



Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
The University of Georgia

Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2012

Page 1

Greetings from the Department Head



Dear Friends:

It's that time again! Our J. W. Fanning Lecture/Luncheon has been set for November 15, 2012. Dr. Parr Rosson, professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University will be presenting the lecture entitled, "The Role of Immigrant Labor on U.S. Dairy Farms." Please see the information on the following two pages for details and a registration form for the lecture. The J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional and Young Professional Awards will be presented at the luncheon. I look forward to seeing many of you at these important events.

Our department is indeed fortunate to have so many outstanding students. The Student News section of this newsletter gives an account of some of their accomplishments. You may read about our Academic Quiz Bowl Team's success at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) annual meetings. Congratulations to the team and to Nate Schmitt, Zeke Bryant, and Heather Hatzenbuehler for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively, in the AAEA student paper competition. Congratulations, also, to our graduate students' Case Study Team who placed 2nd in the AAEA national competition. In addition, we would like to recognize the five undergraduate and seven graduate students who graduated in the summer of 2012.

Please be sure to read our *spotlight* sections. Our *Faculty Spotlight* features Dr. Cesar Escalante who is an associate professor in the department. Our *Graduate Student Spotlight* features Zeke Bryant who is participating in the department's Accelerated Masters Program which enables students to obtain their undergraduate and M.S. degrees in five years. Our *Alumni Spotlight* features Betsy McCorkle who founded a political consulting firm and works as a program manager for economic development at North Carolina State University. Also, the department welcomes our two newest faculty members, Dr. Scott Shonkwiler and Dr. Nick Magnan.

I would like to encourage all of our alumni to stay in touch with us. We like to keep up with you and your lives after graduation. Please email us 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 aecnews@uga.edu or mail the information to Audrey Cox, 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 A. Ramirez
Professor and Department Head

Inside this issue:

Greetings from Department Head	1
J. W. Fanning Lecture and Luncheon	2
Student News	4
Graduate Student Spotlight	7
Faculty Spotlight	8
Faculty News	9
Presentations	11
Publications	14
Alumni Spotlight	16
Alumni News	18
AEAG	19

28th Annual J. W. Fanning Lecture – November 15, 2012



The 28th annual J. W. Fanning Lecture will be on November 15, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA. This year's speaker will be Dr. Parr Rosson, professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. The title of his lecture is, "The Role of Immigrant Labor in U.S. Dairy Farms." Dr. Rosson is also the director of the Center for North American Studies which meets high-priority national needs to provide objective analyses for rapid, precise responses to emerging trade and international policy issues. Priority programs include: response to national and state priorities with economic impact analysis; identification and analysis of crucial emerging international trade trends and issues; and development and implementation of extension programs to educate key business and policy leaders.

Mark your calendars for this important event!

(Please note the changes in rooms from last year for the AEAG board meeting, registration, and lecture. See the agenda and registration form below.)

Agenda for J.W. Fanning Events - November 15, 2012

All events will take place at the Georgia Center.

8:30 a.m. - **Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia Board Meeting** - Sanford Board Room (5th Floor)

10:00 a.m. - **Registration & Refreshments** - Pecan Tree Galleria (1st Floor)

10:30 a.m. - **J.W. Fanning Lecture** - Masters Hall (1st Floor)

Welcome - Dr. Josef Broder, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Introduction of Speaker - Dr. Octavio Ramirez, Head and Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA

Lecture - Dr. Parr Rosson - Topic: "The Role of Immigrant Labor in U.S. Dairy Farms"

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

Presentation of J.W. Fanning Professional Awards:

Chris Groskreutz, Vice President of Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia

1:30 p.m. - Adjourn

See the registration form below.

28th ANNUAL J. W. FANNING LECTURE REGISTRATION

November 15, 2012

I plan to attend the lecture ____ ()

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 Cox at 706-542-0763 (email ah1@uga.edu) or Jo Anne Norris 706-542-2481 and confirm your reservation.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**



The department head, and members of the faculty and staff of the Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics join in wishing you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.



Student News

Georgia Bulldog Quiz Bowl Team at the 2012 AAEA Annual Meetings

In August 2012, the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics sent a team of outstanding students to the 2012 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) annual meetings in Seattle, WA 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 micro- and macro-economic theory, agribusiness, and natural resource economics. Each team, consisting of three players, represents their college or university and competes against other teams utilizing a test bank of questions in a Jeopardy format.

In the undergraduate paper competition, students submit papers, usually developed during a class, to a panel of judges who evaluate the written papers. Each paper is worth 60% of the student's score while another panel evaluates the student's oral presentation worth 40%. This year, four University of Georgia students, Nate Schmitt, Zeke Bryant, Mathew Mendell, and Heather Hatzenbuehler, submitted papers which they had written for AAEC 4990, Applied Economic Topics (Academic Quiz Bowl), taught by Dr. Glenn C. W. Ames.

