



# Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
The University of Georgia

*Alumni Newsletter*

*Fall, 2009*

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## Greetings from Department Head



Dear Friends:

It has been a very busy but exciting fall semester for our department and faculty, taking care of a record enrollment of 279 undergraduate majors and 44 graduate students. It is good to know that the demand for our teaching programs continues to grow, and the graduates are still finding suitable employment opportunities in this harsh economic environment. The flexibility of our majors to follow a wide variety of career paths coupled with their strong analytical thinking and conceptual problem-solving skills continues to be a winning combination in the job marketplace.

As our Agricultural and Applied Economics family grows, it is important that we keep in touch with each other. While this newsletter is a main means to that end, there are other opportunities to socialize throughout the year. One such opportunity is our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Fanning Lecture, which will take place on Friday, November 13, 2009. This year's speaker will be Dr. Thomas Hertel, a Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University and the founder and executive director of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP). The topic of his lecture will be "Global Economic and Environmental Impacts of Biofuels." Please contact Ms. Audrey Hudson ([ah1@uga.edu](mailto:ah1@uga.edu)) if you would like to attend this lecture and its associated events.

In addition to the incoming students, this fall semester we welcome two new faculty members: Drs. Susana Ferreira and Greg Colson. Drs. Ferreira and Colson are two of the brightest, best-trained, and most promising applied economists in our profession. We are very pleased to have them in our faculty and expect their contributions will substantially strengthen our research and teaching programs.

Also with great pleasure I announce that Professor Terry Centner is in this newsletter's faculty spotlight. Professor Centner, who has been a professor in the department for over 20 years, adds a critical legal component to the college's teaching and research programs. In recognition of his outstanding teaching, in 2007 university students selected Professor Centner to receive the prestigious University of Georgia Student Government Association Teaching Award. Also in 2007, his research was recognized by the college with the D.W. Brooks Research Award. His teaching and

research programs have been previously acknowledged through his selection as an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow for 1990-91 and a Fulbright Senior Scholar for 2002-03. In addition, he was presented the Senior Faculty Award by Gamma Sigma Delta in 2004. Please join me in thanking and congratulating Professor Centner for his extraordinary service and accomplishments.

This newsletter also includes our first research spotlight segment, where we showcase some of the research being conducted by our faculty. Please take the time to learn about Dr. Jeff Jordan's very timely and relevant work on understanding the factors that affect a student's decision to stay in or drop out of high school. It is expected that this research will provide specific insights and recommendations on how to reduce drop-out rates in disadvantaged community high schools. In addition to conducting outstanding research, Dr. Jordan is an example of how UGA faculty can serve their community. As co-director of "Partners for a Prosperous Griffin Spalding (PPGS)," he was instrumental in obtaining a recent \$1 million grant award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund poverty alleviation programs in this county.

Our alumni spotlight goes to Ms. Kristin McWhorter, who is a 1984 graduate of our department. Since graduation, Kristin has worked for Poultry & Egg News, Gold Kist, and ConAgra. She is currently the executive director of the National Poultry and Food Distributors Association (NPFDA), and serves as the president of the Georgia Association of Agricultural Economists. Kristin was recently recognized with the Alumni Association's Award of Excellence at their annual banquet held at the Athens' Classic Center. This award is given to an alumnus of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences who has excelled in his/her chosen field or community. Regrettably, I will finish on a sad note by announcing the passing of Mr. David Bennett, a most distinguished alum from our department. His very fruitful life and contributions to Georgia's agriculture are celebrated in an obituary at the end of the newsletter.

Sincerely  
Dr. Octavio A. Ramirez  
Professor and Head

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### The 25th Annual J. W. Fanning Lecture - Friday, November 13, 2009



**Dr. Thomas Hertel** from the Agricultural Economics Department of Purdue University will present this year's J. W. Fanning Lecture. The topic for his lecture is "Global Economic and Environmental Impacts of Biofuels." Dr. Hertel is a Distinguished Professor and the founder and executive director of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP). This project maintains a global economic database and an applied general equilibrium modeling framework which are documented in the book, *Global Trade Analysis: Modeling and Applications*, edited by Dr. Hertel, and published by Cambridge University Press in 1997.

Professor Hertel has published numerous journal articles, several of which have won awards, including outstanding articles in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and the *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. He garnered the Policy Article Prize from the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy for an article in *World Economy*. In 2004, Dr. Hertel was made a Fellow of the AAEA, and in 1999, the AAEA presented him with the Distinguished Policy Contribution Award.

In 2004 and 2005, Dr. Hertel was a visiting scholar with the Trade Research Group of the World Bank and coordinated a project on the poverty impacts of a prospective WTO agreement under the Doha Development

Agenda. He made presentations to high level policy makers in Geneva, Paris, Brussels, Maputo, Pretoria, and Washington, D.C.

