

Agricultural and Applied Economics

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Alumni and students recognized with awards, jobs

Alumni and students of the Agricultural and Applied Economics department have been quite busy this fall and winter.

Erin Jay, who graduated with her M.S. in Environmental Economics in December 2015, has been awarded the 2016 M.S. First Place E. Broadus Browne Award. Jay is currently a researcher in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at UGA.

Philip Szmedra, who earned his M.S. in Agricultural Economics in 1981 and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in 1986, was recently named the Jane and Larry Comer Faculty Scholar at Georgia Southwestern State University. Szmedra is a professor of economics in the School of Business Administration and has been at GSW since 2001.

Sebastain Awondo, who earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics in 2014, is now an Associate Researcher with the Alabama Center for Insurance Information and Research at the University of Alabama. ACIIR conducts public policy research to serve risk management needs of various stakeholders in-

cluding policy makers, the public, insurance companies and trade groups.

Sam Kaninda, who also earned his Ph.D. in 2014, is now an Assistant Professor of Economics in the Hutton School of Business at the University of the Cumberland.

Sam Pugh, who earned his M.S. in Environmental Economics in 2008, is now a Project Manager at the Center for Economic Development Research at Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute.

Anna Trakhman, an Environmental Economics and Management major, has been selected to receive funding for her "Greek Goes Green" project for the UGA Campus Sustainability Grants Program.

Emily Swift, an Environmental Economics and Management major, has been selected to serve as the 2016 Washington, D.C. Congressional Ag Fellow in the office of Congressman Rick Allen.

Please join us in extending our heartfelt congratulations to our outstanding alumni and students.


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Greetings from the Department Head

Dear friends: use the form included in this on important economic and
You are cordially invited to newsletter. business issues affecting the
attend the 15th annual Conner I would like to congratulate horticultural industry. You can
Connects banquet on April 26th our department's newest grad- learn more about him in the
at 6:30 p.m. at the Garden Club uates, the class of fall 2015. 21 Faculty Spotlight section of this
Terrace Room at the State undergraduates and seven newsletter.
Botanical Gardens in Athens, graduate students received Once again, I would like to
GA. In addition to enjoying a their degrees in December, and encourage all of our alumni to
delicious meal, we will be rec- we wish them the very best in keep in touch with us. Please
ognizing and presenting their future careers. consider sharing updates about
awards to a number of students Additionally, we would like changes in your life or career
and faculty and staff members. to welcome our newest faculty so we can include them in this
Please take advantage of this member, Dr. Benjamin Camp- newsletter.
opportunity to meet our bell. He comes to UGA from
students and visit with faculty, the University of Connecticut Sincerely,
staff and other alumni. If you and will be teaching a variety of 
are interested in attending this courses in our Agribusiness
event, please contact Emily program, as well as conducting
Clance at eclance@uga.edu or extension and applied research Octavio Ramirez

Newsletter moving to electronic format

The Agricultural and Applied Economics department is getting ready to move their alumni newsletter to an online-only format. To continue to receive the newsletter, please email eclance@uga.edu with your email address, or provide your name and email address in the space below and mail it to Emily Clance, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. Thank you, and we look forward to keeping in touch with you electronically!

Name:

Email Address:

Please mail to **Emily Clance, 303 Conner Hall**
University of Georgia, Athens GA 30602. Thank you!

Inaugural CDC fellow looks back on 20 years

As a student in 1995 finishing his graduate work, Mark Messonnier was on the search for a job. He applied and was selected for a new fellowship at the CDC, the Prevention Effectiveness Fellowship in Public Health, figuring he'd get two years of experience before moving on to an academic job. Instead, he's stayed at the CDC for the greater part of the past 21 years.

"The work turned out to be so interesting and meaningful that, except for [a] brief stint in pharma, I haven't left," Messonnier said. He was assigned to the Epidemiology Program Office, where he worked in infectious and chronic diseases, and also worked overseas in Central Asia. These opportunities were thanks in part to fellow AAE graduate Anne Haddix, the CDC's first Atlanta-based full-time economist.

The inaugural class of five PE fellows consisted of a majority of agricultural economists, Messonnier included. "We certainly knew we were sodbusters," he said. "That term meant more to us then than it might to a class of fellows today because three of the five of us were ag economists. It's a great group with which to be associated, but I was part of it as an 'accident' of fate, not because there was anything special about me. Right place, right time."

These days, Messonnier is mostly managing a group of economists, advising and supervising PE fellows, managing research and personnel contracts and advising the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices on economic evaluation. Prevention effectiveness, as well as his role in it, has gone under many changes over the years. The fellowship is now called the Steven M. Teutsch Fellowship in honor of Teutsch's contributions to the field. The amount of data available is greater and more subjects

are being studied.

