



## Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
The University of Georgia

*Alumni Newsletter*

*Spring, 2013*

*Page 1*



### Greetings from the Department Head

Dear Friends:

You are cordially invited to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Conner Connects Banquet on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The banquet will be held at the Garden Club Terrace Room at the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia in Athens. 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 very best students and visit with other departmental alumni, faculty, and staff. 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.

Another important event this spring is the department's annual Rod Ziemer Lecture. Our Graduate Student Association (GSA) will be hosting this event at 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 3, 2013. We are honored to have Dr. John Hoddinott, Deputy Director in the Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as our lecture speaker this year.

It is hard to believe that we are half-way through the spring semester, but we will use this newsletter to congratulate our recent fall 2012 graduates! Twenty-five undergraduate and two Ph.D. students received their degrees last fall. I am also pleased to report that we currently have an enrollment of 274 undergraduates and 64 graduate students (32 M.S. and 32 Ph.D.).

The activities and accomplishments of our Quiz Bowl Team are highlighted in the newsletter along with those of other students, faculty members, and alumni. Please be sure to read our Graduate Student Spotlight featuring Ramesh Ghimire, a fourth-year Ph.D. student; our Faculty Spotlight featuring Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman; and our Alumni Spotlight featuring Dr. J. Wesley Burnett.

Also, please join me in congratulating Professor Terry Centner on receiving the 2012-2013 UGA Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Advisor Award. Congratulations also go to the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award winner, Mike Giles, president of the Georgia Poultry Federation and the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award winner, Betsy McCorkle, director of government affairs for the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA).

It is my pleasure to occasionally be able to share with you some of the many activities and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni. It is my hope that you enjoy reading about them and that you will send us updates about important events in your life so that we can post them in the newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Octavio A. Ramirez  
Professor and Head

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### Conner Connects



#### Conner Connects Banquet - 2013



*The members of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club and the AAEC Graduate Student Association cordially invite you to join us for our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Conner Connects Banquet.*

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

*7:00 P.M.*

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

*Cost is \$10 for current students and \$13 for non-students.*

*Please RSVP by April 1. 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 1)**

Students Tickets (\$10 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-student Tickets (\$13 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Guests' Names:

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

Please make checks payable to the UGA Foundation. 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



## Student News

### Fall Graduates

*Congratulations to our students who graduated from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the fall of 2012!*

#### Undergraduate Students

<b>Name</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Honors</b>
Joseph Wayne Banford	BSA	AGB	
Spencer Mitchell Bernstein	BSES	EEM	
Tyson Thomas Betts	BSA	AGB	
Peter Ross Burry, Jr	BSA	AGB	
Alexander Brantley Cardin	BSES	EEM	
William Clayton Carswell	BSA	AGB	Summa Cum Laude
John Armstrong Conners	BSES	EEM	
Benjamin Thomas Dymecki	BSES	EEM	
Matthew Guy Green	BSA	AGB	
Justin Thomas Hand	BSA	AGB	
Devin Lewis Hosea	BSA	AAE	Magna Cum Laude
Jackson McCurdy Hovis	BSA	AGB	
Kenneth Payne Hughes, Jr.	BSA	AGB	
Andrew Hart Johnson	BSES	EEM	
William Curtis Johnson	BSA	AGB	
Elizabeth Rachelle Kilgore	BSA	FIMA	
Gary Alan Klimek	BSA	AGB	
Kristie Diane Krueger	BSES	EEM	Cum Laude
Thomas Allan Meeks	BSA	AGB	
Nicholas Eduardo Pisarello	BSES	EEM	
Emily Caroline Reece	BSA	AGB	
Neilru Jaco Smit	BSA	AGB	
Benjamin Carl Smith	BSES	EEM	
Phillip B. Thomas	BSA	AGB	
Brandon Wesley Wade	BSA	AAE	

#### Graduate Students

<b>Name</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Major</b>
Myra Clarisse Rebong Ferrer	PhD	AAE
Cheng Qiu	PhD	AAE

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The Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics currently has 274 undergraduate students enrolled and 64 graduate students enrolled (32 M.S. and 32 Ph.D.).