Dr. Hertel currently serves on the editorial board of the *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, the *Journal of Economic Integration*, and the *Pacific Economic Review*. He is also an International Research Fellow with the Kiel Institute of World Economy. In the past, he has served as a consultant to the World Bank, the OECD, the European Commission, UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Ford Foundation, and the Australian Productivity Commission.

*Agenda for November 13, 2009*

**All events will take place at the Georgia Center**

9:00 a.m. - **Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia Board Meeting** - Craig Board Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

10:00 a.m. - **Registration & Refreshments** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Kellogg Concourse

10:30 a.m. - **J.W. Fanning Lecture** - Room K/L, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**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. Thomas Hertel, "Global Economic and Environmental Impacts of Biofuels"

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

**Presentation of J.W. Fanning Professional Awards**  
(Kristin McWhorter, President of AEAG presiding)

1:30 p.m. - **Adjourn**

**The cost of this year's luncheon is \$30. There is no cost for attending the lecture only. (Please see the registration form below.)**

**2009 J. W. FANNING LECTURE & LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**

**REGISTRATION:** Lecture attendance is free. A registration fee of \$30 is required for the luncheon. Please register no later than November 4, 2009 for the luncheon. Make check payable to the *Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia* and return with this form.

I plan to attend the lecture \_\_\_\_ ( ) I plan to attend the lecture and luncheon \_\_\_\_ ( )

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*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 Audrey Hudson at 706-542-0763 or Jo Anne Norris 706-542-2481 and confirm you reservation.*

**Student News**

***Total enrollment of departmental undergraduate students for fall 2009:***

Agricultural & Applied Economics	33
Agribusiness	142
Environmental Economics & Management	99
Food Industry Marketing & Administration	<u>5</u>
Total	<b>279</b>

***Total enrollment of graduate students for fall 2009 is 44.***

**FYI**

According to the Office of Academic Affairs at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), a recent UGA Career Center survey indicated that CAES has the highest percentage of students at the university going on to graduate school. Even better news is that CAES graduates have the second highest starting salary (when bonuses are included) and the lowest percentage of students still seeking employment. The median starting salary with bonuses for a CAES graduate with a bachelor's degree is \$41,200.

***The new officers for the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club are:***

- President - **Rachel McLocklin**
- Vice President - **Gena Perry**
- Secretary - **Katie Williams**
- Ag Hill Representatives - **Andrew Stevenson and Sean Cranshaw**
- Advisor - **Dr. James Epperson**

***The new officers for the Graduate Student Association are:***

- President - **Myra Clarisse Ferrer**
- Vice president - **Christa Lynn DeMasie**
- Treasurer - **Asa Ornelas-Gonzales**

### *Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club*

The Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club started off the semester with an informal meeting discussing speakers and new ideas for the upcoming year. Tim Miller, a UGA alumnus who now works for AgCo, spoke to the club about some of AgCo's new market lines and other topics about his company. Mr. Miller gave insights on building a résumé and some real world advice on interviews. The club also heard Gary Black speak about his campaign for Georgia Agriculture Commissioner.

The Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club is looking forward to bringing in some new speakers and new ideas this year.

### *Fall Welcome Picnic*

On October 17, the Fall Welcome Picnic for new graduate students at the Ramirez home was a huge success. Approximately 60 people attended the event which had to be held inside because of the rain. Even though the weather did not cooperate, students, faculty, and staff enjoyed good food, fellowship, and the hospitality of the Ramirez family.

### *Pizza with the Professors*

The Graduate Student Association hosted their first Pizza with the Professors this semester. Their guests were Professors Centner, Colson, and Escalante. Each professor shared their current research topics and then interacted personally with the graduate students. Approximately 30 students attended the event. It is the hope of the association to host all of the professors during the coming months and give graduate students the opportunity to become more familiar with faculty members and their research programs.

## **HHS Awards \$1 Million in Recovery Act Funds to Poverty Program in Griffin-Spalding County**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded \$1 million to the poverty program in Griffin-Spalding County, under the Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF), created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The purpose of the grant is to improve the ability of nonprofit organizations to promote the economic recovery of people with low incomes.

"We are pleased to support nonprofit organizations that train people to land and keep jobs, earn higher wages, and reach economic independence," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "This is what the Recovery Act was meant to do – provide the help people need to help themselves."

The Strengthening Communities Fund is comprised of two programs, both of which will boost the ability of community and faith-based organizations to handle the broad economic recovery issues in their communities,

including job training and retention and access to state and federal benefits. All grants are one-time, two-year awards. The Nonprofit Capacity Building Program funds intermediary agencies, which also work with community organizations to enhance their economic recovery activities.

Under the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, 35 applicants in 25 states will receive grants between \$765,000 and \$1,000,000. The Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children (SCC) along with Partners for a Prosperous Griffin-Spalding County is one noteworthy project in this category with a history of providing training and technical assistance to nonprofits. Their use of this grant will increase the operational capacity of 40 local organizations through assessment, planning, implementation, training, one-on-one technical assistance, funding, and mentoring. Further, the project entails a community resource center (CRC) that will provide housing for participating NPOs. This will give potential beneficiaries of assistance a one-stop option to access services provided by NPOs. In addition, the CRC will contribute to the sustainability of NPOs through the provision of facilities and potential cost sharing of other operating expenses.

