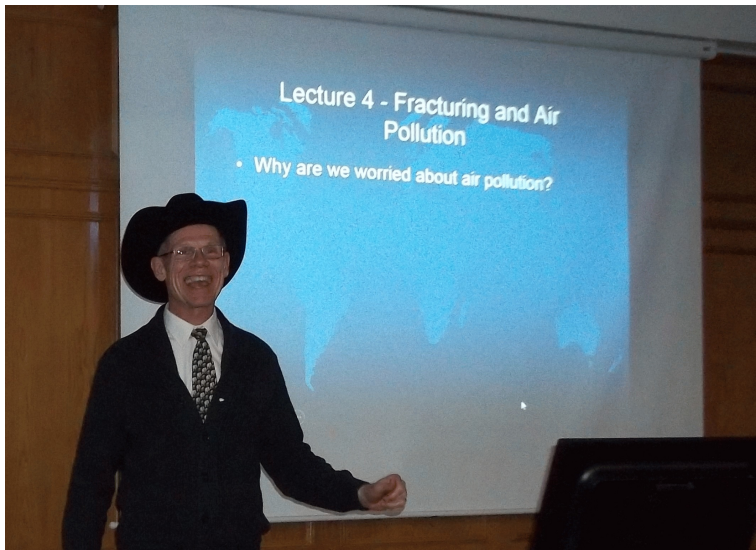


# Agricultural & Applied Economics

## Terry Centner Named Fulbright-Scotland Visiting Professor



Professor Centner teaching at the Aberdeen Law School

Professor Terence J. Centner has been named the 2014-2015 Fulbright-Scotland Visiting Professor at the University of Aberdeen. He is spending the spring 2015 semester at the Aberdeen Law School with the Centre for Energy Law. He is teaching a masters-level course on environmental concerns relating to energy production to students from nine countries on five continents.

Professor Centner is also collaborating with faculty on a research project examining regulatory options for minimizing environmental damages from hydraulic fracturing activities to properties, populations, and the environment. He hopes that the research helps facilitate the development of energy resources in economies where they are needed in a sustainable fashion while safeguarding people’s health and environmental quality.

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(Centner article continued on page 6)

## Greetings From the Department Head

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Dear Friends,

You are cordially invited to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Conner Connects Banquet on April 16, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. at the Garden Club Terrace Room at the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia in Athens, GA. In addition to enjoying a delicious meal, we will be recognizing and presenting awards to a number of outstanding students, both undergraduate and graduate, as well as faculty and staff members. Please join us and take advantage of this opportunity to meet our students and visit with faculty, staff, and other departmental alumni. If you would like to attend this event, please contact Mrs. Audrey Cox ([ah1@uga.edu](mailto:ah1@uga.edu)) or use the registration form included in the newsletter.

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to our fall 2014 graduates as well. Fifteen undergraduates, six Masters of Agribusiness, three Masters of Science, and one Ph.D. student received their degrees last fall. We wish them all the very best in their professional pursuits. Also congratulations to Professor Terry Centner who was recognized as a Fulbright Scholar and as such is serving as a visiting professor in Scotland this semester; and to Greg Colson who received the Emerging Scholar Award by the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

Sadly, the department says goodbye to two outstanding professors. Dr. Glenn Ames retired from the university on January 31, 2015. He served more than forty-one years, and most of that time was spent in our department. Dr. Lewell Gunter retired on May 31, 2014 after thirty-six years of service. Both of them have remained in the department past their retirement dates to complete commitments of teaching or seeing their graduate students complete their programs. Both have made tremendous contributions to the department and the university. We say thank you and happy retirement to Dr. Ames and Dr. Gunter.

Again, it is a pleasure for me to report to you the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni. Please consider sharing updates about changes in your life or career with us so that we can write about them in the newsletter.

Sincerely,



Octavio Ramirez

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## Glenn Ames Retires After 41 Years at UGA

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**Professor Glenn C. W. Ames** retired from the university on January 31, 2015. He has served at UGA for more than forty-one years. Most of those years were spent in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, but he spent approximately nine years as director of the Office of International Public Service and Outreach.