### Academic Quiz Bowl Students at the 2013 SAEA Annual Meetings, Orlando, FL February 2-5, 2013

The University of Georgia's Agricultural and Applied Economics Quiz Bowl students participated in the Academic Quiz Bowl competition at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) annual meetings in Orlando, Florida, February 2-5, 2013.

The Quiz Bowl format mixes students from SAEA member universities into teams of three who compete against each other in a Jeopardy format. Moderators read from a test bank of questions on micro- and macroeconomic theory, agribusiness, quantitative methods, natural resource policy, management, and potpourri. The format provides an opportunity for students to work together in a pressure-filled, task-oriented environment.

In the spring 2013 semester, four students, **Heather Hatzenbuhler, Colby Cantrell, Andrea Morris, and Alex Ballasiotes**, enrolled in applied economic topics led by Glenn C. W. Ames to prepare for the Academic Quiz Bowl competition at the SAEA and American Agricultural Economics Association meetings. Class activities include practicing the quiz bowl, researching economic topics, and writing a paper on an issue of special interest. Students attended the Annual Super Bowl Party/Dinner on Sunday evening at Universal's City Walk NASCAR Sports Grille and a reception at the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant on Monday evening.

This year a team consisting of **Andrea Morris**, University of Georgia, Ryan Clark, Fort Valley State University, and Adam Hancock, University of Kentucky, placed second in the Academic Quiz Bowl competition in Orlando, February 4, 2013. The second place team received a Distinguished Professional Contribution Award from the SAEA and a check for \$50. Other teams with UGA students reached the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> rounds of the competition. The students did a lot of networking at the Quiz Bowl, which they all agreed was a very positive professional experience.



Colby Cantrell and his team. →

UGA students, **Colby Cantrell, Andrea Morris, Heather Hatzenbuhler, and Alex Ballasiotes**, competed in the Academic Quiz Bowl at the SAEA meetings in Orlando.





Alex Ballasiotes and his team.



The second place team of Ryan Clark, Fort Valley State University, Adam Hancock, University of Kentucky, and **Andrea Morris**, University of Georgia at the SAEA Quiz Bowl competition.



Distinguished Professional Contribution Award for the second place team at the 2013 SAEA Quiz Bowl competition. Each member also received a check for \$50.



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**Heather Hatzenbuhler**, a fourth year environmental economics and management major from Lawrenceville, GA competed for and won the honor of representing UGA at the first SEC Symposium in February. Her paper, entitled, "Impacts of the Southeast in the World's Renewable Energy Future," highlights the role of the southeastern U.S. in the world's renewable energy future.

Heather has developed local campaigns to promote sustainable energy and environmental justice, which has led to her selection as a student representative to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP17 Conference in Durban, South Africa.

**Rod Ziemer Lecture – April 3, 2013, 11:00 am**

The annual Rod Ziemer Lecture will be on April 3, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. This year's speaker will be Dr. John Hoddinott, Deputy Director in the Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His principal research interest lies in the microeconomic analysis of issues in development economics. He is especially interested in the causes of poverty, food insecurity, and under-nutrition, and the design and evaluation of interventions that would reduce these problems.

Dr. Hoddinott currently leads a five-country study evaluating the impact of food, cash, and voucher transfers being conducted for the World Food Program, the evaluation of Ethiopia's Food Security Program, and is part of a team evaluating South Africa's Child Support Grant.

**Graduate Student Spotlight****Ramesh Ghimire**

**Ramesh Ghimire** is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He is from Chitwan, Nepal and holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from Tribhuvan University, Nepal and a master's degree in development and natural resource economics from the University of Life Sciences (UMB), Norway. Ramesh is majoring in agricultural and applied economics with a focus in environmental economics. He is working with Dr. Susana Ferreira on his Ph.D. projects, and she is the chair of his dissertation committee.

Ramesh is a member of the UGA Agricultural and Applied Economics Honor Society and a life member of the Nepal Economics Association. He is one of the founders of the Nepalese Student Association at UGA.

In addition to a departmental assistantship, Ramesh has received multiple research grants to support his research at UGA, including a global supplementary grant beginning in 2011 from the Open Society Foundations.

