



FALL 2024

John de la Howe School Alumni Association

Newsletter



57th Annual Alumni Homecoming/Reunion

Saturday, October 12, 2024!

All alumni (former students and staff) are invited to attend the Alumni Homecoming/Reunion scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2024, on the campus of the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe.



2022 Alumni Homecoming/Reunion

Alumni registration begins at 8:30 AM in the L.S. Brice School Building. We would like everyone to register. If you arrive late and need to register, please find one of the Alumni Board members to make sure you are registered. This helps us update addresses and emails of our precious alumni. At Registration, you can pay your Biennial Dues of \$30 (2 years) and get your Membership Card. You will also be able to purchase your photograph of the members who attend the reunion and various types of t-shirts, etc. Don't forget about your door prize tickets when you register!

We will have the photo albums set up in the Library of the L.S. Brice School for everyone to review and remember the days when you were at de la Howe.

Please note time change! The Group Photograph will be taken at 10:30 AM on the steps of the McKissick Chapel and the Annual Meeting will be held at 11:00 AM inside the Chapel.

We will have the campus tours and activities, such as, Bingo and Corn Hole and Horseshoe Tournaments in the afternoon. We will have prizes for the winners!

Come join the fun and fellowship! We look forward to seeing you all. (See the Schedule of Events for more details about activities and times. Schedule of events will also be included in the Alumni Roster.)

LETTER FROM ALUMNI PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni, Students & Staff:

It has been a fast two years for me, as well as the rest of the alumni board, I am sure. All of us were told by our parents that the older you get the faster time goes or slips away. If you are like myself, I did not believe or comprehend what they were saying at the time. NOW, I do.

During my thirty plus years on the alumni board, I have seen a lot of changes with our dear old school. The alumni board has worked as a collective group over the years for the good of the then name John de la Howe School and the students, that this now named, S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. If it were not for the changes that were made the school would not be in existence today.

I believe that the school has come full circle from 1797 until Governor McMaster signed enabling Legislation, September of 2020 in transforming the school as it is known today.

Under the leadership of Tim Keown, Ph.D., along with the staff that he and others have assembled, they are turning out some amazing students and future leaders, not only for Agriculture but for the state and nation.

I, along with the entire alumni board thank all the alumni for the trust you have given us over the years to serve as an extension of all the past alumni.

We look forward to the participation of the graduates coming out of the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture. We have some new graduates on the board currently and need more in the future to keep the board alive and thriving for the good of the school.

Sincerely,

Gene Swygert

Gene Swygert (1950-1955)

President of the Alumni Association



(The 2022-2024 John de la Howe School Alumni Board of Directors, including standing, Gene Swygert, Ron Davis, Raymond Allen, Trey Haddon, Mikes Yates and Ernie Willis, seated are Sandi Knight Boazman, Sharon Davis Hughes, and Tammy Edmunds Hill- not pictured are JoAnn Alewine Durst, Bill Compton Gerstenberger, Christine Jenkins Bennett, Jake Simpson, and Yvonne Stimpson)

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni,

The 2024-2025 school year began with our “Welcome Back Weekend” on August 3rd with the first day of classes on August 5th. We moved 78 talented students back to this beautiful campus! Our students are from across South Carolina.

In May of 2024, we had our graduation ceremony where 34 students received their high school Honors diplomas. Including this class and the classes of 2022 and 2023, we now have 81 alumni who have graduated from John de la Howe under the Governor’s School for Agriculture mission. Our recent alumni are attending colleges or in the workforce, and all are doing well. Collectively, our alumni earned more than 1.5 million in college scholarships!

Renovations are still ongoing here. De la Howe Hall is under full renovation. When complete, the building will house classrooms, the board of trustees meeting room, and the auditorium. Charleston and Hessie Morrah Cottages are under full renovation, as well. They are expected to be finished in May of 2025. I am requesting additional funding this year to renovate Hester Cottage. The inflation costs of construction have caused some setbacks, but we believe we will receive the funding to renovate Hester this year. Once those three cottages are open, we will have bed space for 110 students.

We are building a new greenhouse complex, which should be open in just a few weeks. We are renovating the lower level of LS Brice for our new Ag Mechanics shop. The current shop is impossible to pull a tractor or vehicle inside to teach mechanics. We are excited to have these new buildings for hands-on instruction!