Nate Schmitt placed 1st in the AAEA student paper competition for his research entitled, "The Effects of Teaching Experience on High School Education: A Statistical Model on Factors of Educational Achievement in Math and Science." Zeke Bryant placed 2nd for his study, "An Analysis of United States Tariffs on Chinese Solar Cells and Panels," while Heather Hatzenbuehler placed 3rd for her paper entitled, "Biofuels: Rationale, Policy Failures and a Way Forward for the State of Georgia." Nate's award-winning paper will be published in the student section of *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* while abstracts of the 2nd and 3rd place papers will also appear in the journal. Congratulations to Nate, Zeke, and Heather for a job well done!

The Academic Quiz Bowl team of Zeke Bryant, Nate Schmitt, and Heather Hatzenbuehler finished second in the national competition – the highest finish for any UGA team in recent years. Mathew Mendell joined two other students in a team of Academic Bowl Alternates which had a very respectable record in the competition. All team members agreed that they had a very positive experience at the AAEA meetings in Seattle.

The graduate students' Case Study Team placed 2nd in the national competition at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) meetings in Seattle, Washington. Team members included Jennie Allison, Kayla Calhoun, and Ganna Sheremenko. Their faculty adviser/coach was Dr. Cesar Escalante. During the two weeks prior to the meetings, the team developed marketing, production, and financial strategies for the Sunsweet Growers Corporation.



Left to right: Kayla Calhoun, Dr. Cesar Escalante (faculty adviser), Anna Sheremenko, and Jennie Allison



Nate Schmitt receives his 1st place award in the student papers competition from Dr. Robert P. King, AAEA President, at the Seattle meetings.

Dr. Octavio Ramirez, AAEC Department Head, congratulates the Georgia Bulldog Quiz Bowl Team of Heather Hatzenbuhler, Zeke Bryant and Nate Schmitt on their 2nd place finish in the national competition.



Left to right: Georgia Bulldogs–Matt Mendell, Zeke Bryant, Heather Hatzenbuhler, and Nate Schmitt, ready for the student section of the AAEA papers competition.

The UGA Academic Quiz Bowl team at the AAEA Meetings in Seattle. Left to right: Nate Schmitt, Heather Hatzenbuhler, and Zeke Bryant →



← UGA Academic Quiz Bowl team in Seattle – Left to right: Dr. Glenn Ames (faculty adviser), Heather Hatzenbuhler, Zeke Bryant, and Nate Schmitt at the awards ceremony.

Summer 2012 Graduates

Congratulations to our students who graduated from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the summer of 2012!

Name	Degree	Major
Eric Joseph Carlberg	MS	AAE
Benjamin Boyd Chastain	BSA	AGB
Mitchell Lee Farmer	BSES	EEM
Shengfei Fu	MS	AAE
Seth Embry Hancock	BSA	AGB
Nathaniel Louis Herder	MS	EEC
Addie Elizabeth Kreadle	BSES	EEM
Madhur Lamsal	MS	AAE
Luis Moises Pena Levano	MS	AAE
Beth Linnea Nielsen	MS	EEC
Scott Meyer Sternstein	BSES	EEM
Marissa Catherine Watson	MS	AAE

Agricultural and Applied Economics enrollment is up this fall from 265 in 2011 to 277 in 2012. Welcome to all of our new students!

Graduate Student Spotlight

Zeke Bryant



Zeke Bryant is a first-year M.S. student and a fourth-year agricultural economics major in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. This is not a misprint. Zeke is one of several students in the department taking advantage of the department's Accelerated Masters Program. The program allows students to take undergraduate level courses simultaneously with M.S. level courses and obtain an undergraduate degree and an M.S. degree in a period of five years, cutting a full year from the traditional programs.

The following are Zeke's remarks about the program: "This is my first year as a masters student and also my last year as an undergraduate. I am participating in the department's Accelerated Masters Program, which means that I am taking graduate and undergraduate level courses at the same time. For both this fall and spring, I will be taking two graduate courses (microeconomics I and II and econometrics I and II) as well as one undergraduate elective (this fall it is resource economics). It has been a little difficult making the transition and keeping up with both levels, but it has worked out so far for me, especially when I keep in mind that I am saving myself a year by doing this. I am also a teaching assistant for Dr. Kostandini's finance class, which has been a good experience but is also a little strange because there are students in there that I am also taking undergraduate courses with. Overall, I am happy with my decision to take advantage of this opportunity, even though it makes me eager to be done with my undergraduate courses in the spring (2013)." Zeke is on track to complete his M.S. degree in 2014.

Zeke was in the top five percent of his class during his first and second years at UGA. He was selected as the department's Outstanding Senior and received the college's Nesbitt-Flatt Award of Excellence for our department. He was featured in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences 2012-2013 calendar. Zeke is a member of the department's Academic Quiz Bowl Team which competes at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) annual meetings. His undergraduate student research paper entitled, "Who Eats Fast Food and Why?" won second place in the AAEA competition in 2011. Moreover, his undergraduate student research paper entitled, "An Analysis of United States Tariffs on Chinese Solar Cells," won second place in the AAEA competition in 2012.

