



Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
The University of Georgia

Alumni Newsletter

Summer, 2007

Greetings from the Department Head



Greetings to the extended agricultural and applied economics family. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and has some good vacation trips or special activities planned. This newsletter contains a mix of departmental news, especially reports of various awards won by faculty, staff and, most important, students. Inside you will find details of a bunch of our best students who were recently awarded scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year. In total, these students received \$21,000 in scholarships. This is due in large part to the generosity of donors such as you. The ConnerConnects banquet was a huge success and included the presentation of the first ever Stephen J. Brannen Leadership Award. The \$500 award will help a student go to Brussels this summer to intern in the Georgia Department of Agriculture office there. This is exactly the sort of extracurricular learning experience that the Brannen Fund is designed to help students afford. I thank everyone who has contributed in the past for making opportunities like this possible and encourage you to donate again so that we can increase our scholarship awards, enabling us to reward more students in future years than we can afford to now. There is a convenient form included in this newsletter. So enjoy your summer and we hope to see or hear from you soon. *Jeffrey Dorfman*

ConnerConnects, 2007

The annual ConnerConnects Banquet was held on April 19, 2007 at the State Botanical Gardens Georgia Visitors Center in Athens, Georgia. The banquet provided a wonderful opportunity for college administration, alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends to socialize and become better acquainted. Rachael McCall, president of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club, presided over the event. We were honored to have Jack Bauerle, UGA's swimming and diving coach and upcoming 2008 U.S. Olympic swim coach, as our keynote speaker.

We extend our thanks to our banquet sponsors for their generous support which contributed greatly to the success of the event: Steve Brannen, Classic Groundcovers, the Georgia Agribusiness Council, and Gresco.

2007 Annual Tom Frazier Memorial Golf Classic

The 2007 Annual Tom Frazier Memorial Golf Classic was held Friday, April 20, 2007 at the newly renovated University of Georgia Golf Course. Competition was friendly but fierce as four teams tied for low gross honors shooting scores of 67. Using the scorecards to break the tie, the team of Larry Cunningham, Chris Cunningham and Neal Johnson won first place gross. Two teams tied for low net honors with a net score of 59. Using the scorecards again to break the tie, the team of Rachael McCall, Jeff Teasley and Chris Peters beat the team of Bill Frazier, Randall Cofer and Forest Stegelin, whose team took second place net honors. Individual awards went to the following: closest to the pin went to Larry Cunningham on hole 3, Mat Thompson on hole 8, Luke Lanier on hole 13 and Jeff Teasley on hole 16. William VanLandingham won both long drive awards on holes 1 and 18. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following: Bischero's Italian Restaurant for sponsoring team prizes for low gross, Forest Stegelin for donating the sleeves of golf balls for individual awards, Dave Cousart and the staff at the UGA Golf Course, the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and last but not least, a special thanks to Jo Anne Norris, Jeff Dorfman, and Chris Peters for their work behind the scenes in making this event possible.

Undergraduate Student News

Four departmental students were selected for Congressional Agricultural Fellowships and will be working in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2007.



Chris Chammoun will be working in the office of Senator Johnny Isakson.
Betsy MacMillan will be working in the office of Congressman Jim Marshall.
Bo Faircloth will be working in the office of Congressman Sanford Bishop, Jr.
Preston Cox will be working in the office of Congressman David Scott.

Cathy Strickland will spend the summer of 2007 working as an intern for the Georgia Department of Agriculture in Brussels, Belgium.

Award Recipients:

Outstanding Senior - Jim Faircloth



Jim is an Agribusiness major from Thomasville, Georgia. Among numerous other campus activities, Jim has served as president of AGHON, treasurer of the Ag Hill Council and as an Ambassador for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. He is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a recipient of the Sam Elliott Pope Memorial Scholarship.

