



Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
The University of Georgia

Alumni Newsletter

Spring, 2012

Page 1

Greetings from the Department Head

Dear Friends:



You are cordially invited to attend the 11th annual Conner Connects Banquet on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 7:00 pm. The banquet will be held at the Garden Club Terrace Room at the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia in Athens. We will be recognizing outstanding students, both undergraduate and graduate, and outstanding faculty and staff members. Please join us and take this opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal, meet our students, and visit with other alumni, faculty, and staff members. If you would like to attend this event, please contact Mrs. Audrey Cox (ah1@uga.edu) or use the registration form included in the newsletter.

Our Graduate Student Association (GSA) will be hosting the department's annual Rod Ziemer Lecture on Friday, April 13, 2012 at 11:30 in room 210 Conner Hall. Dr. Jayachandran N. Variyam, Chief of the Diet, Safety, and Health Economics Branch, United States Department of Agriculture, will speak on, "Food Choice and Obesity: Issues, Economics, and Options." Alumni, students, and faculty are welcome to attend this lecture as well.

And congratulations to each of our recent graduates! Twenty-three undergraduate students received B.S.A. or B.S.E.S. degrees in agricultural and applied economics, agribusiness, or environmental economics and management in fall 2011. Also two students received M.S. degrees in agricultural and applied economics, two earned M.S. degrees in environmental economics, and one student completed a Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics.

Please read the *Spotlight* features in this issue of our newsletter! Our Graduate Student *Spotlight* is on Matthew O'Meara, a student in the accelerated master's degree program in environmental economics. Our *Faculty Spotlight* features Dr. Forrest Stegelin, an associate professor and extension agribusiness economist, who is heavily involved in teaching, regional extension, and applied research programs. Our *Alumni Spotlight* features Bo Warren, Director of Business Development and International Trade at the Georgia Department of Agriculture. And congratulations to Bo who recently received the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award from the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia!

It is my pleasure to periodically share with you the activities and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni. I hope you will enjoy reading about them and that you will send us updates about important events in your life so that we can announce them in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Octavio A. Ramirez
Professor and Head

Inside this issue:

Greetings from Department Head	1
Conner Connects	2
Rod Ziemer Lecture	3
Student News	3
Graduate Student Spotlight	6
Faculty Spotlight	7
Presentations	8
Publications	10
Alumni Spotlight	12
Alumni News	14
Obituaries	15
AEAG Section	16

Conner Connects



Conner Connects Banquet-2012

The members of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club and the AAEC Graduate Student Association cordially invite you to join us for our 11th annual Conner Connects Banquet.

Tuesday, April 24, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Garden Club Terrace Room at the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia
Athens, GA

Cost is \$10 for current students and \$15 for non-students.
Please RSVP by April 17. If you have questions regarding
the banquet, please call 706-542-2481 or email

ahl@uga.edu.



CONNER CONNECTS REGISTRATION

(Due April 17)

Student Tickets (\$10 each) \$ _____

Non-student Tickets (\$ 15 each) \$ _____

Donation to help defray department's
contribution for student tickets \$ _____

Guests' Names:

Please make checks payable to the UGA Foundation.
Mail to: Conner Connects Registration, 303 Conner Hall,
University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509
Email: ahl@uga.edu
Call: 706-542-2481

Rod Ziemer Lecture



The annual Rod Ziemer Lecture will take place on Friday, April 13, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in room 210 Conner Hall. This year's speaker is Dr. Jayachandran N. Variyam, Chief of Diet, Safety, and Health Economics Branch, Food Economics Division, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture. The title of the lecture is "Food Choice and Obesity: Issues, Economics, and Options." Dr. Variyam received his Ph.D. from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at The University of Georgia in 1990. His research interests include understanding the determinants of nutrition, diet quality, and diet-related health outcomes, with special focus on the roles of information, nutrition knowledge, and educational attainment.

Jayachandran Variyam

Student News

Fall Graduates



Congratulations to our students who graduated from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the fall of 2011!

