



# Proof Positive

July 16, 2019

Board of Trustees Meeting



## Students In Action win gold for service

Lexington High Students In Action group showed their support for those affected by cancer, raising \$12,450 through a four-part initiative and winning a national award.

Officers include Sandiya S. Bouknight, Evan C. Clark, K. Belle Coffman, Taylor A. Dowling-Bowman, Bradley E. Foulks, Andrew L. Foust, Wyatt L. Hall, Jeffrey E. Hartung, Adam L. Killman, Madison N. Kutyla, Michael B. McMillan, Samantha P. Montgomery, Hannah K. Norris, Heny A. Patel, Cooper I. Reynolds, Mallorie M. Rice, Jewelene D. Richardson, J. Taylor Spires, Rebecca K. Stoyk and Caleb E. Wahdan.

The group won the state-level Jefferson Award for Outstanding Students In Action Team, winning them a trip to Washington, D.C. in June to present at the National Jefferson Awards.

In the weeks leading up to the awards ceremony, SIA students created a video highlighting their efforts and detailing how serving others affected them personally.

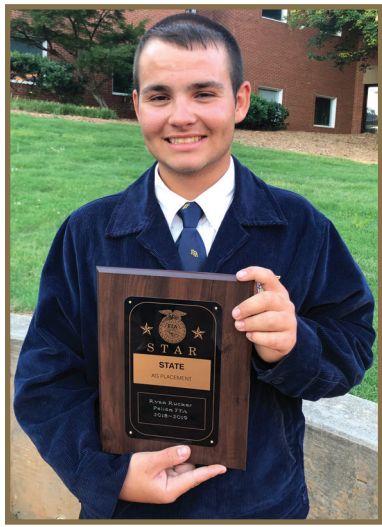
After seeing how SIA rallied the entire Lexington community together for this cause, the Jefferson Awards committee named them the national Gold Award winner among all eligible high school SIA teams.

By honoring those in the fight against cancer, educating the public on prevention, raising money to benefit cancer patients in their community and expanding on existing service projects, SIA completed its mission of “Linking Lexington.”

With guidance from SIA advisers Jessica Bonnette and Murray Cromer, students organized fundraisers, such as Parents’ Night Out, as part of the national St. Baldrick’s Foundation campaign. During the NaturChem Invitational baseball tournament, SIA members organized a home run derby with the LHS and River Bluff High baseball teams. Local businesses donated money for each home run.







## Pelion FFA 'Star' farmer

Pelion High's Ryan K. Rucker culminated his high school FFA career with a Star Award.

Rucker received the state-level Star Award in Agricultural Placement, one of the highest honors presented by the S.C. FFA Association.

This recognition commends students for outstanding agricultural work experience and leadership.

During his internship at Rucker Farms in Pelion, Rucker worked more than 4,500 hours, earning \$50,000. He also earned a 10-percent share of various farm equipment owned by Rucker Farms. Recently, Rucker ventured into entrepreneurship, growing and harvesting 75 acres of oats. He intends to go into full-time employment at Rucker Farms.

Rucker first won the regional Star Award, achieving recognition over other accomplished FFA students to win the state honor.

## Two students win top prize for fiction

Two Lexington District One students won their school-level division in the state's newest creative writing contest.

Sponsored by the S.C. Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Govie Writing Awards recognize student works in fiction and poetry. Pleasant Hill Middle's Olivia P. Bussell and White Knoll High's Autumn E. Simpson both won the George Singleton Prize in Fiction.

Bussell won the middle school division with her short story depicting what it means to feel "Limitless." A rising eighth grader, she performs in musical theater and plays first base for her travel softball team.

Writing about "The Author" for her short story, Simpson is a rising senior. When she's not working on her novel or playing guitar, Simpson stays active in the school Improv Troupe, participates in a student prayer club she co-founded and commands WKHS's Navy JROTC unit.

Bussell and Simpson each won a \$300 gift card to a local bookstore.

## LTC students medal at national conference

Six Lexington Technology Center students won medals at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, advancing to the national level after winning first place at state.

White Knoll High's Jayden C. Young won gold for Marine Service Technology, a contest focusing on troubleshooting, diagnostics and repair of various styles of marine motors.

LTC's Building Construction team won silver at the national level for the second year in a row. Competing in the Team Works category, winners include Gilbert High's Nathan M. Brady, Lexington High's D. Taylor Mathias and Briar G. Pope, and White Knoll High's Cameron R. Drake. For this competition, they completed a full-scale construction project, demonstrating their ability to work together as a team and follow a detailed plan.

Competing in Welding Sculpture, Lexington High's Sophie K. Lewis won bronze. She designed and produced a welded sculpture, detailing for the judges at the national level how she created the piece.



L to r: Taylor Mathias, Cameron Drake, Nathan Brady, Briar Pope



# RBHS student reels in state honor

A River Bluff High student recently won her third straight state honor for an outdoor sport.