Zeke has been a member of the Demosthenian Literary Society, the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club, and served as vice-president and philanthropy chair of UGA Collegiate FFA. Since becoming a student in our department, Zeke has worked as a lab assistant at the Plant Biology Lab, and continues to work for the Ramsey Student Center for Physical Activities as a facilities manager. He also worked for the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Folkston, Georgia as a youth leader in 2008 and an adult leader from 2009-2011. In addition, he has participated in the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

Zeke has obtained a 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operator Certification, a Class A Faller Certification from S212 Wildland Fire Chain Saws, ATV Rider Course Certification, American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR/AED, and Department of Interior Motorboat Operators Certification.

After obtaining his M.S in agricultural and applied economics in 2014, Zeke will decide if he wants to pursue a Ph.D. in agricultural economics or obtain work involved in production agriculture or natural resources.

In his leisure time, Zeke enjoys volunteering at wildlife refuges and parks, such as the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge near his home in Folkston, Georgia. He also enjoys rooting for the "DAWGS" on Saturdays in the fall, camping in the north Georgia mountains, hunting, fishing, and playing sports with friends during his free time.

Attention Former Graduate Students!



We would like to keep up with our graduate students. Please email us with your most recent news. We would like to know what has taken place in your life since obtaining your degree. Please send us an email and include information about where you are working, position title, recent moves, marriages, births of children, addresses, and email addresses. Also, if there is something you want to share in the newsletter, please let us know. You may email your information to Audrey Cox at aaecnews@uga.edu or mail the information to Audrey Cox, 303 Conner Hall, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, Athens, GA 30602.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Cesar L. Escalante



Dr. Cesar Escalante is an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia. His duties are 65% research in agricultural credit, farm finance, and risk management, 20% outreach in agricultural finance, and 15% instruction, primarily working with graduate students.

Over the last five years, Dr. Escalante's research focused primarily on the plight of socially and financially disadvantaged farmers with both local and global applications. His research has dealt with such recent controversial issues as the discrimination of racial minority and female farmers in farm lending programs, the viability of financially vulnerable small farm operators under a drastically changing farm labor market due to stricter immigration policies, and the challenges faced by microfinance institutions serving the poorest borrowers in developing countries.

Dr. Escalante's research accomplishments can be considered as prescriptive, proactive, and responsive. His studies have produced prescriptive ideas that could help resolve conflicts between farm lenders and socially disadvantaged farmers; define the boundaries for addressing the labor hiring predicament and farmers' business viability concerns arising from lack of reliable seasonal farm workers; and provide a deeper understanding of the microfinance firms' operating strategies in their efforts to accommodate poor borrowers and disprove traditional lending fallacies. His proactive research has anticipated issues before they happened, including research he pursued even before more explicit evidence stressed its urgency. Dr. Escalante's research has been responsive in that it showed the ideal interplay between a faculty's research and extension responsibilities. He has performed research based on specific needs relayed to him by his extension clientele in his numerous discussions with them about business challenges. His research has drawn interest from local, regional, and national media and interest groups.

Dr. Escalante earned a B.A. in economics from Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines in 1983, and he was an exchange scholar at the International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan. He earned an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Guelph, Canada in 1996 and a Ph.D. in agricultural finance and development economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001. After earning his B.A. in economics, Dr.

Escalante worked in the banking industry for nine years as a senior staff assistant and as an assistant manager. He then worked as a research specialist for the Center for Farm and Rural Business Finance, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois while pursuing his master's degree.

Dr. Escalante and his wife, Arlene, are originally from the Philippines. They moved to Canada when their oldest daughter was just eleven months old. The family moved to Illinois for Dr. Escalante to pursue his Ph.D. and their son, Mac, was born there thirteen years ago. The family moved to Georgia as soon as Dr. Escalante completed his Ph.D. in 2001. Arlene is a certified public accountant in the Philippines. She holds an M.B.A. from Eastern Illinois University and currently works as a university auditor in UGA's Internal Audit Department.

Dr. Escalante is involved as a Catechist in the Religious Education Program of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He is also active in the Filipino-American Association of Northeast Georgia which is involved in a number of cultural activities designed to raise awareness of Philippine culture. In addition, he is involved in fund-raising activities for victims of natural calamities in the Philippines and in other parts of the world. In his leisure time, Dr. Escalante enjoys spending time with his wife and children, gardening, and playing tennis.

Faculty News

Welcome New Faculty:



Dr. Nicholas Magnan joined the department in August 2012. His previous position was postdoctoral fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in the Environment, Production, and Technology Division in

Washington, D.C. Dr. Magnan received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis in 2010. His experience and interests lie at the intersection of development, agricultural, and natural resource economics. Dr. Magnan is currently teaching ENVM3060 - resource economics. Welcome, Dr. Magnan!

Dr. J. Scott Shonkwiler comes to us from the Department of Resource Economics, University of Nevada, Reno where he was chairman of the department and professor



in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources. Dr. Shonkwiler was chosen as a

Fellow by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and as a Distinguished Scholar by the Western Agricultural Economics Association, among other honors. He has served on a number of editorial boards and councils and as editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* and associate editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. Welcome, Dr. Shonkwiler!