Undergraduate Students

Name	Degree	Major
Joshua Morgan Adams	BSA	AGB
Daniel Howard Bathon, III	BSES	EEM
Daniel William Bruce, III	BSES	EEM
Patrick Neal Cato	BSA	AGB
John Mitchell Copelan	BSA	AGB
Albert Delmas Cronia, V	BSA	AGB
Jacob Reid Daniel	BSA	AGB
Taylor Scott Echols	BSA	AGB
Carla Marie Frances	BSES	EEM
Katharine Lauren French	BSA	AGB
Timothy James Green	BSES	EEM
Lauren Beth Hesterman	BSA	AGB
Thomas Charles James	BSA	AGB
Paul Kevin Lewallen	BSA	AGB
Melissa Ann Lynch	BSA	AGB
Andrew David Majors	BSA	AGB
John Miller McCord, Jr.	BSES	EEM
Luke Thomas Muller	BSA	AGB
Barron Tyler Nicholson, III	BSA	AAE
Matthew Emory Pitts	BSA	AGB
Timothy Andrew Sapp	BSA	AGB
Taylor Rossee Sills	BSA	AAE

Jeremy Winston Smith	BSA	AE
Paul Culver Tew	BSA	AGB
Carly Christine Toth	BSA	AGB
Mary Ann Turrentine	BSA	AGB
Claire Covington Urbi	BSA	AAE
Russell Thomas Williams	BSA	AGB

Graduate Students

Name	Degree	Major
Gary Ward Black, Jr.	MS	AAE
Ganna Sheremenko	MS	AAE
Tony Greg Simpson	MS	EE
Huiting Wu	MS	EE
Ya Wu	Ph.D	AAE

Quiz Bowl Team

UGA’s Agricultural and Applied Economics Quiz Bowl team participated in the academic bowl competition at the annual meeting of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) in Birmingham, Alabama, February 5-6, 2012.

In the spring semester 2012, four students in Agricultural and Applied Economics, **Zeke Bryant, Heather Hatzenbuhler, Mathew Mendell, and Nathaniel Schmitt**, prepared to compete in the SAEA’s Academic Quiz Bowl by taking a class in applied agricultural economics topics led by **Dr. Glenn C.W. Ames**. The Quiz Bowl format mixes students from other association universities into teams of three who compete against each other and the clock. Moderators read from a test bank of questions on micro and macro economic theory, agribusiness, quantitative methods, resource policy, management, and potpourri. Several team members made it through to the ninth round, which was a very good showing against tough competition in their second Quiz Bowl. The team also attended the SAEA Super Bowl party and reception at the Old Car Heaven in Birmingham.



← Left to right:
**Joanna Brown, Heather Hatzenbuhler, Nathaniel Schmitt,
 Zeke Bryant, and Mathew Mendell**

Left to right:

Mathew Mendell, Heather Hatzenbuhler, Dr. Glenn Ames, Zeke Bryant, and Nathaniel Schmitt →



Officers of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club are listed below:

Caleb Davis - President

Alec Asbridge - Vice President for Environmental Economics

Ben Cleary - Vice President for Agricultural Economics

Cleve Jackson - Secretary-Treasurer

Jim Loughridge - Ag Hill Representative

Thomas Meeks - Ag Hill Representative

Dr. Jim Epperson - Faculty Advisor

The Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club hosted a number of informative speakers during the fall 2011 semester. The speakers are listed below:

Jim Larson, Corporate Tier 4 Manager, Yancey Caterpillar

Tim Miller, Manager, AGCO Academy, AGCO Corporation

Mike LeCuyer, Business Operations Leader, Urban Pest Management, Dow AgroSciences, LLC

David Martin, Sales Representative, Central Midwest District, Dow AgroSciences, LLC

Whitney K. Murphy, Sales Representative, Southeast District, Dow AgroSciences, LLC

William M. McDonald, Ed.D., Division of Student Affairs, University of Georgia

Tim East, Strategic Account Manager, North America Agriculture, Trimble Navigation Limited

Officers of the Graduate Student Association are listed below:

Anand Nambiar - President

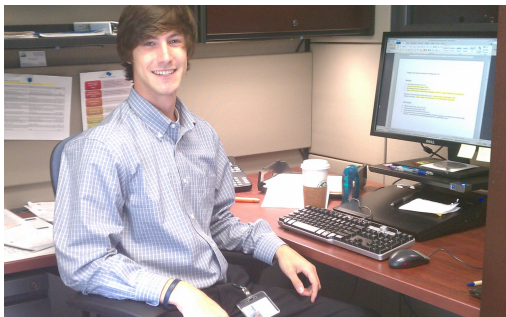
Beth Nielsen - Vice President

Ting (Tina) Meng - Treasurer



Graduate Student Spotlight

Matthew O'Meara



Matthew O'Meara is a student in the accelerated master's degree program majoring in environmental economics. He is from Powder Springs, Georgia, and this is his fourth year in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics and his first year as a master's student. He was accepted into the UGA Honors Program and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Honors Society.

