

Agricultural and Applied Economics

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Department welcomes new faculty member

A new faculty member has joined the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department.

Dr. Chen Zhen comes from RTI International, an independent, nonprofit institute that provides research on health, the environment, economic and social policy, and other subjects to clients around the world.

From 2006 to 2015, he served as a research economist in RTI's Food and Nutrition Policy Research Program. Now at UGA, he takes on the role of UGA Athletic Association Associate Professor in Food Choice, Obesity and Health Economics.

Dr. Zhen's specialty is demand and price analysis, applied econometrics and the economics of nutrition and healthy eating. His work on soda tax, in which he researched the effects of taxing sugary drinks and evaluated the tax's effect on reducing caloric intake and obesity, has been featured in *The New*



York Times and on NPR, WHYY and WNYC.

Most recently, Dr. Zhen has begun expanding his research to include U.S. tobacco control policies and China nutrition policies.

Dr. Zhen has received numerous awards, including the RTI President's Award and the RTI Career Author Award. He also received an honorable mention for Best Economics Paper in Food Safety and Nutrition from the Agricultural

In This Issue:

- Greetings from Department Head.....2
- Department News.....2
- Department Publications.....3
- J.W. Fanning Lecture.....4
- Student Spotlight.....6
- AEAG Section.....9

and Applied Economics Association.

Additionally, he has refereed several academic journals, including the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *China Agricultural Economic Review*, and *Public Health Nutrition*, among others.

Please join the department in extending a warm welcome and best wishes to Dr. Zhen as he begins his time at the University of Georgia.



Greetings from the Department Head

Dear friends:

It's almost time for the 31st annual J.W. Fanning lecture! Our speaker this year is Dr. Christopher Barrett from Cornell University's Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. He will be presenting a lecture titled "Development Resilience: Theory, Measurement, and Implications." The J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional and Young Professional awards will be presented at the luncheon following the lecture. For more information, please see the J.W. Fanning section in this newsletter. Included is a schedule of the day's events and a registration form. We hope to see you there.

Additionally, the department would like to welcome its newest faculty member. Dr. Chen Zhen comes to us from RTI International, a non-profit research institute. You can read more about him on the front page of this newsletter.

Seven of our undergraduate students were selected to be CAES Ambassadors for the 2015-2016 academic year. Along with eight other students from the college's other departments, these seven will represent the college and assist with recruitment and public relations events throughout the year. The Student Spotlight section has more information on each of our seven ambassadors.

I would like to encourage all of our alumni to keep in touch with us. Please consider sharing updates about changes in your life or career so that we can print them in the newsletter.

Sincerely,



Octavio Ramirez

McKissick honored by Georgia Farm Bureau

Professor Emeritus Dr. John McKissick received the 2015 Georgia Farm Bureau Commodity Award at this year's GFB Commodity Conference. This award is one of the GFB's highest honors and is presented to those who have supported and promoted Georgia agriculture.

McKissick came to UGA in 1976 as a livestock and grain economist on the Tifton campus. He transferred to the Athens campus later on and was named Extension Coordinator in 1999 and became director of the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development in 2000. He held both of these positions until his retirement in 2010. Currently, he is a part-time Extension Livestock Economist with UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

McKissick has written more than 675 articles and publications, presented more than 1,000 educational programs and given at least



one economic presentation in each of Georgia's 159 counties.

Park on detail at Council of Economic Advisers

Former faculty member Timothy Park is on detail at the Council of Economic Advisers for a year, which began in June 2015.

"I work mostly on agricultural issues but also been tasked with analysis of international trade issues this summer since this an emerging policy issue for the administration," he said.

"It is a fast paced environment with a significant chance to contribute economic analysis to the policy process while interacting with the CEA's principal members and other senior economists."

Department Publications

Chen, Tinggui, M. Liu, Y. Takahashi, J.D. Mullen, **G.C.W. Ames**. 2015. "Carbon emission reduction and cost-benefit of methane digester systems on hog farms in China," *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, Aug. 20: 1-19. Available online at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/W4hsZGmTrffaqVH9h5Ke/full>

Angioloni, Simone, Zarylbek Kudabaev, **Glenn C. W. Ames**, and Michael Wetzstein. 2015. "Household Allocation of Microfinance Loans in Kyrgyzstan," Paper presented at the 29th International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE), Milan, Italy. August 13.

Centner, T.J., and **G. Kostandini**, "Local Governments Want Authority to Address Problems: The Case of Horizontal Drilling and Hydraulic Fracturing in the United States,"

Land Use Policy 49(2015):227-235.

