in Georgia” by Georgia Trend for twelve straight years.

Most recently, he served on the Georgia Department of Transportation Board, representing the Eighth Congressional District. Walker earned a bachelor’s degree and a law degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Janice, have four children and eight grandchildren.



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.



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, Working Families 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, West Central Georgia Community Action Council, Inc. (CAC)



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 4H 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.



Jon Huffmaster

Jon Huffmaster is the Assistant Secretary & Legislative Director for the Georgia Farm Bureau. His job is to work with the Board of Directors and to coordinate the development and implementation of Farm Bureau's farm policy initiatives in Atlanta and Washington.

Jon has worked for Georgia Farm Bureau for 33 years. He was a district field representative for 19 years before being named legislative director in 2001.

He is a 1978 graduate from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, and a 1980 graduate from the University of Georgia where he received a degree in agricultural economics.

# Agenda

## Presiding

Regent Larry Walker

*Walker, Hulbert, Gray & Moore, LLP*

*University System of Georgia's Board of Regents (2009 - 2016))*

*Georgia House of Representatives (1986 - 2002)*

## Invocation

Rev. DeRienzia Johnson

*Pastor, Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, Americus, Georgia*

## Greetings

Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith

*President, Fort Valley State University*

## Occasion

Dr. Mark Latimore, Jr.

*Extension Administrator/Land-Grant Affairs*

*Chair of the 1890 Association of Extension Administrators*

## Legislative Updates

114th Congressional Update..... Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-2)

Georgia Senate Update..... Senator John F. Kennedy (D-18)

Georgia House of Representatives Update ..... Representative Patty J. Bentley (Dist. 139)

## U.S. Department of Agriculture Update

Dr. Fred Harrison, Jr.

*State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency*

## Georgia Department of Agriculture Update

Gary Black

*Commissioner, Georgia Department of Agriculture*

## Georgia Farm Bureau Legislative Update

Jon Huffmaster

*Legislative Director, Georgia Farm Bureau*

## University System of Georgia Legislative Update

Regent Larry Walker

*University System of Georgia's Board of Regents*

## Dialogue with Panel

Audience & Elected Officials

## Georgia Proclamation Presentation, Second Morrill Act 125th Anniversary

Senator John F. Kennedy (D-18)

## City of Fort Valley Proclamation Presentation, Second Morrill Act 125th Anniversary

Barbara Williams

*Mayor, City of Fort Valley*

## Recognition of Guests & FVSU Cooperative Extension Field Staff

Joy Moten-Thomas

*Assistant Administrator for Community Development & Outreach*

## Closing Remarks

Dr. Govind Kannan

*Dean, College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology*

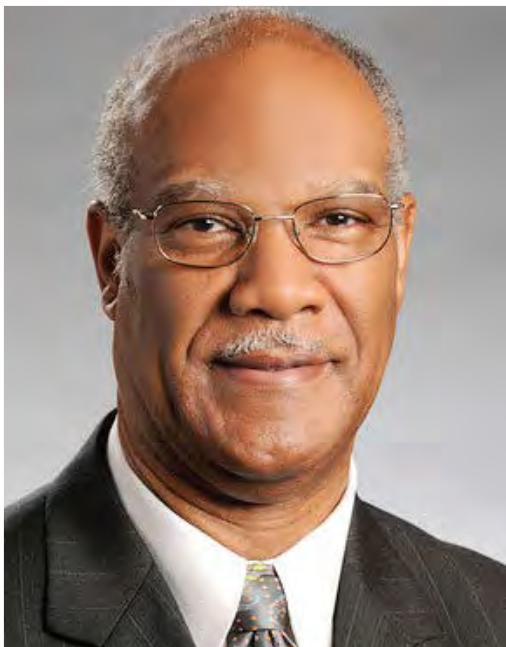
# Fort Valley State University Alumni Serving in Georgia's Legislature



Representative Brian Prince  
District 127



Senator Freddie Powell Sims  
District 12



Representative Calvin Smyre  
District 135



Representative Valencia Stovall  
District 74

# A Peek Into the Past:

HISTORY OF FVSU'S COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM

Fort Valley State University, the only 1890 Land-Grant University in Georgia, is one of three public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the state. Located in Fort Valley, the university sits on 1,366 acres of land with 80 acres compiling the main campus. The remaining acreage is dedicated to agricultural research and future expansion.

Founded as Fort Valley High and Industrial School in 1895, the school merged with the State Teachers and Agricultural College located in Forsyth in 1939 and became Fort Valley State College. In 1944, FVSC established a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture, following the establishment of the degree, in 1945 FVSC opened the College of Agriculture.

Two years later (1947), the Georgia Board of Regents reorganized the three state supported HBCUs. During this process, the land-grant status transferred from Georgia State College (now Savannah State University) to Fort Valley State College, designating it as the new land-grant college for African-Americans.