Matthew spent eleven weeks during the summer of 2011 working in Washington, D.C. as an intern for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program. While there, he worked to maintain the national list of allowed and prohibited substances in organic agriculture, update the official website, and catalog substance petitions in the federal database. He also reviewed substance petitions as they were submitted, checking them for completeness and drafting technical reports when needed. He created numerous spreadsheets to help organize public comments from past meetings and to assist with the potential addition of substances to the national list. He also posted public comments to a federal website to make them available for review. In addition, he conducted research for various projects and worked with other members of the Standards Division to complete tasks on a day-to-day basis as they pertained to organic agriculture.

Years before his internship experience, Matthew had visited Washington, D.C. with his family; but living and working there allowed him to see an entirely different side of the city. He was privileged to meet Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack during a tour of his office at the USDA. Matthew visited virtually all the national monuments and museums of the Smithsonian and traveled to the surrounding cities of Georgetown, Alexandria, and Bethesda on weekends for dinner. The USDA internship program arranged numerous intern outings, both recreational and educational for Matthew and his fellow interns. Included in the outings were visits to the White House and the National Zoo, as well as informational meetings designed specifically for those interested in pursuing careers in economics with prominent speakers detailing how to gain employment in both the public and private sectors. Matthew established close friendships with his fellow interns. He was fortunate to have a special friend, also a UGA student from the Washington, D.C. area, interning in Georgetown during the summer. Matthew's friend showed him a side of Washington, D.C. that many visitors do not have the opportunity to experience.

Matthew states that his experience in Washington, D.C. was *amazing*. He was challenged at the National Organic Program to think critically and work efficiently to accomplish the tasks assigned to him. His supervisor gave him a great deal of freedom to work independently, allowing him to prioritize his assignments and complete them in a manner that Matthew thought was best. Matthew stated, "It was an eye-opening experience being a part of a team in an office environment, and I learned a lot about myself, my strengths, and the areas in which I need improvement. While I thoroughly enjoyed my job and the people I worked with, my internship served to reinforce the notion that I would like to work in the private sector." Matthew is considering either pursuing a career in environmental consulting or continuing his education and pursuing a Ph.D. in economics.

In his leisure time, Matthew has participated on a team for UGA HEROs during the past two years, played intramural basketball, football, and ultimate frisbee, and he volunteered as a coach for Upward Basketball. He enjoys reading, has a passion for music, especially jam bands, and enjoys getting together with friends to either play music or go to concerts. He is a big sports fan and loves cheering on the Dawgs. He also loves the outdoors, camping, hiking, and spending time at his lake house.

Years of Service Awards

The following people from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics were recognized with Years of Service Awards at the CAES 2011 Holiday Luncheon in December 2011.

Dr. Cesar Escalante	10 years	Dr. Elizabeth Kramer	15 years
Dr. E. Greg Fonsah	10 years	Dr. Don Shurley	20 years
Donna Ross	10 years	Laura Alfonso	25 years

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Forrest Stegelin is an associate professor and extension agribusiness economist in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He joined the department in 1994. Before joining our department, he was an extension agribusiness economist at the University of Kentucky, an extension agribusiness economist at Texas A&M University, an extension marketing and management economist at the University of Florida, and an assistant manager of the Beef Division for Wilson & Co. in Oklahoma City. A decorated veteran, Dr. Stegelin served in the United States Air Force as a captain and B52 bombardier/crew member in Southeast Asia - Guam.

Dr. Stegelin received a B.S. in animal science and industry from Kansas State University in 1970, an M.B.A. in agribusiness management from the University of Oklahoma in 1976, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University in 1979. He teaches undergraduate classes in the department which include food and fiber marketing, selling in agribusiness, introduction to agribusiness management, and agribusiness management. He is also an extension specialist in agribusiness management, marketing, finance, labor, and outlook. In addition, he is actively involved in regional applied research and extension endeavors, including the Green Industry Research Consortium, Agribusiness Profitability and Efficiency, and applied research for Georgia agribusiness on strategies for growth and recovery from the recession.

