

## In This Issue >>>

>NAAE Convention

>Day in Annapolis & FFA Week

>Meet The Owlets

>An International Endeavor



Issue Three  
March 2020

Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association

# From *The* Nest



## A Letter From The President

*Tom Hawthorne*

Its been many years since I have attended an ACTE/NAAE convention. Anaheim, California was the site for the conference and it was quite impressive. The MATA Maryland members attending were: Tom Hawthorne, Aaron Geiman, Terrie Shank, Naomi Knight, Joe Linthicum, Diane Herndon, Erika Edwards and Carroll Shry. It was a great way for Ag Educators from across the country to

network and engage in professional development. Congratulations to Aaron Geiman on his selection as the ACTE Region 1 Outstanding CTE Teacher. He was also elected to serve as the NAAE Region VI Secretary. Dr Robin McLean of New Jersey is our Region VI Vice President and Sherisa Nailor of Pennsylvania was chosen to serve as the President-Elect of NAAE. Congratulations to Naomi Knight for receiving the Outstanding Service Award for Region VI. Erika Edwards from North Harford High School participated in the Teacher Turn the Key program and Diane Herndon from Frederick Career & Technology Center participated in the NAAE sponsored XLR8 program. Tom Hawthorne and Diane Herndon served as the voting delegates for Maryland.

The planning committee is putting together an excellent Region VI Conference. Registration will be completed on the MATA website. Hope to see everyone there. The picnic will be at Ivy Hill Farm from 6:30 – 8:00pm on Tuesday July 14, 2020. Invitations will go out for retired teachers to attend so mark your calendars. Also follow the award section of the MATA website to complete nominations for MATA and NAAE awards. Nominations are due by May 15, 2020 and applications by June 15, 2020. Nominate yourself or someone you think is deserving of an award. At the April 4, 2020 MATA meeting at Westminster we will have a short business meeting and then provide 4, (½) hour workshops that teachers can attend you can choose 2 of them. More information will follow through email. Look forward to seeing you there.

-Tom Hawthorne



Classroom >>>

# At least 100 days Smarter!

Over 100 days into the school year and we are truly beginning to see our students ideas, activities, and events take full form! Here are a few activities that our colleagues are doing with our students across the



Howard County- Students Were thrilled to have the opportunity to host National FFA Central Vice President Mamie Hertel during FFA Week! Students participated in a a communication workshop and several fun student centered activities. Howard County also earned a shout out from their county executive Calvin Ball who highlighted the huge role that agriculture plays. He went to social media to share "From the food we eat to the clothes we wear, agriculture is part of our daily lives. Thank you to the FFA for your constant support of our young farmers – influencing generations that agriculture is more than just farming and planting. Today's FFA members are tommorrow's biologists, chemists, veterinarians, engineers, and entrepreneurs."



Calvert- Students from the Calvert High CASE Program will be attending a Farm Trip sponsored by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commision (SMADC). This is an agriculture based field trip where students will visit four different local agriculture outfits and learn about the operations and productions that occur. Students contacted the four farms we would attend and coordinated the planning of this trip.



## SAE for ALL!

You have experienced the update, seen the material, and are beginning to implement the update into your classrooms. What do you like? What is a little frustrating? Are there modifications that you have made to make this program fit into your students schedules seamlessly without a ton of push back?

Share that with your SAE Team! We want to know what works for you and what does not fit the bill to help you and teachers statewide improve. Send an email to Terrie Shank or Kelcey Trewin. We want to hear from you!

## FFA >>> Day in Annapolis Reaches an All Time High

Day in Annapolis, an annual event that preludes to the kickoff of National FFA Week in our beloved state. One hundred and seventy-five members, twenty-two chapters, and ONE amazing day to promote Agriculture Education. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Maryland FFA members from across the state met in Annapolis to advocate for our congruent passions. Members took part in tours of the Capitol, a legislative program led by Colby Ferguson and Parker Welch with the Maryland Farm Bureau, a brief over view of new historical exhibits, and meetings with their local representatives! Through this opportunity Maryland FFA had a hands-on learning experience about the legislative process and how they can impact laws within their state. We are proud of each and every one of these members for being progressive advocates for our organization, and we thank each of the Senators and Delegates that took the liberty to converse with our members!



