



SCAIHS ADVANTAGE

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
OF INDEPENDENT HOME SCHOOLS
Passing the torch to the next generation

Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2019

SCAIHS Staff

Elementary Department

Emily Lipscombe, Director

Sarah Filbey

Michelle Fryer

Middle & High School Department

Beth Martin, Director

Rebecca Pope, Asst. Director

Jan Lane

Special Needs

Nancy Willoughby, Director

Carol Kurlowich

Front Office

Katina Prescott, Director

Carme Johnson

IN THIS ISSUE

- So Many Choices!
- SCAIHS Welcomes New Staff Members
- SCAIHS Says Goodbye to Letitia Taylor
- Student Recognitions

So Many Choices!

By Carol Kurlowich

It's homeschooling conference season again! It's time for that much-needed shot in the arm of renewing old friendships, making new ones, and recharging our creative batteries with great workshops. By the time you read this, the Great Homeschooling Conference in Greenville will be over, but there are still two or three smaller ones coming up. You may find something in your area by browsing the internet for home school conferences, expos, and events.

As much as I love attending these events, my mind overheats and my eyes glaze over after I've passed the ninth or tenth curriculum vendor. Can anyone identify?! Back in ancient history, when our family began our homeschooling adventure, we could almost count the choices on one hand; these days, the choices seem endless. What's a homeschooling parent to do? Thankfully, there are some simple guidelines to help us make the kind of selections needed to help both parent and student survive and thrive.

The first thing a family should do is take a realistic look at their homeschooling budget. Be sure to leave room for field trips, projects, and mid-course corrections after the textbooks are paid for. Price is no indicator of effectiveness or quality. My first curriculum blooper was purchasing an expensive, big name program only to find out later that I actually could have done a better job with a concise guide I picked up for \$5. On the flip side, an inclusive and well-designed product with a higher price tag can be worth every penny if it meets the needs of you and your student. In the elementary years, language arts and

mathematics programs will often be your biggest ticket items. Purchasing non-consumable, multi-grade materials can help stretch those dollars. Parents of high schoolers will want to consider looking for used or donated books, many of which require only the purchase of a new workbook. At the SCAIHS office we have a good selection of used as well as retail books and resources to choose from. Don't forget that 15% discount for SCAIHS members!

The next thing to consider is your child's learning style. Though most students learn best with a multi-sensory approach, many will rely more heavily on their sense of sight (the visual learner), their sense of hearing (the auditory learner), or their muscle awareness (the kinesthetic learner). A child with significant challenges will need materials and methods designed to meet those needs. Your teaching style is important as well. Do you feel the need for scripted guidance to help you communicate concepts, or do you prefer greater freedom in how to get ideas across? Do you like to have more activities than you will use, or do you need simple suggestions as jumping off points for your own creativity? Take a good look through those teacher's manuals and student materials to get an idea of whether they will be a pleasure or a frustration for you and your student.

There is so much more that can be said about choosing curriculum, but hopefully this will help you get started. Now is a great time to begin planning for next school year, and your counselor is always happy to help. Here's hoping it will be your best year yet!

Welcome New Staff Members

SCAIHS is excited to welcome two new staff members!

Michelle Fryer is a new **Elementary Counselor** with the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools. She has homeschooled her three children over the course of the last 13 years with the invaluable help of SCAIHS. Her oldest son will graduate from the University of South Carolina in May of 2019, and her daughter is currently pursuing a nursing degree from USC. Her youngest son graduates from high school in June and will be attending USC in the fall. The Fryers are tried and true South Carolina Gamecocks!



The Fryer family has enjoyed being part of Providence Athletic Club for the past 8 years. Mrs. Fryer served as Director of Softball (3yrs), Cross Country (6yrs), and Basketball (3yrs). Mrs. Fryer enjoys boating, bike riding, music, and family time.

Carol Kurlowich is back as a **Special Needs Counselor** with the South Carolina Association of Independent Homeschools, having served in that position in the late 1990s. After nearly 25 years of homeschooling, she is enjoying sharing her passion and rich years of experience with families of children who learn differently.

Before earning her B.S. in elementary education, Carol discovered a heart for special learners through watching her younger brother struggle with learning differences. Many years later, the Kurlowich family was blessed with a daughter affected by Down Syndrome, opening one of the most exciting adventures of their lives!



Letitia Taylor's Goodbye

During the past 18 years, Letitia Taylor has demonstrated her passion for homeschooling by serving as a counselor for the Elementary Department at SCAIHS. As a veteran homeschool mother, Letitia has brought a deep understanding of the commitment and sacrifice that homeschooling requires. Serving the elementary members has been a ministry for her and we are deeply grateful for her many years of service. Letitia's last day was March 15, 2019. (Please see Letitia's farewell letter on page 4).

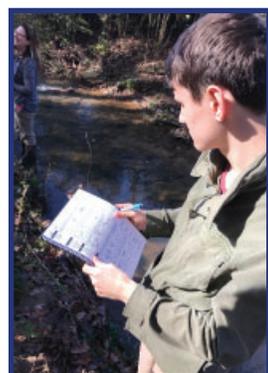
We pray for God's continued blessing on her and her family as she begins a new chapter in her life.