In March 2012, Dr. Stegelin received the Best Paper Award in agricultural economics, environmental economics, economics, and finance track from the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute, University of South Carolina for his paper entitled, "Demand Elasticities and Supply Flexibilities of Fresh Produce, and How They Affect 'Buy-Local'." In February 2012, he was recognized for the Best Participative and Interactive Practice Session at the Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute for, "Using Case Studies – The 'Ah? Ha!' Teachable Moment."

Dr. Stegelin resides in Gainesville, Georgia and is active in a number of organization in his community, including the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Lions Club, Rotarians, and Grange. He is a mentor at Challenged Child, Lakeside Academy, and Riverside Academy and attends the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Stegelin's wife, Dolores (Dee), is a professor of early childhood education at Clemson University. Their son, Steve, is a senior technical writer for Blackbaud of Charleston, South Carolina and an editorial cartoonist for a Charleston newspaper. Their daughter, Amber, is an assistant professor in the Office of Academic Affairs at the University of South Carolina. The Stegelin's have two grandchildren, Cory and Caleb, and they enjoy taking the children on weekend trips. Dr. Stegelin's favorite leisure time activities include landscape and produce gardening, reading, golf, and European vacations in Italy, Germany, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland. With nearly 40 years of federal civil service to his credit, Dr. Stegelin states that retirement is on the horizon.



Faculty News

Presentations

Research Presentations at Major National or International Professional Conferences

The following presentations were made at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meetings in Birmingham, Alabama, February 2-7, 2012:

“Analysis of Spatial Variation in Flood Risk Perception.”

Authors: **Ajita Atreya** and **Dr. Susana Ferreira**

Presenter: **Ajita Atreya**

“Are Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus Management Tactics Good Enough?”

Authors: **Sebastain Awondo**, **Dr. Esendugue Fonsah**, David Riley, and Mark Abney

Presenter: **Sebastain Awondo**

“An Economic Valuation of Pollination Services in Georgia.”

Authors: **Ashley Barfield**, **Dr. John Bergstrom**, and **Dr. Susana Ferreira**

Presenter: **Ashley Barfield**

“Consumers’ Willingness to Pay for Food Safety in Milk Products in the Black Sea Region, Turkey.”

Authors: **Drs. Mehmet Bozoglu**, **Charlie Huang**, **Wojciech Florkowski**, and Bakiye Kilic

Presenter: **Dr. Mehmet Bozoglu**

Congratulations to Drs. Bozoglu, Huang, Florkowski, and Kilic on receiving the Outstanding Poster Award!

“Farm to School: Market Analysis.”

Authors: **Dr. Cesar Escalante**, **Dr. Glenn Ames**, and

Marissa Watson

Presenter: **Marissa Watson**

“Impacts of the U.S. - Central America - Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) on U.S. Fruit Exports - the Apple Case.”

Authors: **Shengfei Fu**, **Dr. James E. Epperson**, and **Dr. Glenn Ames**

Presenter: **Shengfei Fu**

“Floods and Onset of Armed Conflict.”

Authors: **Ramesh Ghimire** and **Dr. Susana Ferreira**

Presenters: **Ramesh Ghimire**

“Consumer Attitudes and Preferences for Peanut Paste in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Ghana.”

Authors: **Drs. Vehe Heboyan**, **Wojciech Florkowski**, Daniel Sarpong, Anna Resurreccion, and Manjett Chinnan

Presenter: **Dr. Vahe Heboyan**

“Analysis of U.S. Demand for Imported Melons Using a Dynamic Almost Ideal Demand System.”

Authors: **Sam Kaninda Tshikala** and **Dr. Esendugue Fonsah**

Presenter: **Sam Kaninda Tshikala**

“The Effect of Housing Prices on Georgia Farmland Option Values.”

Author: **Anne Karner**

Presenter: **Anne Karner**.

“Agricultural Banking and Early Warning Models for the Bank Failures of the Late 2000s Great Recession.”

Authors: **Xiaofei Li**, **Dr. Cesar Escalante**, **Dr. James E. Epperson**, and **Dr. Lewell Gunter**

Presenter: **Xiaofei Li**

“Analysis of Fruit Consumption in the U.S. with a Quadratic AIDS Model.”

Authors: **Dawit Mekonnen**, **Dr. Chung Huang**, and **Dr. Esendugue Fonsah**

Presenter: **Dawit Mekonnen**

“Food Expenditures in Rural Households in the Northern Region of Ghana.”

