

Jeff Dorfman named state economist

By Merritt Melancon, originally posted on CAES Newswire

For three decades, University of Georgia students have relied on Professor Jeffrey Dorfman to help them apply sound economic reasoning to the world outside their classroom.

As of Aug. 1, Dorfman is applying that economic reasoning to real-world problems and situations in the policy arena as the state fiscal economist of Georgia.

In this role, Dorfman will develop forecasts based on Georgia's tax revenue, work closely with bond rating agencies to identify revenue and economic trends, and manage the development of fiscal impact estimates on tax-related legislative proposals.

"I am excited to serve in this new role, and I look forward to providing the state of Georgia and Gov. Kemp's administration the most accurate and timely economic input that I can," said Dorfman, a longtime professor in the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

His research at UGA ranges from the economics of land-use policy to disaster recovery and methods of calculating economic impact. He is a prolific writer and a sought-after source in the popular media.

"Given Jeffrey Dorfman's extensive background and

expertise in economics, I am confident that he is the right choice to serve as the state fiscal economist," Gov. Brian Kemp said in a news release on Aug. 12. "Over the years, Jeffrey has earned a stellar reputation in his field, mentored countless students to ensure their academic success, and provided critical insight to leaders in the private and public sectors."

Dorfman joined the faculty at UGA in 1989 and teaches classes in the economics of the food industry, microeconomic theory, and macroeconomic theory and policy. His research on economic forecasting, food insecurity, productivity measurement, and the economics of growth and sprawl is often reported in industry, academic and popular media alike.

Most recently, Dorfman has been called on to help calculate the impact of trade policy on Georgia farmers and to calculate the economic impact of UGA.

In 2013, Dorfman was elected as a fellow by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. He has testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, the Georgia Legislature, and a U.S. Department of Agriculture panel on farmland preservation. He served as editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics from 2009 to 2012 and has worked as a consultant to a variety of

businesses, foundations and local governments, including four Fortune 500 corporations, as well as serving as a senior fellow at the Georgia Public Policy Foundation.

For more information on the mission and work of the CAES Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, visit agecon.uga.edu.

(Gov. Brian Kemp's communications office contributed to this release.)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Letter from the Department Head
- Faculty Spotlight: Yukiko Hashida
- Alumni Spotlight: Ken Foster
- J.W. Fanning Lecture

DEPARTMENT INFO

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Department is proud of our alumni! To contribute a story for the newsletter, email Emily Clance at [eclance@uga.edu](mailto: eclance@uga.edu)



Dear friends:

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

The 35th annual J.W. Fanning Lecture has been scheduled for January 28th, 2020. We are honored to have Dr. Robert Johansson, Chief Economist at the USDA, as our speaker. Additionally, the lecture will be held once again at the Georgia Center. Following the lecture, we will have a luncheon at which we will present the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional and Young Professional awards. Please mark your calendars and be sure to attend, if your time allows.

We would also like to welcome Dan Remar and Will Secor as our newest faculty members. You can read more about them in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Additionally, be sure to read about all the exciting things our faculty members, students and alumni are participating in and accomplishing, notably our Distinguished Alumni Ken Foster, Sara Dunn and Tamlin Hall were recognized at the recent CAES Alumni Association awards banquet. As well, Drs. Nick Magnan and Mike Adjemian have been named Associate Editors of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE)*, and Amanda Smith organized and conducted an extension tour for the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association conference, which was held in Atlanta this spring.

Again, I would like to encourage our alumni to keep in touch with us. Please consider sharing updates about changes in your life or career so that we can print them in the newsletter.

Sincerely,



Octavio Ramirez

- November 12th: D.W. Brooks Lecture (Athens, GA)
- January 28th, 2020: J.W. Fanning Lecture (Athens, GA)



Faculty Spotlight

Yukiko Hashida

After a long time working in the private sector, namely as an equity analyst for the basic material sector at an investment bank and a renewable energy consultant, Yukiko Hashida decided it was time for a change. Following her desire for the freedom to pursue her own independent research, she returned to school at Oregon State University, where she earned her Ph.D., and took a postdoctoral assignment at Yale University, all while raising two small children. At the 2019 AAE meetings, she was offered a tenure-track position in the Agricultural and Applied Economics department at the University of Georgia.

“Although I had one more year of postdoctoral appointment at Yale, I decided to take the opportunity as the UGA’s offer was excellent and I saw myself thrive in the department after good interactions with the faculty and learning about their research projects,” she said. “Another factor that has drawn me to the department is a pool of high-quality graduate students and the department’s dedication to advance the program in the national ranking.”

Hashida researches a wide variety of topics, including climate change mitigation policy, adaptation behavior, natural resource management, natural disaster, and nonmarket valuation. Her primary focus in her research is on understanding the interaction between human decisions and natural systems.

“I am proud to be where I am, where I can engage in research projects that I am passionate about and collaborate with other scholars and students,” she said. “I hope that more people, especially women, seek to



Yukiko Hashida

bring experiences and insights from other sectors into academia.”

At UGA, Hashida will be continuing the research projects she began at Yale and beginning new ones with different collaborators. Her teaching will include classes in Environmental Management and Sustainable Business Practice, Land Economics, and Natural Resource Economics.



Alumni Spotlight: Ken Foster

Ken Foster graduated from the Agricultural Economics masters' program in 1986, inspired to pursue a career in the field by his time in the Peace Corps, background in agricultural sciences and upbringing on a farm.

After obtaining his Ph.D. from UC Davis, he became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, where he has been ever since, earning the rank of Professor in 2000 and serving as Department Head from 2008-2017. He has spent extended time working in Australia, Denmark and Colombia, as well as Africa, China and the Republic of Georgia, researching agricultural technologies and their economic impacts.