With the help of a graduate student, Professor Ames developed a study abroad course entitled, "Armenia: the Cradle of Civilization." He also 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.

For a number of years, Professor Ames taught international trade policy and won several teaching awards, including the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award and the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member Award on two



separate occasions. He was the first to receive the D. W. Brooks Excellence in International Agriculture Award.

We would like to thank Professor Ames for all of his contributions to the department and to the university and wish him a wonderful retirement.



**Conner Connects Banquet - 2015**



*The members of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club and the AAEC Graduate Student Association cordially invite you to join us for our 14<sup>th</sup> annual*

***Conner Connects Banquet.***

***Tuesday, April 16, 2015***

***6:30 P.M.***

***Garden Club Terrace Room at the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia***

***Athens, GA***

***Cost is \$13 for current students and \$16 for non-students.***

***Please RSVP by April 10th. If you have questions regarding the banquet, please call***

***706-542-2481 or email [ah1@uga.edu](mailto:ah1@uga.edu)***



**CONNER CONNECTS REGISTRATION**

**(Due by April 10)**

Students Tickets (\$13 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-student Tickets (\$16 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to help defray department's contribution for student tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_

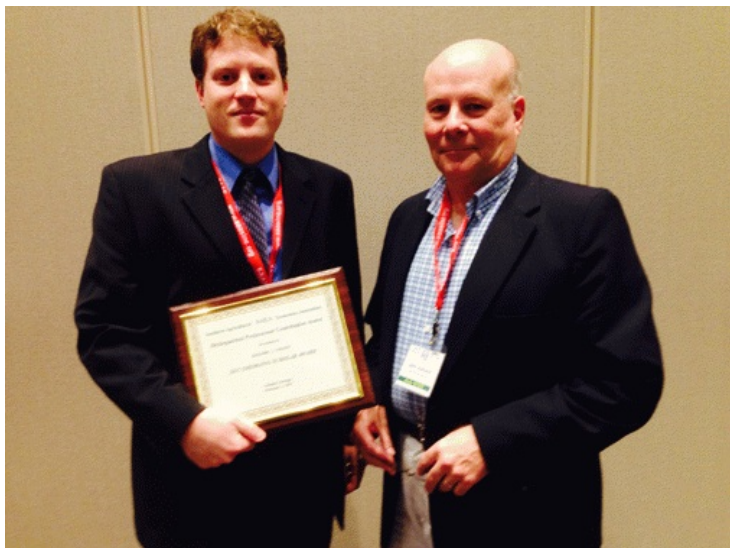
Guests' Names:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Ag Econ Club. Mail to: Conner Connects Registration, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509 Email: [ah1@uga.edu](mailto:ah1@uga.edu) Call: 706-542-2481.



## Greg Colson Receives Emerging Scholar Award by SAEA



L to R: Greg Colson and Jeff Jordan

**Assistant Professor Greg Colson** was presented the Emerging Scholar Award by the Southern Agricultural Economics Association at their annual meetings in February in Atlanta. The award recognizes the work of high-performing early-career professionals in the field of agricultural economics.

Professor Colson received a B.S. in economics and mathematics from the University of Virginia in 2003 and an

M.S. in economics in 2008 and a Ph.D. in economics in 2009, both from Iowa State University.

The focus of Professor Colson's research centers on understanding consumer and farmer decision-making and the influence of agricultural policy on individual level behavior and market outcomes. Employing a range of methods, including laboratory and field economic experiments, topically, Professor Colson's research has focused on three primary areas: (1) food labeling and consumer demand for food attributes, (2) farm policy and farmer behavior, and (3) biofuels and food prices.

Professor Colson was presented the Outstanding Faculty Member Award in 2011 and 2014 by the Graduate Student Association and in 2013, the Graduate Student Association presented him with the Outstanding Departmental Citizen Award. Other awards received by Professor Colson include the Outstanding Selected Poster Award by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Latin American Section in 2014, the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Honorable Mention Award by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association in 2010 and the T.W. Schultz Fellowship by the Iowa State University, Department of Economics in 2004.