Authors: **Ting Meng, Dr. Wojciech Florkowski,** Shashi Kolavali, and Mohammed Ibrahim

Presenter: **Ting (Tina) Meng**

“Who Will Buy GM Foods in South Korea?”

Authors: **Padmanand Madhavan Nambiar, Dr. Wojciech Florkowski,** and Dong-Kyun Suh

Presenter: **Padmanand Madhavan Nambiar**

This presentation received an honorable mention from the judges of the poster competition.

“The Road to Financial Sustainability: Comparative Analysis of Russia and the Caucasus Region.”

Authors: **Ganna Sheremenko, Dr. Cesar Escalante,** and **Dr. Wojciech Florkowski**

Presenter: **Ganna Sheremenko**

“Innovation Systems and Technical Efficiency in Developing-Country Agriculture.”

Authors: David Spielman, **Dawit Mekonnen,** and **Dr. Esendugue Fonsah**

Presenter: **Dawit Mekonnen**

Other Presentations:

Ashley Barfield, Dr. John Bergstrom, and **Dr. Susana Ferreira** co-authored a paper entitled “An Economic Valuation of Pollination Services in Georgia,” which Ashley presented at the 2012 University of Georgia Graduate Student Association Interdisciplinary Research Conference in Athens in March 2012.

Prof. Terry Centner presented his paper entitled, “Delineating Citizen Input As an Additional Institutional Measure for Protecting Water Resources,” at the 4th E-Health and Environment Conference in the Middle East, Dubai, United Arab Emirates in January 2012.

Prof. Terry Centner presented his paper entitled, “Controlling Diseases in Agriculture: Should Governments Pay for Destroying Private Property?” at the American Agricultural Law Association meeting in Austin, Texas in October 2011.

Dr. Cesar Escalante, Dr. Greg Fonsah, Dr. Forrest Stegelin, and **Keith Kightlinger** co-authored a paper entitled, “Labor Situation and Legislation,” which they presented at the Extension Education Winter Conference at Rock Eagle, Georgia on January 19, 2012.

Dr. Susana Ferreira presented a seminar entitled, “Forgetting the Flood? Changes in Flood Risk Perceptions over Time,” in Pamplona, Spain in December, 2011.

Dr. Greg Fonsah, Sebastain Awondo, and D. Riley co-authored a paper entitled, “Farmers’ Survey and Economic Impact of TSWV in Pepper and Tomato,” which was presented by Dr. Fonsah at the Southeast Regional Fruits and Vegetable Conference in Savannah in January.

Dr. Greg Fonsah, Sebastain Awondo, D. Riley, and M. Abney co-authored a poster entitled, “Producers’ Survey Results of TSWV on Tomatoes and Peppers in the Southeast Region of the United States,” which they presented at the Southeast Regional Fruits and Vegetable Conference in Savannah in January.

Dr. Greg Fonsah and R. Torrance co-authored a poster entitled, “Economic Analysis of Producing Irrigated Bulb Onion in Georgia,” which they presented at the Southeast Regional Fruits and Vegetable Conference in Savannah in January.

Ramesh Ghimire and **Dr. Susana Ferreira** co-authored a poster entitled, “Floods and Armed Conflict,” which Ramesh presented at the Open Society Foundation Doctoral Fellowship Program/Global Supplementary Grant Program in New York in March 2012.

Douglas Patton, Dr. John Bergstrom, Alan Covich, and Rebecca Moore co-authored a paper entitled, “Evaluating Wetland Ecosystem Services Associated with National Wildlife Refuges,” which **Douglas Patton** presented at the USDA W-2133 Regional Research Project Annual Technical Meetings in Park City, Utah in February 2012.

Dr. Don Shurley, Calvin D. Perry, Guy Collins, Calvin D. Meeks, and **Amanda Smith** co-authored a paper entitled, "Economic Analysis of Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SSDI) in Georgia Cotton Production," which Dr. Shurley presented at the Beltwide Cotton Conference in Orlando, Florida in January 2012.

Amanda Smith, **Dr. Don Shurley**, R. Scott Tubbs, Michael D. Toews, Glendon H. Harris, and R. Dewey Lee co-authored a paper entitled, "Economic Analysis of the Use of Cover Crops in Georgia Cotton Under Conventional and Strip-Tillage Production," which Amanda Smith presented at the Beltwide Cotton Conference in Orlando, Florida in January 2012.

Amanda Smith presented her invited paper entitled, "Irrigation of Cotton Makes 'Cents'," at the Beltwide Cotton Conference in Orlando, Florida on January 4, 2012.

