Graduation

Governor Sonny Perdue spoke at the University of Georgia commencement and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences recognition ceremony on May 14, 2005. He is shown here with the Spring 2005 Agricultural and Applied Economics graduates.

Conner Connects, 2005

The annual Conner Connects Banquet was held on April 21, 2005 at the State Botanical Gardens, Georgia Visitors Center in Athens, Georgia. Guests at the celebration included college administration, alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends. Jared Nutt, president of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club, presided over the festivities. The keynote speaker was Gary Black, president of the Georgia Agribusiness Council, Inc.

We appreciate the banquet sponsors for their generous support which contributed greatly to the success of Conner Connects, 2005. The department extends a heartfelt thank you to all who participated and to our sponsors: Gresco, Mr. Jake Jones, Mr. Jim Nutt, Dr. Bob Shulstad, and Dr. Wen Williams.

The Rod Ziemer Lecture

Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin presented the Rod Ziemer Lecture at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens on April 12, 2005. Commissioner Irvin explained the mission and activities of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The Department's mission is to protect and promote agriculture and consumer interests, and to ensure an abundance of safe food and fiber for Georgia, America, and the world by using state-of-the-art technology and a professional workforce. He also identified the Department's new initiatives in Georgia's agricultural products and examined the international marketplace.

The lecture honors an outstanding graduate from the Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics, Rod Ziemer, who tragically died in an automobile accident. Rod was a prolific author and a leader among graduate students. He was selected as the CAES Outstanding Graduate Student and also received the American Agricultural Economics Association's Outstanding Dissertation Award. The annual lecture not only brings honor to the memory of this remarkable graduate, but also inspires excellence in future generations of agricultural economics graduate students.

Tom Frazier Golf Classic

The Second Annual Tom Frazier Golf Classic was held Friday, April 15, 2005 at the University of Georgia Golf Course. The golf course was in excellent condition and for the second straight year participants could not ask for nicer weather. The team of Tom Frazier, Bill Frazier and Chuck Laughlin won Low Gross honors with a score of 67. First Place Net went to the team of Josh Chandler, Cole McNair, Brett Tucker and Michael Railey. Second Place Net went to the team of Chris Baucom, Greg Baucom, Chris Groskreutz and Brian Reeves. Special thanks go to Jo Anne Norris and Chris Peters for their work behind the scenes in making this event possible.

Faculty News

Dr. Barry Barnett were inducted into AGHON as an honorary member at their annual barbecue on April 9, 2005. Each semester the student membership selects honorary members who have exhibited outstanding leadership and growth.

Dr. Jack Houston was presented the Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award by the Graduate Student Association at the Graduate Student Reception and Awards Ceremony on April 12, 2005.
At the Conner Connects Banquet on April 21, 2005, Dr. John Bergstrom was presented the Outstanding Faculty Award and Dr. Dmitry Vedenov was presented the Service Award.

Dr. Ivery Clifton, former senior associate dean of CAES was presented the Faculty Service Award by the UGA Alumni Association on April 29th, 2005

Dr. Keith Kightlinger was elected as co-chair of the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee.

Dr. Luanne Lohr has been awarded a Fellowship for Study in a Second Discipline with a concentration on Consumer Foods in the Department of Foods and Nutrition.

Dr. Don Shurley was presented the 2005 Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Extension Award on April 6, 2005.

Dr. Nathan Smith was elected as secretary of the Southern Extension Public Affairs Committee and will serve as a member of the National Public Policy Education Committee.

Drs. Nathan Smith, Vijay Subramaniam, Stanley Fletcher and John Baldwin received the Southern Agricultural Economics Association’s Outstanding Poster Award.

Jo Anne Norris, office manager, was inducted into AGHON as an honorary member on April 9, 2005 at their annual barbecue. Each semester the student membership selects honorary members who have exhibited outstanding leadership and growth.

Laura Alfonso, reference librarian, was presented the Outstanding Staff Award at the Graduate Student Reception and Awards Ceremony on April 12, 2005.

Yanping Chen, computer specialist, was presented the Outstanding Staff Member Award at the Conner Connects Banquet on April 21, 2005.

Dianne O’Kelley, senior secretary, retired from the university on April 1, 2005 after twenty-three years of dedicated service to the department.