We recently were audited by the state auditor’s office. I am happy to report we had no audit findings. This is the first time since 1999 for John de la Howe to have a clean audit. We were one of six state agencies this year with a 100 percent clean audit.

Please follow our podcast called, “Carolina’s Field, Forest, and Water” to hear interviews from our students and agricultural professionals across the state. We also have a YouTube channel, Facebook, Instagram, and X social media platforms so you all can keep up with what is happening on campus!

We are EXCITED to welcome you all back to your home away from home on October 12!

Respectfully,

Timothy R. Keown

Timothy R. Keown, Ph.D.
President, SC Governor's School of Agriculture
At John de la Howe

Website for the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture <https://delahowe.sc.gov/>

S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe names Hall of Fame Inductees During Awards Day



*L to R: Ben Lewis,
Preston Lewis, and
Mr. Thompson,
Principal*

Ben Lewis and Preston Lewis, sons of Mr. Archie Lewis, attended the Awards Day 2023, held at the McKissick Chapel, as the late **Archie J. Lewis, Jr.** was inducted into the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe Hall of Fame. Mr. Lewis served as a house parent, teacher, and later principal at L.S. Brice School. Mr. Lewis was at de la Howe from 1949 until approximately 1970. He is remembered as a very good firm principal and very caring.



*L to R: Jake
McAllister, Wes
McAllister, and Mr.
Thompson, Principal*

Mr. Wes McAllister also attended the Awards Day 2023, held at the McKissick Chapel, as the late **John McCallister** was inducted into the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe Hall of Fame. Mr. McAllister served as Chairman of the John de la Howe School Board of Trustees for quite some time and was a great asset to the school. Mr. McAllister lived most of his life in Mt. Carmel and cared deeply about his community. He was devoted to public service, conservation, and economic development in rural communities. Mr. McAllister served on many boards and received many rewards for all his efforts.

Schedule of Events, Saturday, October 12

- 7:30 AM Gates at the Front Entrance will be open throughout the day.
- 8:30 AM Registration begins at the L.S. Brice School Building for Alumni
- 9:00 AM Photo Albums in the L.S. Brice School Library
- 10:30 -11:00 AM Alumni Group Picture will be taken on the steps of the Chapel.
- 11:00 – 12:00 PM Alumni Association Business Meeting to be held in the Chapel. Please join your fellow Alumni for an assembly and be an active part of your Association. Drawing for door prizes at the end of the meeting. Great Door Prizes!
- 12:00 – 1:15 PM Lunch at the Dave L. Hayes Cafeteria. Tickets for lunch are \$5 per ticket. Tickets may be purchased at registration or cafeteria. Lunch will include chicken strips, hot dogs, chili, corn, French fries, cookies, drinks.
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM Campus Tours – Residential Halls (Cottages) and self-guided tour of Barn. You may visit other sites around campus.
- 3:00 – 5:00 PM Bingo in Cafeteria and Corn Hole and Horseshoe Tournaments on grounds at Cafeteria. Sign up in Registration Area for tournaments.

NO EVENING MEAL PLANNED

- 7:00 – 11:00 PM After-Hours Social Event at the Dairy Barn with a DJ *Tony B* playing great music! Event will include snacks.

Accommodations Available for the Reunion

There are normally rooms reserved at Hickory Knob State Resort Park. You will be required to pay a portion of the rate upfront when you make the reservation. You can call 800-491-1764 for reservations. There are also hotel rooms on the campus of John de la Howe in Shiflet Hall (upstairs of the old school building). Other options are hotel rooms at John de la Howe School in the old school building, now referred to as Shiflet Hall. Email Scott Mims at scott.mims@delahowe.sc.gov and copy Amy Romines at amy.romines@delahowe.sc.gov to check availability at the school. Other options are Belmont Inn in Abbeville, SC at 104 E Pickens St, Abbeville. Call Reservations at 864-214-7453 ~ Culler's Inn, Lincolnton, GA. Call 706-359-6161. ~ Fairfield Inn, 527 Bypass 72 NW, Greenwood, SC 864-330-3300. ~ Holiday Inn Express, 300 W. Creek Blvd, Greenwood 864-889-8900. ~ Comfort Inn 110 Birch Tree Dr, Greenwood, SC 864-413-1203. ~ Days Inn, 233 Birch Tree Drive, Greenwood SC 864-223-1818 ~ Sharon Manor B & B, 12 Firehouse Road, Abbeville, SC 864-378-9310. Local Campgrounds are available at Hickory Knob State Resort Park, Elijah Clark State Park, and many more in the area. Check online or call to make sure campsites are open.