In the 1970's, Fort Valley State continued to advance as a land-grant institution. In 1972, John Demons, jointly staffed with the University of Georgia, was appointed as assistant director for FVSC's Extension Program. Six years later (1978), Demons is named the first administrator of the Cooperative Extension Program at FVSC. Other appointments enhancing the institution's land grant status that year include Dr. Ira Hicks as director of resident instruction in agriculture and Dr. Melvin Walker as research director. In that same year, Fort Valley State participated in the first Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie, Ga.

As the 80's approached Fort Valley State's footprint as a land-grant school continued to expand. The College of Agriculture began to add bachelor degrees in agricultural economics (1981), ornamental horticulture (1981) and veterinary science (1986). In 1982, Dr. Fred Harrison Jr. accepted the position of Extension administrator. In addition, Dr. Glenwood Hill revived the memory of the Ham and Egg Show with the Ham and Egg Breakfast, an event designed for citizens to have personal contact with officials on the local, state and national levels. Furthermore, to help support research and extension projects, the Georgia Small Ruminant Research and Extension Center began operations in 1987, and in 1988 the university purchased the 835 acre Hendricks Farm.

As the final decade of the 20th century arrived, a major change occurred at the institution. In 1996, the University System of Georgia renamed Fort Valley State College to Fort Valley State University, a state and land grant university.

Furthermore, Fort Valley State continued to grow as a land-grant university in the 21st Century. In 2005, a permanent facility at the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition opened, followed by the opening of the Agricultural Technology Conference Center in 2008. The year 2010 saw the College's name change from the College of Agriculture, Home Economics and Allied Programs to the College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology. Lastly, the State Animal Facility for Emergencies (SAFE) Center, the only one of its kind in the Southeast U.S., opened its doors in 2012.



**Senator Justin Morrill**

## WHAT IS THE SECOND MORRILL ACT OF (1890?)

The Second Morrill Act of 1890 is a legislative document that aimed to extend access to higher education by providing additional funds for all land-grants. Since Segregation was common in the Southern U.S., and African-American students were denied admission to 1862 land-grant colleges in Southern states, the Southern states provided a separate land-grant institution (HBCUs) for African Americans. These institutions became designated as the "1890 land-grants" in the segregated states in the South.

## WHAT IS A LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY?

A land-grant college or university is an institution with a mission to teach agriculture, military tactics and the mechanic arts as well as classical studies. This mission aims to educate the working classes to receive a liberal, practical education. Land-grant institutions are designated by state legislatures or Congress to receive funds to carry out specific programming.

# A Year To Remember

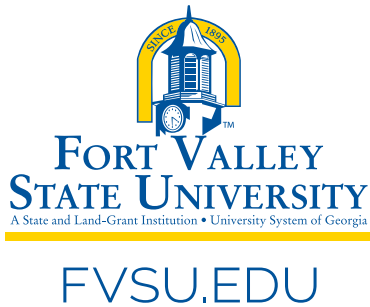
To celebrate 125 years, multiple events will take place throughout 2015. The tentatively scheduled events are listed below.



2015

<b>APR 12-18</b>	<b>National Library Week</b> "Unlimited Possibilities @ Your Library" 125th Anniversary Presentations/Videos
<b>APR 21</b>	<b>Ham &amp; Egg Breakfast</b> Proclamation/Historical Museum: Celebrating 125 Years of Service
<b>APR 23</b>	<b>1890 Day/Wellness Walk</b> Farmer of the Year Award
<b>JUN 1-12</b>	<b>FAME Camp</b> Historical Tribute to the 1890 Land-Grant Universities
<b>JUN 1-5 JUN 8-12</b>	<b>4-H STEM Healthy Living Camp</b> Historical Tribute to the 1890 Land-Grant Universities
<b>JUL 10</b>	<b>TEAM Success Closing Ceremony Presentations</b> "125 Years of Significance" 1890 Land-Grant Universities
<b>AUG</b>	<b>Research Career Fair</b>
<b>OCT 20-22</b>	<b>Sunbelt Agriculture Exposition</b> "Get to know your 1890" Presentation by Dr. Mark Latimore Jr.
<b>FEB - DEC</b>	<b>County Celebrations (30 county sites)</b> The Community Outreach Exhibition will travel to all 30 counties for community residents to self-educate on the impacts of FVSU and its land-grant mission.

Visit our celebration events page: [goo.gl/nTc7Nf](http://goo.gl/nTc7Nf) for details. Add us on Facebook @ FVSUAg or follow us on Twitter for detailed updates throughout the year.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, based on the passage of the Food & Agricultural Act of 1977 on September 29, 1977, and in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mark Latimore Jr., Interim Assistant Vice President for Land-Grant Affairs for the Office of Academic Affairs, College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology, Fort Valley State University, a State and Land-Grant Institution, University System of Georgia. Fort Valley State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate and master's degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Fort Valley State University.

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