Partners for a Prosperous Griffin Spalding (PPGS) is comprised of eight entities who have pledged to come together to support a collaborative process to deal with issues of poverty. Co-directed by Jeff Jordan from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA Griffin Campus, these include the University of Georgia-Griffin Campus, the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, the City of Griffin, Spalding County, the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce, the Griffin-Spalding School System, Griffin Technical College, and the Spalding Regional Medical Center. The SCC will utilize the SCF award to encourage economic development and relieve poverty in the ten county area known as Georgia's Region 4 (R4). This region is comprised of Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Troup, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Butts, Lamar, and Upson Counties. R4 is currently, and has been historically, a distressed community when compared to state and national rates of poverty, unemployment, and educational attainment, a situation exacerbated by the closing of textile mills in this area. The SCC will engage a minimum of 60 R4 NPOs in a series of 20 capacity-building workshops over 24 months. Through a competitive process, the PPGS will select the 40 NPOs for the one-on-one technical assistance and financial sub-awards of \$15,000 each on a tier-level based on performance outcomes designed to further strengthen and expand their organizational capacity.

## Faculty News

### *Welcome New Faculty Members!*



**Dr. Gregory John Colson** joined the department as an assistant professor of agricultural and applied economics in August. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Iowa State University and will be conducting research and teaching



**Dr. Susana Ferreira** joined the department as an assistant professor of natural resource and environmental economics and policy in August. She received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, San Diego. Before joining the department, Dr. Ferreira was a permanent lecturer in environmental economics and policy at the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin, Ireland.



**Dr. Luanne Lohr** is on leave from her duties in the department and will be working for the USDA in Washington, D.C. for a period of one year.

**Dr. Timothy Park** is on leave from his duties in the department and will be working for the USDA in Washington, D.C. for a period of one year.



**Dr. Don Shurley** has been appointed Extension Coordinator, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.



**Dr. Nathan Smith** was an organizer for the Southern Region Agricultural Outlook Conference which took place in Atlanta, September 28-29. The conference was sponsored by Southern Land Grant Universities, Southern Extension Marketing, Farm Management and Public Affairs Committees, and Southern Region Risk Management Education Center. The conference hosted participants from eleven states, and a wide range of agricultural issues were addressed. The conference presentations will be available on the department's website at

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/agecon/extension/agoutlook/>



**Dr. Tingwu Yan**, a teacher of management at Ocean University in China, is a visiting scholar in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He will be conducting research and visiting classes in the department for one year.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### Professor Terence J. Centner



Terence (Terry) J. Centner is a professor who adds a legal component to the CAES teaching and research programs. He teaches four courses in the department, and these serve students across campus who want to learn more about agribusiness and environmental law. In 2007, university students selected Professor Centner to receive the University of Georgia Student Government Association Teaching Award. Professor Centner also serves as the college's pre-law advisor, the department's undergraduate coordinator, and he served as president of the American Agricultural Law Association.

Professor Centner's research program involves the policy analysis of environmental and agricultural legislation. His research includes the publication of two books: *Empty Pastures* (2004) and *Blame Culture* (2008), and more than 120 law review and scientific journal articles. In 2007, his research was recognized by the college with the D.W. Brooks Research Award. His teaching and research programs have also been acknowledged through his selection as an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow for 1990-91 and a Fulbright Senior Scholar for 2002-03. In addition, he was presented the Senior Faculty Award by Gamma Sigma Delta in 2004.

Another aspect of Professor Centner's research involves integration of economic theory and law applied to specific problems and the development of new regulatory institutions to respond to market imperfections. He developed the certification mark for Vidalia onions which provides protection under U.S. trademark law. For more than two decades, Professor Centner's analyses of laws and legal institutions have formed a significant body of agricultural legal research in agricultural economics, environmental policy, and law journals. Over 115 annotations of state regulations cite his legal research, and numerous courts have cited his research in their published opinions. He is recognized as a national leader in the field of agricultural law and applied policy research.

Professor Centner has also taught at 17 national continuing legal education programs, the USDA Graduate School's Train-the-Trainer Conference, the Dutch Institute for Agricultural Law, and he has lectured at 17 foreign universities. His leadership efforts to broaden departmental curricula helped lead to the development of 4 new departmental majors, 3 new minors, a certificate in agribusiness law, and a joint BS/MS degree program.

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

### Featuring the Research of Dr. Jeff Jordan

(Article based on an interview conducted by Stephanie Schupska, Public Relations Coordinator for the UGA CAES.)



