



# Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

The University of Georgia

*Alumni Newsletter*

*Fall, 2011*

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## Greetings from the Department Head

Dear Friends:



Mark your calendars! Our J. W. Fanning Lecture has been set for January 20, 2012. Dr. Elena Irwin of the Department of Agricultural, Environment, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University will be presenting the lecture entitled, “The Implications of the Housing Bust and Other Recent Trends for Urban, Suburban, and Exurban Growth.” Please see the information on the following two pages for details and a registration form for the lecture and the luncheon. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

As you know, the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional and Professional Awards are presented at the J.W. Fanning luncheon following the lecture. I encourage you to submit nominations of outstanding agricultural economists for these two awards. The criteria and instructions for submitting nominations for these awards are listed in the newsletter directly after the lecture and luncheon registration form.

As I have said in previous newsletters, our department is fortunate to have many truly outstanding students. Under the section, **Student News**, please read about our Academic Quiz Bowl Team and their accomplishments. And congratulations to Jennie Allison whose paper won first place in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association’s Student Paper Competition and to Zeke Bryant whose paper placed second in that same competition! I would also like to recognize all of the students who graduated during the summer. We had seven undergraduate and a record-breaking nine graduate students completing their programs in the summer of 2011.

Also, please be sure to read our “spotlight” sections. Our **Faculty Spotlight** features Dr. Glenn Ames who returned to our department after having served as the director of international special projects at the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach. Our **Alumni Spotlight** features two of our recent graduates, Rachael Gass and Abby Moore, who are making a difference in peoples’ lives through their volunteer work in Tanzania, Africa. I am sure you will enjoy reading about their exciting adventures in that country.

I would like to encourage all of our alumni to stay in touch with us. We would like to know what is going on in your lives after graduation. Please send us emails with news about your current employment, marriages, births of children, and any other news you would like to share with the AAEC department community through this newsletter. You may email the information to [aaecnews@uga.edu](mailto:aaecnews@uga.edu) or mail the information to Audrey Hudson, 303 Conner Hall, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

In closing, I would like to wish each of you and your families a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Sincerely

*Octavio Ramirez*

Department Head and Professor

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## J. W. Fanning Lecture – January 20, 2012



The 27<sup>th</sup> annual J.W. Fanning Lecture and Luncheon is scheduled for January 20, 2012. The speaker will be Dr. Elena Irwin who will present a lecture entitled, “The Implications of the Housing Bust and Other Recent Trends for Urban, Suburban, and Exurban Growth.” Dr. Irwin is a professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environment, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University. She specializes in regional and community economics with a primary focus on the causes and consequences of growth in local and regional areas, including changes in settlement patterns in suburban, exurban and rural areas; the life-cycle and policy factors that influence households’ residential location decisions; the value of open space and open space preservation policies; and the linkages among land use change, environmental amenities, and water quality. Her research applies theory and modeling techniques from the fields of spatial and regional economics, including the application of spatial econometrics and geographic information systems.

Dr. Irwin is a recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Research Fellowship; the Best Conference Paper on Housing and Community Development Award from the American Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference; the Article of the Year Award from the Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association; the Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award for Distinguished Young Scholar in Regional Science from the North American Regional Science Council; the Distinguished Research Award, Top Junior Faculty from the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center; and the Sustainability Science Award from the Ecological Society of America. In addition, Dr. Irwin serves as the associate editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, on the Advisory Board for *Letters in Spatial and Resource Economics*, and on the editorial board of the *International Regional Science Review*.

**Mark your calendars for this important event!**  
*(Please see the agenda and registration form below.)*

### Agenda for J.W. Fanning Events - January 20, 2012

All events will take place at the Georgia Center.

8:30 a.m. - **Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia Board Meeting** - Craig Board Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

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

10:30 a.m. - **J.W. Fanning Lecture** - Room R (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. Elena Irwin – “The Implications of the Housing Bust and Other Recent Trends for Urban, Suburban, and Exurban Growth”

12:00 noon - Luncheon - Magnolia Ballroom

**Presentation of J.W. Fanning Professional Awards**  
(Craig Scroggs, President of Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia)

1:30 p.m. - Adjourn

The cost of this year's luncheon is \$30. There is no cost for attending the lecture only. *(Please register for the luncheon no later than January 12, 2012. See the registration form below.)*

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**27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 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 **January 12, 2012** 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 your reservation.*

**All of us join in wishing you a happy holiday season  
and a prosperous new year.**

*From the Department Head, Faculty, and Staff  
of Agricultural & Applied Economics*



## Outstanding Agricultural Economist Awards – Now Accepting Nominations



The Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) presents yearly awards to agricultural economists who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level. Candidacy is limited to agricultural economists operating in Georgia and/or graduates of a degree program offered by the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at The University of Georgia.

