

# Agricultural and Applied Economics

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

## AAE faculty on UGA-led team pioneering greenhouse lighting efficiency

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Department's Dr. Benjamin Campbell is on a 16-person team that received a \$5 million grant from SCRI to study cutting the costs of greenhouse lighting.

High costs and energy usage make it difficult for farmers to grow crops in controlled environments and still make a profit. The LAMP (Lighting Approaches to Maximize Profits) project aims to change that.

"The goal of the economics portion of the project is twofold," Campbell said. "First, identify the economic feasibility of utilizing LED lighting in greenhouses throughout the U.S. Notably, we are trying to identify where in the U.S. LED lighting may be cost effective. LED lighting is cost effective in areas that see an increase in the number of production cycles per year such that the increased number of cycles cover the cost of installing and maintaining the LED lights.

"The second goal is to understand the role of consumer awareness and perception of plants grown under LED lights. Further, we want to understand consumer willingness to pay for plants grown under LED lights."

Campbell will be leading the economic por-



### In This Issue:

- Greetings from Department Head..2
- Faculty Spotlight.....3
- Student Spotlight.....4
- Department Publications.....5
- J.W. Fanning Lecture.....7
- AEAG Section.....8

tion of the project. He has worked on several projects that examine consumer awareness and perception of production methods, as well as projects that have measured costs and benefits, but none directly related to LED lighting.

"I have spent much of my career working on greenhouse issues so this project was right in my wheelhouse," he said. "I have worked with several of the project collaborators in the past so it seemed a natural fit to be a part of the project."

The LAMP project's findings could help growers decide when it may be feasible to grow crops in a harsh environment and when it makes better sense to ship food to a location.



# Greetings from the Department Head

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Dear friends:

It's been a busy start this fall semester, and Conner Hall is buzzing with activity. As usual, we have some important information to share with you in this newsletter.

The 34th annual J.W. Fanning lecture is almost here! This year's speaker is Dr. Keith Coble, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University. His lecture is titled "U.S. Farm Policy – Looking Where We Have Been and Some Thoughts On The Future" and we are greatly looking forward to hearing from him. Following the lecture, we will have a luncheon at which the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia will present the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional and Young Professional awards.

Please note that this year, as last year, the J.W. Fanning Lecture and the awards luncheon will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Athens. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to [eclance@uga.edu](mailto:eclance@uga.edu) by November 2nd. More information on Dr. Coble and on the lecture can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

Additionally, be sure to read about all the exciting things our faculty members and students are participating in and accomplishing. this month's faculty spotlight, please join us in welcoming our newest faculty member, Dr. Mateusz Filipski. Our student spotlight this month is on Johnson Collins, from our Tifton campus, and her fellowship in the office of U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson this summer. Also noteworthy is the fact that Dr. Ben Campbell received a \$5 million grant from the USDA to work on a greenhouse lighting project.

Again, 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  
Department Head and Professor

# Faculty Spotlight

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## Mateusz Filipski

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Dr. Mateusz Filipski comes to UGA from the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, DC, where he was a Research Fellow.

“I got the feeling that AAE would be a really nice place to work, and that I would have a lot of smart, dynamic colleagues on the faculty,” he said about his move to UGA.

Before gaining an interest in economics, he studied biology and life sciences at Paris-tech in France; he received his Ph.D. from the University of California - Davis where he also worked as a post-doc in the AgEcon department. Additionally, he has also worked as a consultant for OECD, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development.



Dr. Filipski’s research falls under the broad subject of development economics and intersects with more specific fields such as agricultural, migration and health economics.

“I am particularly interested in understanding the processes of change in developing or emerging economies,” he said, “how people navigate those changes, and how programs or policies can translate them into opportunities.”

Dr. Filipski has co-authored several articles in well-respected industry journals as well as a book based on his doctoral research, *Beyond Experiments in Development Economics: Local Economy-wide Impact Evaluation*, which received the Quality of Communication Award from the AAEA and is gaining traction in the program evaluation community. Additionally, some of his research on the impacts of refugee camps on host countries’ economics has been widely featured in the press, including a reference in *The Economist*.

At UGA, Dr. Filipski will be continuing his research and teaching applied methods at the undergraduate, Master’s and Ph.D. levels. He is particularly looking forward to creating new courses for his students and helping to grow the department.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Johnson Collins, AGB Major**  
*Class of 2019*

*By Sage Barnard (originally posted on [agecon.uga.edu](http://agecon.uga.edu))*

Johnson Collins, a small-town girl from Jasper, Georgia, never believed she would work in the nation's capital.