It is so well-known that it is a cliché: to get a good job, you need a good education. Like the fact that smoking causes cancer, everyone knows that remaining in school at least through high school graduation is vital to staying out of low-wage America. A community's future depends on the human capital generated through an educated work force. Yet, more than one-third of children do not graduate from high school. This is the focus of a new research program being conducted in our department on the Griffin campus by Jeff Jordan.

In the struggle to keep students from dropping out of school, Jordan and researchers at Georgia State University and George Mason University in Virginia are exploring the time preferences of children.

The research team has been studying eighth graders in Spalding County since 2005. So far, they have collected data on nearly 1300 students. Jordan's research is showing that black boys have significantly larger discount rates than any other demographic group, a finding that may indicate these students have a different view of the future than any other peer group. "They tend to view positive outcomes as less likely and negative as more likely," he said.

Jordan also found that discount rates predict the likelihood that a student will have above average disciplinary referrals. And his research has found something else very interesting – that positive reinforcement isn't necessarily the best way to get kids engaged in school.

"All the research that has been done on these kinds of incentive systems show that they make things worse," he said. "Kids with good grades get the rewards and the kids who aren't getting good grades and are falling behind aren't. The way our system sets up, it makes the gap between high and low achieving kids widen."



Jordan has presented his findings to school administrators and school boards. Because of his research, the four middle schools in Griffin-Spalding County now have a new system in place to try to provide more effective incentives for kids to stay in school. These incentives have shorter time periods between rewards and are more sequential.

“Schools need to be thinking about these students and their time preferences beforehand, before they structure incentive programs,” he said.

### **It’s About Time**

Time – specifically, how a student views the future – is one of the key reasons some students drop out.

“Why do a third of our children say it’s not worth it?” Jordan asked. “Why do they make what seems to be an irrational decision?”

Jordan and his colleagues chose to study eighth graders because most kids finish elementary school still engaged. “It’s that time in middle school that those who drop out become disengaged,” he said.

In Georgia and many other states, students can drop out of school when they’re 16. The average eighth grader is from 13 to 15 years old.

### **The How**

Jordan uses money to study how long students are willing to wait. In 2008, he and his colleagues offered eighth graders at all four Spalding County middle schools money in the form of gift cards. Students then indicate whether they would rather have the money now or if they would be willing to wait for a few weeks for more money.

In each of the classes they studied, three students received gift cards in the amount they chose – \$49 for a student who indicated he or she wanted the money now and up to \$98 if they were willing to wait longer for the payoff.

### **Digging Deeper**

This past summer, Jordan started looking at time preferences in fourth graders and kindergarteners. Eventually, he would like to branch out to other grade levels. He’s trying to pinpoint when students lose interest in school, although that age could vary depending on the child.

Supported through grants from the UGA Poverty Initiative, this research project is part of a broader effort to address poverty. For a variety of reasons, poverty afflicts millions of Americans and thousands in every community in the U.S. Individual poverty is a result of many factors. Sometimes poverty is pathological – a result of disease, mental illness, substance abuse, or childhood neglect. More often, poverty is a result of the failings of communities. This program examines those community issues – from education, to housing, to health care, to transportation, to jobs, families, and government policies – that exacerbate poverty.



**Publication News**

**Brereton, F., J.P. Clinch, and S. Ferreira.** (2008) "Employment and Happiness: Insights from Ireland." *Economic and Social Review* 39 (3):207-234.

**Brown, Scott and Don Shurley.** (2009) "An Economic Comparison of FM1735LLB2 to DP555BR in Colquitt County, Georgia 2008." *2008 Cotton Research-Extension Report*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia.

**Edwards, Phillip, Scott Carlson, Don Shurley, Phillip Roberts, Bob Kemerait, and Ken Lewis.** (2009) "Yield, Fiber Quality, and Value: 2008 Variety Trials in Ben Hill and Irwin Counties." *2008 Cotton Research-Extension Report*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia.

**Escalante, C.L., J.E. Epperson and U. Raguathan.** (2009) "Gender Bias Claims in Farm Service Agencies' Lending Decisions." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 34 (2): 332-349.

**Escalante, C.L., C.G. Turvey, and P.J. Barry.** (2009) "Farm Business Decisions and the Sustainable Growth Challenge Paradigm." *Agricultural Finance Review* 69 (2): 228-257.

**Ferreira, S. and L. Gallagher.** "Protest Responses and Community Attitudes toward Accepting Compensation to Host Waste Disposal Infrastructure." *Land Use Policy* (forthcoming).

**Florkowski, W. J., R. Shewfelt, B. Brueckner, and S. E. Prussia,** (eds.), *Postharvest Handling - A Systems Approach*. Academic Press/Elsevier, 612 pp.

**Jordan, J.L., E. Pennick, W. Hill, and R. Zabawa** (eds.). (2009) *Land and Power: Sustainable Agriculture and African Americans*. Beltsville, MD: Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

**Jordan, J.L. and G. Roland.** (2009) "Farming and the Fate of Wild Nature: Essays in Conservation-

Based Agriculture." (book review) *Ag. and Human Values* 26:145-146.