There are two awards which are based on the number of years of experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award* is presented to those with ten years or less of professional experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award* is presented to those with more than ten years of professional experience.

Nominations for the awards may come from anyone. AEAG members, faculty, alumni, students, and agricultural economists in the state are encouraged to nominate qualified candidates for the awards. Also, agricultural economists should feel free to nominate themselves.

The nomination process is simple. **Provide a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments, education, work experience, current position, past recognitions and awards, and contact information.** Send nominations to the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. The deadline for award nominations is December 30, 2011. AEAG board members will select award recipients. Both awards will be presented at the luncheon following the annual J. W. Fanning Lecture on January 20, 2012.

## Student News

### *Academic Quiz Bowl*

In the summer of 2011, the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics sent a team of outstanding students to the 2011 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) Joint Annual Meetings in Pittsburgh, PA where they participated in the student section paper and Academic (Quiz) Bowl competitions. The Academic Bowl competition at the national meetings allows undergraduate students to test their basic knowledge of agricultural and environmental economics. Each team, consisting of three players, represents their college or university and competes against other teams utilizing a test bank of questions. Moderators read from a test bank of questions in eight categories ranging from micro and macro economic theory, agribusiness finance, management, marketing, resources and policy, quantitative methods, and potpourri.

In the undergraduate paper competition, students submit a paper (usually developed during a class) to a panel of judges who evaluate the written papers which are worth 60% of their score, while another panel evaluates their oral presentation worth 40%. This year three of our students, Virginia (Jennie) Allison, Zeke Bryant, and Travis Volyes, submitted papers which they had written for AAEC 4990, applied economic topics (Quiz Bowl Class), co-taught by Dr. Glenn C.W. Ames and J. Wesley Burnett, and AAEC 4610, applied econometrics, taught by Dr. Warren

Kriesel.

Jennie Allison placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the AAEC student paper competition for her research entitled, “Childhood Poverty in Georgia: An Econometric Analysis.” Zeke Bryant received 2<sup>nd</sup> place for his study, “Who Consumes Fast Food and Why?” Congratulations to Jennie, Zeke, and Travis for a job well done!

In the Academic Bowl, Zeke Bryant, Travis Voyles, and Gena Perry competed as the UGA team while Jennie Allison joined two other students in a team of Academic Bowl alternates. Although UGA’s team did not make it to the final round, it was a positive experience for everyone involved with the quiz bowl.



UGA Academic Bowl Teammates at the Recruitment Fair. (Left to right: Travis Volyes, Jennie Allison, Zeke Bryant, and Gena Perry)

Academic Bowl Alternates Team: Jennie Allison (far left) with teammates from other universities.







Jennie Allison receives her 1<sup>st</sup> place award in the undergraduate student papers competition from Dr. Thomas W. Hertel, AAEA president, at the Awards Ceremony

Cain Thurman, a third-year agribusiness major from Jefferson, Georgia, was elected to serve as the 2011-2012 National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Southern Region Vice President. Along with his teammates serving the National FFA Organization, Cain will take a year of absence from The University of Georgia to travel over 125,000 miles across the United States and Japan representing agricultural education and the FFA. Cain is the thirteenth Georgian to become a national FFA officer.



### Summer 2011 Graduates

*Congratulations to our students who graduated from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the summer of 2011!*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Major</b>
Samantha Delane Allis	BSA	AGB
Hunter Reed Blair	BSA	AAE
Micah Paul Borron	BSA	AGB
William Edward Collins, Jr.	BSA	AGB
Marisa Rae Dorsey	BSA	AGB
Christopher Michael Spruill	BSA	AGB
Jordan Robert Thomas	BSA	AGB

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Ruohong Cai	PhD	AAE
Brian Chiputwa	MS	AAE
Vahe Heboyan	PhD	AE
Xiaofei Li	MS	AAE
Shanshan Lin	PhD	AAE
Jack Andrew Purvis	MS	AAE
Nuntawadee Sriperm	MS	AAE
Ying Xia	MS	AAE
Veronica Teresa Yoo	MS	AAE

## Faculty Spotlight

### Glenn C.W. Ames



Our featured faculty member is Dr. Glenn C.W. Ames, who joined the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in 1973 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1980 and to professor in 1987. In 2001, Dr. Ames was appointed as the director of the Office of International Public Service and Outreach at UGA and in 2009, director of international special projects, Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach. He has since returned to the department to continue his teaching, research, and public service.