But Collins spent 12 weeks this summer in the office of Sen. Johnny Isakson, serving as a University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Congressional Agricultural Fellow.

Since 1997, the Agricultural Fellows program has matched over 100 university students with congressional offices in Washington, D.C.

Collins, who transferred from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to study agribusiness at the UGA Tifton campus in fall 2017, was excited to be one of seven CAES students to serve as an Agricultural Fellow this summer.

She was the only person in Isakson's D.C. office with a background in agriculture and was able to provide a unique perspective on issues while working with people of varying backgrounds to get things done. The experience left her with a new perspective on government and life in general.

"This opportunity helped me to narrow down my future career choices," Collins said. "I have always been curious about working in D.C., but never thought there was a place for an agriculture major in the city."

Many of her responsibilities this summer were preparing briefs, attending committee hearings, doing agricultural research, and writ-

ing and editing letters to constituents. Collins found that this experience substantially strengthened her communication skills. The fast-paced nature of D.C. helped her refine the way she writes and speaks in order to pack the most information in small, digestible briefs.

She was able to watch as history unfolded when Isakson sponsored legislation to help Georgia blueberry producers hurt by the 2017 freeze. She knew that it would impact many Georgia blueberry farmers and their families, and seeing that connection to south Georgia gave her purpose.

"It made me realize that no matter what career I choose in the future, I want to be able to help people in a meaningful way," she said.

Collins' major takeaway was the existing need for agricultural knowledge in the capital, and she wants to fill that role. Her experience taught her interpersonal and life skills that will be vital to both her professional and personal experiences.

For more information about the CAES Congressional Agricultural Fellowship, visit [www.caes.uga.edu/students/experiential-learning/internships-jobs/congressional-ag-fellowship.html](http://www.caes.uga.edu/students/experiential-learning/internships-jobs/congressional-ag-fellowship.html).

# Department Publications

Liu, S., **G. Colson**, and M.E. Wetzstein (2018). "Biodiesel Investment in a Disruptive Tax-Credit Policy Environment," *Energy Policy* 123:19-30.

Liu, S., **G. Colson**, N. Hao, and M.E. Wetzstein (2018). "Toward an optimal U.S. Household Solar Subsidy: A Social-technical Approach," *Energy* 147(15):377-387.

Li, X., B. Brewer, and **C.L. Escalante**. "Pre-Recession Efficiencies and Input Allocation Decisions of Agricultural Banks and Critically Insolvent Banks of the Late 2000s Financial Crises." *Applied Economics*. 50, 32 (2018): 3515-3531.

Luo, T. and **C.L. Escalante**. "Health care service utilization of Documented and Undocumented U.S. farm workers." *European Journal of Health Economics*, 19,7 (2018): 923-934.

**Escalante, C.L.**, A. Osinubi, C. Dodson, and C.E. Taylor. "Looking Beyond Farm Loan Approval Decisions: Loan Pricing and Non-Pricing Terms for Socially Disadvantaged Farm Borrowers." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* 50,1 (2018):129-148.

**Susana Ferreira**, Haiyan Liu, Brady Brewer "The housing market impacts of wastewater injection induced seismicity risk." *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 91 (2018) 1-19

Mona Ahmadiani, **Susana Ferreira**, and **Craig E. Landry**. 2018. "Flood Insurance and Risk Reduction: Market Penetration, Coverage, and Mitigation in Coastal North Carolina" Forthcoming. *Southern Journal of Economics*.

Luo, Tianyuan, **Genti Kostandini**, and **Jeffrey L. Jordan (2018)**. "The impact of LAWA on the family labour supply among farm households." *European Review of Agricultural Economics*. doi:10.1093/erae/ijby017

Ashley Barfield and **Craig E. Landry**. 2018. "Valuation of Beach Quality" in *Oxford Encyclopedia of Environmental Economics*, Oxford University Press, Earth & Environmental Science.

**Craig E. Landry**, **Travis A. Smith**, and Dylan Turner. 2018. "Food Waste and Food Retail Density" *Journal of Food Products Marketing* 24(5): 632-653

**Liu, Y.**, Langemeier, M. R., Small, I. M., Joseph, L., Fry, W. E., Ristaino, J. B., Saville, A., Gramig, B. M., & Preckel, P. V. (2018). "A Risk Analysis of Precision Agriculture Technology to Manage Tomato Late Blight." *Sustainability*. 10(9):3108.