"There is also more going on now than cost-effectiveness analysis using a decision-tree model," Messonnier said.

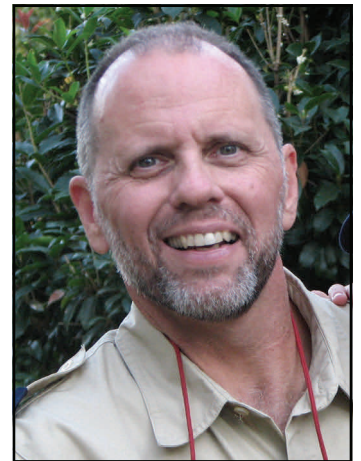
"Now we conduct studies to estimate economic value, model consumer choices,

estimate cost functions -- more 'meaty' economics." Part of this is seen in how he has nudged his part of the CDC more towards "public health economics" than "prevention effectiveness."

A background in agricultural and applied economics has proven to be a great asset for him, as has his broader agricultural background. It taught him to focus on applied problem solving to do the work his agency needs from him while at the same time answering the agency's questions in a way that's interesting to economists. He's gained the confidence of the ACIP in matters of economics thanks to a collaboration with his colleagues Martin Meltzer and Tracy Lieu in the early 2000s; since then the ACIP has been more confident in asking questions of presenters and the CDC's economists.

Messonnier is proud of his background in agricultural and applied economics. He still tells people he was an ag major and he's encouraging to others who share his background. "A few years ago, during orientation, there was a new PE fellow who was kind of hesitant to claim his academic background. I told him, 'Be proud to be an agricultural economist!'"

That fellow, like Messonnier, has stayed with the CDC, and the two still work together today.



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Ben Campbell

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Department would like to welcome its newest faculty member.

Dr. Ben Campbell comes from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Connecticut, where he was an assistant professor and extension economist. Before that, he was a research scientist at Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, a Canadian non-profit devoted to horticultural research, where he established and ran the horticultural economics program.

Campbell's research interests are mainly consumer behavior and marketing, as well as other agribusiness issues. While at Vineland, he conducted research through the marketing channel from producer to consumer, placing an emphasis on developing marketing intelligence, supplying information on trends in horticultural marketing, studying market dynamics and new product introduction potential.

"AAEC's has a very good reputation, so having the chance to join the department is a tremendous honor," Campbell said. "With respect to my position, the fit is perfect as I have spent the last decade working with horticultural producers, especially ornamental producers, throughout the U.S. on a variety of agribusiness and marketing issues." Having grown up in Alabama, being able to return to the south and live closer to family was another



major draw. His role at UGA will include teaching Selling in Agribusiness and Agribusiness Management courses, as well as a third, currently undetermined course, in addition to extension work.

One of the things Campbell enjoys most about his work is working and publishing with graduate students. "I remember the joy of my first publication and the fear of my first academic and extension presentation. Being a part of these experiences is a lot of fun. Personally, every new publication, factsheet, presentation, report still creates that moment of euphoria of achieving a goal."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Nick Dale, Agricultural and Applied Economics
Class of 2004

When Nick Dale graduated in 2004, he had no idea what he would do in the future. He moved to Brazil to teach English and further his experience in the country's culture, having already spent time there in his senior year. When he returned to the United States, he worked in agricultural software, first for a small company but later installing and designing software for Cargill and their outside clients.

However, the job wasn't suiting him. "I was still technically in my first 'real job' after college, so I wanted to find something...I was kind of getting an itch," Dale said. His brother had also made a career jump, so the two of them sat down for a chat. That discussion led to the concept of opening a craft chocolate manufacturing company and they partnered up to open Condor Chocolates in 2014.

Condor Chocolates is a small space in Athens' Five Points neighborhood that still feels spacious thanks to its open kitchen. Customers can watch the staff make truffles, macaroons, chocolate bars and other treats while enjoying a coffee or slice of cake. It's bright and welcoming, illuminated by natural light streaming in from its front windows.

"There's some other shops that we've seen across the country that are very educational with their shops and how chocolate is made, and we really like that approach," Dale said. "We wanted to be an open kitchen so people could see and understand where chocolate comes from. We quickly found out that a lot of people don't know; it's something they just



haven't thought of."

While Dale primarily deals with administrative work, he's still the principal chocolate maker, taking the raw cacao beans Condor imports and working the recipes to make them into chocolate. Then, Condor's chocolatiers take the finished chocolate and turn it into desserts.

In the future, Dale wants Condor Chocolates to focus on more wholesale business. He says the retail business has been going well, but he also wants to expand more into other sellers and restaurants. To help expand into the wholesale business, Dale is opening a second processing facility to meet the production demands.