Professor Colson states that in his leisure time, he enjoys "playing tennis with his extreme western grip, missing every fairway and green on the golf course, and sampling the great fare that Athens, Georgia has to offer."

## Lewell Gunter Retires after 36 Years

**Professor Lewell Gunter** retired on May 31, 2014, but he continued teaching classes in the department. After this semester, he will pursue other interests.

Professor Gunter has served the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics for thirty-six years. During that time, he has taught a variety of classes and served as major professor to 30 graduate students. Most recently he has taught agricultural policy and international agricultural trade and policy. He has also served the department as the undergraduate coordinator.

Professor Gunter has served on numerous departmental, college, and university committees during his years at UGA. Among them are the University Council, the CAES Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the departments' Microeconomics Prelim Committee, Computer Committee, Strategic Planning Working Group, Library Committee, and Chair of the Microeconomic Qualifying Exam Committee. He

was also appointed to served as associate editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

We appreciate all the contributions Professor Gunter has made to the department and to UGA, and we wish him a happy retirement.



# Ag & Applied Econ – 2014 Fall Graduation



## *graduate students*

Name	Degree	Major
Margaret E. Dudacek	MAB	AGB
Marjorie E. Perry	MAB	AGB
Eric R. Rama	MAB	AGB
Carlos J. Ruiz Acuna	MAB	AGB
Alec M. Shepherd	MAB	AGB
Alexandra V. Wright	MAB	AGB
Zeke M. Bryant	MS	AAE
Thesis title, "An Economic Evaluation of Artemisia Annu Production"		

## *undergraduate students*

Name	Degree	Major
Michael J. Anderson	BSA	AGB
Judson M. Clark	BSA	AGB
Dylan P. Connolly	BSA	AGB
Taylor J. Ertle	BSA	AGB
Juan I. Laurent	BSA	AGB
John N. McLocklin (Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
Colton S. Moon (Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
Joshua M. Norton	BSA	AGB
Camille R. Odom (Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
James H. Sheffield	BSA	AGB
Austin C. Sutton	BSA	AGB
Michael M. Viers	BSA	AGB
Margaret E. Dudacek	BSA	AAE
Nicholas R. Korzenko	BSA	FIMA
Daniel L. McCay	BSES	EEM

**Jiali Li** MS AAE  
Thesis title, "How do Chinese Stock Index Futures Respond to Stock-Related News?"

**Yang Li** MS AAE  
Thesis title, "An Empirical Analysis of Engel Curves for Beer in Four Major Markets in the United States"

**Rebati Mendali** PhD AAE  
Dissertation title, "Impact of Agricultural Productivity Changes on Poverty in Developing Countries"

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
GRADUATES!**

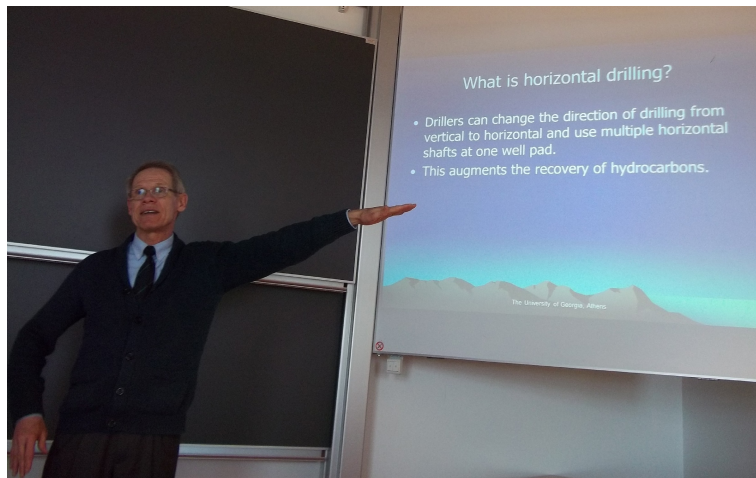
## Terry Centner Presents Seminar at Aarhus University, Denmark

(Continued from page 1)

Professor Terence J. Centner presented seminars at the University College of Dublin, Ireland and Aarhus University, Denmark.