Outstanding Agribusiness Major - Susannah Martin



Susannah is from Brooklet, Georgia. She served as the Collegiate 4-H Homecoming Chair, as a member of the Dance Marathon Special Events Committee, and the Picture Representative Slating Committee. She has served the community as a volunteer for the Boys and Girls Club, the East Georgia Regional Medical Center and the Northeast Georgia Food Bank. She is the recipient of the Mike Harper Leadership Scholarship, the CAES Alumni Association Scholarship, and the Tommy Irvin 4-H Scholarship.

Outstanding Environmental Economics & Management Major - Matt Davidson

Matt is from Atlanta, Georgia. He is a hardworking student who earned Dean's List Honors.

Outstanding Agricultural and Applied Economics Major - Asa Ornelas Gonzalez



Asa is from Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. She was in the 6% of CAES undergraduate students who earned Dean's List honors for the 2006 Fall Semester. She participates in an after-school tutoring program for Hispanic children at Pinewoods Library and also does some Spanish tutoring.

Leadership Award - Rachael McCall



Rachael is an Agricultural Economics major from Rochelle, Georgia. She is a National FFA Alumni Council Board Member and served as the Southern Region National FFA vice-president in 2005. She served as a member of the Governor's Agricultural Education Advisory Commission Committee and is president of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club. Also, she is the recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Award.

Scholarship Recipients 2007 - 2008

Georgia Farm Credit Associations Scholarship **Billy (Bo) Faircloth**
Rachael McCall
Luke Lanier
Chris Cunningham
Jim Faircloth

Firor Memorial Scholarship **Megan Knott**
Katherine Zimpel

Proctor Memorial Scholarship **Tiffany Williams**
Nathan Tyson
Andrew King

Co-Bank Scholarship **Betsy MacMillan**

Tate Brookins Scholarship **Adam Herbert**
Andrew Menaquale
Shannon Yee

Tom Frazier Scholarship **G. Ward Black, Jr.**

Georgia Cooperative Council Scholarship **Chris Chammoun**

Leadership Awards:

\$500 Stephen J. Brannen Award -
Brussels Internship **Cathy Strickland**

\$500 Tate Brookins - Congressional Fellowship **Preston Cox**

\$500 Tate Brookins - Congressional Fellowship **Bo Faircloth**

\$500 Tate Brookins - Congressional Fellowship **Chris Chammoun**

\$500 Tate Brookins - Congressional Fellowship **Betsy MacMillan**

Agricultural & Environmental Economics Club Officers for 2007-2008



President	Rachael McCall
Vice President	Brett Cochran
Secretary	Ward Black
Treasurer	Bo Faircloth
Ag Hill Representatives	Ben McCorkle
	Matt Waters
Faculty Advisor	Dr. Jim Epperson

Other News

Brandon Harrelson is the 2007-2008 president of the Ag Hill Council.

Amanda Eade is the 2007-2008 secretary of the Ag Hill Council.

Andrew Menaquale ranked in the top 5% of the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Seniors.

Graduate Student News

The following graduate students were presented awards at the Graduate Student Awards Ceremony on May 1, 2007.



Vahé Heboyan - 2007 Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award

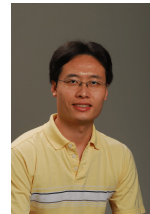


Elizabeth Hill - 2007 Claudia DePalma Davis Outstanding M.S. Student Award

Elizabeth Hill - 2007 Outstanding M.S. Paper Award for "Evaluation of the Impact of

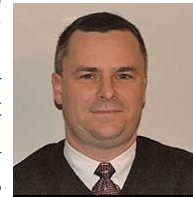
Government Land Use Policies on Tree Canopy Coverage in the 28-County Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area."

Yingzhou Yu - 2007 Rod Ziemer Outstanding Ph.D. Paper Award for "Evaluating Agricultural Banking Efficiency Using the Fourier Flexible Functional Form"



Faculty News

Dr. Barry Barnett was presented the 2007 Outstanding Faculty Award by the Graduate Student Association. He has resigned from his position as associate professor and has accepted a faculty position in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Mississippi State University.



Students, faculty, and staff wish Dr. Barnett great success in his new position.