Ramesh's training and research interests lie at the intersection of development, natural resource, and environmental economics with a particular focus on analyzing the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on various aspects of economic development. Ramesh plans to graduate in May 2013, and he has accepted a position as a postdoctoral research associate at the UGA Warnell School of Forestry.

Ramesh has presented twelve papers at professional meetings including Feem-Belpasso International Summer School 2011, Sicily, Italy; BIOECON Conference 2011, Geneva, Switzerland; Canadian Ph.D. Workshop 2012, University of Ottawa, Canada; Camp Resources 2012, North Carolina State University; Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop 2012, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; European Science Foundation (ESF)-ZiF-Bielefeld University Research Conference 2012, Germany; Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA); Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA); and Open Society Foundations. Ramesh has been awarded a number of travel grants that have been helpful in funding his travel to present his research.

He had an article published in the interdisciplinary journal, *Water Resources Research*, in 2012 and has submitted

papers to *Oxford Economic Papers* and *Climatic Change*. He has three additional working papers that he expects to be ready to be submitted for publication by the end of March.

Ramesh lives with his family in Athens. During his leisure time, he prefers to spend time with his family, watch television, read to his children, take his children to visit their friends and relatives, and explore new things. He also enjoys playing volleyball and soccer.

### 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 2012 Holiday Luncheon in December 2012.

<b>Dr. John Bergstrom</b>	25 years
<b>Professor Terry Centner</b>	30 years
<b>Chris Peters</b>	25 years

### Faculty News



**Professor Terry Centner** is the winner of the 2012-2013 University of Georgia Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Advisor Award. He provides exemplary advising assistance to a broad range of students across the UGA campus. He developed, instituted, and serves as advisor for the college's pre-law program, environmental law minor, and agribusiness law certificate. As advisor for the law minor and certificate, students from across campus seek out his law courses and request his guidance.

Professor Centner has also been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Agricultural Science and Applications (JASA)*.

### Presentations:

*The following people authored papers presented at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meetings in February in Orlando, Florida.*

**Ames, Glenn, Simone Angioloni, Zarylbek Kudabaev, and Michael Wetzstein.** "Microfinance Impacts on Household Consumption and Investment Expenditures: A Case Study of the Kyrgyz Republic." (Presented by Simone Angioloni)

**Atreya, Ajita and Susana Ferreira.** "An Evaluation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Georgia." (Presented by Ajita Atreya)

**Awondo, Sebastain, Octavio Ramirez, Gauri Datta, and Esendugue Greg Fonsah.** "Small Area Estimation of Insurance Premium and Basis Risk." (Presented by Sebastain Awondo)

**Borisova, Tatiana and Jeffrey Mullen.** "Water Resources: Any Hope Left?" (Presented by Dr. Jeffrey Mullen)

**Dorfman, Jeffrey and Xuedong Wu.** "Comparison Analysis of Temperature Change Between Georgia and California." (Presented by Xuedong Wu)

**Fonsah, Esendugue Greg and Sebastain Awondo.** "Discussion: Future Domestic and International Competitiveness of the Southern Fruit and Vegetable Industry." (Presented by Sebastain Awondo)

**Fu, Shengfei, Wojciech Florkowski, Padmanand Madhavan-Nambiar, Anna Resurreccion, and Manjeet Chinnan.** "Household Consumption Characteristics of Cookies: The Case of Uganda." (Presented by Shengfei Fu)

**Gaytaranov, Jalal, Lowell Gunter, and Forrest Steglin.** "Cost of Trade Impacts on Transition Country Exports." (Presented by Jalal Gaytaranov)

**Ghimire, Ramesh and Susana Ferreira.** "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: The Case of Large Floods."