He's leaned heavily on his Agricultural and Applied Economics degree while running his business and urges students to get their toes wet first before making it a career. He also said to have a lot of contact with the outside, whether it's making connections or having that international experience.

Condor Chocolates is located at 1658 Lumpkin St. in Athens, Ga. For more information on the business, visit www.condorchocolates.com.

Conner Connects



The members of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club and the AAEC Graduate Student Association cordially invite you to join us for our 15th annual Conner Connects banquet.

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Garden Club Terrace Room

The State Botanical Gardens of Georgia

Athens, GA

The cost is \$17 for students and \$20 for non-students. Please RSVP by April 20. If you have any questions about the banquet, please call 706-542-0763 or email eclance@uga.edu.

Conner Connects Registration

Due by April 18

Student tickets (\$13): _____ Non-student tickets (\$16): _____

Contribution to help defray the 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. Call: 706-542-0763. Email: eclance@uga.edu.

Fall 2015 Graduates

Undergraduate Degrees

Student	Major	Degree
Thomas Clarke	Agribusiness	BSA
Megan Fletcher	Agribusiness	BSA
Jared Gillis	Agribusiness	BSA
Carson Glass	Agribusiness	BSA
Melissa Hardage	Agribusiness	BSA
Michael Hoskin	Agribusiness	BSA
Erik Ragan	Agribusiness	BSA
Corey Roberts	Agribusiness	BSA
Pamela Ruth	Agribusiness	BSA
Samuel Weldon	Agribusiness	BSA
John Bullard	Agricultural and Applied Economics	BSA
Andrew Fennell	Agricultural and Applied Economics	BSA
Thomas Jerles	Agricultural and Applied Economics	BSA
Thomas Voyles	Agricultural and Applied Economics	BSA
Christopher Wells	Agricultural and Applied Economics	BSA
Mart Dungay	Environmental Economics and Management	BSES
Alexis Hedges	Environmental Economics and Management	BSES
Forrest Huffman	Environmental Economics and Management	BSES
Ryan Kerr	Environmental Economics and Management	BSES

Graduate Degrees

Zachary Stone	Environmental Economics and Management	BSES
Ashley Whatley	Environmental Economics and Management	BSES
Jonathan Balchus	Agribusiness	MAB
Sarah Brown	Agribusiness	MAB
Andrew Dickerson	Agribusiness	MAB
Anzhi Li	Agricultural and Applied Economics	MS
Nicholas Payne	Agricultural and Applied Economics	MS
Erin Jay	Environmental Economics	MS
Xiaofei Li	Agricultural and Applied Economics	Ph.D.

Department Publications

Angioloni, Simone, and **Glenn C. W. Ames**. "Racial Diversity and School Performance: A School Location Approach." *The Review of Regional Studies*, 45(3) 2015: 253-277.

Ames, A. J., **Glenn C. W. Ames**, **Jack E. Houston**, and Simone Angioloni. "Food Insecurity and Educational Achievement: A Multi-Level Generalization of Poisson Regression." *International Journal of Food and Agricultural Economics*, 4(1) 2015: 000-000.

Campbell, B., S. Mhlanga, and I. Lesschaeve. 2016. "Market Dynamics Associated with Ethnic Vegetable Production." *Agribusiness: An International Journal* 32(1): 64-78.

Campbell, B., H. Khachatryan, C. Hall, B.K. Behe, and J. Dennis. 2016. "Crunch the Can or Throw the Bottle? Effect of "Bottle Deposit Laws" and Municipal Recycling Programs." *Resource, Conservation and the Environment* 106:98-109.

Rihn, A., H. Khachatryan, **B. Campbell**, B. Behe, and C. Hall. 2015. "Consumer Response to Novel Indoor Foliage Plant Attributes: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment and Gaze Analysis." *HortScience* 50(10): 1524-1530.

Centner, T.J., and L. Petetin, "Permitting Program with Best Management Practices for Shale Gas Wells to Safeguard Public Health," *Journal of Environmental Management* 163(2015):174-183.

Menapace, L., **G. Colson**, and R. Raffaelli (2016). "A Comparison of Hypothetical Risk Attitude Elicitation Instruments for Explaining Farmer Crop Insurance Purchases," *European Review of Agricultural Economics* 43(1):113-135.

Wang, N., **J.E. Houston**, **G. Colson**, and Z. Liu (2015). "Consumer Attitudes Toward the Use of Gene Technology in Breakfast Products: Comparison between College Students from the U.S. and China," *Journal of Food Research* 4(6):143-154.