Other News:

Dr. Terry Centner is one of six task force authors of a new Issue Paper from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), Ames, Iowa titled, "Water and Land Issues Associated with Animal Agriculture: A U.S. Perspective." CAST Issue Paper 50 is available on line at www.cast-science.org. CAST is an international consortium of scientific and professional societies, companies, and nonprofit organizations. The council assembles, interprets, and communicates credible, science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

Dr. James Epperson is the winner of the 2012 D.W. Brooks Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. He has been a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics since 1977. He is the recipient of numerous departmental teaching

awards and the 2009 Gamma Sigma Delta Senior Distinguished Teaching Award. Congratulations, Dr. Epperson!

***The International Visitor Leadership Program
African Agricultural Delegation Visits UGA
Campus in Tifton***

The University of Georgia Campus in Tifton was the venue for a delegation of 13 farmers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers from several African nations to learn about farming practices, research, and government programs supporting agriculture in Georgia. The month-long tour in July 2012 was sponsored by the United States Department of State and provided African leaders with information on “innovative and long-term strategies to make food more plentiful, available, safe, and affordable.”

The Center of Innovation for Agribusiness, a state-funded business incubator that fosters economic development in Georgia, hosted the delegation. Members of the center and UGA faculty, along with a number of others, made presentations to the group. The center’s project manager, **Chris Chammoun** (BSA in agricultural economics in 2008), discussed the center’s involvement in developing bio-fuels, aerial imaging technology, and secondary markets for Georgia farmers. **Dr. Nathan Smith**, professor and extension economist, spoke on the factors currently affecting farming’s economic outlook and the five Ps of Georgia agriculture: peaches, peanuts, pecans, pines, and poultry. **Dr. Greg Fonsah**, fruit and vegetable economist, explained the role that extension plays in the success of agriculture in Georgia.

Dr. Fonsah made a presentation at his banana trials outside of the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. The Tifton tour concluded with a tour of Rutland Farms and a snack of banana pudding and lemonade at the Rutland Farmers Market. The trip to Tifton was the end of the African delegation’s tour of U.S. agricultural facilities.



Dr. Esendugue Greg Fonsah discussing his banana research project with enthusiastic visitors, July 26, 2012. These visitors were invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program.



Other important personalities were members of the center, UGA faculty, the staff of both U.S. Representative Austin Scott and Senator Johnny Isakson, a USDA researcher, and an official from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

***The Ambassador of the Republic of Gabon Tours
South Georgia Farms***

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner, Gary Black and the Ambassador of the Republic of Gabon, Central Africa, H.E. Michael Moussa-Adamo, along with other important personalities from the Georgia Department of Agriculture visited Dr. Esendugue Greg Fonsah’s banana research project in Tifton during their tour of South Georgia on July 19, 2012. The objective of the tour was “to introduce the Ambassador to Georgia agriculture and commodities so that our two countries can work together.”



From left to right: Georgia Agriculture Commissioner, Gary Black; His Excellency Michael Moussa-Adamo, Ambassador of the Republic of Gabon; and Dr. Venkatesan Parkunan, UGA Pathology Department, posing under a bunch of Georgia grown bananas in Dr. Esendugue Greg Fonsah's research plot, Tifton, Georgia, July 19, 2012.

Presentations

Research Presentations at Major Professional (National or International) Conferences

Ames, Glenn C. W. and William A. Masters. "Frontiers of Research on Foreign Assistance and Food Security." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Atreya, Ajita and **Susana Ferreira**. "Spatial Variation in Flood Risk Perception: A Spatial Econometric Approach." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Awondo, Sebastain Nde, Octavio A. Ramirez, Gauri S. Datta, and **Ensendugue Greg Fonsah**. "Estimation of Crop Yield Distribution and Insurance Premium Using Shrinkage Estimator: A Hierarchical Bayes and Small Area Estimation Approach." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Carlberg, Eric J. and **Gentian Kostandini**. "The Effects of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Techniques Farmer Field Schools on Groundnut Productivity: Evidence from Ghana." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Centner, T.J. "Liability for Pesticide Spray Drift," American Agricultural Law Association Symposium, Nashville, TN, October 2012.

Colson, Greg "How to Balance Your Teaching Appointment with Publication Expectations." Graduate Student Section Track Session, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Colson, Greg, L. Menapace, and **R. Raffaelli**. "Risk Aversion, Subjective Beliefs, and Farmer Risk Management," (Invited Paper) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Colson, Greg, Shengfei Fu, and **Octavio Ramirez**. "Crop Insurance Savings Accounts." (Presented by Shengfei Fu.) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Dorfman, Jeffrey H. "Hands on Bayesian Model Averaging." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Epperson, J. E., and **C.L. Escalante**. "The Effect of the Eurozone Crisis on U.S. Food Companies." Food and Distribution Research Society annual conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 13-17, 2012.

Ferrer, Myra Clarisse, Glenn C.W. Ames, Greg Fonsah, Cesar Escalante, and **Octavio Ramirez**. "Childhood Food Insecurity: Factors Associated with the National School Lunch Program in the U.S." Food Distribution and Research Society annual conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 13-17, 2012.