Post kick off FFA week was thrown into high gear! Chapters statewide have participated at a local, state, and national level! Social media challenges, spirit weeks, teacher/staff appreciation meals, bowling, movie nights, fundraisers, community service projects, and bingos are just a fraction of events that were hosted over FFA Week. Our team is incredibly thankful to have Mamie Hertel National FFAs Central Revion Vice Fresident to visit chapters, take part in their activities and get to know our members on a personal level. This week has been a blast so far, and the State Officer team cannot wait for more visits as Maryland FFA Ignites their pride! -Your FFA State Officers



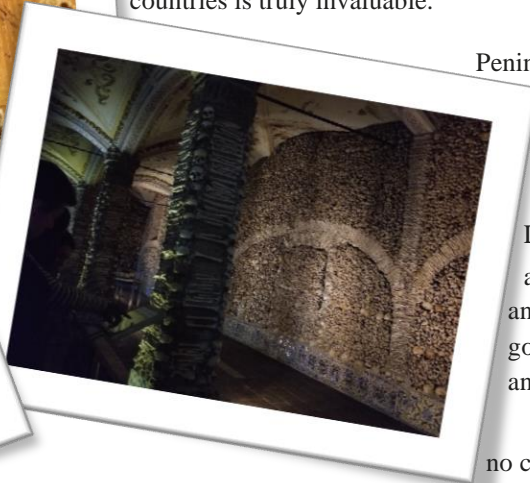
# An International Endeavor: A Voyage to Spain and Portugal

*Explore Agriculture over seas with your State Reporter Jaclyn Bryant!*

Estimado España y Portugal:

Three countries, two weeks, and one goal. Thank you both immensely for accepting the National FFA Organization into your home with open arms. The International Leadership Seminar for State Officers, or ILSSO, has provided me with knowledge and experience that will last a lifetime. The opportunity to immerse ourselves into your historically rich culture and learn about the agricultural industry in your respective countries is truly invaluable.

Exploration. During our time in the Iberian Peninsula, ILSSO was graciously led through monumental cities and historical sites by local guides. Actively engaging in the informational tours and interacting with local citizens in Madrid, Museo Del Prado, Toledo, Seville, Plaza de España, Albufeira, Evora, and Lisbon opened my eyes to alternate cultures, timeless architecture, and various customs. Time spent in Spain and Portugal was a delightful blend of history, governmental systems, sociology, breathtaking views, and agriculture.



agriculture knows no borders, and this was prevalent as we traveled through a multitude of farms, wineries, processing facilities, nurseries, businesses, and collaborative presentations with political figures and advocacy groups. An insider look at produce that is not cultivated in the US, or is processed differently was a truly enlightening realization. The United States Ambassador to Portugal, the Agricultural Attaché from the USDA Foreign Ag Service, and the Asociación Agraria de Jóvenes Agricultores, which is comparable to the United States' Young Farmers, hosted us at several locations. At these synergistic events, we held discussion meets, agricultural demonstrations, and open floor presentations to confer about our varying agricultural facets, international trade, and agricultural education programs. Partnership between ASAJA, UDSA, and FFA opens our nations to new possibilities in regards to developing young leaders in the field of agriculture and creating innovative ways to combat global inefficiencies in reference to consumable produce. Leading the conversation about continuing to globalize our markets by combining our efforts at an international level with our allies and various countries around the world we can then progressively resolve concerns relating to the environment and quality food products. As agricultural advocates, we are in a prime position to lobby for our beloved passions and work to overcome our own ethnocentric tendencies to respect the other sides of the industry that are present around the world. I cannot thank both of you enough for the new worldly perspective that I have adopted, and for providing a plethora of connections and future career opportunities!

Atentamente,

Jaclyn Bryant, 2019-2020 Maryland State Reporter

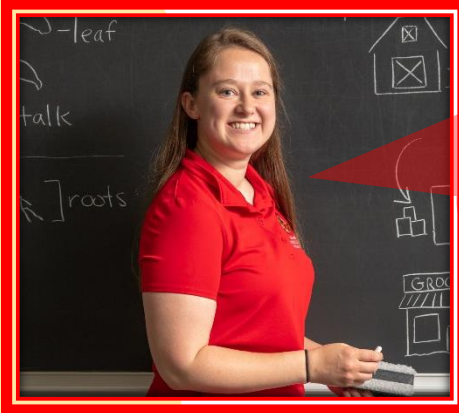


# Meet a Few

 **Gabrielle**

*University of Maryland: Grad*

“I’ve found that working with youth – the future of our world – is one of the most impactful ways I can make a difference. I knew I wanted to work with people in a hands-on setting and I have a passion for agriculture that I needed to share with others. I am fascinated by the changes in the industry and inspired to get the next generation involved.”