### Abstract of seminar:

Concern that activities accompanying hydraulic fracturing are unnecessarily subjecting people to unhealthy situations recommends that governments increase their efforts to reduce risks. An analysis of legal and regulatory provisions addressing hydraulic fracturing and related activities used in shale gas production in the United States shows that governments are forgoing the adoption of best management practices that would reduce health and environmental problems.



## Sharon Kane Makes Presentation at Georgia General Assembly Rural Caucus

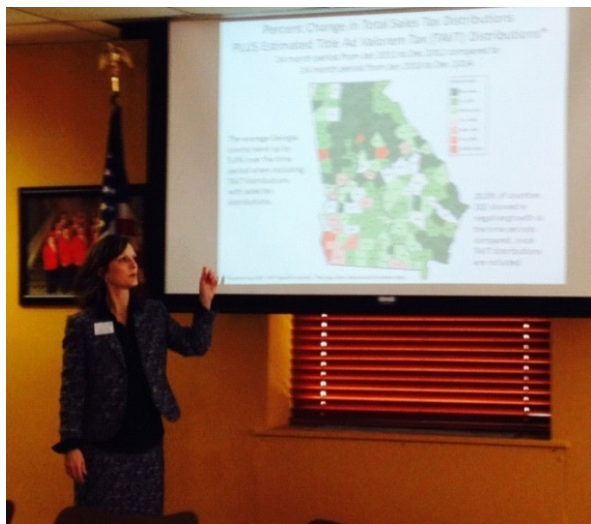


Photo credit:UGA/CAES  
Faith Peppers, director of Public Affairs

(Written by Sharon Kane)

Graduate student and UGA/CAES Public Service Associate, Sharon P. Kane presented research findings at a recent Georgia General Assembly Rural Caucus meeting hosted by the Georgia Farm Bureau. The analysis entitled, "*Sales Tax Distribution by NAICS Commodity Sectors and TAVT Distributions by County*," was conducted in collaboration with

Dr. Kent Wolfe, director of UGA/CAES Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development (CAED). The investigation looked at local sales tax distributions and Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) data from the Georgia Department of Revenue, seeking to address questions regarding legislative changes that went into effect in 2013 and their impact on localities in Georgia. The findings helped to shed light on what happened before and after the tax modifications and featured a full breakdown of county distributions by business sector and type of tax, along with maps highlighting each Georgia county. Members of the rural caucus and Georgia Farm Bureau interacted with Kane and Wolfe to answer their concerns, and will provide the information to their constituents and stakeholders. Slides from the presentation are available at the CAED website under "What's New!"

Ms. Kane works full-time as a member of the Public Service faculty team at the Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, has been at UGA since 2000, and is also currently pursuing a Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics as a part-time student. She specializes in food business development, economic impact analysis, and economic & community development. Another notable project that Ms. Kane is involved in is the annual Flavor of Georgia Food Product Contest, inaugurated in 2007 and designed to assist food entrepreneurs and showcase excellence in the Georgia food sector.

## Journal Articles and Other Refereed Publications

**Barfield, Ashley, S., John C. Bergstrom, Susana Ferreira,** Alan P. Covich, Keith S. Delaplane (2015). "An Economic Valuation of Biotic Pollination Services in Georgia." *Journal of Economic Entomology*, DOI:10.1093/jee/tou045.

**Berning, J.** (2014). "The Effect of Voluntary Restrictions on Television Advertising on the Demand for Carbonated Soft Drinks." *Journal of Agribusiness*, 32(1):101-117.

Cuñado, J. and **S. Ferreira** (2014). "The Macroeconomic Impacts of Natural Disasters: The Case of Floods." *Land Economics*, 90 (1): 149-168.