Amanda Smith, **Dr. Don Shurley**, and **Dr. Nathan Smith** co-authored an invited presentation entitled, "Using Crop Budgets to Estimate Costs and Potential Returns: Corn, Peanut, Cotton, Soybean, and Grain Sorghum," which **Amanda Smith** presented at the Annual Field Crop Meeting: Addressing Resources, Economics, Sod-rotation Systems, and Updates in Corn and Peanuts in Lake City, Florida in January 2012.

Dr. Don Shurley made an invited presentation entitled, "Price Situation and Outlook for 2012 Cotton," at the South Carolina Cotton Growers Annual Meeting in Orangeburg, South Carolina in January 2012.

Dr. Don Shurley made an invited presentation entitled, "Price Situation and Outlook for 2012 Cotton," at the Virginia Cotton Meeting in Franklin, Virginia in February 2012.

Dr. Forrest Stegelin gave a presentation entitled, "Is There a Role for Environmental Horticulture and the Nursery Industry in the 2012 Farm Bill?" at the

Southern Nursery Association Research Conference in Mobile, Alabama in January 2012.

Dr. Forrest Stegelin gave a presentation entitled, "Do Demand Elasticities and Supply Flexibilities Apply to Environmental Horticulture?" at the Southern Nursery Association Research Conference in Mobile, Alabama in January 2012.

Dr. Forrest Stegelin gave a presentation entitled, "Case Studies and the 'Ah? Ha!' Teachable Moment" at the Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy at Blacksburg, Virginia in February 2012.

Publications



Journal Articles – Refereed

Grebitus, C., **G. Colson**, and L. Menapace (2012). "A Comparison of Hypothetical Survey Rankings with Consumer Shopping Behavior." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 44(1):35-47.

Centner, T.J. (2012) "Regulating the Land Application of Manure from Animal Production Facilities in the USA." *Water Policy*, 13:319-335.

Centner, T.J. and **S. Ferreira** (2012) "Controlling Diseases and Nuisances: Time-based Rights and Agricultural Production." *Land Use Policy*, 29:513-520.

Centner, T.J. (2011) "Recent Rural Law Developments in the United States." *Agrarisch Recht*, 10:401-407.

Centner, T.J. and G.L. Newton. (2011) "Reducing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Permitting Requirements." *Journal of Animal Science*, 89:4364-4369.

Escalante, C.L. and **F. I. Santos.** (2011) "Seasonal Farm Labor Hiring Challenges and Labor Input Substitution Decisions of Organic and Conventional Operators in the Southeast." *Journal of International*

Business and Economics, 11(1):75-86.

Wu, Y., Escalante, L.F. Gunter, and J.E. Epperson. (2012) "A Decomposition Approach to Analyzing Racial and Gender Biases in Farm Service Agency's Lending Decisions." *Applied Economics*, 44(22):2841-2850.

Other Publications

Shurley, Don. (2012) "Price Situation and Outlook for 2012." *2012 Georgia Cotton Production Guide*, Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Georgia.

Shurley, Don. Cotton (2012) "Cotton." *2012 Georgia Ag Forecast*. College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, The University of Georgia.

Shurley, Don and Amanda Smith. (2012) "2012 Georgia Cotton Cost and Returns Budget Estimates," Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Georgia.

Smith, Amanda, Nathan Smith, and Don Shurley. (2012) "Row Crop Net Returns," *2012 Georgia Ag Forecast*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, The University of Georgia.

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.



Distinguished Alumni Present Seminar

On November 18, 2011, **Dr. John Baffes** (MS in agricultural economics, 1986) of the World Bank and **Dr. Tassos Haniotis** (Ph.D. in agricultural economics, 1987), director economic analysis, perspectives and evaluations directorate-general for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission presented a departmental lecture entitled “Commodity Price Volatility: Agriculture’s Link to Food, Energy, and Trade.” Drs. Baffes and Haniotis are pictured below with some of our graduate students.



Alumni Spotlight



Bo Warren

Bo Warren is the recent recipient of the J. W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award. The Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia presented the award at the twenty-seventh J.W. Fanning Lecture/Luncheon at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens in January 2012.

Bo serves as Director of Business Development and International Trade, Georgia Department of Agriculture. In this new combined role for the department, he and his team work to identify domestic and international economic development opportunities for producers and agriculture-related business in support of the state’s \$68 billion agricultural industry.