I enjoy nature, reading, exercise and much more. I do believe that you learn new things every day and that you can be taught new information by other things than just a teacher.

**Lexi**

*West Virginia University: Under Grad*

“I am majoring in Agriculture and Extension Education with a minor in Ag business. I hope to graduate, pursue my masters, then hopefully teach. However, I am looking into the possibility of working with Farm Credit. I want to be able to spread the importance of agriculture to others, just as my ag teacher did for me.”



I am part of a fem art collective in Baltimore City where I specialize in analog photography. During the summer you can find me at state parks camping or on the road with friends! I have two lovely cats and I make winter shelters for my feral cat buddies that I can't bring in.

I hail from St. Mary's County, Maryland where I have lived my whole life. Agricultural roots run deep in my family, and I am a fourth generation young farmer. I enjoy staying actively involved with St. Mary's County Farm Bureau, managing their social media, and with the Choptico Chargers 4-H club.

**Chenoah**

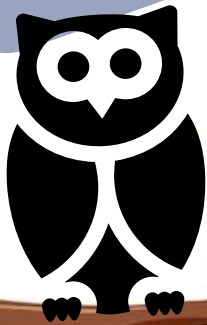
*University of Maryland: Under Grad*

“Ag Ed gives me the opportunity to give back to my community by educating youth about the emerging technology and science of agriculture, so they can find solutions to urban food production challenges. I grew up in Baltimore City, MD and attended several different high schools on the east side of the city including the historic Baltimore City College. I plan to teach agricultural education in Baltimore city or enter private industry.”



# Of Our Owlets

I am from Hampstead, Maryland and graduated from Manchester Valley. I have a twin brother! Hobbies of mine include hiking, traveling, and trying new food!



Nicole

*University of Kentucky: Under Grad*

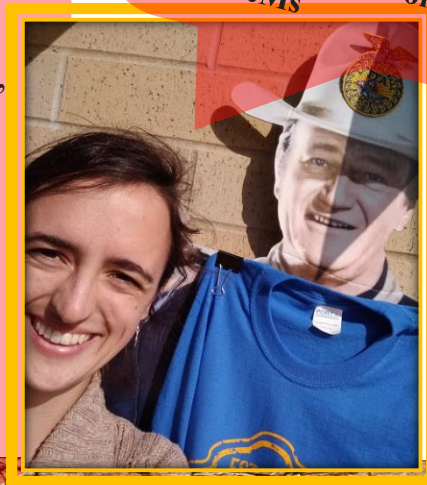
“When I graduated high school, I was unsure of the career path I wanted to pursue. I knew I loved agriculture and helping people, but didn’t know where to go from there. However, serving as a Maryland FFA State Officer gave me clarity and showed me how much I enjoyed working with and mentoring students in agricultural education. I then transferred to the University of Kentucky to make this my reality!”

Ashley

*Iowa State University: Alumni*

“Since I was in first grade, I have always wanted to be a teacher. When I was little, my mom bought me a “teacher kit” and I would make her play student while I ‘taught’ her math, english, etc. Once I became active in FFA and 4-H it was clear to me that I should become an Ag teacher. Although it wasn’t until after my first few observations (and conducting several mini lessons) that I really fell in love with the profession.”

I am from White Hall, MD and I graduated from Hereford High School (Go Bulls!). I am now the Ag and Religion teacher at St. Mary’s Catholic School in Storm Lake, IA. I have absolutely loved teaching so far! Some fun facts about me include traveling to 49 out of the 50 states, I have a John Wayne cardboard cutout as my classrooms mascot, and my favorite snack is pretzels with M&Ms



## For Your Students >>>

Teachers, do your students have plans for life after high school? We invite you to bring them to the 2nd annual Maryland Agricultural, Green, and Industry Career and College Fair, which will be held on April 1st from 8:30 am-1:30 pm at The Great Frederick Fairgrounds in Frederick, MD. This free, one-day event is open to all high school students. In addition to the traditional trade show aspect, the event will also include hands-on workshops, demonstrations, and skills workshops for students. Stipends are available to help cover the cost of transportation and substitute coverage (funds are prioritized to those counties that are considered rural). If you're traveling from a distance, we're happy to help you plan your stops for after your visit to the MAGICC Fair.