Centner, T.J., and J.E. Alcorn, "Preemption of Local Governmental Ordinances Regulating Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in the United States," *Environment and Pollution* 4,2 (2015):66-76.

Rousu, M.C., J.R. Corrigan, D. Harris, J.K. Hayter, S. Houser, B.A. LaFrancois, O. Onafowora, **G. Colson**, and A. Hoffer (2015). "Do Monetary Incentives Matter in Classroom Experiments? Effects on Course Performance," *The Journal of Economic Education* 46(4):341-349.

Menapace, L., **G. Colson**, and R. Raffaelli (2015). "Climate Change Beliefs and Perceptions of Agricultural Risks: An Application of the Exchangeability Method," *Global Environmental Change* 35:70-81.

Rousu, M.C., **G. Colson**, J.R. Corrigan, C. Grebitus, M. Loureiro (2015). "Deception in Experiments: Towards Guidelines on Use in Applied Economics Research," *Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy* 37(3):524-236.

Dorfman, J.H. and **B. Karali**, "A Nonparametric Search for Information Effects from USDA Reports," *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 40(1):124-143 (2015).

Dorfman, J. H., and **B. Karali**, "The Pattern of Price Linkages among Commodities," *Journal of Futures Markets* 34:11 (Nov. 2014) 1062-1076.

Dorfman, J. H. and M. D. Park, "Smaller Portfolio Returns and the Risk-Return Tradeoff for the Whole Market." *Applied Financial Economics* 24:13 (2014) 853-869.

Escalante, C.L., Y. Wu, and X. Li. "Organic Farms' Seasonal Farm Labor Sourcing Strategies in the Pre-"Arizona" Mode of Immigration Control." *Applied Economics Letters*, Available online at <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/Ygebe6E4MXzPRDXhaZbb/full#.VcObYk13upo>

(continued on page 9)

31st Annual J.W. Fanning Lecture

The 31st annual J. W. Fanning lecture will be on **November 19, 2015** at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. We are honored to have **Dr. Christopher B. Barrett** from the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University as this year's speaker. His lecture is entitled "**Development Resilience: Theory, Measurement, and Implications.**"

Dr. Barrett is the David J. Nolan Director of the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, as well as the Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management. He has published 14 books and more than 260 book chapters or articles in industry journals. Dr. Barrett received a dual Ph.D. in Economics and Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994.



Agenda for J.W. Fanning Events

All events will take place at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

8:30 a.m. — Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia Board Meeting
Craig Boardroom

10:00 a.m. — Registration and Refreshments
Pecan Tree Galleria

10:30 a.m. — J.W. Fanning Lecture
Masters Hall

Welcome: Dean Scott Angle, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Introduction of Speaker: Octavio Ramirez, Head and Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA

Lecture: Dr. Christopher B. Barrett

12:00 noon — Luncheon
Magnolia Ballroom

Presentation of J.W. Fanning Professional Awards: Bryan Tolar, President of Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia

1:30 p.m. — Adjourn

The cost of the luncheon is \$30. There is no cost for attending the lecture only.



31st Annual J.W. Fanning Lecture & Luncheon Registration

November 19, 2015

REGISTRATION: Lecture attendance is free. A registration fee of \$30 is required for the luncheon. Please register no later than October 31, 2015 to reserve your seat at the luncheon. Make check payable to the **Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia** and return with the form below.

I plan to attend the lecture and luncheon _____ Number of attendees: _____

I plan to attend the lecture only _____

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address:

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP code: _____

Please return all forms to the **Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509**. You may call Emily Clance at **706-542-0763** (email eclance@uga.edu) or Jo Anne Norris at **706-542-2481** to confirm your reservation.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CAES Ambassadors

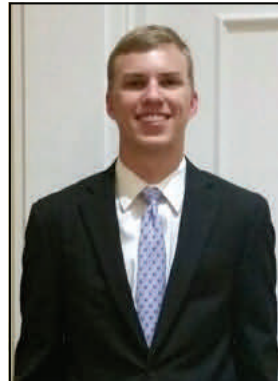
Seven Agricultural and Applied Economics students have been selected as CAES Ambassadors for the 2015-2016 school year. Each one went through an application process that included a mandatory information session, an application, a group interview and an individual interview.