For many years, Dr. Ames taught international trade policy and has won several teaching awards, including the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award and the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member Award on two separate occasions.

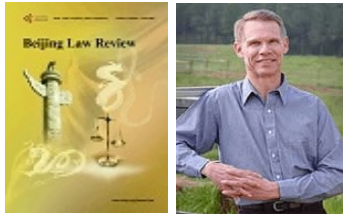
While in public service, Dr. Ames was awarded more than \$1,071,311 in externally funded contracts and grants. He was the top research grant recipient in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in 1980 and again in 1982.

Dr. Ames was the first to receive the D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in International Agriculture. As director of the Office of International Public Service and Outreach in the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, he coordinated trade development projects and educational partnerships with institutions in Kenya, Uganda, and Mexico. He also led two-week cross-cultural studies programs for cooperative extension agents in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Mexico in collaboration with the associate dean for outreach and extension in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. In addition, he directed two service-learning projects in healthcare and educational outreach for the Latino community in Clarke County.

Along with Vahé Hoboyan, then a Ph.D. student in the department, Dr. Ames developed a study abroad course entitled, "Armenia: the Cradle of Civilization," in 2006. The course was first offered during the Maymester 2007 with eight students who were majoring in agricultural leadership, economics, and international business. Dr. Ames provided instructional oversight for graduate and undergraduate interns and practicum students from the Department of Health Promotions and Behavior in a student-initiated service-learning project named, "Learn & Serve Hispanic Healthcare Pilot Program," in which seminars for the Latino community were organized. Dr. Ames was commended by the Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) for his support of undergraduate research and participation in the CURO Symposium in 2003 and 2008.

Dr. Ames has authored or co-authored seventy journal articles in addition to numerous other publications, and he has authored or co-authored 128 presentations at professional meetings. He currently teaches applied microeconomic principles and has developed new course material for a topics in agricultural and applied economics class.

## Faculty News



Professor Terry Centner has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Beijing Law Review*, a scientific research open access journal.

## Presentations

***The following individuals made presentations of their papers or posters or served at the Agricultural and Applied Economic (AAEA) annual meetings in Pittsburgh, PA in July 2011:***

Jennie Allison participated in the Agricultural Economics Quiz Bowl at the meetings and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the AAEC student paper competition for her research entitled, “Childhood Poverty in Georgia: An Econometric Analysis.”

Ajita Atreya participated as a member of the Case Study Team at the meetings.

Beth Nielsen participated as a member of the Case Study Team and presented, “Get RADical: Risk Averse Diversification of the Excel Cooperative.”

Zeke Bryant participated in the Agricultural Economics Quiz Bowl at the meetings and received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the student paper competition for his study, “Who Consumes Fast Food and Why?”

J. Wesley Burnett, Dr. John Bergstrom, and Dr. Jeff Dorfman co-authored a poster entitled, “A Spatiotemporal Fixed Effects Estimation of U.S. State-level Carbon Dioxide Emissions.” The poster was presented by Wesley Burnett.

Ruohong Cai, Dr. John Bergstrom, Dr. Jeffrey Mullen, and Dr. Michael Wetzstein co-authored a paper entitled, “Predicting the Effects of Climate Change on Farm Production and Profitability: Dynamic Simulation Approach.” The paper was presented by Ruohong Cai, who also served as moderator for the AAEA Selected Paper Session, “Climate Change and Production.”

Brian Chiputwa, Dr. Genti Kostandini, and Dr. Cesar Escalante co-authored a poster entitled, “Improved Seed, Genetic Diversity, and Risk Exposure in Maize-based Systems: The Case of Two Drought-prone Districts in Ethiopia.” The poster was presented by Dr. Escalante.

Dr. Greg Colson served as moderator at the CWAE and FAMPS Track Session, “Marketing Sustainability: Demand Side, Supply Side, and Welfare Aspects.”

Drs. Juncal Cunado and Susana Ferreira co-authored a paper entitled, “The Macroeconomic Impacts of Natural Disasters: New Evidence from Floods.” The paper was presented by Dr. Ferreira.