For additional information and to register, please visit our website at [www.magiccfair.com](http://www.magiccfair.com) or email [magiccfair@gmail.com](mailto:magiccfair@gmail.com)



## MATA Merch For You

The new MATA Online store will open on March 2, 2020 and close May 31, 2020. Merchandise includes: men's and women's styles of vest, 1/4 zip pull-over, short sleeve polo, and short and long sleeve button down shirts. Pick your favorite new MATA gear and pay online.

After the store closes, all ordered items will be embroidered and picked up in a bulk order to be delivered to state convention/summer conference. These items are being printed at our costs, no hidden fees. Questions or suggestions for the next online store should be sent to [diane.herndon@fcps.org](mailto:diane.herndon@fcps.org).

To shop the store, go to <https://stores.bjscustomcreations.com/mata/shop/home>

## Your future starts here!

**FREE ONE-DAY EVENT** for Maryland high school and college students. Colleges and businesses related to the agricultural, green and CTE industries will be present with:

- Hands-on activities
- Workshops
- On-the-spot interviews
- and more!

If your business or organization is interested in participating, visit [magiccfair.com](http://magiccfair.com) or email [magiccfair@gmail.com](mailto:magiccfair@gmail.com).

**FOOD VENDORS WILL BE ONSITE WITH FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.**



## The MAGICC Fair

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020**

Students & Teachers - 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Open to the public - 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Great Frederick Fairgrounds  
797 E. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

### STUDENT REGISTRATION

See your guidance counselor, agricultural teacher or CTE/work study teacher for registration information.

More information at [MAGICCFAIR.COM](http://MAGICCFAIR.COM)

## Enjoying Life: Retirement

Retired Maryland Agriculture Teachers getting together for breakfast in the Woodsboro Town Restaurant most Friday mornings. Seated from left to right are: Carroll Shry, Vernon Marshall, Bob Delauter, and Chuck Cramer. All of these fine gentlemen are Past Presidents of the Maryland Agriculture teachers Association.

Carroll Shry started his teaching career in 1965 at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin Maryland. He was there 2 years and then finished his masters degree at West Virginia before he continued his teaching career at Linganore High School in 1968. In 1977, he left Linganore to start a Landscape Program at Frederick Career and Technology Center where he taught until he retired in 2010. Carroll Shry taught for 44 years and coauthored the Introductory Horticulture Text which is used throughout the United States and has been published 45 years. He is also a past NAAE president.

Bob Delauter taught agriculture 23 years at Damascus High School. He and his wife recently purchased a small farm in Keymar, Maryland. Bob also presently works for the Rocky Ridge Post Office.

Vernon Marshall started his agriculture teaching career at Francis Scott Key High School for 5 years and then went to Walkersville High School for the next 20 years. He then moved to the Frederick Career and Technology Center to teach Agriculture Welding until he retired. Vernon was in the Navy for 4 years and he has Marshall Christmas Tree Farm as well as working with his family to make and sell hay.

Chuck Cramer started teaching at Williamsport for 2 years before transferring to South Hagerstown. He then moved to Walkersville High School where he taught agriculture until he became the Work Study Coordinator. Chuck had 40 years of service and presently serves as President of The Frederick Fair Board. He also raises Hereford cattle.

-Tom Hawthorne



# Words of Encouragement

Friends, Agriculture educators, and FFA advisors; lend me your eyes.