**Liu, Y.**, Robinson, J. R. C., & **Shurley, W. D.** (2018). "China's Potential Cotton Tariffs and U.S. Cotton Exports: Lessons from History." *Choices*. Quarter 2.

**Liu, Y.**, **Fonsah, E. G.**, Russell, L. A., **Rabinowitz, A. N.**, & **Shurley, W. D.** (2018). "The Impacts of China and United States Trade and Tariff Actions on Georgia Agriculture: the Perspectives of UGA Agricultural Economists." University of Georgia Extension. Publication No. TP 104. June 2018.

# Department Publications

Awondo, S.N., **O.A. Ramirez**, G.S. Datta, **G. Colson**, and **E.G. Fonsah** (2018). "Estimation of Crop Yield and Insurance Premiums Using a Shrinkage Estimator," *North American Actuarial Journal* 22(2):289-308.

**Shurley, W. D. & Liu, Y.** "Prices and Payments Update: Making the Generic Base Conversion Decision." Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Georgia. Report No. AGECON-18-08PR. August 2018.

Gregory, C. and **T.A. Smith**. (2018) "Salience, Food Security and SNAP Receipt" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

# J.W. Fanning Lecture

The 34th annual J.W. Fanning Lecture will take place on Nov. 12, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Athens. We are honored to have Dr. Keith Coble, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University, as our guest speaker this year. His lecture is entitled “**U.S. Farm Policy – Looking Where We Have Been and Some Thoughts On The Future.**”



Dr. Coble is a Giles Distinguished Professor and Head of the Agricultural Economic Department at Mississippi State University where he focuses on agricultural policy, insurance, and agricultural data analytics, and he is the President-elect of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. He also received the Bruce Gardner Award from the U.S. Department of Agricultural Economists Group for his contribution to USDA policy analysis. Coble has testified before Congressional Committees on three occasions regarding agricultural policy and served as the Chief Economist for the Minority Staff of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee during the 2013-2014 farm bill debate. He served as the Chair of the ‘Big Ag Data’ committee for the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Ag Data Coalition a non-profit to help farmers control and manage their agricultural data.

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**All events will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn, located at 390 E Washington Street in Athens.**

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

**10:00 a.m.** — Registration and Refreshments  
Dogwood/Azalea Room

**10:30 a.m.** — J.W. Fanning Lecture  
Dogwood/Azalea Room

*Welcome*

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

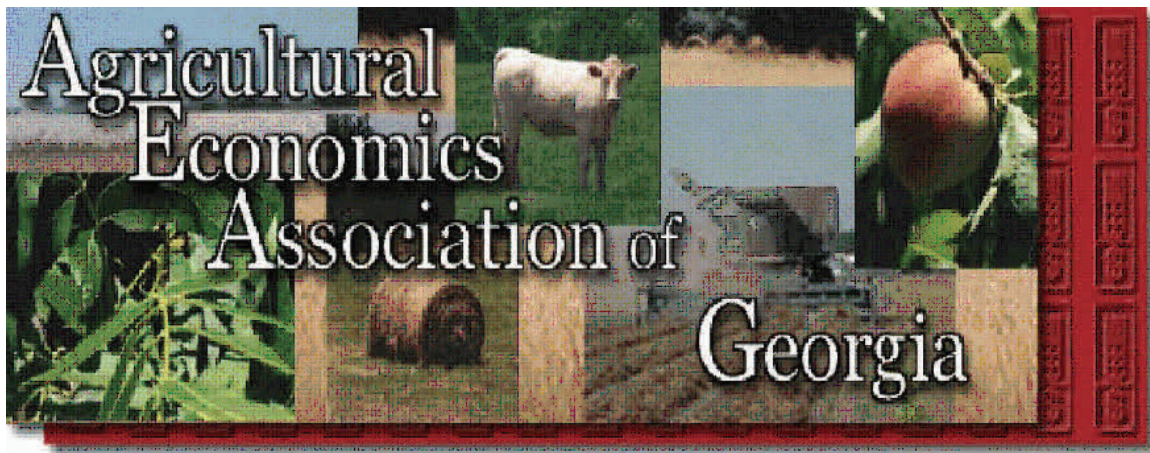
*Lecture:* Dr. Keith Coble

**12:00 noon** — Luncheon  
Magnolia Ballroom

*Presentation of J.W. Fanning Professional Awards:* Farrah Newberry,  
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. Please RSVP to [eclance@uga.edu](mailto:eclance@uga.edu) by Oct. 31, 2018.**



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>.