Dr. Jeff Dorfman served as organizer for the Econometrics Section Track Session, “A Session in Honor and Memory of Catherine Morrison Paul,” and as a panelist at the GSS Track Session, “Navigating Journal Writing – Advice for New and Experienced Writers.” He also served as the organizer and moderator for the Econometrics Section Track Session, “The History, Practice, and Latest Advances in Unit Roots and Cointegration.”

Myra Clarisse Ferrer, Dr. Esendugue Greg Fonsah, Dr. Octavio Ramirez, and Dr. Cesar Escalante co-authored a paper entitled, “Local Food Impacts on Health and Nutrition.” Clarisse Ferrer presented the paper.

Drs. Carola Grebitus, Greg Colson, and Luisa Menapace co-authored a paper entitled, “Analyzing Pork Purchases at the Point of Sale – the Role of Consumer Involvement.” Drs. Grebitus and Colson made the presentation.



Drs. Vahe Heboyan and Lewell F. Gunter co-authored a poster entitled, "Real Exchange Rate Determinants in Transition Economies: Do Investment Risk and Diaspora Play a Role?" The poster was presented by Dr. Heboyan.

Drs. Lukasz Holubowicz, Wojciech J. Florkowski, and Maciej Muczynski co-authored a poster entitled, "Broiler Consumption in a Transition Economy: An Application of Quantile Regression to Household Expenditure Analysis in Poland." The poster was presented by Dr. Florkowski.

Drs. Jeffrey Jordan, Elton Mykerezi, and Genti Kostandini co-authored a paper entitled, "The Determinants of Rural Urban Migration: Evidence from NLSY Data." The poster was presented by Dr. Jordan. Dr. Jordan also served as moderator for the AAEA Selected Paper Session, "Health and Investment."

Anne Karner participated as a member of the Case Study Team at the meetings.

Dawit Mekonnen participated as a member of the Case Study Team at the meetings.

Cheng Qiu and Dr. Michael Wetzstein co-authored a paper entitled, "Food vs. Fuel." The paper was presented by Cheng Qiu.

Drs. Kavita Sardana and John Bergstrom co-authored a paper entitled, "Modeling Site Specific Heterogeneity in an On-site Stratified Random Sample of Recreational Demand."

Ganna Sheremenko participated as a member of the Case Study Team at the meetings.

Tony Simpson, Jennifer Drupple, Marissa Watson, Ben Benson, and Dr. Jeffrey Mullen co-authored a paper entitled, "The Trade-off Between Ecological and Agricultural Water Demand: Timing Is Everything." The paper was presented by Marissa Watson.

Aaron Singh, Dr. Berna Karali, and Dr. Octavio Ramirez co-authored a paper entitled, "High Price Volatility and Spillover Effects in Energy Markets." The paper was presented by Aaron Singh.

Veronica Yoo, Dr. Wojciech Florkowski, and Dr. Richard Carew co-authored a paper entitled, "Pricing Attributes of Wines from Emerging Suppliers on the British Columbia Market." The paper was presented by Dr. Florkowski.

Travis Voyles participated in the Agricultural Economics Quiz Bowl at the meetings.

### **Others Presentations**

Dr. Glenn Ames presented his paper, "International Partnership and Collaborations in the Preparation of a New Generation of Mexican Teachers: An Example of the English Education Program at BENV," at the CONAHEC 14<sup>th</sup> North American Higher Education Conference.

Ajita Atreya and Dr. Susana Ferreira co-authored a paper entitled, "Forgetting the Flood: Changes in Flood Risk Perception Over Time." Ajita presented the paper at the UNICT-FEEM-EAERE Belpasso International Summer School on Environmental and Resource Economics at Belpasso, Italy in September. She also presented a departmental seminar on that topic in August.

Professor Terry Centner presented his paper entitled, "Governments' Ability to Confront Diseases and Invasive Species and to Preserve Biodiversity," at the 2011 International Biodiversity Conference in Baños, Ecuador in August. He presented his report from the United States for Commission III, "Scientific and Practical Development of Rural Law," at the XXVI European Congress and Colloquium of Rural Law in Bucharest, Romania in September. In addition, he presented a paper entitled "Controlling Diseases in Agriculture: Should Governments Pay for Destroying Private Property?" at the American Agricultural Law Association Conference in Austin, TX in October.