Not quite the words of William Shakespeare but I feel suitable. After recently returning from the NAAE national convention in Anaheim among many seasoned educators like former National FFA advisor Dr. Brown, legendary Carroll Shry, always entertaining Tom Hawthorne, along with Terrie Shank, I had the urge to share some thoughts with agriculture educators across the state of Maryland. First, let me congratulate Aaron Geiman, Region 1 ACTE Outstanding Educator; Naomi Knight, NAAE Region IV Outstanding Service Award; Erika Edwards, Maryland's NAAE Teacher Turn the Key Award as well as Diane Herndon who participated in the NAAE XLR8 program. During the convention there were many professional development sessions for the attendees to participate in and gather tips to bring back to their programs. On the plane ride, I had plenty of time to think about and evaluate my time at the convention. As most of you know, it is my distinct pleasure to present our newest ag educators with a copy of the Ag Teacher Creed at the state FFA convention. As we teach our students about the value of the 3 ring model with classroom instruction, supervised ag experience and leadership through FFA opportunities, we as educators need to follow the same practice. As educators we need to continually look to improve what and how we deliver information to our students which is why professional development is so essential. Not only students need to have experiential learning, teachers/FFA advisors can use this to assist with their ability to help their students learn and grow. We encourage our students to get involved and be leaders in their chapters through many opportunities, this is also important to us to become involved in those associations that can strengthen the teaching profession. I hope that when you decided to become ag educators that you didn't believe that it was a 7:30 to 3:30 job. There are many hours spent outside the school day to benefit our students. It usually is not easy, if it was then everyone would want to do it. Most of the time, you may feel that the students may not appreciate all that you do for them. In the long run, your return will be immeasurable or maybe not at all. Still your investment into your students lives will benefit many in the years to come. Just remember, if it was not for those students you would probably be doing some routine 9 to 5 job without all the different challenges that students provide for you, their teacher. If you have read this far, you are probably thinking this is the ramblings of some senile ag teacher, but I am hoping that you will have a clear vision of what ahead whether you are an experienced ag teacher or still a fledgling owl. I hope your vision is 2020. Remember I am an agriculture educator by choice and not by chance. Wishing you all the best for the rest of this school year and we start another new year.

Always hooting,

Joe Linthicum



# NAAE REGION VI CONFERENCE

The Maryland Agriculture Teacher's Association is excited to host the 2020 NAAE Region VI Conference this summer in Washington County! Please mark your calendars now for July 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. We have worked tirelessly to prepare relevant workshops that accommodate an array of subject areas to best suit your needs.

For those teaching Animal Science, we have partnered with TransOva in Boonsboro to allow teachers the opportunity to experience embryo sorting and oocyte flushing of virgin heifers. In addition, participants that sign up for Animal Science will travel to Homestead Harvest Feeds in Clear Spring to learn about animal nutrition, as well as try their hand at making their own feed!

If Agricultural Mechanics is your thing, we are thrilled to bring Briggs and Stratton to Clear Spring High School to conduct an engine troubleshooting workshop! Teachers will learn ways to bug engines, and then how to teach students to troubleshoot them. If you've never been able to attend one of Briggs' workshops out at their facility in Wisconsin, this is your chance to get the same experience close to home. A representative from Briggs and Stratton will be in charge of conducting the workshop. This is the first time ever this workshop has been offered away from their home facility!

In the realms of Plant Science, we have organized a one of a kind workshop with the Irrigation Foundation. Participants will learn all about irrigation systems, as well as have the opportunity to conduct a sprinkler auditing lab. This is the perfect lesson to incorporate turfgrass management into your existing plant science curriculum! Teachers will analyze turfgrass water requirements based on a variety of factors, and then determine whether or not the sprinkler system is effective in meeting these requirements. Don't have a sprinkler system as your school? Don't worry! The Irrigation Foundation will teach all participants how to build their own mock irrigation system!

In addition to these workshops, we are ecstatic to offer the NAAE XLR8 program and a BriefCASE Institute for Agricultural Business Foundations! The XLR8 program is designed for teachers in years 7-15 and is geared towards increasing the overall longevity and satisfaction of the profession. Traditionally, this reputable program is only offered at the national NAAE convention and getting in is highly competitive. We are offering the same experience without the hassle of stressing over whether or not you've been accepted into the program! The BriefCASE Institute in Agricultural Business Foundations introduces students to business management in agriculture. Teachers will learn practical and engaging activities, projects, and problems to develop and improve students' employability skills.

Besides all of the great professional development, we hope you take the opportunity to experience the unique networking aspect of a regional conference as well. Not only will you have the chance to catch up with fellow colleagues from across the state, but also meet and collaborate with fellow ag teachers from across the northeast. Additionally, be sure not to miss the retired Ag Teacher's Picnic hosted Ivy Hill Farms!

