



## Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, The University of Georgia

*Newsletter*

*Fall, 2005*

### J.W. Fanning Lecture



International food aid was the topic of the 2005 J. W. Fanning Lecture by Dr. Chris Barrett, International Professor and Co-Director of Cornell's African Food Security and Natural

Resource Management Program. His lecture addressed the problems existing in current food aid policies. In order to significantly reduce the number of people living in poverty and hunger, Dr. Barrett noted that resources must be used efficiently. Agencies must determine if, in fact, food is the right resource for a given problem. Dr. Barrett contends that food aid should be a complement to other resources by embedding it into development strategies.

Currently, agribusinesses and non-government donor agencies are major beneficiaries of U.S. food aid, rather than American farmers. Middlemen enjoy most of the gains from food aid. Shippers are the big winners with margins of seventy to eighty percent above market rates.

While the nonprofit aid organizations distribute food in poor countries, it is not well known that they have also become grain

traders, selling substantial amounts of the donated food on local markets in poor countries to aid their anti-poverty programs. Dr. Barrett's research established that at least 50 cents of each dollar's worth of food aid is spent on transport, storage and administrative costs in the process of selling food to raise money for foreign aid. He contends that this is an extremely inefficient way to finance long-term development.

To view Dr. Barrett's PowerPoint presentation, please see the departmental web site at <http://www.uga.edu/agecon/lectures/lectures.htm>

### Alumni News

**Emily Howard** ( B.S.A. in Agribusiness in 2002 from UGA) was presented the 2005 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award by the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia. Emily is Legislative Director in the office



of Congressman Jack Kingston in Washington, D.C. working on agriculture, natural resources, trade, and immigration issues. She was promoted to the Legislative Director position after serving as Congressman Kingston's Senior Legislative Assistant.



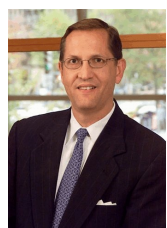
**David Bennett** (B.S. in Agriculture in 1974 from UGA) was named the recipient of the 2005 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award by the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia

David is the Executive Director of the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission (GASWCC). He was appointed to the Executive Director position by Governor Sonny Perdue in 2003, after serving in various positions for GASWCC since 1974.



**Wilbur Mull** (B.S. in 1963 and M.S. in 1965 in Agricultural Economics) was presented the 2005 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award by the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia. Wilbur is

owner and operator of three thriving businesses – Classic Groundcovers, Inc., Classic Auction Co., and Classic Realty and Auction Company.



**Randy Nuckolls** (BSA in Agricultural Economics in 1974 and a J.D. in 1977, both from UGA ) received the 2005 Award of Excellence from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association. He is

a partner in the law firm McKenna, Long, & Aldridge in Washington, D.C. and has distinguished himself as a leader and a public servant through his prominent professional career and through his dedicated work with numerous Georgia organizations.

**John R. Hayes** (BSA in Environmental Economics and Management in 1995 and M.S. in Agricultural Economics in 1997, both from UGA) received the 2005 Young Alumni Achievement Award from the College of



Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association. He is currently the general manager and partner of Lasseter Implement Company in Hazelhurst, Georgia.

**Marie Truesdell** ( Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in 1999) received the 2005 Young Alumni Achievement Award from the College of Agricultural



and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association. She is Chair of the Department of Business at Marian College in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to performing all the duties of the department chair, she teaches two economics courses per semester and recruits economics majors.

## Student News



*Incoming Graduate Students  
Dr. Wetzstein's AAEC6580 Class*

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics would like to extend a heart-felt welcome to our new undergraduate and graduate students.

### **GSA Fall Picnic**



The Graduate Student Association's 2005 Annual Fall Picnic was held September 24 at Sandy Creek Park. The picnic provided a great opportunity for those in attendance to enjoy the festivities and to become better acquainted with each other.

**Julia Beckhusen** and **Frank Zhang** have been selected to participate in the Future Leaders Program sponsored by the UGA Graduate School.

**Tatiana Gubanova** is the recipient of the William Applebaum Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding M.S. Thesis presented by the Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS). She received her award in October at the FDRS annual conference. Her thesis is titled "Organic Produce Price Forecasting at a Farm Level: Criteria, Methods, and Forecast Evaluation." Timothy Park and Luanne Lohr co-chaired the M.S. thesis committee.

### 2005 Washington, D.C. Interns



The following students served as interns in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2005:

**Griffin Evans** served in the office of Congressman Jack Kingston.

**Will Horkin** served in the office of Senator Saxby Chamblis.

**Allyson Barnes** served in the office of Congressman Sanford Bishop.

**Carter Dunn** served in the office of Congressman John Barrow.

**David Nolan** served in the office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Bruce McPherson**, a fourth year agribusiness major from Buford, Georgia, was one of only four Army ROTC cadets nationwide to receive the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement. This is the highest merit award a cadet can receive.

### Faculty News



**John Bergstrom**, Richard B. Russell Distinguished Professor, is on sabbatical at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, Colorado from September 1, 2005 through May 31, 2006 to conduct joint research with faculty in the CSU Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and with research scientists in the U.S.D.A. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. While at CSU, Dr. Bergstrom will work on several research projects relating to pressing agricultural and natural resource management and policy issues, including management of water quantity and quality.

### Staff News

**George He**, Post Doctoral Associate in Griffin, has resigned from the department and accepted a position with American Express in Phoenix, Arizona.

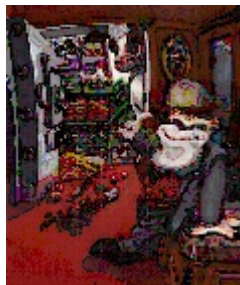
**Christy Porterfield**, Administrative Assistant II, has resigned from the department after giving birth to her son, Connor, on July 15, 2005. She is now enjoying her role as a “stay-at-home” mom.

The department welcomes **Karina A. Koppius**, the new Administrative Associate I, who will be working for faculty in suites 312 and 314 of Conner Hall. Prior to joining the departmental staff, Karina worked in the Early Head Start Program in Clarke County. Before moving to Athens, she lived in Mexico and worked for a United Nations funded program which provided micro-credit for the rural refugee population.

The department welcomes **Abdul Munasib**, the new Post Doctoral Associate in Griffin. Prior to joining the department, Abdul worked as a Graduate Research Assistant for The Ohio State University.

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### T-Shirt Order Form



The new Agricultural Economics logo t-shirts are ready at a cost of \$10.00 each including delivery. Please indicate the number of t-shirts in desired sizes below:

Medium \_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_ X-Large \_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to Arch Foundation and sent to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, 301 Conner Hall, Athens, GA 30602-7509.