**Jordan, J.L.** (2009) "Economics as Applied Social Science: To Inquire, To Teach, and to Serve." *J. Agriculture and Applied Economics* 41 (2): 325-329.

**Jordan, J.L. and B. Anil.** (2009) "Race, Gender, School Discipline, and Human Capital Effects." *J. Agriculture and Applied Economics* 41 (2): 419-429.

**Karali, B. and Walter N. Thurman.** (2009) "Announcement Effects and the Theory of Storage: An Empirical Study of Lumber Futures." *Agricultural Economics* 40 (4): 421-436.

**Karali, B., J.H. Dorfman, and W.N. Thurman.** "Do Volatility Determinants Vary Across Futures Contracts? Insights from a Smoothed Bayesian Estimator." *Journal of Futures Markets*, (forthcoming).

**Kostandini, Genti, Bradford F. Mills, Steven Were Omamo, and Stanley Wood,** (2009) "Ex Ante Analysis of the Benefits of Transgenic Drought Tolerance Research on Cereal Crops in Low-Income Countries." *Agricultural Economics* 40 (4): 477-92.

**McDonnell, S., Ferreira S. and F. Convery.** (2009) "Bus Priority Provision and Willingness to Pay Differentials Resulting from Modal Choice and Residential Location - Evidence from a Stated Choice Survey." *Journal of Transport Economics and Policy* 43 (2): 213-235.

**McDonnell, S., Ferreira S. and F. Convery.** (2008) "Using Bus Rapid Transit to Mitigate Emissions of CO2 from Transport." *Transport Reviews* 28 (6): 735-756.

**Mullen, J. D., Y. Yu, and G. Hoogenboom.** (2009) "Estimating the Demand for Irrigation for Water in a Humid Climate: A Case Study from the Southeastern United States." *Agricultural Water Management* 96: 1421-1428.

**Mykerezi, Elton, Genti Kostandini, and Bradford Mills.** (2009) "Do Rural Community Colleges Supply Unique Educational Benefits?" *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* 41 (2): 411-17.

**Ramirez, O.A.** (2009) "The Asymmetric Cycling of U.S. Soybeans and Brazilian Coffee Prices: An Opportunity for Improved Forecasting and Understanding of Price Behavior." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*. 41 (1): 253-270.

**Ramirez, O.A.** (2009) "El Funcionamiento del Programa de Seguros Agrarios en los Estados Unidos (The Performance of the U.S. Crop Insurance Program)." (Invited presentation to the Department of Agribusiness, Panamerican Agricultural School, El Zamorano, Honduras.

**Ramirez, O.A., C.A. Carpio and R. Rejesus.** "Can Crop Insurance Premiums be Reliably Estimated." (Selected paper presented at the annual meeting of the AAEA, Milwaukee, WI, July 2009, posted in AgEcon Search <http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/>)

**Rejesus, R. M., B.J. Sherrick, G.D. Schnitkey, and C.L. Escalante.** (2009) "Factors Influencing Producers' Perceptions about the Importance of Government Support Programs in Agriculture: Application of a Semi-Parametric Ordered Response Model." *Applied Economics* 41 (24): 3081-3092.

**Ryan, L., S. Ferreira and F. Convery.** (2009) "Impact of Fiscal Measures on CO2 Emissions from the automobile Sector: Evidence from Europe." *Energy Economics* 31 (3): 365-374.

**Shurley, W. Don, J. LaDon Day, Phillip R. Roberts, and A. Stanley Culpepper.** (2009) "Expiration of Single-Gene Bollgard Technology: Analysis of Alternatives Available to Georgia Cotton Producers." *2008 Cotton Research-Extension Report*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia.

**Smith, Amanda and Don Shurley.** (2009) "Comparison of Costs For Conventional Tillage and

Conservation Tillage Production Methods in BR Cotton." *2008 Cotton Research-Extension Report*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia

**Toews, Michael D. and Don Shurley.** (2009) "Influence of Adjacent Crops on Cotton Fiber Quality with Respect to Stink Bug Movement." *2008 Cotton Research-Extension Report*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia.

**Toews, Michael D. and W. Donald Shurley.** (2009) "Crop Juxtaposition Affects Cotton Fiber Quality in Georgia Farmscapes." *Journal of Economic Entomology* 102 (4).



### Who's Been Where and Why

**Dr. John Bergstrom** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to attend the AAEA and AERE annual meetings.

**James Wesley Burnett** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a case study at the AAEA annual meetings.

**Ruohong Cai** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a case study at the AAEA annual meetings.

**Professor Terence Centner** traveled to Williamsburg, VA in September to present a paper at the American Agricultural Law Association meeting.

**Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to presents papers and a poster at the AAEA annual meetings. He also traveled to Washington, D.C. in September to present a seminar and meet with collaborators on a USDA-ERS funded grant project. In addition, he traveled to Purdue University to present seminars and a paper at the Midwest Econometrics Group Conference.