Slate of Nominees for the 2024-2026 Alumni Board of Directors

The Slate of Nominees for the 2024-2026 Alumni Board of Directors is listed below. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Alumni Association Business Meeting on Saturday, October 12. If you are interested in being a member of the Board of Directors, please call Ernie Willis at 864-550-0108 or email at themajicman7@gmail.com . We encourage members to get involved and give back to the school.

Slate of Nominees for the 2024-2026 John de la Howe School Alumni Association Board of Directors 2024- 2026

President: Ernie Willis
V. President: Ronnie Davis

Secretary: Tammy Edmunds Hill
Treasurer: Sandi Knight Boazman
Sharon Davis Hughes
Billie Compton Gerstenberger
Trey Haddon
Jake Simpson
Raymond Allen
Mike Yates
Sierra Tinsley
Hannah Mosely
Gene Swygert, Past President

Thank you to the Alumni Board of Directors who served from 2022-2024!

President: Gene Swygert
V. President: Ernie Willis

Secretary: Tammy Edmunds Hill
Treasurer: Sandi Knight Boazman
Sharon Davis Hughes
JoAnn Alewine Durst
Billie Compton Gerstenberger
Christine Jenkins
Tray Hadden
Jake Simpson
Raymond Allen
Yvonne Smith Stimpson
Ronnie Davis, Past President

*Volunteers: JoAnn Alewine Durst, Christine Jenkins Bennett, and Yvonne Stimpson
(Alumni can volunteer and assist with events and activities. We encourage alumni to
get involved. We would love to have your help!)*

John de la Howe School Alumni Association Awards Scholarships



The recipient of the Alumni Association Scholarship for 2022-2023 was Hannah Mosely. Hannah attended Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, S.C. She also works parttime with the Foundation at the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture.



Jahira Freeman was the recipient of the Alumni Association Scholarship for 2023-2024. Jahira plans to attend Georgia Military College Academy Prep Scholar Program, for her goal of attending military service academy.

DAIRY BARN GETS NEW LIFE!



During your visit to campus, please go by the Dairy Barn to see the new additions. The school recently inherited the entire collection of the former National Heritage Corridor Museum in Blackville, S.C., which had been on the campus of Clemson University's Edisto Research Center. Members of the maintenance staff and farm staff traveled to Blackville to

relocate the artifacts back to campus where they were stored at the Dairy Barn.

Volunteers from Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum near Clemson, S.C., assisted with the setup of the artifacts for display and they also trained staff in how to describe the exhibits to visitors by this group as well. The presence of the Museum will be a great piece to train students in Agritourism, a new path for students on campus.



VETERAN'S MONUMENT FUNDRAISER

(L to R) – Pictured are Ron Davis, Board of Trustees Vice Chair and Alumni, Ed Presnell, Regional Business Executive, Peach State Federal Credit Union, and Timothy Keown, Ph.D., President, SC Governor's School for Agriculture was presented a check for \$4,000.00 to the school and earmarked for the

Veteran's Monument Fundraiser.

John de la Howe School Alumni Association
4th Annual Fundraising Dinner and Dance
Saturday, January 25, 2025

The John de la Howe School Alumni Association will hold the 4th Annual Fundraising Dance on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the Savannah Lakes Village Recreation Complex in McCormick, S.C. Events will include a dinner, silent auction, door prizes, and raffles, along with the entertainment provided by the Carolina Coast Band featuring Rhonda Hill McDaniel.

More information about the events of the Dance will be available at the reunion and will be posted on the de la Howe website and on Facebook. Proceeds will be used to decorate the three remaining residences and other needs for the students at the S.C. Governor's School of Agriculture at John de la Howe. We hope you will plan to attend. Your alumni association also provides other needed items for the school that are not available through other means. Alumni Reunion is also supported by alumni dues and the fundraisers.



Charleston Cottage
&
Hessie Morrah Cottage



John de la Howe School Alumni Association

John de la Howe School Alumni Association
C/O Tammy E. Hill, Secretary
2727 Greenwood Highway
Bradley, SC 29819