The S.C. High School Bass Challenge named rising senior Kathleen G. Beardsley their Lady Angler of the Year for the third year in a row. The first female to fish the tournament trail, she won the title by tallying the most points of any other female angler this season.

As more female students join fishing teams around the state, Beardsley remains at the top. She discovered a passion for fishing while at Meadow Glen Middle in their Outdoor Education classes.

Beardsley joined the RBHS bass fishing team when it began three years ago, quickly attracting the attention of recruiters from colleges and universities.



## DonorsChoose.org funds classroom needs

Through the online giving platform DonorsChoose.org, educators can post requests for funding of specific classroom needs such as books, technology and other supplies.

Educators with fully funded projects include Deerfield Elementary's Pamela Hutchinson, Bethany B. Paetow and Alice Wilson, as well as Saxe Gotha Elementary's Haylee G. Boltjes.

For DES teachers, donors helped purchase fiction and nonfiction books for students to take home, and magnetic counting frames to help students visualize numbers.

Boltjes received funding to purchase supplies for a book-making project, including colored blank writing books, ink cartridges and pens. A second request funded the purchase of a new iPad for the classroom.

# National foundation funds student scholarships

Lexington Technology Center's Gray Bedenbaugh received a significant grant to support students in his machine tool courses.

A \$16,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation will cover costs for students who want to take a NIMS credentialing exam, compete at SkillsUSA or enroll in a CNC engineering program at the post-secondary level.

Bedenbaugh also plans to use funding to purchase tool kits for students for them to use at LTC, then take to post-secondary school.

Students can earn NIMS credentials to secure a competitive edge when applying for jobs. With the credential in hand, they show employers they possess skills that meet industry-established standards. As a bonus, NIMS credentials never expire.

# French funds support reading comprehension



A Midway Elementary teacher received funding to support her dual immersion students.

Fifth Grade French Immersion Teacher Katrinda W. Scott, Ph.D., won a \$2,000 French Dual Language Fund grant from the French American Cultural Exchange Foundation to help students meet proficiency goals.

Scott will use her grant funding to purchase a French language leveled reading series for the project "Improving Reading Comprehension in French Immersion Students." Though her students understand math word problems and science passages, Scott believes the additional literacy materials will increase their fluency, accuracy and decoding when reading.

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy and FACE Foundation launched the French Dual Language Fund on September 20, 2017. Educators may apply for funds to bring French culture to their school, attend professional development workshops or purchase additional materials for dual immersion learning.



# PMS welcomes furry friend

Pelion Middle's Shannon L. Waites welcomed a new "student" to her science class last year thanks to grant funding.

Waites won a Pets in the Classroom Grant from national retailer Petco. With the goal of providing children with opportunities to interact with pets, the educational grant program provides financial support to teachers, allowing them to purchase and maintain small animals in the classroom.

Waites purchased a guinea pig for her sixth grade classroom, along with the resources for care and feeding. Named after Waites' favorite Harry Potter character, Nymphadora Tonks, the furry friend engages students with real-life learning across content areas.



# Wham named 'most distinguished'

River Bluff High Co-Head Athletic Trainer George S. Wham, Ed.D. won multiple honors for promoting health and safety among student athletes.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association named him a Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer, only the third athletic trainer from South Carolina to be recognized. The honor recognizes NATA members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to leadership, volunteer service, advocacy and distinguished professional activities as an athletic trainer.

Gatorade and NATA also named Wham as District 3 Gatorade Secondary School Athletic Trainer of the Year, in addition to Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer recognition from the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association.

Wham led Pelion High's athletic training program for 21 years, joining RBHS for the 2019–2020 school year. He is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association, S.C. Athletic Trainers' Association, S.C. Athletic Coaches Association and S.C. Medical Association's Advisory Committee to the S.C. High School League.

Under Wham's leadership, PHS earned its second NATA Safe Sports School award in fall 2018, meeting all of the recommended and required safety and prevention elements.

PHS led the way in high school safety, first in 2001 as the first athletics department in the state to implement an AED as a part of their emergency action plan, and in 2008, as the first athletics department in the state to begin using IMPACT testing for high school athletes.



## Communications wins multiple state awards

Lexington District One's Communications Office received multiple accolades for using engaging communication methods to reach parents and the community.

Graphic Designer Laurie M. Held and Social Media and Web Content Manager Lindsey H. Mitchell won S.C. Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association Rewards for Excellence awards, in addition to a Best in Show honor.

SCNSPRA honored Held in the Handbook category for the Employee Handbook and Personal Mobile Computing Guide, and the Special Purpose Publication category for *The State's Best* advertisement.

Mitchell received recognition in the Social Media category for the 2018–2019 Back to School social media campaign. She also won Best in Show for social media.

Held and Mitchell both joined the district in 2016.



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The district will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to process complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The district designates specific individuals to handle inquiries or complaints. To find out whom to contact and how to contact them, please go to our website at <http://www.lexington1.net/contact-us>.