**Ghimire, R., S. Ferreira,** and **J. H. Dorfman** (Feb. 2015). "Flood-Induced Migration and Civil Conflict." *World Development*, (66):614-628.

**Hayes, M., G. Kostandini,** and **J.L. Jordan** (2014). "Farmers' Perceptions of Biopharming." *AgBioForum*, 2: 133-140.

**Hao, N., G. Colson,** B. Seong, C. Park, **M.E. Wetzstein** (2015). "Drought, Ethanol, and Livestock," *Energy Economics*, 49:301-307.

**Melo, G., G. Colson, O.A. Ramirez** (2014). "Hispanic American Opinions toward Immigration and Immigration Policy Reform Proposals." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 36(4):604-622.

**Shurley, Don** and **Amanda Smith** (January 2015). "Cotton Economics, Marketing, and Policy for 2015." *2015 Georgia Cotton Production Guide*, CSS-15-01, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia.

**Shurley, Don** (January 2015). "Cotton." *2015 Georgia Ag Forecast*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia.

**Shurley, Don** and **Amanda Smith** (February 2015). *2015 Cotton Estimated Per Acre Costs and Returns, South and East Georgia*, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Georgia,

**Smith, Amanda, Nathan Smith,** and **Don Shurley** (January 2015). "Row Crop Net Returns." *2015 Georgia Ag Forecast*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia. Tanellari, Eftila, **Genti Kostandini**, Jackline Bonabana-Wabbi, and

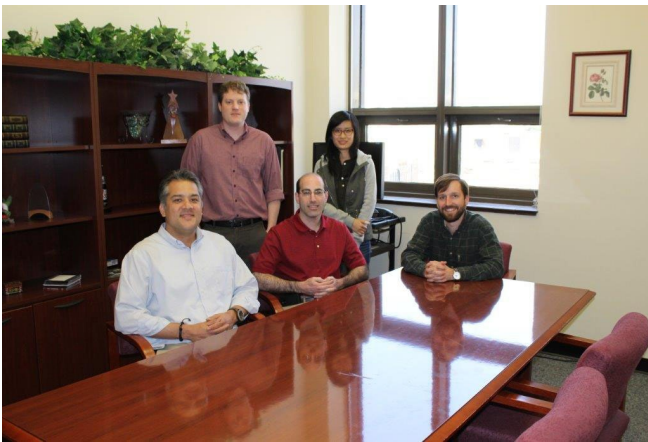
Anthony Murray (2014). "Gender Impacts on Adoption of New Technologies: The Case of Improved Groundnut Varieties in Uganda." *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 9(4): 300-308.

Welsch, H. and **S. Ferreira** (2014). "Environment, Well-Being and Experienced Preference." *International Review of Environmental and Resource Economics*, 7(3-4): 205-239.

Wilde, H., K. Gandhi, and **G. Colson** (2015). "State of the Science and Challenges of Breeding Landscape Plants with Ecological Function." *Horticulture Research*, 2:14069.

**Xian, H., G. Colson,** B. Mei, and **M.E. Wetzstein** (2015). "Co-Firing Coal with Wood Pellets for U.S. Electricity Generation: A Real Options Analysis" *Energy Policy*, 81:106-116.

## Departmental Faculty Investigate the SNAP Program



Standing: Greg Colson & Xiaosi Yang; Sitting: L to R: Josh Berning, Jeff Dorfman & Travis Smith

(Written by Travis Smith)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly called the Food Stamp Program, is the nation's largest nutritional safety net. An unintended consequence of the monthly SNAP provision is that participants have higher consumption shortly after receiving their benefits, followed by lower consumption toward the end of the month. This "SNAP benefit

cycle" has been associated with adverse dietary outcomes among participants.