(Presented by Ramesh Ghimire)

Guidry, Kurt and **Nathan Smith**. “Oilseed Outlook.” (Presented by Kurt Guidry and Nathan Smith)

**Hao, Na, Gregory Colson, Berna Karali, and Michael Wetzstein**. “Will Biodiesel Production Trigger Another Food Crisis? An Implication from a VEC Model.” (Presented by Na Hao)

**Hayes, Michelle, Genti Kostandini, and Jeffrey L Jordan**. “Farmers’ Perceptions of Biopharming: Insights from a Tobacco Biopharming Survey.” (Presented by Michelle Hayes)

Klepacka, Anna, Steven Yen, and **Wojciech Florkowski**. “Migration to Rural Counties: An Example from the North-Eastern Poland.” (Presented by Dr. Wojciech Florkowski)

**Li, Xiaofei and Cesar Escalante**. “Applying Input Distance Function to Measure Bank Efficiency During Late 2000s Financial Crisis.” (Presented by Xiaofei Li)

**Madhavan-Nambiar, Padmanand and Wojciech Florkowski**. “Peanut Paste/Butter Consumption Frequency in the Republic of Uganda: Count Data Model Approach.” (Presented by Padmanand Madhavan-Nambiar)

**Mekonnen, Dawit, Jeffrey Dorfman, and Esendugue Greg Fonsah**. “Productivity and Efficiency of Small Scale Agriculture: A Distance Function Approach with Generalized Method of Moments.” (Presented by Dawit Mekonnen)

**Mendali, Rebati, Glenn Ames, and Lewell Gunter**. “Total Factor Productivity in Brazil’s and Argentina’s Agriculture: A Comparative Analysis.” (Presented by Rebati Mendali)

**Mendali, Rebati and Lewell Gunter**. “Impact of Agricultural Productivity Changes on Poverty Reduction in Developing Countries.” (Presented by Rebati Mendali)

**Meng, Ting, Wojciech Florkowski, Daniel Sarpong, Anna Resurreccion, and Manjeet Chinnan**. “The Determinants of Food Expenditures in the Urban Household of Ghana: A Quantile Regression Approach.” (Presented by Ting (Tina) Meng)

**Osinubi, Adenola and Cesar L. Escalante**. “A Theoretical and Empirical Investigation of Poverty in Rural Georgia Counties.” (Presented by Adenola Osinubi)

**Sheremenko, Ganna, Wojciech Florkowski, and Anna Klepacka**. “Poverty Outreach in Southern and Northern Ghana.” (Presented by Ganna Sheremenko)

Tanellari, Eftila and **Genti Kostandini**. “Gender Impacts on Adoption of New Technologies: Evidence from Uganda.” (Presented by Genti Kostandini)

**Watson, Marissa, Cesar Escalante, Glenn Ames, and Kent Wolfe**. “Motivation for Farm to School Participation: Nutritional versus Food Hardship Considerations.” (Presented by Marissa Watson)

**Wetzstein, Michael**. “Graduate Coordinator Reactions.”

*Other participants in the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meetings in February in Orlando, Florida are listed below.*

**Glenn Ames** was moderator for the selected papers session, “Transition Country Trade and Agricultural Issues.”

**Xiaofei Li** was moderator for the selected papers session, “Risk Management and Financial Crisis.”

**Wojciech Florkowski** was moderator for the selected papers session, “Consumption Frequency, Characteristics and Behavior Issues.”

**Fonsah, Esendugue Greg and Sebastain Awondo**. Invited Papers Session Discussants: “Future Domestic and International Competitiveness of the Southern Fruit and Vegetable Industry.” (Presented by Sebastain Awondo)



**Genti Kostandini** was moderator for the selected papers session, "Potpourri of Food Consumption, Safety and Policy."

**Ganna Sheremenko** was moderator for the selected papers session, "International Agribusiness and Finance Issues."

**Nathan Smith** was an organizer for organized symposium, "Livestock Outlook for 2013" and a discussant in, "Changes in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Areas in the South: Is Future Population Growth Being Overlooked?"

#### **Other Presentations** (National or International)

Alcorn, J., **T.J. Centner**, and **G. Colson**, "State Preemption of Local Regulation of Livestock Facility Siting," International Academic Association on Planning, Law and Property, Portland, OR, February 2013.

**Centner, T.J.**, "Legal Rights of Organic Crop Producers for Damages from Pesticide Spray Drift," International Academic Association on Planning, Law and Property, Portland, OR, February 2013.

**Fonsah, E.G.** and D. Kissel., "Assessment Report for the UGA-CAES-Gabon Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture Development," presented to His Excellency Minister of Agriculture Julien Nkoghe Bekale and his cabinet members, Ministry of Agriculture Conference Hall, Republic of Gabon, Central Africa, January 10-26, 2013.