Erich Meyer is a senior agribusiness major from Arnoldsville. CAES ambassadors made an impact on him when he was in high school and going to the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie with his family. “The



ambassadors at the Expo were some of the first people that I came across from CAES. They were always very helpful and never minded sitting and talking with me about different majors and school in general,” Meyer said. “I wanted to be an ambassador so that I could be that person who, one day, shows an individual later in high school that coming to CAES is the right choice for them, just as I had someone do for me.” Additionally, he is looking forward to how his role as an ambassador will help improve his public speaking skills.

Michael Thompson is a senior Agribusiness major from Toccoa. His long-term goal of becoming a public servant spurred his goal of serving as a student ambassador, as did his



desire to give back to the school that’s given so much to him in his college career. The aspect of the job he’s most looking forward to is influencing students who are deciding where to further their education. “I believe this choice is one of the most

crucial a student will ever make,” Thompson said, “and it would be an honor for me to be able to help a student find their place at the University of Georgia.” He would also like to thank the faculty for pushing their students towards excellence and for everything they do to give the students an amazing college experience.

Alexis Barnes is a junior Food Industry Marketing and Administration major from Decatur. She came to UGA specifically for



CAES, but was unsure of what, exactly, she wanted to do. “I knew I wanted become an agriculturist but was unsure of exactly I wanted to do but I knew the abundance of opportunities the college had would be the best for me to figure it out,” she said. “The past two years have been inspiring, enriching, and endearing and I wanted to be a part of that legacy for as many other students as I can.” Being named as

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

CAES Ambassadors

an ambassador was humbling, she added, and she's honored to be deemed worthy of representing the college.

Haley Cook is a senior Agribusiness major from Franklin. She's greatly looking forward to serving current and potential students as she did during CAES Orientation in the summer of 2014.



"While working for the college during orientation, I got a chance to interact with new students in our college in addition to recruiting students to our college," she said. "It was during that summer that I realized how much I enjoyed working with new students and potential students in addition to serving the college." Additionally, she is also looking forward to networking with people involved in the college and numerous agribusinesses, as well as fine tuning her communication skills.



Matthew Pace is a senior Agricultural and Applied Economics major from Lyerly. He wanted to be a CAES Ambassador to promote the college that not only has supported the state of Georgia but has also developed himself as an individual. "The support

from faculty and staff proves that the college invests in the success of their students and works to ensure they are equipped with the skills they need to succeed. That in itself is

something to be proud of and worth giving back to," he said. He's looking forward to getting to know his fellow ambassadors and to contributing towards the improvement of the college.

Charice Stroud (not pictured) is a senior double major in Agribusiness and Food Industry Marketing and Administration from Decatur. She became an ambassador in order to give back to the college in a meaningful way. She is most looking forward to interacting with students across the state of Georgia, as well as expanding her network and honing her communication skills to become a more effective leader. "I am very thankful to all of the faculty and staff members within the college who have caused me to become the student and the Ambassador I am today," she said.

Jake Todd (not pictured) is an Agribusiness major from Arnoldsville. He has always enjoying giving back to groups that have helped him in the past, so becoming an ambassador was a great opportunity for him to do so. "through the CAES Ambassador program I am able to give a helping hand back to the college by recruiting future students to have the same opportunities that I received," he said, adding that he is looking forward to meeting potential CAES students and helping them find their passions. He is eager to learn leadership and teamwork skills, as well as how to teach people "to see the world from an agricultural point of view."

These seven students will join eight more from the college's other departments in the coming academic year. CAES Ambassadors represent the college and assist with student recruitment and public relations events throughout the year.

Department Publications

(continued from page 3)

Ghimire, R., **S. Ferreira**, and **J. H. Dorfman**. "Flood-Induced Displacement and Civil Conflict," *World Development* (Feb. 2015) 614-628.

Atreya, A., **S. Ferreira** and E. Michel-Kerjan (2015) "What Drives Households to Buy Flood Insurance? Evidence from Georgia" *Ecological Economics*, 117:153–161

Atreya, A. and **S. Ferreira** (2015) "Seeing is Believing? Evidence from Property Prices in Inundated Areas" *Risk Analysis* 35(5): 828-848.

Ferreira, S. and **B. Karali**, "Do Earthquakes Shake Stock Markets?" *PLoS ONE*, 10(7): e0133319. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0133319 (2015).

Mekonnen, D., D. Spielman, **E.G. Fonsah**, and **J.H. Dorfman**, "Innovation Systems and Technical Efficiency in Developing Country Agriculture," *Agricultural Economics* 46 (2015) 1-14.

Nicholas Magnan, David J. Spielman, Travis J. Lybbert, and Kajal Gulati (2015). "Leveling with Friends: Social Networks and Indian Farmers' Demand for a Technology with Heterogeneous Benefits." *Journal of Development Economics* 116: 223-251.