Professors Joshua Berning, Gregory Colson, Jeffrey Dorfman, and Travis Smith along with PhD student Xiaosi Yang hypothesize two behavioral responses of SNAP participants work in tandem to drive much of the cycle: (1) short-run impatience – a higher preference to consume today, and (2) fungibility of income – the degree of substitutability between a SNAP dollar and a cash dollar. The objective of the research is to disentangle these two effects and any compounding effects on the quality and quantity of SNAP households' food purchases. The team was awarded a grant through the University of Kentucky Poverty Research Center in cooperation with the University of Illinois and the Economic Research Service, USDA.

This research will deliver several key insights with immediate policy implications. Compounding effects can be lessened by a relatively low-cost policy reform—more frequent benefit distribution. Even if benefit frequency remains monthly, the research is able to inform alternative outreach efforts such as SNAP-Ed. For example, households may realize their behavioral shortfalls and use commitment devices such as a grocery list to overcome their impatience.

## head start

# First-year student comes to UGA with accomplished environmental résumé

By Aaron Hale

[aahale@uga.edu](mailto:aahale@uga.edu)

(Reprinted with permission from COLUMNS)



Charles Orgbon III, a first-year student from Dacula, founded an environmental nonprofit with a global reach, wrote op-ed columns for “The Huffington Post” and was recognized with a BET 365 Black Award.

Many students enroll at UGA dreaming of making a difference and becoming leaders.

Charles Orgbon III, a first-year student from Dacula, got a head start—beginning classes in the fall already having founded an environmental nonprofit with a global reach, written op-ed columns for *The Huffington Post* and been recognized with the BET 365 Black Award.

Orgbon, founder and CEO of the youth environmental group Greening Forward, found his calling as an environmentalist during a fifth-grade school assignment. As a required service project, he organized efforts to pick up litter at his school. Troubled by the trash people thoughtlessly left behind for others to clean up, he wanted to do something about it.

“It turned into a passion,” Orgbon said. He started a student club for beautification projects and began blogging about environmentalism. Those undertakings turned into Greening Forward, an organization that now partners with young people around the world to provide environmental curriculum resources, grant programs and mentorship opportunities.

“We fund and train young people to lead environmental service projects in their communities,” Orgbon said.

Greening Forward has supported youth-led programs for such efforts as recycling, composting, planting trees and installing rain barrels.

During a TEDx presentation in Atlanta last year, Orgbon told his audience, “My belief is simple: If you give young people the resources and tools they need, they can create community change.”

In his role as CEO and chief fundraiser, Orgbon has helped lead negotiations to partner with major corporations, foundations and other nonprofits to further the cause for environmentalism. Greening Forward has partnered with Wells Fargo, Ben and Jerry’s, State Farm, Levi’s and musician Jack Johnson. Since 2009, the organization raised more than \$150,000 for its initiatives.

Orgbon said one of the most surreal moments during his efforts was getting a kiss from the R&B legend Gladys Knight when he received the BET 365 Black Award in 2013.

Out of a desire to further his education while continuing his leadership at the nonprofit, Orgbon chose to earn his degree at UGA. He is studying environmental economics and management in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Orgbon first was introduced to UGA in high school through the Young Scholar Internship Program, through CAES. He stayed at Myers Hall for a few weeks and enjoyed the campus life. “UGA started to feel like home,” he said.

He is the 2014 recipient of the Black Alumni Scholarship, which is sponsored by the Alumni Association and given to a first-year student who exhibits dedication to racial equality.

Orgbon plans to continue his environmental work through his education at UGA, but he’s found other interests on campus, too.

The self-described “history geek” spends free time looking over documents at the Richard B. Russell Building Special Collection Libraries. “That has nothing to do with my major, but for fun I will spend hours in that library,” Orgbon said.

He has been doing independent research on Charlayne Hunter-Gault and the late Hamilton Holmes, the first African-American students to enroll at UGA. He credits his interest in that research to the Office of Institutional Diversity, where he is a student worker.

Orgbon said he is fascinated by what Hunter-Gault, Holmes and others endured to help pave the road for African-American students to attend UGA.

If his achievements so far are any indication, Orgbon could be well on his way to paving a new road for young people to follow in environmental advocacy.