Xian, H., **B. Karali**, **G. Colson**, M.E. Wetzstein (2015). "Diesel or Compressed Natural Gas? A Real Options Evaluation of the U.S. Natural Gas Boom on Fuel Choice for Trucking Fleets," *Energy* 90(2):1342-1348.

Meng, T. A.M. Klepacka, **W.J. Florkowski**, K. Braman. 2015. "Determinants of recycling common types of plastic product waste in environmental horticulture industry: The case of Georgia." *Waste Management*, 2015, doi: 10.1016/j.wasman.2015.11.013.

Florkowski, W.J., G. Juszczuk, O. Golawska. 2015. "Attitudes and Perceptions of Common European currency Among Residents of Northern Lubelskie Province." *Roczniki Naukowe*, Vol.18 (6) 76-81.

Scientific Journal Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW (Problems of World Agriculture) volume 15 (XXX), number 4, 2015: 41–55, **Wojciech J. Florkowski** and Grzegorz Lysiak, "Quality Attribute-Price Relationship: Modernization of the Sweet Cherry Sector in Poland."

Fonsah, E. G., (2015). Book Review: Land Grabbing in Africa: The Race for Africa's Rich Farmland, Edited by Fassil Demissie, *Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research*, Vol:7 (4):336-338.

Vincent, E. L., III, E. D. Coneva, J. M. Kemble, F. M. Woods, **E. G. Fonsah**, P. M. Perkins-Veazie, and J. L. Sibley. (2015). "Investigations on Phenological Responses to Determine Banana Fruit Production Potential in the Coastal Region of Alabama, USA", *Journal of the American Pomological Society* 69 (3): 164-167.

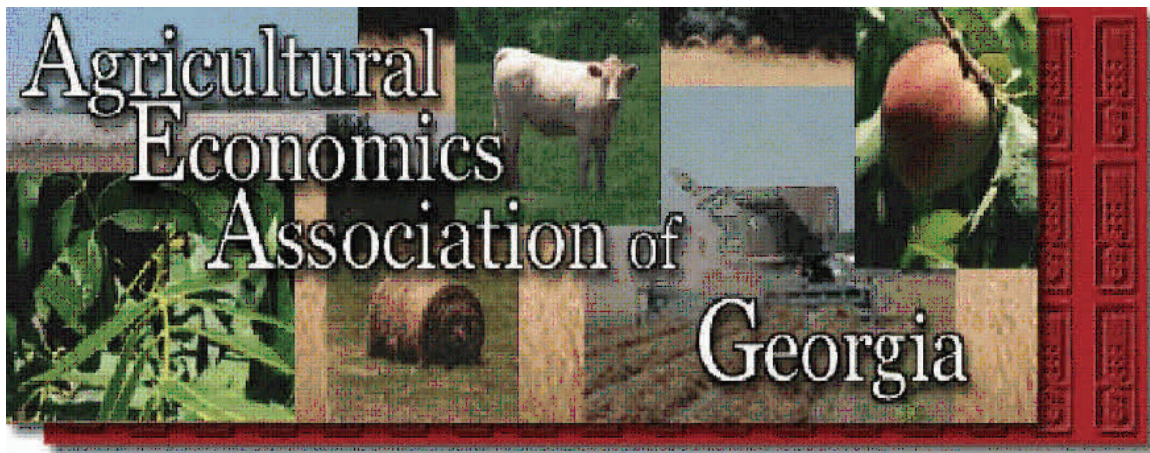
Muhammed, A, S. Zahniser and **E.G. Fonsah**. (2015). "A Dynamic Analysis of US Banana Demand by Source: a focus on Latin American suppliers", *Int. J. Trade and Global Markets*, Vol. 8 (4): 281-296.

Kaninda, S. T., **E. G. Fonsah**, G. Kostandini and G. Ames (2015) "Technology adoption behaviours: Evidence from Maize producers in drought prone regions of Eastern Kenya, *African Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development* Vol. 3 (2): 203-213.

Mekonnen, D. K., D. J. Spielman, **E. G. Fonsah** and J.H. Dorfman (2015). "Innovation Systems and Technical Efficiency in Developing Country Agriculture," *Agricultural Economics* 46: 1-14.

Colson, G., G. Melo, **O.A. Ramirez** (2015). "Survey Evidence on Legal and Illegal Hispanic Immigrants' Perceptions of Living and Working in US Agriculture," *AgBioForum* 18(3):259-265.

Zheng, Y., **C. Zhen**, J. Nonnemaker, & D. Dench, 2016. "Advertising, Habit Formation, and U.S. Tobacco Product Demand." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (forthcoming)



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

(continued)

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 <http://aeag.uga.edu>.

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
303 Conner Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-7509

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