**Dr. Cesar Escalante** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to serve as advisor for the department's case

study team, and he was co-author of a paper which was presented at the AAEA annual meetings. He also traveled to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to discuss collaborative research projects and promote landscape installation and maintenance software developed with Extension Horticulture.

**Dr. Genti Kostandini** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a paper at the AAEA annual meetings.

**Dr. James Epperson** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a paper at the AAEA annual meetings.

**Dr. Susana Ferreira** traveled to Amsterdam in June to present the paper "Environmental Valuation Using Subjective Well-Being Data" at the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.

**Myra Clarisse Ferrer** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a case study at the AAEA annual meetings.

**Dr. Stanley Fletcher** traveled to Raleigh, NC in July to attend the American Peanut Research and Education Society Conference. He also traveled to Panama City Beach, FL in July to attend the 2009 Southern Peanut Growers Conference. In September, he traveled to Canada to participate in a multi-state regional research project and the 2009 Fall Conference on Food Marketing Strategies and Analysis.

**Dr. Wojciech Florkowski** traveled to Chiang Mai University in Thailand during July and August for institutional development.

**Dr. Greg Fonsah** traveled to Bloomfield, CO to give two presentations at the Food Distribution Research Society.

**Dr. Jeff Jordan** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to attend the AAEA annual meetings.

**Dr. Berna Karali** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a paper at the AAEA annual meetings.

**Dr. Warren Kriesel** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a paper at the AAEA annual meetings.

**David Keiser** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a paper at the AAEA annual meetings.

**Dr. Curt Lacy** traveled to Omaha, NE in July to participate in the Livestock Marketing Information Center's Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

**Allen McCorvey** traveled to Panama City, FL in July to make a presentation and meet with representative peanut farmers at the 2009 Southern Peanut Growers Conference.

**Myung D. Park** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a paper at the AAEA annual meetings.

**Dr. Octavio Ramirez** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July and gave an invited presentation at the organized symposium on "Serving the Needs of the Next Generation of Resource Economic Leaders" and another paper at the AAEA annual meetings. He also traveled to Washington, D.C. in September to serve as chairman of the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators and organizer of the conference. He gave an invited presentation, "Measures of Departmental and Faculty Research Productivity, Performance Evaluation and Salary Raise Distribution Strategies." In addition, he traveled to Honduras in September to recruit graduate students into our department and gave an invited presentation to the Department of Agribusiness at the Panamerican Agricultural School, El Zamorano.

**Dr. Nathan Smith** traveled to Panama City, FL in July to participate in the Southern Peanut Growers Annual Conference. He also traveled to Raleigh, NC in July to present a paper he co-authored with Amanda Smith at the American Peanut Research and Education Society annual meeting.

**Dr. Michael Wetzstein** traveled to Milwaukee, WI in July to present a paper at the AAEA & AACI joint annual meetings.

## *Journal of Agribusiness*

The new editors of the *Journal of Agribusiness*, James E. Epperson and Cesar L. Escalante, would like to encourage all people interested in submitting articles to the *Journal* to do so. The *Journal* will publish papers and case studies on a wide range of topics including all areas of agribusiness, economic development, and environmental issues related to agriculture, and general empirical research within the broad range of agricultural economics.

Manuscripts undergo strict, double-blind peer review and the editors will strive to make the editorial process move as rapidly as possible. The *Journal* is particularly interested in publishing papers that will appeal to academic researchers, government agencies, and people working in agribusiness. Please send your manuscripts and other editorial communications to [JABEdit@uga.edu](mailto:JABEdit@uga.edu).

### Alumni Spotlight

#### Kristin McWhorter



The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences recognized Kristin McWhorter with the Alumni Association's Award of Excellence at their annual banquet held at the Classic Center in Athens on September 25, 2009. This award is given to an alumnus of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences who has excelled in his/her chosen field or community.

Kristin McWhorter graduated with a degree in Agricultural Economics in 1984. She has kept herself quite busy since graduation. Kristin has worked as general manager for Poultry & Egg News, a publication firm which prints *Poultry Times*. Other past employers include Gold Kist and ConAgra. Since 1992, she has worked for the National Poultry and Food Distributors Association (NPFDA), and she is currently the association's Executive Director.

With the assistance of key NPFDA members, Kristin has worked to make NPFDA a strong and viable organization. In 1994, she launched the NPFDA Poultry Supplier Showcase, a trade show designed for poultry suppliers which allows companies to display their finest products to potential customers. In the late 90s, NPFDA started the Distributor's Exchange – a place where distributor members tour other member facilities and share ideas. Recently,



NPFDA started a new certified distributor's program that will ensure proper food handling through all distribution phases. The program includes pest control, sanitation and facility condition, traceability, recall, and production handling procedures. Along with her other job responsibilities, Kristin works with the NPFDA Scholarship Foundation. The foundation was established in 1979 and has awarded over \$160,000 since that time.