**Ghimire, Ramesh, Susana Ferreira, and Jeffrey H. Dorfman.** "Flood-Induced Migration and the Risk of Civil Conflict." European Science Foundation-Bielefeld University Research Conference, Bielefeld, Germany, 2012. (Presented by Ramesh Ghimire)

**Kostandini, Genti, Michelle Hayes, and Jeffrey L. Jordan.** "Farmers' Perceptions of Biopharming: Insights from a Tobacco Biopharming Survey." Biotechnology Trade and Transfer: Barriers and Opportunities, a conference organized by USDA Multi-State Research Project NC-1034 "Impact Analyses and Decision Strategies for Agricultural

Research," University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, March 15-16, 2013. (Presented by Genti Kostandini)

**Magnan, Nicholas,** Kajal Gulati, and David J. Spielman. "Female Social Networks and Learning about a New Technology in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India," Gender and Assets in Agriculture Project 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop, January 9-10, 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (Presented by Nick Magnan)

**Magnan, Nicholas,** Kajal Gulati, Travis J. Lybbert, and David J. Spielman. "Leveling with Friends: Social Networks and Indian Farmers' Demand for Agricultural Custom Hire Services," Pacific Conference for Development Economics (Pac-Dev), San Francisco, CA, March 9, 2013. (Presented by Nick Magnan)

**Moore, Abby.** "Gender Disaggregated Survey Design," Technology Adoption Pathways Project meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 8, 2013. (Presented by Abby Moore).

**Shonkwiler, J. Scott.** "A Discrete Normal Model of Multivariate Binary Responses," Eurasia Business and Economics Society meetings, Rome, Italy, January, 2013.

Woods, F.M., **E.G. Fonsah,** E. Coneva, E. L. Vinson, and J. S. Parker. "Evaluation of Antioxidant Potential of Selected Georgia-grown Banana Cultivars: An Underutilized Fruit Crop," SRASHS, Orlando, FL, February, 2-6, 2013.

#### **Other Presentations**

**Fonsah, E. G.,** L. Wells, W. Hudson, and D. Collins. "Economic Analysis of Producing Pecans in Georgia," (Poster) Southeast Regional Fruits and Vegetable Conference, Savannah, January, 10-13, 2013.

**Fonsah, E.G.,** L.J. Shealey, and B. Tankersley. "Economics Analysis of Producing Spring Sweet Corn in Georgia," (Poster) Southeast Regional Fruits and Vegetable Conference, Savannah, January, 10-13, 2013.

## Publications

### *Journal Articles (Refereed)*

**Centner, T.J.** and **G. Colson.** (2013) "Rationing Health Protection: A Proposal to Exempt Nuisance Dust from US Clean Air Act Regulations." *Journal of Environmental Management*, 117:219-225.

**Centner, T.J.** (2012) "Securing Recompense under Nuisance Law for Crop Damages from Pesticide Applications." *Science of the Total Environment*, 432:78-84.

**Colson, G.** and L. Menapace (2012). "Multiple Receptor Ambient Monitoring and Firm Compliance with Environmental Taxes Under Budget- and Target-Driven Regulatory Missions." *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 64(3):390-401.

**Hatzenbuhler, H.** and **T.J. Centner.** (2012) "Regulation of Water Pollution from Hydraulic Fracturing in Horizontally-Drilled Wells in the Marcellus Shale Region, USA." *Water*, 4:983-994.

Menapace, L., **G. Colson**, and R. Raffaelli. (2013) "Risk Aversion, Subjective Beliefs, and Farmer Risk Management Strategies," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 95(2):384-389.