## Ag Econ Alumni Take DC by Storm



**Zeke Bryant** has begun a job with the USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs. He will be analyzing economic data to assure accordance with study objectives, policies, and legislation, formulating conclusions and recommendations for consideration by senior analysts in making decisions, writing portions of reports, and responding to inquiries. He will also assist in preparing analytical material in connection with U.S. participation in international conferences and negotiations and conduct analysis for use in formulation of U.S. agricultural trade policy positions and recommendations developed by FAS. He will be involved in analyzing and evaluating other important data as his work progresses.

Zeke Bryant obtained his M.S. in agricultural and applied economics in 2014 and his B.S.A. in agricultural and applied economics in 2013. He was a member of the Demosthenian Literary Society, vice president and philanthropy chair of UGA Collegiate FFA, and a member of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club. Zeke also participated in the Agricultural Economics Quiz Bowl Team. He was a member of the AAEC Graduate Student Association and served as vice president and then president of the association. In addition, he was a member of the AAEC Graduate Case Study team in 2013.

Zeke was in the top 5% of his class in his freshman and sophomore years and was selected as the Outstanding Agricultural and Applied Economics Senior, won the Nesbitt-Flatt Award of Excellence in Agricultural and Applied Economics, and was featured in the CAES 2012-2013 calendar. His paper won second place in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's Undergraduate Student Research Paper Competition in 2011 and another paper won second place in the same competition in 2012.

Zeke stated, "I believe that participating in Ag Econ Quiz Bowl as well as the undergraduate paper competitions greatly assisted me in the ability to intelligently discuss agricultural and

economic issues in front of and with others in academia and the industry. I believe these skills have significantly supported me in getting to where I am professionally. Also participating in the AAEC Graduate Case Study really helped me work on all the skills that are necessary to have when working as a team to solve real world agricultural problems, which is exactly what every student needs for the professional world."

Zeke had the following advice for current students in the department: "Get to know as many of the professors as you can. Don't be afraid to go to them with problems in your classes or school in general. Also, get to know the staff. They can often be just as useful as the professors. Take every opportunity that this department offers you, within your means; I would not be where I am today had I not taken chances and participated in everything that was placed in front of me. Every chance you get to talk about agriculture or economics or business, take it. The more comfortable you can become with talking about important issues, the better prepared you will be for doing it professionally."

In his leisure time, Zeke likes to be outdoors. He enjoys golf, hiking, skiing in the winter, the river in the summer, or just taking his dog out for a walk.



L to R: **Jennie Allison, Zeke Bryant, Abby Moore Love, and Madhur Lamsal**

Although **Zeke** is new to D.C., he already has an established circle of friends there from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at UGA in Athens. **Jennie Allison, Abby Moore Love, and Madhur Lamsal**, who were all students in the department during the time that Zeke was a student, are all working in DC and live within fifteen minutes of each other and within fifteen minutes of Zeke. Abby's husband, K.C. Love, who took the picture above, is also a part of this circle of friends in DC.

## Ag Econ Alumni Take DC by Storm

**Jennie Allison** (B.S.E.S in environmental economics and management in 2012 and M.S. in agricultural and applied economics in 2013) works for the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC). She is an assistant project manager for the nationwide quarterly Cost of Living Index (COLI) publication managed by CREC's member organization, the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER). Jennie coordinates and compiles the data provided from volunteers in nearly 400 communities from urban areas throughout the United States. She manages subscriber correspondence and works to enhance both the quality of the data gathered and the form in which it is presented to the end user. She also supports the C2ER training and education program.

Jennie met Zeke in the first quiz bowl class offered by AAEC, and Abby was her first friend in the AAEC department in Dr. Bergstrom's class. Jennie stated, "Having so many friends in the area certainly makes the transition easier and feel a little more like home."