Education was an important part of Kristin's life as she worked towards her bachelor's degree, and it maintains that same role as she works towards her master's degree. She has completed half of the credentials needed for her master's degree in public administration, and she has maintained a 4.0 GPA. She is currently a member of the Georgia Society of Association Executives (GSAE) and American Society of Association Executives. Named one of GSAE's "Top Movers and Shakers," Kristin is a recipient of GSAE's President's Award and the Alan R. Johnson Award. In 2008, she earned her Certified Association Executive Accreditation (awarded to only five percent of association professionals).

Beyond the workplace, Kristin has managed to excel as well. She has mentored elementary children in Gainesville, Georgia through the Hall County Mentoring program. She has also spent time in Mississippi and New Orleans, areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, working to salvage homes and assist animal rescue groups. Furthermore, she is a previous board member of the Lake Lanier Association and member of RiverKeeper. She currently serves as president of the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia. When asked about the opportunities she has experienced in her life, McWhorter stated, "You get out of something what you put into it. You've heard that many times over the years... Those who contribute time though leadership or committee work will soon begin to get a return on their investment."

### **Alumni News**

**Chris Batchelor** (BSA in agricultural economics in 1991) has received a master of arts in theological studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Chris currently owns and operates Skyline Plumbing and Septic Inc., in Hiram, GA. This company has been in operation since 1996. Chris and his wife, Amy, have been married for nineteen years and they have one son, Daniel, who is in the seventh grade. Over the past few years, Chris has traveled to Alaska, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Israel, and Oregon on mission trips.

**Zack Murphy** (BSA in agribusiness in 2009) is currently working as a loan officer at AgGeorgia Farm Credit at the Quitman branch office.

Governor Sonny Perdue announced the appointment of **Hillary Smith Stringfellow** to the Judicial Nominating Commission. Hillary is an associate in the firm Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford & Martin. Prior to joining the firm, Hillary clerked for the Honorable Dross Fitzpatrick in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. She served as the FFA national president and graduated from the University of Georgia in 2000 with a degree in agricultural economics. She also received her law degree from the UGA School of Law.





## Request for News

We want to hear from you! If any of our alumni, faculty, students, staff, or friends have any news or announcements you would like to share in the newsletter, please notify us. We want to know if you have a new job, if you have moved to a new address, if you have married, if you have had a baby, or any other important events in your life that you would like to share with the readers of the newsletter. Please email the information to Audrey Hudson at [aecnews@uga.edu](mailto:aecnews@uga.edu) with the word "news" in the subject line, or mail the information to Audrey Hudson, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, 303 Conner Hall, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

## Obituary

### William David Bennett

We are very saddened to inform our readers of the passing of David Bennett. David was a native of Dodge County, GA and was reared on a row crop and livestock farm. He attended Middle Georgia College in Cochran, GA and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1974 with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture.

David began his career with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) in 1974 as a field representative (later regional representative) and worked to establish the commission's first southeast Georgia regional office. Mr. Bennett led the commission's Statesboro and Milledgeville regional offices. As a regional representative, David worked diligently to establish the no-till and lagoon pump-out programs as a partnership between GSWCC, local SWCD's, and RC&D Councils in middle Georgia. Local SWCD supervisors called on David as a resource to address situations in their respective counties. David was known for cutting through all of the red tape of a situation and getting an answer. His desire to see producers test and accept new conservation practices was a driving force. He was instrumental in expending Section 319 Clean Water Act funds to aid local diary producers in meeting the water quality demands around Lake Oconee and Lake Sinclair. His ability to work with local governments to resolve erosion complaints was a skill sought by many others. David was instrumental in securing funding from county and city governments to add additional GSWCC staff in high priority areas and to supplement GSWCC activities.

In 1999, David accepted the position of deputy executive director. With his leadership and the support of the GACDS board, GACDS was transformed into a modern organization with functioning committees, revised Articles of Association, and an active legislative influence. David also had the vision to recognize that the Conservation Commission needed to broaden its focus and thus the Water Conservation Program was born. As deputy director, David was able to bring a fresh perspective to GSWCC operations from the regional office point of view, and this resulted in many operational efficiency changes.

Following the retirement of Director F. Graham Liles, Jr. in 2003, Governor Sonny Perdue named David as the executive director of GSWCC in June 2003. David continued making operational changes to the GSWCC, especially related to financial matters. David also supervised the initial setup and successful launch of the Agricultural Water Metering program and Erosion Control Certification Program in 2004. These two programs are still experiencing great success due to the initial planning and setup directed by David. As director, David tirelessly traveled the state to attend numerous events to represent the agency and seek new avenues for the agency's involvement.

David retired from the commission in December 2005, and became the first executive director for GACDS from January 2006 until 2007. David volunteered his time and effort to keep GACDS flourishing. David was a crucial part of the planning and execution of the 2006 NACD Legislative Tour in Georgia. This tour attracted congressional staff from around the U.S. and the benefits from this tour are still being reaped by Georgia agriculture, especially during the recent Farm Bill negotiations.