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 1, 2005. AEAG Board members will select award recipients. Both awards will be presented at the luncheon following the annual J. W. Fanning Lecture in November.
**Undergraduate Student News**

**Allyson Barnes**, an Agricultural and Environmental Policy major, and **Sam Daniel**, an Agricultural Economics and Finance major, were selected for membership in the Blue Key National Honor Society on April 3, 2005. Blue Key is a premier honor society that recognizes college students for balanced and all-around excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

The Nesbitt Flatt Award for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Outstanding Senior was presented to **Joel McKie**, an agribusiness major, at the South Campus Student Awards Banquet on April 5, 2005. **Candice Clark**, an agribusiness major, was recognized as one of sixteen outstanding seniors in the college.

The following undergraduate students were inducted into the UGA Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture on April 6, 2005: **Candice Clark**, **Joel McKie**, and **Jessica Wood**.

The following students were inducted into the AGHON Honorary Society on April 9, 2005 at their annual barbecue: **Allyson Barnes**, **Will Horkan**, **Jim Faircloth**, and **Candice Clark**. AGHON is the highest honor that a student in CAES may obtain while at UGA.

At the Conner Connects Banquet on April 21, 2005, **Candice Clark** received the Outstanding Senior Award, **Joel McKie** received the Outstanding Agribusiness Senior Award, **Christopher McClure** received the Outstanding Environmental Economics and Management Senior Award, and **Tim Haley** received the Leadership Award.

The following students were selected as CAES Ambassadors: **Bret Caudell**, an Agribusiness major from Toccoa, GA; **Betsy MacMillan**, an Environmental Economics and Management major from McDonough, GA; and **Ben McCorkle**, an Agribusiness major from Dearing, GA.

**2005 - 2006 Scholarship Winners**

**Georgia Farm Credit Associations**
- Elizabeth MacMillan
- Will Horkan
- Nathan Tyson

**Firor Memorial Scholarship**
- Marilyn Howard
- Philip Brown

**Proctor Memorial Scholarship**
- William Green
- Sam Daniel

**Co-Bank Scholarship**
- David Nolan

**Tate Brookins Scholarship**
- Cathy Strickland

**2005-2006 Agricultural & Environmental Economics Club Officers**

**President** Brett Tucker

**Vice Presidents**
- Bo Dotson (AEC)
- Steven Kuzniak (AGB)
- Scott Laughlin (EEM)

**Secretary** Cathy Strickland

**Treasurer** Lauren Vance

**Ag Hill Representatives**
- Suzannah Martin
- Ben McCorkle
- Marilynn Howard

**Allyson Barnes** is the new 2005-2006 Ag Hill Council President.

**Washington Interns**

The following students are currently serving as summer interns in Washington, D.C.:

- **Griffin Evans** is serving in Congressman Jack Kingston’s office,
- **Will Horkin** is serving in Senator Saxby Chambliss’s office,
- **Allyson Barnes** is serving in Congressman Sanford Bishop’s office,
- **Carter Dunn** is serving in Congressman John Barrow’s office, and
- **David Nolan** is interning for the US Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Graduate Student News**

The following students were inducted into the UGA Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture on April 6, 2005: **Luke Baine**, an M.S. Environmental Economics major, **Peter Foster**, an M.S. Environmental Economics major, **Doris Wangila Sande**, an M.S. Agricultural Economics major, and **Kathryn Swickard**, an M.S. Agricultural Economics major.

At the Graduate Student Reception and Awards Ceremony on April 12, 2005, **Sarah Deng** received the Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award and **Julia Beckhusen**
received the Outstanding M.S. Student Award. **Dimitry Volinskiy** was the Rod Ziemer Paper Award winner for “Inexactness in Contingent Valuation: Valuing Forest Damage Restoration with a Fuzzy Logic Advisor.”

**Alumni News**

**Wilbur Mull** conducted the Annual Black Tie Auction Gala for the UGA Football Team with the auction sale totaling $47,800.

**Dave McElyea** recently retired from American Express in Phoenix, Arizona after twenty years with the company.

**Donations to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics for July 2003 - June 10, 2005**

We are very grateful to our alumni and friends for their financial support of the department.

**Diamond: $10,000 or more**
- Frank & Ann Brookins
- Jere Thorne

**Platinum: $2,000-$9,999**
- Dr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Brannen
- Hsi-huang Chen
- Billy Crider, Jr.

