EEM students introduce Swap Shop on Athens campus

Avery Lumsden and Jenna Franke joined forces a weekend before the deadline to submit a proposal for the Campus Sustainability Grant, connected by Tyra Byers, director of UGA’s Sustainability Certificate. Together, the Environmental Economics and Management majors created the Swap Shop: a place where students can trade gently-used items they no longer need for other items. The concept has existed at other schools, even locally with a “Free and Trade Only” Facebook group for the Athens area, but Lumsden and Franke were the first to bring it to UGA’s campus.

The Swap Shop, along with twelve other projects, was funded by a Campus Sustainability Grant. Its goal is to reduce landfill waste and advance an equitable and circular economy for students to donate and freely receive supplies.

The shop wants to “shift our mindset from being consumers to being owners of the things we bring into our life,” Lumsden said. It acts as both a social activity and a resource for the UGA community, both needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“COVID has hit students a lot harder than people expect,” Franke said. “We’re providing students with this free service, this free resource where they can go and get things that they need.”

The Swap Shop is open Fridays from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Room 278 in the Miller Learning Center, originally intended to be a recording studio for Grady College, which fell through due to the pandemic but has found new life as part of UGA’s sustainability initiative. The shop accepts unused office/school supplies, craft supplies, cleaning supplies, small kitchenware and household appliances, electronics, games and other entertainment items, household items and decorations, umbrellas and clean, in-style clothing.

For more information, visit https://sustainability.uga.edu/student-programs/swap-shop/ or follow the Swap Shop on Instagram at swapshop_uga.
Dear friends:

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been quite the spring semester here in Conner Hall. Our faculty members have continued to teach and make progress on their research projects, both in Conner Hall and some days remotely, and our students keep working hard and achieving milestones in their academic lives. Students like Brooke Raniere, who interned with the Georgia Agribusiness Council this semester and whose experience you can read about on page 4 of this newsletter, are shining examples of what the students in our department are all about.

The late Dr. Ivery Clifton, who was a distinguished member of our faculty for many years, was honored as a recipient of the 2021 UGA President’s Medal. Dr. Clifton was one of the university’s first prominent African-American faculty members and administrators, coming to the university in 1976 and serving for 27 years before retiring in 2003. You can read more about him on page 3 of this newsletter.

Additionally, three of our graduate students were honored with Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards from the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning in March: Julian Worley, Shouyu Zhang and Yufeng Luo.

Once again, I would like to encourage all of our alumni to keep in touch with us. Please consider sharing updates about changes in your life or career so we can include them in this newsletter. You may contact us by emailing Emily Clance at eclance@uga.edu, or by following our LinkedIn page at https://www.linkedin.com/company/uga-ag-applied-economics.

As well, if it is within your means, I hope that you will consider donating to one of the departmental scholarship funds listed at the end of this newsletter. Scholarships are more important than ever, given the rising cost of a college education. All the donations to these funds are tax-deductible and are used exclusively to provide scholarships to deserving students.

Sincerely,

Octavio Ramirez
The late Dr. Ivery Clifton, a member of the Agricultural and Applied Economics faculty from 1976 to 1988, was honored as a recipient of the 2021 UGA President’s Medal. Dr. Clifton was one of the university’s first prominent Black faculty members and administrators, coming to the university in 1976 and serving for 27 years before retiring in 2003.

While in the Agricultural and Applied Economics department, Dr. Clifton taught classes and conducted research in land economics and values including farmland prices and price trends. He also enjoyed engaging in active farming activities and farm management on his family’s farm.

In 1987, as assistant to the dean, he launched an initiative to recruit under-represented minority faculty and students to the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and from 1988-1992, he served as the university’s associate vice president for academic affairs, helping develop UGA’s environmental literacy requirement.

One of his many lasting contributions to the college and the university was expanding the CAES Young Scholars summer high school research internship program, encouraging under-represented minority high school students to apply to college and gain experience in agricultural research. Since 2000, the program has brought approximately 65 minority high school students each year to UGA for paid research internship experiences over the summer. Dr. Clifton also established the CAES Office of Diversity Affairs.

Dr. Clifton was a valuable role model and mentor to students and faculty across campus, including Ag Econ’s own Dr. John Bergstrom.

“In addition to talking "shop" about mutual academic interests, I enjoyed his stories about his military service and farming activities on his family's farm,” Bergstrom said. “Talking about family and how our kids were growing up and what they were doing was something else we talked about often even up to his passing. He was a great colleague, friend, and representative of our Dept., College, and UGA.”
Junior Environmental Economics and Management major Brooke Raniere was one of two CAES students chosen as an intern for the Georgia Agribusiness Council. She worked in the Georgia House and Senate, watching sessions and tracking legislation related to agribusiness.

“I wanted the opportunity to work in-person at the Capitol to learn the interworking’s of state government, with a concentrated focus on agricultural policy,” Raniere said. “Government is where I want to be. Civil service is my future and I wanted to gain practical experience within the sector. Agriculture is essential to life as we know it and GAC’s mission perfectly aligns with this ideal.”

Another part of her job— in fact, her favorite part— was attending committee meetings, often lively with discussions, guest presentations and private citizen comments. She attended these daily to watch the progression of bills and, if needed, consult legislators and conduct research on specific issues. Raniere also wrote briefs of bills and committee meetings, added content to the GAC’s weekly newsletter and managed the Council’s social media platforms.

While committee meetings were her favorite part of her day-to-day job, Raniere’s favorite memory can in the middle of a legislative session.

“In the middle of the session, we celebrated Georgia’s annual Peanut Butter and Jelly Day at the Capitol,” she said. “Georgia Peanut Commission hosted an exposition with various sponsors and exhibits. I had the best PB&J sandwich of my life and got to meet many people within the industry.”

After graduation, Raniere plans to pursue a graduate degree and attend law school before starting a career in politics and government with the intent to create, support and disseminate agricultural and environmental policy that upholds and develops the economy and the community.

“Working directly with members of the GAC leadership has allowed me to apply the knowledge I have learned in the classroom, refine my communication and presentation skills, and provide the hands-on experience necessary to truly engage within a political sector” she said. “I have learned about state governments' general proceeds and gained industry knowledge within the agribusiness field.”
Department Publications


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.
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.