Through three decades of natural resource experience, David Bennett developed a clear understanding of urban and rural resource conservation issues. His ability to communicate with and convince policy makers in Georgia and in Washington, D.C. to fund beneficial conservation projects for Georgia landowners is unparalleled. Working with GACDS and congressional leaders, David was able to secure over \$20 million in federal funding for non-point source water quality incentive projects, innovative community nutrient management facilities, irrigation retrofits and pond construction during his tenure at GSWCC. The Agricultural Water Metering Program, Erosion Control Certification Program, and the Ag Water Conservation program are all national models of how partnership can work, and David directed the establishment of these successful programs.

Due to his involvement as GACDS executive director, GACDS held a congressional aide tour in southeast Georgia to discuss the need for burning and thinning of pines to benefit wildlife. This resulted in a new provision in the 2008 Farm Bill that added these practices to the CRP Program.

David also served as a charter member of the Georgia Water Resources Council, participating in the early meetings that eventually led to the Statewide Water Plan adopted in 2008 by the Georgia General Assembly. David also served as a charter member of the Land Conservation Council, which to date has protected over 60,000 acres across Georgia through conservation easements and fee simple purchases.

David has received numerous service awards from the state of Georgia, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors. These include the GACDS Leadership Award, GACDS Superior Professional Support to Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Goodyear Conservation Award, induction into the 2008 NACD Southeast Hall of Fame. David served on the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association and he was immediate past president of the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia. He also served on the Agricultural Economics Advisory Council and was a member of the Georgia Agrirama Board of Directors, and the governor's Agricultural Advisory Task Force. In addition, he was an active member of the Milledgeville Farmers Club.

David had formed the Chester Group, which is a consulting firm specializing in land development services. He was sought out by many groups for his ability to negotiate complex environmental issues with a common sense approach.

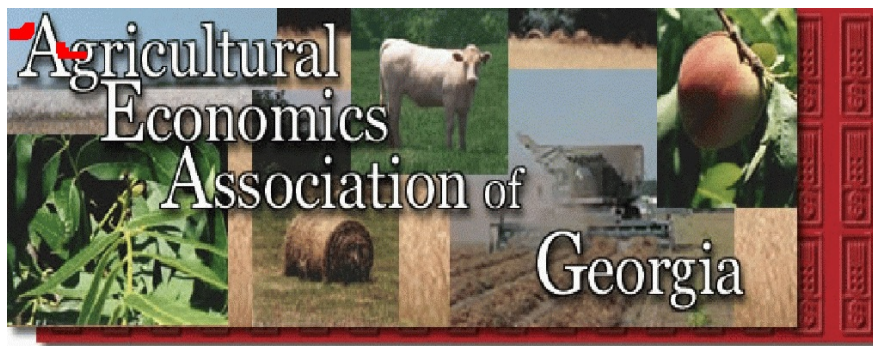
David was enjoying retired life by farming on his wife's family farm in Jasper County, GA. He was managing a herd of commercial cattle on the farm, along with a multitude of other farm animals. He also spent time in Dodge County visiting with family and friends.

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### **Opportunity to Support Department**

Please consider making an investment in future agricultural economics and agribusiness leaders of our state and nation by supporting our educational programs. To support the Agricultural Economics Fund (which supports general departmental activities) or the Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund, please make checks payable to the Arch Foundation. To support the 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 make checks payable to the UGA Foundation. Mail all checks to 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

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Dear UGA Agriculture and Applied Economics Alumnus:

As fellow graduates from the Agriculture 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 applications 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 these goals to assist the future leaders in our field.

AEAG membership offers benefits through the following:

★Journal of Agribusiness

★J.W. Fanning Lecture

★AEAG newsletter

★Recognition for career accomplishments

★Enhanced educational opportunities for students in agricultural economics

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 [www.aeag.uga.edu](http://www.aeag.uga.edu).

Sincerely,

The 2009 Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia Board of Directors

President, Kristin McWhorter

First Vice President, Jimmy Bramblett

Secretary, Forrest Stegelin

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Head, Ag. & Applied Econ. Dept., Octavio Ramirez

### **Board Members at Large:**

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### **Membership Information and Application**

Membership in the Association is open to people sharing a common interest in agricultural economics, agribusiness, and related fields. Membership is by application or invitation by an Association member.

Individual membership in the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia is \$25 per year and includes a subscription to the Journal of Agribusiness and the AEAG Newsletter as well as attendance at the J. W. Fanning Lecture. Membership rates for students and associates (individuals within three years of graduation) are \$10 per year. The membership rate for libraries and other institutions is \$35 per year. Corporate membership is \$150 per year. Lifetime memberships for individuals and corporate members are \$250 and \$1000, respectively.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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, Georgia 30602-7509**

**For more information, call 706-542-0763 or visit [www.aeag.uga.edu](http://www.aeag.uga.edu)**