Jeffrey H. Dorfman, professor and interim department head has been named to a four year term as editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (2008-2011) by the board of the American Agricultural Economics Association.



Dr. Cesar Escalante was presented the 2007 Junior Achievement in Research Award by the UGA Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society in Agriculture in recognition of outstanding research accomplishments in his early academic career. Dr. Escalante has also been promoted to associate professor and granted tenure.



Dean Scott Angle and Dr. Nathan Smith

Dr. Nathan Smith received the Tifton Campus Junior Extension Scientist Award for Excellence.



Dr. Dmitry Vedenov was presented the Outstanding Faculty Award by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club.

Staff News

Kim Waters (Accountant III) was presented the 2007 Outstanding Staff Award by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club. Kim was also presented the 2007 Outstanding Staff Award by the Graduate Student Association.



Alumni News

Chris Cliett (B.S.A. in agricultural economics in 1984) has been promoted to executive vice president and elected to the board of directors of First Southern National Bank in Statesboro. Chris is the chief credit officer of First Southern and is one of the founders of the bank.

Clint Murphy (B.S.A. in agribusiness in 2004) accepted a position with Ducks Unlimited as South Georgia regional director.

Steve Newton (B.S.A. in agricultural economics in 1979) has been named the executive vice president of the Southern Nursery Association, Inc. Steve has been serving in the Bush Administration as State Executive Director of the Georgia Farm Service Agency and most recently as Special Assistant to the Administrator in Washington, D.C. as State Executive Director.

We are so grateful to our alumni and friends for their financial support of the department. Listed below are the names of those who have made financial contributions to the department from June 11, 2005 - May 31, 2007:

\$1000-\$10,000

Jere T. Thorne
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Brannen

\$500 - \$999

Dr. Kenneth Foster
Hayden A. Cox
Larry Cunningham
Dr. George Shumaker
Xuecai (Jack) Wang
R. Jerry R. Crews
Wilbur C. Mull - Classic
Groundcovers, Inc.
C. Randall Nuckolls
James E. Brown
Dr. Eugene Cox Murkison
Dr. Ivery & Pat Clifton
William & Martha Givan
Phil or Jim Ham, Sleepy Creek
Farms
Peter & Lynn Albano
John Colin Perner
Pepsico Foundation, Inc.

\$200 - \$499

Dr. & Mrs. Josef Broder
Dr. & Mrs. Wen Williams
James R & Nancy R. Donald
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Colin
Ingram
Adolph Sanders
Richard K. Noles
Josh Chandler
Johnny E. Hyers & Louise J.
Hyers
Randall Calvin Copeland &
Mrs. Mary Miltner Copeland
Anastasios Haniotis
Nancy Carol Firor Kibbee for
Hugh V. Firor, M.D.

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Beasley
Jerry & Karen Crews
Ruel Max Sellers
Dr. James Epperson

\$1 to \$199

Mr. & Mrs. William Anthony
Schwoerer
Dr. Fred C. White
Ronny Max Franks
Robert Lewis Newsome III
Ellis Brothers (William Ellis)
George Edward Thornton &
Mrs. Lee Duvall Thornton
UBS Matching Gift Program
for Joseph Sammons
Melissa K. Inoue
GlaxoSmith Kline - company
match for William A. Schwoerer
The Dawson David Company,
LLC (David Lorrens)
Eric Eugene Skinner
Desmond Wright Harp
Clark Joseph Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. James Edward
Trevithick
The Wachoia Foundation, Inc.-
company match for
Franklin Earl Aldag
Mrs. Leigh B. Wilson
Bruce Erwin Butler
Ernest Clinton Smith III
Peter Buton Hendrix
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Dudley
Brumby
Michael A. Buchheit
Dr. Patricia Ellen Norris
Susan Ballou Wiles
Keith Boyett
George & Susan Livingston III
Jeffrey Alonzo Minor
Stephen Patrick Griswell
Judy Johnson Watters
Robert H. Cole
Deborah McKinney Dent
John Hayes
Jackie W. Hartley
Mary Jane Wilson
Donald Altman
Denise W. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Scott Wolf
Leon Horace Langley, Jr.
Donna Leigh Stokely
Gene & Janene C. Sullivan
Dr. Anne Firor Scott

