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NEWS RELEASE

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HCHS Graduate Nationally Known Author



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - James T. Farmer, III, Houston County High School graduate with the Class of 2000, has had great success as an author and landscape architect. His first book, *A Time to Plant*, was published September 2011. Farmer has also been featured on numerous television shows and in publications covering topics ranging from planting and landscaping to decorating and cooking.

A Time to Plant is about southern-style gardening and entertaining with how-to tips and recipes. While visiting with the Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) Gamma Omicron Chapter members and guests this month, Farmer told stories about his recent travels and T.V. interviews such as *The Today Show* and *Good Day Atlanta*. His book tour has taken him all over the U.S., autographing books for not only hometown friends but also celebrities such as Deborah Roberts, Nancy Pelosi and Barack and Michelle Obama. The *Wall Street Journal* recently listed his book as the number two gardening book in the U.S. In addition, ladies in Birmingham, Al. told him his book sold out in their area and they could not get a copy because Samford University is using it as a textbook for Horticulture 101.

After graduating from Auburn University with a degree in Landscape Design and Art History, in 2005 he established a landscape design business, James Farmer Designs. One of the gardens he renovated when he was 26 years old was featured in the book *Private Gardens of Georgia*. Farmer is a regular contributor to *Southern Living* magazine and was recently featured in the October and November 2011 issues. He has also been featured in other publications such as *Traditional Home*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Old House Interiors*.

Jan Jacobsen, who taught Farmer English and Composition at Houston County High, said, "James Farmer – what a delight! As a high school student, James was a conscientious and friendly young man. He did well with his studies and exhibited leadership skills among his peers and adults. As an educator it is heartwarming to witness success stories about our former students. We are proud of

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James for his first book, his business, and his accomplishments. His knowledgeable, witty and humble presentation at the DKG meeting was educational, entertaining and engaging.”

Farmer also shared stories about his childhood such as learning to cook from his Mimi, Sarah Granade. A native of Houston County, Farmer lives in Kathleen. He describes himself as being born “an old soul,” one who always knew what he wanted to do with his life. Even as a young boy, he knew he wanted to blend his interests of Southern cooking using ingredients from the family garden with the creation of beautiful arrangements also created from the nature around us. His recent book is only the first of many he plans to write. His family tree includes many local educators and Southern Baptist roots. His mother, Jeanie Farmer, taught in Houston County schools, and his grandmother, Sarah Granade, retired after 30 years of teaching with 25 years in Houston County schools at Warner Robins Jr., Tabor Jr and Perry High. His grandfather is Napp Granade, a well-known pastor who retired from Shirley Hills Baptist Church after 26 years of service; his uncle, Nelson Granade, pastors a church in North Carolina.

Jacobsen may be contacted at Jan.Jacobsen@hcbe.net or 478-988-6200, ext. 10393. Farmer may be reached through his Web site, www.jamesfarmer.com. For more information, visit his Web site, blog, www.allthingsfarmer.com or find him on Facebook.

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