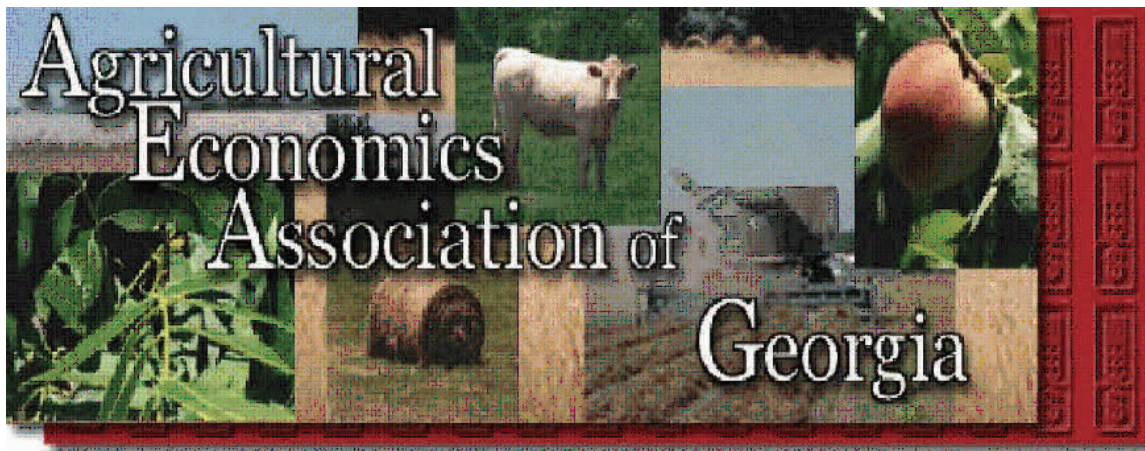
Ramirez, O.A., C.A. Carpio and A.J. Collart (2015). "Are the Federal Crop Insurance Subsidies Equitably Distributed? Evidence from a Monte Carlo Simulation Analysis." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 40(3)1-19.

Do you have news?

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics wants to hear about the important events in your life. If you have any news to share, please share with us!

Updates on career changes, moves, marriages, births of children and changes in email addresses are always welcome. Additionally, if you have something you'd like to see in the newsletter, let us know!

You can email Emily Clance at eclance@uga.edu with your information or mail it to 303 Conner Hall, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, Athens, GA 30602.



As fellow graduates from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department of the University of Georgia, we invite you to join the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia. The investment is nominal, but the rewards and mission are great. It is our hope that most of you will want to support the organization that promotes our industry and field of education.

The Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) was established in 1976.

The goals of the Association are:

- ◆ To provide opportunities for the professional improvement of people interested in the field of agricultural economics
- ◆ To provide a forum for the discussion of economic problems and issues of mutual interest to people working in agriculture, agribusiness, and related fields
- ◆ To recommend solutions to economic problems facing Georgia's agriculture

Agricultural economics is involved in all sectors of our economy. The opportunities are greater now than ever before. We must recruit more students and better support agricultural economists if we are to meet the challenges for further application of agricultural economics to farm, resource, environmental, and agribusiness problems.

The AEAG board has new goals to support students in agricultural and applied economics as well as high school students who have yet to make decisions about college. We need your support to be able to carry out those goals to assist the future leaders in our field.

- ◆ AEAG membership offers benefits through the following:
- ◆ *Journal of Agribusiness*
- ◆ AEAG newsletter
- ◆ J.W. Fanning lecture
- ◆ Recognition for career accomplishments
- ◆ Enhanced educational opportunities for students in agricultural economics

(continued)

In addition, AEAG enjoys an active relationship with the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia. The activities of the association provide occasions for interaction among AEAG members, faculty and students. This interaction provides students and professionals important opportunities to network for the purpose of future career connections and the sharing of information and knowledge.

Below you will find an application for membership. Lifetime memberships are also available. If you would like to know more about AEAG, visit the AEAG website at <http://aeag.uga.edu>.

Yes, I would like to join the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia!

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check one:

- Student Member (\$10)
- Individual Member (\$25)
- Library/Institutional Member (\$35)
- Corporate Member (\$150)
- Individual Lifetime Member (\$250)
- Corporate Lifetime Member (\$1000)

Please send your membership application and dues to the following address:

Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia
303 Conner Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-7509

For more information, call 706-542-0763 or visit <http://aeag.uga.edu>.