ERA First Realty of LaGrange,
Inc. (Jerry Johnson)
Robert and Jayne Hill
T. Kelley White
Mr. & Mrs. Max Sellers
Mr. & Mrs. Walter G.
Culverhouse
Mr. & Mrs John Chilang Chung
Fred & Peggy Greer
Ira Buddy Lee
Stephen C. Morse
Garland Thompson
Wilson Weathersby Farm
Dr. James Elbert Nix
Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Moss
Chris Lance
Walter J. Drabantowicz, Jr.
Robert A. Hill
Dr. David Bruce Narrie
William H. Mills
Jerry H. Padgett
Dr. Henry Doss Brodnax, Jr.
Rodney Nathan Fowler
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Colin
Ingram
Dr. & Mrs. Wen Williams
Jonathan Carlton Wicker
J.C. Kirk
Thomas J. Fox
Emory Brooks
Hakeem O. Akinsanya
Leah Camp Atkinson
Chris Batchelor
Devine Properties, LLC
Sharon Gabel Buchannan
Pamela G. Willis
Skyline Plumbing & Septic,
Inc.
Fred Thrower
Alex G. Lebedeff
Joseph Deloach
Sam H. Gordy
Aleksandar Zelenovic & Hope
E. Bryer (In memory
of Charles Seckinger)

Your tax deductible contributions to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics programs help to ensure the continued quality educational experiences that are an integral part of student life in the department. Your contributions will aid the department in providing scholarships and resources for students to travel and compete in professional programs, develop leadership skills and generally improve the department's teaching programs. Additional support is needed for the Improvement Fund, as well as endowments for scholarships, leadership awards, and a distinguished professorship. Many employers will match employee contributions to their alma maters. Please check with your company to see if it will match your contributions to the department.

Please consider making an investment in future economic leaders by supporting our educational programs. Checks should be made payable to the Arch Foundation and mailed to 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. You may specify which fund you want your contribution to support: Agricultural Economics Fund (supports general departmental activities), Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund, Tom Frazier Scholarship Fund, Wen Williams Scholarship Fund, Evan Brown International Education Fund, William Firor Scholarship Fund, Roy Proctor Scholarship Fund, or Tate Brookins Scholarship Fund. (Please see form on last page.)

Outstanding Agricultural Economist Awards—Now Accepting Nominations

The Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) presents yearly awards to agricultural economists who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level. Candidacy is limited to agricultural economists operating in Georgia and/or graduates of a degree program offered by the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia.

There are two awards which are based on the number of years of experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award* is presented to those with ten years or less of professional experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award* is presented to those with more than ten years of professional experience.

Nominations for the awards may come from anyone. AEAG members, faculty, alumni, students and agricultural economists in the state are encouraged to nominate qualified candidates for the awards. Also, agricultural economists should feel free to nominate themselves.

The nomination process is simple. Provide a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments, education, work experience, current position, past recognitions and awards, and contact information. Send nominations to the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. The deadline for award nominations is September 15, 2007. AEAG Board members will select award recipients. Both awards will be presented at the luncheon following the annual J. W. Fanning Lecture in November.

**My Contributions to The University of Georgia
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics**

Agricultural Economics Improvement Fund
(supports general department activities).....\$ _____

Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund.....\$ _____

Tom Frazier Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____

Wen Williams Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____

Evan Brown International Education Fund.....\$ _____

William Firor Memorial Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____

Roy Proctor Memorial Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____

Tate Brookins Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Arch Foundation and mail to 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

Contributors of \$500 or more will receive one commemorative item of their choice from the list below at no charge.

**Poster – Agribusiness, Environmental Economics & Management, or Agricultural Economics
T-shirt - Agribusiness, Environmental Economics & Management, or Agricultural Economics
(Please indicate size: small ___ medium ___ large ___ extra large ___.)**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Thank you for your contributions!