Foster was recently recognized at the 65th Annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet for his accomplishments. Recently, he and a group of colleagues published a book titled *How to Feed the World*, taking an "accessible but wide-ranging look at the modern food system" and how to double food production by 2050. Foster is exceptionally proud of this project for its diversity in authors and topics and the importance of its content.

His recent research has taken place in Colombia, where he and his team are exploring ways to enhance economic activity for rural residents through post-harvest handling and processing and environmental preservation.

"A lot of the challenges are a combination of logistics, technology, and poorly functioning markets so it is right up my alley," he said. "After about 50 years of civil conflict, the Colombian people are at peace but are now struggling with millions of economic and



Ken Foster (Class of '86)

political refugees from Venezuela. The insights we can generate through collaborative research with Colombian universities and government researchers could have great impact on people's lives."

His advice for current CAES students is the same advice he gives to his students at Purdue: Be curious, work hard and work smart, and be kind and honest. "If you are curious, then you will find opportunities that others overlook," he said. "If you work hard and work smart, then you will be able to turn even bad ideas into good ones most of the time, and if you are kind and honest people will forgive you on those rare occasions that things don't turn out so well."



J.W. Fanning Lecture

The 35th annual J.W. Fanning Lecture will take place on January 28th, 2020 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens, Ga. We are honored to have Dr. Robert Johansson, Chief Economist of the USDA, as our guest speaker this year. Dr. Johansson is responsible for the Department's agricultural forecasts and projections and for advising the Secretary of Agriculture on economic implications of alternative programs, regulations, and legislative proposals. He is responsible for the Office of the Chief Economist, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis, the Climate Change Program Office, the Office of Environmental Markets, the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, and the Office of Pesticide Management Policy. Dr. Johansson received his B.A. in economics from Northwestern University and then served with the U.S. Peace Corps as an extension agent in several African countries from 1990 to 1995. After returning to his home State of Minnesota, he entered the graduate program in Agricultural Economics at the University of Minnesota at received his M.S. in 1997 and Ph.D. in 2000. His research has spanned a wide range of issues, including biofuels policy, water quality and quantity policies, regulatory economics, food security, and regional modeling of agricultural systems.



All events will take place at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

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

10:00 a.m. — Registration and Refreshments
Kellogg Concourse

10:30 a.m. — J.W. Fanning Lecture
Room R
Welcome
Introduction of Speaker: Octavio Ramirez, Head and Professor,
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA
Lecture: Dr. Robert Johansson

12:00 noon — Luncheon
Magnolia Ballroom
Presentation of J.W. Fanning Professional Awards: Farrah
Newberry, President of Agricultural Economics Association of
Georgia

1:30 p.m. — Adjourn

The cost of the luncheon is \$30. There is no cost for attending the lecture only. Please RSVP to eclance@uga.edu by Oct. 31, 2018.



Department Publications

Dong, H., **A. Rabinowitz**, and **B. Campbell**. 2019. "Factors Impacting Producer Marketing through Community Supported Agriculture." *PLoS ONE* 14(7):1-13.

Batarseh, F., **M. Gopinath**, G. Nalluru and J. Beckman, 2019. "Application of Machine Learning in Forecasting International Trade Trends." *Proceedings of the Association for Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Fall Symposium Series, Technical Report FSS-19-05*.

Yukiko Hashida and David J. Lewis. "The Intersection between Climate Adaptation, Mitigation, and Natural Resources: An Empirical Analysis of Forest Management." *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*. 2019 6:5, 893-926.

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/704517?mobileUi=0&>

Karali, B., O. Isengildina-Massa, and S.H. Irwin. (2019). "The Changing Role of USDA Inventory Reports in Livestock Markets." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 44(3):591-604.

Awondo, S. N., **Kostandini, G.**, Setimela, P., & Erenstein, O. (2019). Multi-Site Bundling of Drought Tolerant Maize Varieties and Index Insurance. *Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1477-9552.12344>.



Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia

As fellow graduates from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department of the University of Georgia, we invite you to join the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia. The investment is nominal, but the rewards and mission are great. It is our hope that most of you will want to support the organization that promotes our industry and field of education.

The Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) was established in 1976. The goals of the Association are:

- To provide opportunities for the professional improvement of people interested in the field of agricultural economics
- To provide a forum for the discussion of economic problems and issues of mutual interest to people working in agriculture, agribusiness, and related fields
- To recommend solutions to economic problems facing Georgia's agriculture

Agricultural economics is involved in all sectors of our economy. The opportunities are greater now than ever before. We must recruit more students and better support agricultural economists if we are to meet the challenges for further application of agricultural economics to farm, resource, environmental, and agribusiness problems.

The AEAG board has new goals to support students in agricultural and applied economics as well as high school students who have yet to make decisions about college. We need your support to be able to carry out those goals to assist the future leaders in our field.

AEAG membership offers benefits through the following:

- *Journal of Agribusiness*
- AEAG newsletter
- J.W. Fanning lecture
- Recognition for career accomplishments
- Enhanced educational opportunities for students in agricultural economics

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.

On the following page you will find an application for membership. Lifetime memberships are also available. If you would like to know more about AEAG, visit the AEAG website at <http://aeag.uga.edu>.



For More Information:

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

Name: _____
Employer: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City/State/ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

Please check one:

- Student Member (\$10)
- Individual Member (\$25)
- Library/Institutional Member (\$35)
- Corporate Member (\$150)
- Individual Lifetime Member (\$250)
- Corporate Lifetime Member (\$1000)

Please send your membership application and dues to the following address:

Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia
315 Conner Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-7509

For more information, call 706-542-0763 or visit <http://aeag.uga.edu>.