**Gold: $1000-$1,999**
- James A. Brown, Jr.
- Karlene F. Farmer
- James R. Gamble, Jr.
- John A. Gilleland
- W. Joseph & Linda Laughlin
- David Linder
- Wilbur Mull
- Randy Nuckolls
- Fred C. White

**Silver: $200-$999**
- Dr. & Mrs. Josef Broder
- Robert (Bobby) Burton, Jr
- Hayden A. Cox
- James Epperson
- J. H. Faulkner
- Jason & Brigett Robin Floyd
- Craig Willis Foster
- Rodney Fowler
- Thomas Frazier
- Tassos Haniotis
- William & Elizabeth Hopkins
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Ingram
- Edward & Peggy James
- Dan Jeter
- Livia Cloman Lynch
- Mark Messonnier
- Kate Morris
- Robert B. Moss
- Jerry Padgett
- Robert Shulstad

Dr. & Mrs. George Shumaker
Steve Turner

**Bronze: $1-$199**
- Donald Wayne & Myrtis Halstead Akins
- Olugbenga Hakeem Akinsanya
- Franklin Earl Aldag
- Donald L. Altman
- ARAMARK Corporation (company match for William Davis)
- Julian H. Atkinson
- Aventis Pharmaceuticals (company match for Joseph Sean Ragsdale)
- Chandler Davis & Sonja Lee Bennett
- Joe Brown Bostick, Jr. & Jean Jeffords Bostick
- Joseph Walter Boyett
- John David Brett
- Jim Brown, Jr.
- Bruce E. Butler
- Clifford Morris Carman
- Roger Carr
- Joanne Daly Casey
- David B. Collins, Inc.
- John Charles Crenshaw
- John Chapman Cromley
- William Edwin Davis
- James Harold Dixon Cromley
- Devin Lee & Regina Cannon Dunn
- Jerald Wayne Eunice
- William M. Exner
- William Archie Flanders
- Linda Dianne Fountain
- Robert Franklin
- Stevens Thomas Franklin
- Eric Edward Friedrichsen
- Carson Lee Gardner
- Nathan Morris Garren
- David A. Gazda
- Willie Iverson Golden
- Michael Harold Greer
- Joe Ernest & Victoria Murphy Hayes
- Bryan James Henderson
- Peter Burton Hendrix
- Arlyn Herrera
- Robert A. Hill
- Robert Hodges, Jr.
- Stephen Wesley Hooks
- Brian & Mandie Smith Holmes
- William Leonard Howard
- James Norman Hunter
- Melissa Inoue
- David Harold Jackson Edward James
- Jerry Johnson
- William Daniel Kibler
- George Chris Lance
- Alex G. Lebedeff
- Oliver W. Mahone
- James Duane McClay
- Clayton Julius & Jill McDuffie
- Gail Meads (LeGoff)
- Michael Meadows
Please provide financial support to enrich the department's educational programs. The Agricultural and Applied Economics Improvement Fund supports many events that promote economic learning and the intellectual exchange of ideas. 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 they will match your contributions to the department.

Contact Information

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Scenes from 2nd Annual Tom Frazier Golf Classic

Scenes from ConnerConnects 2005
Career Choices

Your career choice would be of interest to current and prospective students. Please tell us about it by answering the short survey included with this newsletter and returning it to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. Your updated information will be posted on the departmental website. The survey may also be downloaded and emailed to info@agecon.uga.edu. Thank you for your participation!

Alumni Survey - Agricultural and Applied Economics Department

Name (include Miss, Ms., Mrs., or Mr.) ____________________________________________________________

Degree(s) (Major, University and Year) ____________________________________________________________

Would you please comment on the quality of the department’s undergraduate/graduate programs (courses, faculty, staff, networking, etc.).

Contact Information

Address: _________________________________________________________________________________

City: _________________ County: ______________ State: ______ ZIP Code: ____________

Home Phone: __________________________ Business Phone: ________________________________

E-mail Address: ______________________________________________________________________

Employment

Employer: _______________________________________________________________________________

Current Job Title: _________________________________________________________________________

Current Job Responsibilities: __________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

News: Do you have a news update to be published in the Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAE) Department’s Alumni Newsletter and/or posted on the AAE Alumni web page?

________________________

I am willing to have this information published in a newsletter or posted on the Agricultural and Applied Economics alumni site on the Internet.

Signed: _________________________ Date: ___________________

Please return your address and career information on the completed form to Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509 or e-mail the information to <aaecon@agecon.uga.edu>.