For more information on registration, lodging, and itinerary, please visit [mata-md.org](http://mata-md.org) or contact Quinn Cashell-Martin at [CasheQui@wcps.k12.md.us](mailto:CasheQui@wcps.k12.md.us) or Tom Mazzone at [MazzoTho@wcps.k12.md.us](mailto:MazzoTho@wcps.k12.md.us)







**2020 MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL  
EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
TECHNICAL UPDATE  
AND  
NAAE REGION VI CONFERENCE**

***JULY 13 - 15, 2020***

**Professional Development Workshops:**

- Briggs and Stratton Engine Trouble Shooting
  - Irrigation Foundation Plant Science
- Animal Science Embryo Sorting and Animal Nutrition
  - NAAE XLRB Program
- Industry Standards of Plant Processing
- Pesticide Recertification and Updates

**Additional Highlights:**

- NAAE Awards Judging Sunday Evening
- Ideas Unlimited Presentations Monday at Noon
- Dinner with Wise Owls Tuesday Evening
  - Awards Luncheon Wednesday

*Conference Scholarships available for current Ag Ed Students*

***COST:***

***\$275 FULL PACKAGE  
\$150 COMMUTER PACKAGE  
\$60 SINGLE DAY  
\$70 SUNDAY ADD-ON***

***Registration Available March 1***

*Visit [mata-md.org](http://mata-md.org)*

*Location:*

*Washington County Public Schools  
10435 Downsville Pike  
Hagerstown, MD 21740*



# Taste of Maryland

MATA board members attending the 50th anniversary Taste of Maryland Agriculture Dinner at Michaels 8th Avenue on February 6, 2020 were from left to right: Tom Hawthorne, Tom Mazzone, Quinn Cashell Martin, and Diane Herndon. It was a great evening as we celebrated Maryland Agriculture with Governor Hogan and many elected officials.



# University Thoughts

*Just a few updates and thoughts from our Land Grant and Flagship University, The University Of Maryland, with Dr. Melissa Welsh!*



# Throwing Our Hats Into the 3 Rings

At Land Grant Universities we commonly hear the description of the three-legged stool model to depict the relationship of academics, research and extension. Each of these entities have distinct features with descriptive work areas designated to meet the needs of our current society. Other countries continue to try to emulate this type of system but fall short of success because it is the integrated work of the 3 areas that is truly the masterpiece. In K-12 school based agricultural education settings there is another trio of interrelated areas. The 3-ring model of agricultural education is sometimes challenging for those outside of the trained field to understand the unique benefits of the interconnected parts. Each area (classroom instruction, SAE and FFA) has distinct features that facilitate learning through a variety of methods for students. In early February a team from Maryland joined teams from other states across the country for The Three Circle Summit conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mark Milby, Terri Shank, Aaron Geiman, and myself were able to network with colleagues and industry stakeholders throughout 2 days of integrated sessions. Several of the sessions were videotaped and can be accessed here: <https://vimeo.com/nationalffa/videos>. Participants of the summit were challenged to return to their states and help facilitate discussions among state educators and stakeholders about how to help develop the missing elements of the 3-ring model in school programs. Stay tuned for professional development opportunities based upon the three areas as well as how to integrate these areas to help you create your school's masterpiece.

# Global Leaders Meet From Home

It is ironic for me to write that a valuable globally focused agricultural conference this past February could be entirely enjoyed from the seat of a couch at your home. And yet, the Critical Collaboration Global Learning in Agriculture conference has been delivered via a synchronous and asynchronous online platform since 2016. The conference this year featured a wide variety of presenters and the opportunity to engage with the other 472 participants from 19 countries via various social media platforms. Each of the on-demand sessions during the week challenged participants to examine agriculture through multiple lenses- hunger, culture, career development, youth development, etc. The final day of the conference was held live at Penn State University and enjoyed at the University of Maryland through one of several host parties at university campuses. Although the conference for this year is over, you and your students can benefit from the continually growing archive at: <https://sites.psu.edu/glag/past-glag-conferences/>. For individuals interested in next year's conference, I highly recommend the option to obtain one of the all-inclusive conferences' in a box. The text books, conference swag, and learning support materials add value to the conference experience. Likewise, the youth in your classroom would also enjoy the GLAGjr reads program. Check out the website to learn more about this extended learning opportunity and bring the world a bit closer to your students in the classroom.

## Coming Soon >>>

>Are you ready for States?

>What a Year!-Classroom

>Confrence Ready!

>A Letter from the Editor

Did you and your students accomplish something amazing this year such as earn a grant, start a new tradition, or just survive the year share it with the editor so your voice can be heard!



**Kelcey Trewin**

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