Fu, S., Greg Colson, and Octavio Ramirez, “Crop Insurance Savings Accounts,” Agricultural and Applied Economics annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Ghimire, Ramesh, Susana Ferreira, and Jeffrey H. Dorfman. “Flood-Induced Migration and Armed Conflict.” (Poster – presented by Ramesh Ghimire.) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Ibrahim, Mohammed, **Wojciech J. Florkowski,** and Shashidhara Kolavalli. “Determinants of Farmer Adoption of Improved Peanut Varieties and their Impact on Farm Income: Evidence from Northern Ghana.” Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Karali, Berna, Olga Isengildina-Massa, and Scott H. Irwin. “When do the USDA Forecasters Make Mistakes?” Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Karner, Anne and Jeffrey H. Dorfman. “Senior Migration Drivers: Natural Amenities vs. Medical Care.” Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Kostandini, Gentian, Elton Mykerezi, and **Cesar L. Escalante.** “The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Farming Sector.” Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Kostandini, Gentian, Olaf Erenstein, Tahirou Abdoulaye, Zhe Guo, and Girma Tesfahun. “Ex-Ante Evaluation of the Impacts of Drought Tolerant Maize in Africa.” International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) triennial conference. Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, August 18-24, 2012.

Kostandini, Gentian, Eftila Tanellari, Bradford Mills, and Anthony Murray. “Evaluating Ex-Post

Impacts of the Peanut Research Program: Evidence from Uganda.” International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) triennial conference, Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, August 18-24, 2012.

Kriesel, Warren. “The Application of Count Regression Models to Improving a Web-based Extension Program.” (Poster) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Lamsal, Madhur and Jeffrey D. Mullen. “Green Roof Adoption: Social Optimal vs Private Optimal.” (Poster) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Li, Xiaofei, Cesar L. Escalante, James Epperson, and Lewell F. Gunter, Jr. “Technical Efficiency and the Probability of Bank Failure Among Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Banks.” Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Li, X, C. L. Escalante, J. E. Epperson, and L.F. Gunter. “Early Warning Models for Bank Failures: Lessons from the Late 2000s Great Recession.” (Presented by Cesar Escalante) Annual International Conference on Accounting and Finance, Singapore, May 21, 2012.

Lybbert, Travis J., **Nicholas Magnan,** David J. Spielman, Anil Bhargava, and Kajal Gulati. “Targeting Technology to Reduce Poverty and Conserve Resources: Experimental Delivery of Laser Land Leveling to Indian Farmers.” International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) triennial conference, Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, August 18-24, 2012.

Madhavan-Nambiar, Padmanand, Wojciech J. Florkowski and Dong-Kyun Suh. “Attitudes of Urban Female Consumers toward Food Production Practices in the Republic of Korea.” Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Magnan, Nicholas, Kajal Gulati, Travis J. Lybbert, and David J. Spielman. "Leveling with Friends: Social Networks and Indian Farmers' Demand for Agricultural Custom Hire Services." International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) triennial conference, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, August 18-24, 2012.

Marzette, Audrianna A., **Glenn C.W. Ames**, **William A. McFall**, **Myra Clarisse Ferrer**, and Allison Jennifer Ames. "Where is Our Next Meal Coming From? The Recession and Food Insecurity in the Southern U.S." International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) triennial conference, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, August 18-24, 2012.

Marzette, Audrianna, **Jack E. Houston**, **Glenn C.W. Ames**, and Allison J. Ames. "Food Insecurity, the National School Lunch Program and Educational Achievement: Evidence from Georgia's Public Schools." Food Distribution and Research Society annual meetings, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 12-17, 2012.

Menapace, L., **Greg Colson**, and R. Raffaelli, "On the Validity of Gamble Tasks to Assess Farmers' Risk Attitudes." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Menapace, L., **Greg Colson**, and R. Raffaelli. "Cognitive Heuristics and Farmers' Perceptions of Risks Related to Climate Change." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Meng, Ting, **Wojciech J. Florkowsk**, Shashi Kolavalli, and Mohemmed Ibrahim. "Food Expenditures and Income in Rural Households in the Northern Region of Ghana." (Presented by Ting Meng.) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Nielsen, Beth L., **Jeffrey D. Mullen**, John Dowd, and **Wendy Wright**. "Agricultural Groundwater Policy During Drought: A Spatially Differentiated

Approach for the Flint River Basin." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Nzaku, Kilungu, **Jack E. Houston**, and **Esendugue Greg Fonsah**. "Dynamic Estimation of U.S. Demand for Fresh Vegetable Imports." International Association of Agricultural Economists triennial conference, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, August 18-26, 2012.

Patton, Douglas A., **John C. Bergstrom**, **Alan Covich**, and Rebecca L. Moore. "An Assessment of Ecosystem Services Associated with Wetlands in USFWS National Wildlife Refuges." (Presented by Douglas Patton) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Ramirez, Octavio. "Designing and Implementing Collaborative Metrics for Departments, Schools, and Colleges." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Ramirez, Octavio. "Conclusive Evidence on the Benefits of Temporal Disaggregation to Improve the Precision of Time Series Model Forecasts." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Sheremenko, Ganna, **Cesar L. Escalante**, and **Wojciech J. Florkowski**. "The Universality of Microfinance Operations Model in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Financial Sustainability vs. Poverty Outreach." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Stegelin, Forrest E. "Is It More Than Coincidence of the Presence of Food Deserts, Pre-School Aged Native American Indian Children and Childhood Obesity?" (Poster) Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meetings, Seattle, WA, August 2012.