Dr. Susana Ferreira presented her paper entitled, "Nature, Socioeconomics, and Adaption to Natural Disasters: New Evidence from Floods," and served as a discussant and session chair in the First Summer Conference of the American Association of Environmental and Resource Economics in Seattle, WA in June. Dr. Ferreira, along with collaborators working on a project funded by the Hum VIB Programme of the European Science Foundation, presented four papers on the topic of spatial amenities and subjective well-being in Berlin, Germany in September.

Myra Clarisse Ferrer and Dr. Glenn Ames co-authored a poster entitled, "Food Quality Certification: Is the *Label Rouge* Program Applicable to the US?" The paper was presented by Clarisse Ferrer at the Food Distribution and Research Society Annual Conference in Portland, OR in October.

Drs. Wojciech Florkowski, Vahé Heboyan, and Daniel Sarpong co-authored a paper entitled, "Consumer Attitudes and Preferences for Peanut Product Attributes in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Evidence from Ghana." Dr. Florkowski presented the paper at the 2011 Conference of the Food Distribution Research Society in Portland, OR in October. Dr. Florkowski presented research data collections, communications, and disseminated information at the European Association of Agricultural Economists in Zurich, Switzerland and at the 18<sup>th</sup> Polish Agricultural Economics Congress in Wroclaw, Poland in August and September.

Drs. W.J. Florkowski, M. Muczynski and L. Holubowicz co-authored a poster entitled, "Consumption Differences Across Household Types: Expenditures on Pork and Quality Pork Products in Poland." The poster was presented at the XIIIth Congress of the European Association of Agricultural Economists: Change and Uncertainty in Zurich, Switzerland in September by Dr. Florkowski. Dr. Florkowski and R. Carew co-authored a poster entitled, "An Analysis of Price Determination in the Sweet Cherry Markets of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California," which Dr. Florkowski presented at the EAAE Congress in Zurich.

Dr. W.J. Florkowski, L. Holubowicz, and M. Muczyński co-authored a paper entitled, "Factors Determining Apple Expenditure Among Households of Different Income Level in Poland," which Dr. Florkowski presented at the XVIIth Congress of the Association of Agricultural Economists and Agribusiness in Wroclaw, Poland in September.

Drs. W.J. Florkowski, A. Resurreccion, and M. Chinnan co-authored a poster entitled, "Enhancing the Peanut Value Chain, from Processing to Marketing of Peanuts and Peanut Products, Product Development, Processing and Marketing in Uganda (East Africa) and Ghana (West Africa)," which was presented by collaborators in Uganda, Joseph Ruablema and Margaret Masette, at the USAID/CRSP annual meeting at Kampala, Uganda in July.

Drs. W.J. Florkowski, A. Resurreccion, M. Chinnan, Daniel Sarpong, and Joseph Rubalema co-authored a poster entitled, "Household Survey Implementation to Collect Information for Peanut Product Development, Processing and Marketing in East Africa (Uganda) and West Africa (Ghana)," which was presented by collaborators in Uganda, Joseph Ruablema and Margaret Masette, at the USAID/CRSP annual meeting at Kampala, Uganda in July.

Dr. Wojciech Florkowski made an invited presentation on organization, financing, and the latest trends in economic research in the U.S. entitled, "Problems of Development of Economic Sciences in Selected Countries," at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland.

Ramesh Ghimire and Dr. Susana Ferreira co-authored a paper entitled, "An Economic Analysis of the Impact of Deforestation on Flood Risk in the Developing Countries." Ramesh presented the paper at the Belpasso International Summer School Conference in Belpasso, Italy and at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual International BIOECON Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in September. In addition, Ramesh served as a commentator/discussant of a paper on deforestation in Colombia at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual BIOECON Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. He also presented a departmental seminar on that topic in August.

Drs. Vahé Heboyan, Daniel Sarpong, and Wojciech J. Florkowski co-authored a paper entitled, "Vegetable, Fruit and Peanut Product Expenditure in Urban Households in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Tamale, Ghana." The paper was presented by Dr. Florkowski at the 2011 Congress of the European Association of Agricultural Economists in Zurich, Switzerland in September.

Mohammed Ibrahim, Dr. W.J. Florkowski, and Dr. S. Kolavall co-authored a poster entitled, "The Adoption of Improved Peanut Varieties and Farm Income: A Propensity Score Analysis for Peanut Farmers in Northern Ghana." Dr. Florkowski presented the poster at the XIIIth Congress of the European Association of Agricultural Economists in Zurich, Switzerland in September.