SCAIHS Student Recognitions

SCAIHS students are doing wonderful things! If your students have received awards or special recognitions, please let us know so we can include their accomplishments in future issues of SCAIHS Advantage. Congratulations to the following SCAIHS students:

SCAIHS 2nd grader **Emily Cambre** was cast in her second performance with Columbia Children's Theater as a member of the Pride Lands Ensemble in CCT's YouTheater production of **Lion King, Jr.**

Liam McCullough (right) is the **Regional Champion** in the 8th grade division of the **National Academic Bee**. He also placed 3rd in the 8th grade regionals of the **National History Bee** and 2nd in the 8th grade regionals of the **National Science Bee**.



Ethan Shier, (left) an 11th grade SCAIHS student, recently became a **certified stream water quality monitor** by completing a one-day, on-site Clemson Extension course. He also serves as a captain and drive team coach on the **4-H Garnet Squadron robotics team**. His team represented half of the winning alliance at the SC state level in **First Tech Robotics** for two consecutive years. This year they also won the **Rockwell Collins Innovate Award** and **Best Engineering Notebook** (league level).

Zeb Steigner made a **sword** with his grandfather for a costume he is planning to wear. Here is a before (left) and after (right) picture.



Ducky Steward, (below) a 14 year old 8th grade SCAIHS student, is an avid tennis competitor. Last year she started a non-profit organization called **SERVE**, which gives junior tennis players the opportunity to perform community service projects by partnering with local charities at tennis events and tournaments. SERVE events have benefited several charities, including: Lowcountry Food Bank, Reading Partners of SC, Habitat for Humanity, Lowcountry Junior Team Tennis, City of Charleston School Supply Drive, One Warm Coat, and Happy Wheels. Her program has been adopted by the **Lowcountry Youth Tennis Association** and has been recognized by the USTA (United States Tennis Association) as a **National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) initiative**. SERVE held eight events in 2018 and three so far in 2019, and it is expanding throughout SC.



Hi! My name is **Tyler West**, and I want to tell you about the **4-H Wildlife Food Plot Project**. I have been doing this project for five years and I love it; you get a bag of seeds after you register, and you must plant the seeds by November 1. You see all sorts of wildlife on your trail camera. When you visit the plot, you see all sorts of tracks of animals that came to your plot to eat. If you are quiet enough, you may even see a deer or turkeys using your plot when you go check on it.



If you love wildlife and want to learn more about the 4-H Wildlife Food Plot, go to your local Clemson Extension office or visit the website, www.clemson.edu/extension and click on 4-H Youth Development.

The motto for 4-H is "Make the Best Better!" I say, "Be the Best You Can Be!"

Greetings from Africa! My name is **Sonoma McGuffin** (age 16), and my family and I are **missionaries in Kenya**. We are restarting an orphanage in our compound which is next to Kibera slum, the second biggest slum in the world. I love being homeschooled because it gives me so many opportunities to help take care of our animals which will be the meat and milk supply for our orphanage when we get things started. We have goats, sheep, chickens, rabbits, and guinea pigs.

My siblings and I are able to have free time to do things like playing futbol (soccer) with the boarding students and hanging out with friends. I also get to choreograph my own hip-hop dances and teach others, and so much more!

Homeschooling gives me the opportunity to do so many things, and I even get to go to a daily devotional in the church every morning because there is no certain time school has to start. I usually finish school by noon which gives me the rest of the day to do any activities or chores I need to complete. Homeschooling has positively impacted my life over the past year, and I am very grateful for it. I hope you enjoy homeschooling as much as I do!

Sincerely,
Sonoma McGuffin



Dear SCAIHS Family,

It has been my privilege to be a part of your lives for eighteen years. I've enjoyed sharing your joys, successes, frustrations, and sorrows. It's been a delight to read of a student's achievements and accomplishments and to watch his/her growth over the years. I always looked forward to the SCAIHS group testing and the opportunity to meet the students whose records I read each year. I've enjoyed watching a generation of homeschooled children mature.

As technology morphed, so did my job at SCAIHS. I began by taking the school records home. I would enter the grades on a transcript form and save the transcripts on a floppy disk to be returned to SCAIHS on the next visit. After a year or so, it was decided that transcripts would be completed at the office, and so I began to work in the Elementary Department by reading paper reports. In a few years, I became an elementary counselor. The paper reports quickly moved to electronic records on a computer and we began to be able to work remotely.

When I started working for SCAIHS, our daughter was two and the office was on Western Lane in Irmo. The SCAIHS Board and Staff allowed me to bring our daughter to work with me, and she continued to come with me when the SCAIHS office moved to Knox Abbott Drive in Cayce. She was homeschooled from K-5 through 12th grade with SCAIHS as our

accountability association. The SCAIHS staff has been, and continues to be, a part of our family. By the time the office moved to its present location on St. Andrews Road, our daughter no longer needed to come with me to the office. And since starting to work remotely, I've rarely been to the office.

Thank you for indulging me to take this trip down memory lane. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 states that there is a time for everything. After much prayer, it is time for me to say farewell to all of you. God has used many life events over the past three years to help me finalize this decision, the most recent one being my husband's diagnosis of transverse myelitis on December 30, 2018.

I wish to leave you with three thoughts. First, when the days are hard and you think you can't continue homeschooling, pray, breathe, and keep homeschooling. Those days turn into months and then years, and they will pass--oh, so quickly. It is worth it! The second thought is to read aloud to your children. Reading to them accomplishes so much in their development. It is worth it! The third thought is to send your children outside to play. Play is valuable work for your children. It is worth it! Please know that the SCAIHS family will be in my thoughts and prayers!

Blessings,
Letitia