Other Presentations

Atreya, Ajita and **Susana Ferreira**. "Flood Risk, Homeowners' Flood Risk Perception and Insurance." (presented by Ajita Atreya) 10th West Coast Research Symposium on Technology Entrepreneurship, Los Angeles, CA, 2012.

Centner, T. J. "Legal Actions for Pesticide Spray Drift." Continuing Legal Education Conference, Fayetteville, AR, August 2012.

Escalante, C.L. (Session Moderator). "Production Issues," Session of the Future of Food Workshop, The Center for Integrative Conservation Research. UGA Special Collections Library, October 1, 2012.

Ferrer, Myra Clarisse and **Glenn C.W. Ames**. "Factors Associated with Obesity and Diabetes in the United States: Impact of Local Foods and Other Factors." 2012 Mini Summit at Shanghai Ocean University. October 29 – November 1, 2012.

Fonsah, E.G., S. Brown, and B. Skaggs. "Georgia and Gabon: A Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture Development with UGA-CAES and The Georgia Department of Agriculture." Ministry of Agriculture, Minister's Conference Hall, Republic of Gabon, Central Africa, October 8, 2012.

Fonsah, E.G., S. Brown, and B. Skaggs. "Georgia and Gabon: A Partnership for a Durable Educational Exchange with UGA-CAES." Ministry of Education, Minister's Conference Hall, Republic of Gabon, Central Africa, October 10, 2012.

Fonsah, E.G. "Growing Bananas in the Southeast Regions of the United States." Presented in three different sessions at the Coastal Botanic Gardens Fall Festival, Savannah, GA, October 13, 2012.

Ghimire, Ramesh and **Susana Ferreira**. "Floods and Armed Conflict." (Presented by Ramesh Ghimire.) Camp Resources XIX, Wrightsville Beach, NC, August 2012.

Ghimire, Ramesh and **Susana Ferreira**. "Floods and Armed Conflict." (Presented by Ramesh Ghimire) UGA Agricultural and Applied Economics Departmental Seminar, Athens, GA, August 2012.

Sheremenko, G., C.L. Escalante, and **W. Florkowski**. "The Dual Goals of Social Outreach and Financial Sustainability: A Comparative Analysis of More Mature Indian and Newer Russian Microfinance Institutions." NC117 Agricultural Finance Regional Hatch Group's annual meeting, Washington, D.C., October 26, 2012.

Publications:

Journal Articles (refereed)

Awondo, S.N., E. G. Fonsah, D. Riley and M. Abney. (2012) "Stated Effectiveness of Tomato-Spotted Wilt Virus Management Tactics." *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 105(3): 943–948.

Centner, T.J. and **S. Ferreira**. (2012) "Governments' Ability to Take Actions to Confront Incursions of Diseases – A Case Study: Citrus Canker in Florida." *Plant Pathology*, 61:821-828.

Ferreira, S. and **R. Ghimire**. (2012) "Forest Cover, Socioeconomics, and Reported Flood Frequency in Developing Countries." *Water Resources Research*, 48 (8): W08529 (Impact Factor 2.96).

Gonzalez, Asa O., Berna Karali, Michael E. Wetzstein. (2012) "A Public Policy Aid for Bioenergy Investment: Case Study of Failed Plants." *Energy Policy*, 51:465-473.

Karali, B., (2012) "Do USDA Announcements Affect the Co-Movements Across Commodity Futures Returns?" *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 37(1):77-97.

Magnan, Nicholas, Douglas M. Larson, and J. Edward Taylor. (2012) "Stuck on Stubble: The Non-Market Value of Agricultural Byproducts for Diversified Farmers in Morocco." *American Journal*

of *Agricultural Economics*, 94(5):1055-1069.

Qiu, C., G. Colson, C. Escalante, and M.E. Wetzstein. (2012) "Considering Macroeconomic Indicators in the Food before Fuel Nexus," *Energy Economics*, 34(6):2021-2028.

Schnake, K. N., B. Karali, and J. H. Dorfman. (2012) "The Informational Content of Distant-Delivery Futures Contracts," *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 37(2):213-228.

Tertuliano, M., G. Krewer, J.E. Smith, K. Plattner, J. Clark, J. Jacobs, E. Andrews, D. Stanaland, P. Andersen, O. Liburd, **E. G. Fonsah** and H. Scherm (2012). "Growing Organic Rabbiteye Blueberries in Georgia, USA: Results of Two Multi-Year Field Studies". *International Journal of Fruits Science*, 12:205–215.

Tshikala, Sam Kaninda and Greg Fonsah. (2012) "Estimating the U.S. Import Demand for Melons: A Dynamic Analysis Approach." *Journal of International Food & Agribusiness Marketing*, 24(4):306-320.