Dr. Warren Kriesel presented his paper entitled, "Market Incentives for Low-Impact Residential Designs in the Coastal Marshland Context," at the Western Agricultural Economics Association meetings in Banff, Alberta in June.

Drs. Octavio Ramirez and Carlos Carpio co-authored a paper entitled, "Premium Estimation Inaccuracy and the Actuarial Performance of the U.S. Crop Insurance Program." Dr. Ramirez presented the paper and also served as an organizer for the NAAEA Track Session, "Keys to Successful Cross-institutional Collaboration." In August, Dr. Ramirez presented a seminar and recruited students at CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Education Center in Cartago, Turrialba, Costa Rica.

Ying Xia and Dr. Jack Houston presented their paper entitled, "Analysis of Oilseed Trade Patterns and Transportation Costs: An Application of Gravity Models," at the Western Agricultural Economics Association meetings in Banff, Alberta in June.

Ying Xia and Drs. Jack Houston, Cesar Escalante, and James Epperson co-authored a paper entitled, "Oilseed Trade Flows: A Gravity Model Approach to Transportation and Policy Impacts." Dr. Houston presented the paper at the 2011 Conference of the Food Distribution Research Society in Portland, OR in October.

## Publications

Carpio, C.E., O.A. Ramirez, and T. Boonsaeng. (2011) "Potential for Tradable Water Allocation and Rights in Jordan." *Land Economics*, 87:595-609.

Centner, T.J. (2011) "Have Legislatures Fully Considered Causal Factors in Assigning Liability for Inherent Risk Accidents?" *Journal of Business Systems, Governance and Ethics*, 6(1):25-37

Centner, T.J. and N. Smeshko. (2011) "Compensating Companion Animal Owners for Veterinary Malpractice through an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism," *Journal of Social Sciences*, 7(4):597-604.

Colson, G., W.E. Huffman, and M.C. Rousu. (2011) "Improving the Nutrient Content of Food through Genetic Modification: Evidence from Experimental Auctions on Consumer Acceptance." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 36(2): 343-364.

Escalante, C.L., S.L. Perkins, and F.I. Santos. (2011) "When the Seasonal Foreign Farm Workers Are Gone." *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*, 74(1):83-96.

Ferrer, M.C., E.G. Fonsah, and C.L. Escalante. (2011) "Risk-Efficient Fumigant-Mulching System Alternatives for Bell Pepper Production." *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*, 74(1):162-174.

Florkowski, W.J., L. Holubowicz, and M. Muczyński. (2011) "Factors Determining Apple Expenditure Among Households of Different Income Level in Poland." *Annals of the Polish Association of Agricultural and Agribusiness Economists*, 13(6):39-44.

Florkowski, W.J. (2011) "Organization, Financing and the Latest Trends in Agricultural Economics Research in the USA." *Roczniki Nauk Rolniczych, SERiA G*, 98(2):1-9.

Florkowski, W.J. (2011) "Innowacyjność a MSP - Przykład Organizacji Współpracy Nad Innowacją," Uwarunkowania sprawności Innowacyjnego Przedsiębiorstwa, pp. 54-62. Henryk Mruk and Renata Nestorowicz, eds., Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego w Poznaniu, Poznan.

Florkowski, W.J. (2011) "Znaczeni Centrów Wystawienniczo-Konferencyjnych z Perspektywy Południowo-Wschodnich Stanów Zjednoczonych," Znaczenie Targów dla Rozwoju Gospodarczego Kraju, pp. 101-106. H Mruk, ed., Polska Izba Przemysłu Targowego, Poznań.

Fonsah, E.G. and S. Kaninda. (2011) "Marketing of Fresh Sweet Corn Produced in Georgia." *Commercial Sweet Corn Production Handbook, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin*, 1388:33-41.

Fonsah, E.G. and S. Awondo. (2011) "Production Cost of Spring Fresh Market Sweet Corn in Georgia." *Commercial Sweet Corn Production Handbook, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin*, 1388:42-46.

Kostandini, Genti, Elton Mykerezi, Eftila Tanellari, and Nour M. Dib. (2011) "Does Buyer Experience Pay Off? Evidence from Ebay." *Review of Industrial Organization*, 39(3):253-265.

Luo, H., and J.E. Epperson. (2011) "The Potential for Supply Management of Southeastern Sweet Onions Revisited." *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, 42(1):79-83.