Prior to working with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Bo served four years in state and local government relations with the Monsanto Company where he led a team of eight government affairs professionals. In addition to monitoring legislative policy, he worked to garner support of plant biotechnology and build grower relations. In both 2006 and 2008, he was recognized with the company’s Above and Beyond Award.

Prior to working for Monsanto, Bo worked with CropLife America, a Washington, D.C.-based national trade organization representing the crop protection industry and the group's regional affiliate, Southern Crop Production Association. While in that position, Bo had combined duties of managing state government relations within a fifteen state region as well as overseeing a slate of federal issues before Congress, including the Clean Water Act, 2008 Farm Bill, Clean Air Act, and involvement in the 2005 reform of the Endangered Species Act. He has written and presented testimony before Congress and The White House Council on Environmental Quality. In 2006, he was recognized with the Southern Crop Production Association's Don W. Beise Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership.

Bo began his career with the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation, the state's largest farmer organization, as a legislative manager, and he still credits his career opportunities with leadership and development skills instilled by the organization. Bo states that his greatest accomplishments since leaving college has been the building of his career in agriculture and experiencing the various facets of the industry.

Bo is a graduate of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and he received his BSA in agribusiness in 1995 from the University of Georgia. He also received an MBA from Mercer University with a marketing emphasis. While an undergraduate student in the department, Bo was a member of the Block and Bridle Club and Equine Judging Team. He credits his judging experience for helping his career. He remarked, "UGA and the College of Agriculture have so much to offer and you never know how your involvement will impact your future interest. For example, an underappreciated development skill at the time was practicing and delivering judging 'reasons' in front of classmates and instructors. It's not only great practice for public speaking but also requires tremendous focus and concentration. We also had the chance to build relationships and friendships that still exist today." He recommends that students get engaged in the many clubs and activities that the university offers, even some outside of their direct academic path or comfort level. He added, "Agriculture will continue to face difficult challenges in the future and will require strong leaders with the fundamental basics to accurately guide us through those hurdles. I still have my original agricultural law text book from Dr. Centner's class, and several of the policy and legal debates are relative today. I think the future leaders of agriculture will be well versed in agricultural and environmental policy, effective communicators, and skilled in public debate."

Bo resides in Monroe, Georgia and is a member of Victory Baptist Church in Loganville. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoys any chance to be outside working in the yard, out on the water, or studying nature. While he does not have the opportunity to ride much, he states that being on the back of a horse with a few dogs along trailing behind is "about as good as it gets." Bo is passionate about agriculture, southern politics, and music.





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

Caleb Gravely (BSA in agribusiness in 2007) is working as a supervisor at Archer Daniels Midland.

Brandon Henry (BSA in agribusiness in 2004) works in the Supply Chain Development Program at Syngenta located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Wan-Tran Huang (Ph.D. in agricultural economics in 1989) is teaching and conducting research at Asia University in Taiwan.

Lisa Ann King (BSES in environmental economics and management in 2011 and a BS in ecology in 2011) is enrolled in the environmental technology graduate program at the Imperial College London, which ranks seventh among the top universities in the world.

David Lemond (BSES in environmental economics and management in 2010) works in Atlanta for Gaia Tech, an environmental consulting/risk management group, and plans to conduct environmental site assessments for commercial real estate properties.

Dia Lane (BSA in agribusiness in 2010) is currently working in a corporate environmental position with ADM Ag Services in Logansport, Indiana.

Andrew Majors (BSA in agribusiness in 2011) is currently employed as a project manager at The Wrecking Crew in Atlanta.

Candice Clark McKie (BSA in agribusiness in 2005 and MS in Agricultural Economics in 2007) is an associate project manager at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Alfie Meeks (Ph.D. in agricultural economics in 2005), formerly a Gwinnett County economic analysis director, has accepted a job as director of community innovation services for Georgia Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute.

Wilbur Mull (MS in 1965 and BSA in 1963 in agricultural economics) received the 2011 Georgia Green Industry Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his longevity and his dedication to the industry. Wilbur is the owner of Classic Groundcovers in Athens.

Asa Ornelas (MS in agricultural and applied economics in 2011) is a business analyst-sales and marketing at Open Range Communications in Denver, Colorado.