### Other Publications

Fonkeng, E.F. and **E.G. Fonsah.** (2013) First Harvests: A Collection of Poems From Nkongho-Mboland. Langaa Research and Publishing CIG, Mankon, Bamenda (December 27, 2012).  
[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_i\\_0\\_6?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=fonsah+first+h+arvest&prefix=fonsah%2Caps%2C240](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_0_6?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=fonsah+first+h+arvest&prefix=fonsah%2Caps%2C240)

**Fonsah, E.G.,** J. Massonnat, L. Wiggins, G. Krewer, D. Stanaland, and J. Ed Smith. (2013) "Southern Highbush Blueberry Marketing and Economics." University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin 1413:1-10 (January).  
[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=8023](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=8023)

**Fonsah, E. G.** (2013) "Vegetables." 2013 Georgia Ag-Forecast. Farm to Port: Maximizing the Global Impact of Georgia Agriculture, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, pg. 15.  
[www.GeorgiaAgForecast.com](http://www.GeorgiaAgForecast.com)

**Fonsah, E.G.** (2013) "Fruit and Nuts." 2013 Georgia Ag-Forecast. Farm to Port: Maximizing the Global Impact of Georgia Agriculture, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, pg. 16. [www.GeorgiaAgForecast.com](http://www.GeorgiaAgForecast.com)

**Fonsah, E.G.,** L. Wells, W. Hudson, and D. Collins. (2013) "2013 Georgia Pecans Budget." [http://www.ces.uga.edu/Agriculture/agecon/budgets/printed/2013\\_Pecan\\_Budget012513.pdf](http://www.ces.uga.edu/Agriculture/agecon/budgets/printed/2013_Pecan_Budget012513.pdf)

**Fu, Shengfei** and **Wojciech J. Florkowski.** (Fall 2012) "A Glance at the Chinese Pecan Market and Its Opportunities." Georgia Pecans, Vol. 24, No. 2:78-82.

Lybbert, Travis J., **Nicholas Magnan**, Anil Bhargava, Kajal Gulati, and David J. Spielman. (2013) "Farmers' Heterogeneous Valuation of Laser Land Leveling in Eastern Uttar Pradesh: An Experimental Auction to Inform Market Segmentation Strategies." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 95(2): 339-345 (proceedings).

### Grants Awarded:

**Ramesh Ghimire** was awarded the European Science Foundation Travel and Conference Grant - \$2472. He also received a UGA Graduate School travel grant for \$400.

## *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](mailto:JABEdit@uga.edu).

### Faculty Spotlight

#### Dr. Jeffrey H. Dorfman



**Dr. Jeffrey H. Dorfman** has been named a 2013 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Fellow. This is the highest honor an agricultural and applied economist can receive from the profession's most prestigious organization. It is a recognition of high achievement over the course of a career and is only awarded to those who have made important contributions to the profession and society through their research, outreach, and teaching. Dr. Dorfman was chosen for this honor on the strength of his publication record over the last twenty-five years and, particularly, due to his role in popularizing the use of Bayesian econometric techniques in agricultural and applied economics. As a pioneer in this field, he was at the forefront of its adoption as a new empirical tool that can be used in applied research situations to answer important real-world research questions. He has published in prestigious agricultural economics journals and also consistently published in general economics journals, being a well-recognized professor in the economics profession as a whole.

Dr. Dorfman earned both of his degrees from the University of California, Davis – B.Sc. in agricultural and managerial economics in 1987 and Ph.D. in agricultural economics in 1989. He has been a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at The University of Georgia for twenty-four years. The focus of his research involves agribusiness, land use policy, and the general economy.

In 2012, Dr. Dorfman was one of a select group of agricultural and resource economists who compiled a special issue of invited, retrospective papers to celebrate the centennial of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. Twelve papers were commissioned by the association's board of directors, with each paper dealing with a single field of research. Dr. Dorfman was one of four professors asked to co-author the paper on econometric developments over that 100 year period. The paper traces the most significant contributions to this field over the century that have been made by agricultural and resource economists. At the AAEA annual meetings in Denver in 2011, Dr. Dorfman made an invited presentation of the special paper.

Within Georgia, Dr. Dorfman is best known for his work on the economics of land use and development. He has worked with cities and counties throughout the state to help them understand the effects on their budgets of new developments in their communities (such as new businesses or increased residential population). Dr. Dorfman helps lead training classes for county commissioners and city council members for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association, as well as working with local governments on a one-on-one basis. He also gives frequent talks around the state to civic, business, and government groups on land use topics such as farm land preservation, smart growth development, growth management, and the current economic climate.