**Abby Moore Love** (B.S.E.S. in 2011 and M.S. in 2014) is the manager of outreach and recruitment for 2Seeds Network, an organization for which she was a volunteer her first year out of college. She recruits and prepares volunteers to lead development projects in Tanzania. These volunteers live and work for one year in partnership with rural Tanzanians interested in learning new

skills and approaches to earning a living. She also fosters and maintains relationships with the organization's stakeholders, including board members, mentors, returned project coordinators, and others interested in 2Seeds' bottom-up approach to international development.

Abby stated that if any alumni are interested in living and working in Tanzania for a year with 2Seeds, "get in touch with Abby."

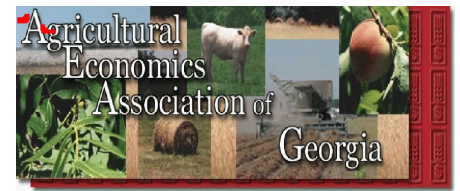
**Madhur Lamsal** (M.S. in agricultural and applied economics in 2012) works as a consultant at DNV GL, a world-renowned energy consulting company. His primary responsibilities revolve around analytics that also include developing new econometric models to evaluate energy efficiency programs and recommend the best energy practice for sustainable use. He and his team provide consulting services to utility companies and other stakeholders to achieve sustainable growth in the energy sector.

Madhur has been part of a number of economic analytical teams that evaluate, monitor and implement demand response and energy efficiency programs throughout the United States for various utility companies. He is the program manager of three energy efficiency programs that his company is currently evaluating.

## Steven Harrelson Presented Precision Impact Award by the Agriculture Retailers' Association



**Steven Harrelson** (AGB in 2007) was the recipient of the first Precision Impact Award which was originated by *Ag Professional* and the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA). The award was presented at the ARA annual meeting in New Orleans. Steven works for Southern States Cooperative in Dillon, SC as an Agronomy Sales Manager. He is responsible for grower accounts covering four counties that border the North Carolina and South Carolina line. The award was in recognition of local operations and employees. It recognized the employees making local decisions and overseeing precision ag at the customer level. Judging criteria included: input efficiency using precision technology; grower engagement and encouragement of customer use; stewardship for the environment; overall innovative use of precision technology; and bottom-line profitability for the company and customers.



Spring Greetings!

I am Chris Groskreutz and I am honored once again to serve as the president of the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG). I have been blessed to be a two time graduate of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department of the University of Georgia and know firsthand of the benefits that the department offers its students and alumni. From access to leading professors and researchers to a family atmosphere as you walk the halls of Conner, there is a lot more to be gained than just a degree. One area, though, that we can stand to make improvement is how we stay connected as a family. The AEAG board of directors have been in discussion with department leadership for a while now about how to improve that. While more work is to be done before we reveal the fruits of those labors, one easy way is for you to join us for the next Conner Connects banquet!

Conner Connects is THE annual event hosted by the department that pays tribute to the hard work the students, faculty and staff put into making Conner Hall the special place that it is. This year's event will be held on April 16th at 6:30 pm at the beautiful State Botanical Garden's Garden Club Terrace Room. As a new father, I am finding out just how busy life really can be, but I ask that you please join us and re-Connect with Conner! You'll be glad you did.

Whether or not you can make it back to campus, we would also like to offer you a chance to stay connected year round by joining the AEAG. As Georgia's #1 industry, agriculture is supported by the farm managers, agribusinesses, researchers, policy makers, and many other professions that lean on our expertise. Your small investment in the association will go a long way in helping promote the importance of an industry that provides over 380,000 jobs in Georgia. The AEAG was established in 1976 and its goals 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.

AEAG Membership offers benefits through the following:

- subscription to the Journal of Agribusiness
- participation in the J.W. Fanning Lecture and Awards
- enhanced educational opportunities for students in agricultural economics

You can find more information about our organization and our annual awards program online by visiting our website at [www.aeag.uga.edu](http://www.aeag.uga.edu) or through Facebook and Twitter @AEAGGeorgia.

As our past president Bryan Tolar so eloquently put it, "An investment in AEAG is an investment in your future."

Sincerely,

Chris Groskreutz (BS '02-Agribusiness, MS '05-Agricultural Economics)  
AEAG President