Mantilla, J., P. Thomas, F. Stegelin, J. Houston, and M. Chappel. (2011) "Using GIS Technology to Evaluate Transportation of Ornamental Crops in Georgia." *Journal of Agricultural Science and Technology*, B(1):8-19.

Mekonnen, D.K., Esendugue Greg Fonsah, and B. Borgotti. (2011) "U.S. Import Demand for Apple: Source Differentiated Almost Ideal Demand System Approach." *International Journal of Trade and Global Markets*, 4(4):372-382.

Mullen, Jeffrey D. (2011) "Statewide Water Planning: The Georgia Experience." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 43(3):357-366.

Rabbani, A.G., M.M. Dey, and K. Singh. (2011) "Determinants of Catfish, Basa and Tra Importation into the USA: An Application of an Augmented Gravity Model." *Aquaculture Economics & Management*, 15(3):230-244.

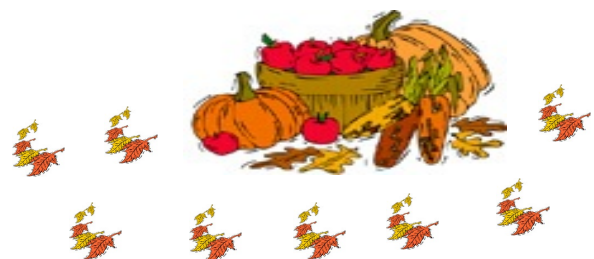
Raghunathan, U., C.L. Escalante, J.H. Dorfman, J. Houston, and G. Ames. (2011) "The Effect of Agriculture on Repayment Efficiency: A Look at MFI Borrowing Groups." *Agricultural Economics*, 42(4):465-474.

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## *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

#### Rachael Gass and Abby Moore – Working to Make a Difference in Tanzania



Our Alumni Spotlight features two of our graduates: Rachael Gass (BSES in EEM in spring 2011) and Abby Moore (BSES in EEM in spring 2011). Both of these young women are project coordinators for the 2Seeds Network, a not-for-profit organization, in Korogwe, Tanga, Tanzania, Africa. Rachel lives in the village of Tabora, and Abby lives in Bungu. They are living and working in the Tanga region of Tanzania with the goal of partnering with Tanzanians to design, create, and implement projects that focus on improving food and income security for subsistence farmers. Rachael and Abby will be in the region for a total of nine months: three months will be spent assessing their communities and learning all they can about them; five months will be spent in project design and implementation; and one month will be spent reviewing the project's successes and shortcomings. There are currently 23 project coordinators working in teams of two or three with the goal of implementing sustainable solutions that address issues of food security in villages that are directly impacted by a hunger season.

Tabora, where Rachel lives, is a village in the plains at the base of the Usambara Mountains. It is a small village with an estimated population of 2,000 people. Rachael, along with her two fellow project coordinators, has been spending time getting to know the community and adapting to life in Tabora. Visiting farms, having chai with local



families and practicing Swahili are all part of daily life for these project coordinators. The three have really developed a love for the village and are working hard to identify opportunities to improve agricultural systems.

Bungu, where Abby lives, is high in the Usambara Mountains and is comprised of eight sub-villages with a population of approximately 20,000. Abby's first few weeks were spent walking the mountains to get a lay of the land, meeting many people, and learning Swahili. She and her fellow workers are in the community assessment phase of their project, trying to learn as much as possible about Bungu, including its strengths, weaknesses, problems, and stories. Abby and her associates have held village meetings, all in Swahili, for each of the sub-villages, and they are hearing recurring themes about the issues they face. Market access, water shortages, and insufficient capital to purchase inputs are just a few of the issues that continue to surface.

After completing community assessments in November, each team will spend a few weeks discussing and designing a project to implement. 2Seeds encourages the creation of projects that have a systematic approach to development. For example, one project last year created a school garden and feeding program. The garden now supplies lunches for school children each day, and they are taught best farming practices from an early age, all though the school garden and feeding program. This project has increased the children's food security, encouraged them to go to school because they receive a meal, and is an educational tool.

Rachel and Abby are depending on their training in environmental economics to develop projects that will touch on multiple areas of development. Both women are enjoying the life application of agricultural and environmental economics. They stated that undertaking the environmental economics and management curriculum helped define their interests in international development and food security and gave them an understanding of the scarcity of resources, the need for effective and efficient allocation, and the knowledge of natural resource economics. They wrote, "The phrase 'scarce resources' takes on a new definition when we have to carry water on our heads in order to wash clothes or make dinner, are living without electricity, and are seeing neighbors and friends without enough money to buy their next allotment of maize."