Wu, H., G. Colson, C. Escalante, and M.E. Wetzstein. (2012) "An Optimal U.S. Biodiesel Fuel Subsidy," *Energy Policy* 48:601-610.

Other Publications:

Centner, T.J. (2012) "Welfare Concerns and Responses Limiting Animal Management Practices in the United States" (book chapter). *Jahrbuch des Agrarrechts*, José Martinez, ed. (Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden), pp. 59-67.

Epperson, J. E., and C.L. Escalante. "The Effect of the Eurozone Crisis on U.S. Food Companies." Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics Faculty Series, FS 12-01, University of Georgia <http://purl.umn.edu/137096>.

Fonsah, E.G. and Angus SND Chidebelu. (2012) Economics of Banana Production and Marketing in

the Tropics: A Case Study of Cameroon. (book) Langaa Research and Publishing CIG, Mankon, Bamenda, ISBN: 9956-726-54-0, 244 pages (Re-published).

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_c_1_9?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=esendugue+gregory+fonsah&prefix=Esendugue%2Caps%2C225

Fonsah, E. G. (2012) "Vegetables." *2012 Georgia Ag-Forecast.*, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, pg. 15. www.GeorgiaAgForecast.com

Fonsah, E. G. (2012) "Fruits and Nuts." *2012 Georgia Ag-Forecast*, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, pg. 16. www.GeorgiaAgForecast.com

Fonsah, E. G. (2012) "Labor Situation and Outlook: Fruits and Vegetables" *2012 Georgia Ag-Forecast*, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, pg. 28. www.GeorgiaAgForecast.com

Shurley, Don, Guy Collins, Jared Whitaker, Calvin Perry, Calvin Meeks, and Amanda Smith. (2012) "Can Subsurface Drip Irrigation Be a Feasible and Profitable Practice in Georgia Cotton Production." *2011 Georgia Cotton Research-Extension Report*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, July:46-57.

Spielman, D.J., **D. Kelemework**, and D. Alemu. (2012). "Seed, Fertilizer, and Agricultural Extension in Ethiopia" (book chapter). *Food and Agriculture in Ethiopia: Progress and Policy Challenges*, P. Dorosh and S. Rashid, eds. Philadelphia: University of

Pennsylvania Press.

Zering, K.D., **T.J. Centner**, et al. (2012) "Water and Land Issues Associated with Animal Agriculture: A U.S. Perspective." CAST Issue Paper 50: 1-24.

Other achievements (grants):

Ajita Atreya: The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Conference and Travel Award - 2012.

Ramesh Ghimire: University of Illinois, Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop and Travel Grants - 2012; Open Society Foundations Global Supplementary Grant - 2012/2013.

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.

Alumni Spotlight



Betsy McCorkle

Betsy MacMillan McCorkle is the Program Manager at the North Carolina Solar Center at North Carolina State University. This position has introduced her to the numerous barriers facing companies in the clean technology fields, but it also places her in a position to help create solutions to these barriers. She is actively involved with the Solar Center's clients in addressing barriers relating to permitting, workforce development, political barriers, and financing options. She works very closely with domestic and international renewable energy developers to find the right financial model to drive their development and attract investors.

Through these efforts, she has had the opportunity to work with local, regional, and state government groups as a resource when they are attracting clean technology companies into the area or planning to deploy a project. Betsy recently led a team whose efforts resulted in the successful recruitment of Ming Yang Wind Power, a Chinese wind turbine manufacturer and project developer. Ming Yang located their North American Research and Development facility on Centennial Campus at North Carolina State University in March of 2012.

The majority of Betsy's educational and professional pursuits have centered on renewable energy and clean technology. Betsy has a particular interest in these technologies because she sees them as the future of our national and local economies. She views the southeastern states as being uniquely positioned to be leaders in product and project development.

In addition to her position at the North Carolina Solar Center, Betsy continues to work at Beyond Consulting, LLC based in Cary, North Carolina. Betsy founded this company in 2010. It is a political consulting firm specializing in policy analysis, research, and operations services for political campaigns throughout the Southeast. Beyond Consulting's clients include the North Carolina Republican Party, the Pat McCrory Committee, Austin Scott for U.S. Congress, and many other state and local campaigns.

Betsy received a BSES degree in environmental economics and management from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia in 2008. She was the recipient of the department's Outstanding Leadership Award and received a Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership and Service. During her time at UGA, Betsy received several scholarships and was a CAES Ambassador. She was a member of Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority and served as president and vice president of the sorority. While she was an undergraduate student, she worked as an assistant to the Communications Director at the Georgia Agribusiness Council and as an Agricultural Policy Fellow for the United States House of Representatives.

In 2010, Betsy obtained a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University. While working toward her master's degree, Betsy was a governmental affairs intern at the Conservation Council of North Carolina where she worked closely with policymakers on renewable energy and energy efficiency legislation.

Betsy credits being involved in leadership positions in clubs and organizations, and internships with contributing to her professional success. She offers the following advice to current students in the department: "Get involved! Do not waste one minute while at UGA. You will reap the benefits of your out-of-the-classroom experiences for the rest of your life. Do research, lead a club, study abroad – it doesn't matter, take a chance – you won't be sorry!"