Gena Perry (BSA in agribusiness in 2011) is an account coordinator at Osborn & Barr in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Jack Purvis (MS in agricultural economics in 2011 and BSA in agribusiness in 2008) is a business analytics analyst at HAVI Global Solutions in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Dr. and Mrs. Don Shurley welcomed their second grandchild, Logan Justin Shurley, on November 7, 2011. Logan was 8 lbs, 11 oz. and 21½ inches at birth. Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs Shurley and Logan's parents, Justin and Brook Shurley of Dawsonville, Georgia.

Kavita Sardana (Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economic in 2010) was married to Shubho Bhattacharya on January 27, 2011. Kavita is currently working as an assistant professor in the Department of Policy Studies at TERI University in New Delhi, India.

Cathy Strickland (BSA in agribusiness in 2009) is living in Labelle, Florida and working as a sales representative for the turf and ornamental division of Agrium Advanced Technologies, a fertilizer manufacturer and chemical distributor.

Andy Sumlin (BSA in agricultural economics in 1983) is the director of Cushman & Wakefield of Georgia, Inc. in Atlanta.

Veronica Yoo (MS in agricultural and applied Economics in 2011) is a marketing data analyst at Purchasing Power in Atlanta.

Obituaries

Dr. Ernest Evan Brown passed away on February 24, 2012. A memorial service was held on March 10, 2012 at Lord & Stephens East Chapel with Reverend Lee McNeil officiating.

Dr. Brown began his career at the University of Georgia in 1963 and taught cooperative marketing and the first economic development course. He was an excellent teacher and was passionate about reaching out to minorities and students from other countries. Dr. Brown published five university textbooks and numerous journal articles.

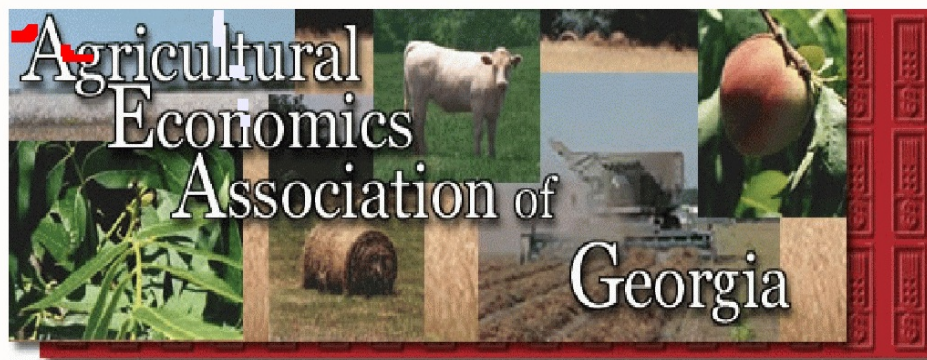
J.W. Fanning Lecture and Luncheon



The twenty-seventh annual J.W. Fanning Lecture/Luncheon was held on January 20, 2012 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens. More than eighty people attended the lecture entitled, "The Implications of the Housing Bust and Other Recent Trends for Urban, Suburban, and Exurban Growth," which was presented by Dr. Elena Irwin of the Department of Agricultural, Environment, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University.

(Dr. Octavio Ramirez, Bo Warren, and Craig Scroggs)

At the luncheon following the lecture, **Bo Warren** (BSA in agribusiness in 1995) was presented the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award by the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia. (Please see the article about Bo on page 12 of the newsletter.)



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 truly 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 applications of agricultural economics to farm, resource, environmental, and agribusiness problems.* Agriculture is Georgia's largest economic engine and provides over 380,000 jobs, yet we are often viewed as the industry of yesterday instead of the career builder of the future. We have a great story to tell about our past, present, and future – we need you to join AEAG as we support the voices and projects that help us share our message.

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 with important opportunities to network for the purpose of future career connections and the sharing of information and knowledge. The relationships you build today are the ones you will embrace long into the future. The industry of agriculture is large, but the relationships among our ag industry leaders are quite close.

My years working with agriculture leaders at UGA and at the Georgia Agribusiness Council over the last 20 years have been most rewarding because we share a common thread – a love for agriculture. It is my honor to be serving as president of the AEAG this year and I look forward to seeing our association grow and help enhance this industry and the thousands of jobs it generates all across the state. Find us on facebook and check out our website at www.aeag.uga.edu. An investment in AEAG is an investment in your future.

Bryan R. Tolar, (1992 BS in Agribusiness) AEAG President

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:

- _____ 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, Georgia 30602-7509

For more information, call 706-542-0763 or visit www.aeag.uga.edu