In addition to her degree in environmental economics and management, Rachael completed a certificate in organic agriculture and worked on the organic plots at the UGA horticulture farm. She was a Presidential Scholar and received the Proctor Memorial Scholarship. Now living in Tanzania, she is actively learning Swahili and being completely immersed in Tanzania's culture. When she finds some downtime in Tabora, she likes to read a book in her hammock and experiment cooking African cuisine on her little kerosene stove.

Abby received a minor in Spanish in addition to her degree in environmental economics and management. While serving as treasurer of Students for Environmental Action (SEA), Abby began to see the great need for resource stewardship and education. She was a leader at the Wesley Foundation, mentoring freshman students and involved in the UGarden. Abby was on the Dean's List and a Presidential Scholar. She interned with the Mountain Studies Institute in Durango, Colorado and with Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE), helping to reevaluate and implement their five-county Resource and Energy Action Plan. Abby is also actively learning Swahili and being completely immersed in Tanzania's culture. She enjoys hiking around the mountains of Bungu, playing with the adorable children in her village, reading, and reflecting on this "amazing" experience.

Rachel and Abby would like to offer the following advice to current departmental students: "Take advantage of opportunities to travel and gain hands-on experience. Also don't overlook the education you are currently receiving. Sometimes it's difficult to understand how water resource economics or natural resource economics classes actually play out in real life, but the theory you are learning now *does* have real life applications. Abby even had to do an analysis of price floor impacts the other day for the tea market in Tanzania!"

## Alumni News



Carie (Presley) Fowler (M.S. in agricultural economics in 2004) and her husband Jim Fowler welcomed their third son in March 2011. The Fowlers have two other sons, Jamey and Jack. Carrie has been employed with the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission in Athens for the past 7 years as a non-point source program specialist.

Charles Grimsley III (BSA in agricultural economics in 2001) graduated with a master of laws in litigation and dispute resolution from the George Washington University Law School in May 2011. He now serves as an assistant district attorney in Gwinnett County, GA. He previously graduated cum laude with a juris doctor from Mercer University Law School and also earned an MBA from Mercer University. Prior to law school, he was employed by Georgia Farm Bureau and Progressive Insurance.

Jordan Thomas (BSA in agribusiness in 2011) is working as a Grain Elevator Manager Trainee at Bunge North America in Vicksburg, MS.

Travis Voyles (BSES in environmental economics and management in 2011) has moved to Atlanta and is a graduate student at Georgia Tech.



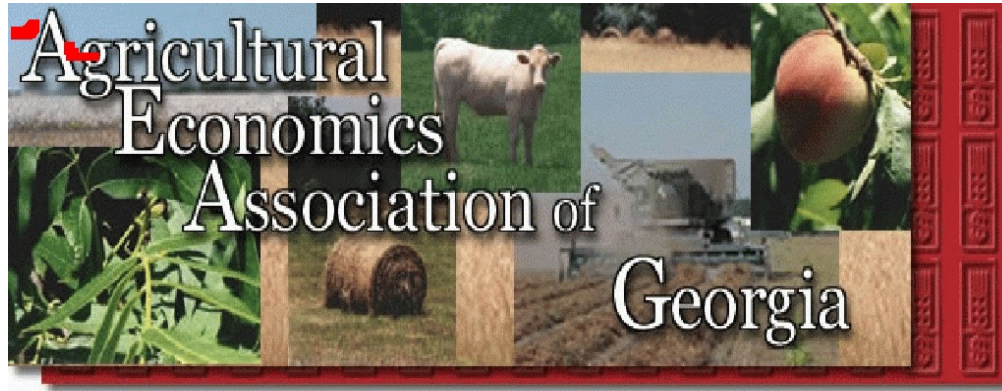
### Request for News

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 welcomed a baby, or any other important events in your lives that you would like to share with the readers of the newsletter. Please email the information to Audrey Hudson at [aaecnews@uga.edu](mailto:aaecnews@uga.edu) with the word "news" in the subject line, or mail the information to Audrey Hudson, 303 Conner Hall, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

### 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.



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 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). *(Please see the registration form below.)*

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.acag.uga.edu](http://www.acag.uga.edu)