Betsy's interests outside of work include politics, UGA football, and traveling. Betsy married Ben McCorkle (BSA in 2008) in 2008, and they live in Cary, North Carolina with their puppy, Vina.



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 Cox at aaecnews@uga.edu with the word "news" in the subject line, or mail the information to Audrey Cox, 303 Conner Hall, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

Alumni News

Chris Chammoun (BSA in agricultural economics in 2008) received an M.S. in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University in 2012. He is working as a project manager for the Georgia Center of Innovation for Agribusiness, Georgia Department of Economic Development. Chris provides expertise and connections to help Georgia's agribusiness industry grow and compete globally by connecting clients directly to key resources, emerging technologies, and university research.

Haley Engelberth (BSES in environmental economics and management in 2010) received an M.S. in ecology and environmental science with a concentration in environmental economics and policy from the University of Maine in August, 2012.

Lee Gross (BSES in environmental economics and management in 2004 with a certificate in International Agriculture from the Office of Global Programs) received an M.S. in natural resources from the University of Vermont in 2011. He is now working as a project manager for NGO EcoAgriculture Partners in Washington, D.C. The focus of his work is integrated landscape agricultural development strategies worldwide.

Thomas C. James (BSA in agribusiness in 2011) is the relationship manager at AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA in Thomaston, Georgia.

Elliott Marsh (BSA in agribusiness in 1998 and master's in ag leadership) has accepted a position as the East Georgia Regional Sales Manager with Ag Technologies, LLC.

Emily Kubala Thomas is working as a sustainability analyst for LONZA near Atlanta, GA.

Katie Thomason (BSA in agribusiness in 2010) and Tyler Murray (BSA in animal and dairy science in 2010) were married on May 5, 2012. Katie works for the Athens Small Business Development Center and Tyler is a farm manager for the University of Georgia. They reside in Winterville, Georgia.

John Torpy III (BSA in agribusiness in 2003) is a self-employed farmer involved in row crop and cattle production in Swainsboro, Georgia.

Jo Whorton (BSA in agribusiness in 2010) is working as a marketing specialist in application equipment for AGCO in Atlanta, Georgia.

Opportunity to Support Department

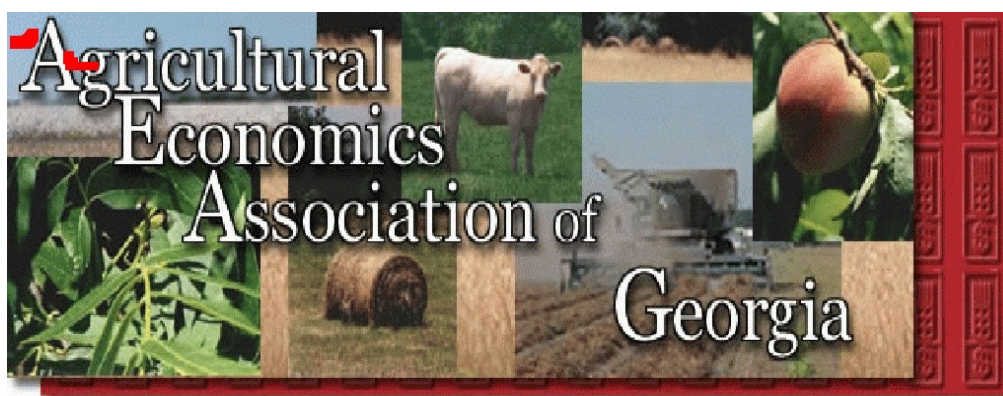


Please consider making an investment in future agricultural economics and agribusiness leaders of our state and nation by supporting our educational programs. To support the Agricultural Economics Fund (which supports general departmental activities) or the Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund, 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.

Obituaries

Mr. Jesse Rhodes “Jet” Russell, age 90 of Griffin passed away on Thursday, November 10, 2011. Mr. Russell received B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Georgia. He worked in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Georgia Experiment Station 12 years before joining the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He retired as senior economist in the Natural Resource Economic Division. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Griffin and a deacon and Sunday school teacher for 50 years. He served as chairman of the Griffin Hospital Authority and as director of the Spalding Regional Medical Center board. He was a member of the board of directors of the Bank of Monticello and a member of the American Legion, Griffin Elks Lodge, Jasper County Masons, A & FM, Scottish Rite Freemason, Shriner of Al Sihah Temple, Kiwanis Club of Griffin (past president and fair manager), director of the Georgia Fair Association, and sponsor of Ducks Unlimited and Georgia and Griffin bulldog clubs.



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
- ★ AEAG newsletter
- ★ Enhanced educational opportunities for students in agricultural economics
- ★ J.W. Fanning Lecture
- ★ Recognition for career accomplishments

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. *(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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member - \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Lifetime Member - \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member - \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Lifetime Member - \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library/Institutional Member - \$35 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Member - \$150 | |

Please send your membership application and dues to the following address: Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509

(706-542-0763 or visit www.aeag.uga.edu)