During his twenty-four year career, he has won numerous departmental teaching awards, the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Teaching Award, The D.W. Brooks Teaching Award, and the Gamma Sigma Delta Junior Research Award and was selected as a member of AGHON. He has served as Interim Department Head, Acting Assistant Dean, and served as Coordinator of the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development.

Dr. Dorfman and his wife, Melody, have one daughter, Jennifer. He serves as treasurer at Central Presbyterian Church and enjoys spending time in the mountains and going out to dinner.

## **Alumni Spotlight**

### **Dr. J. Wesley Burnett**



**Dr. J. Wesley Burnett** is an assistant professor of energy, environmental, and natural resource economics at West Virginia University (WVU). Wesley Holds a B.A. from the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, an M.A. from the University of Georgia, and in 2011, he received a Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Georgia.

As an assistant professor, Wesley's job involves three primary areas of concentration: research, teaching, and service. The vast majority of his time is spent with research and teaching. Since joining the WVU faculty, he has developed two undergraduate courses in energy economics and one graduate course in dynamic optimization. His research involves the nexus between energy and the environment. More specifically, Wesley is interested in the intersection between the economy, energy consumption and production, and environmental externalities. Having been recently named a Faculty Research Associate with the Regional Research Institute, a world-renowned regional science research center at WVU, Wesley's research has extended into considerations of economic geography.

In addition to teaching and research, Wesley spends much of his time writing and preparing research grants. In the short time he has been at WVU, Wesley has helped in the writing of several grants which have been awarded to the university, including a recent one from the National Science Foundation. To date, the grants that Wesley has either written or co-written have brought in over one million dollars to WVU. However, Wesley is quick to say that he cannot take all the credit for these awards, because he is surrounded by an incredibly talented group of scholars at WVU.

Wesley serves on various committees within the university. Recently, he served on a committee which was tasked with creating a university-wide energy and environmental studies master's curriculum. If sanctioned by the university, this program will be one of the first of its kind in the U.S. This unique master's degree will allow students to take energy-related courses across campus. For example, a student could take an energy economics course (perhaps taught by Wesley), a regulations course at the law school, an engineering course in the college of engineering, a public policy course within the department of public administration, and/or a traditional business course within the college of business.

Wesley was an excellent student during his years in the department. In both 2010 and 2011, he was selected as the Outstanding Ph.D. Student in the department, and he received the Rod Ziemer Outstanding Ph.D. Paper Award both years. He received an Agricultural and Applied Economics Association travel grant, and he was selected to present a graduate student invited paper at the Southern Economics Association meeting. He also traveled to Denver, CO twice to present a paper at the North American Regional Science Committee meeting and a poster at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association meeting. From 2007 through 2008, Wesley served as president of the university-wide Graduate Student Association where he represented the 8,000 graduate and professional students on campus. He worked as a graduate research assistant in collaboration with Drs. John Bergstrom and Michael Wetzstein, co-taught an upper-class special topics course in the department, and served as one of the captains of the undergraduate Quiz Bowl Team.

During the time he was a student in the department, Wesley did a number of things which have enhanced his professional career. These include reading a lot, attending his classes and actively participating in lectures, listening to the advice of his advisors, developing a broad quantitative tool set, taking as many econometric courses as he could, and taking classes from outside the economics discipline. Regarding his experiences in the department, Wesley stated, "The course-work is obviously helpful in preparing for a career, but honestly, the intangible skills that I learned in the department are almost as equally important. My mentors have taught me how to navigate the entire academic process from student to professional economist."

Wesley has the following advice for current students in the department: "1) develop as good of a tool set as possible while you are still a grad student – once you start working, you will have little time for further tool enhancement; 2) start publishing early; 3) take as many econometric courses as possible; and 4) attend as many economics and applied economics seminars as possible."

In his leisure time, Wesley likes to read, work crossword puzzles, play with his daughter, take his dogs for a walk, and go hiking. Wesley stated, "In short, I am thoroughly enjoying my job and my new home in Morgantown, WV (although secretly I still pull for the Dawgs!). The last year and a half have definitely been exciting, so I cannot wait to see what lies ahead over the next several years."

## **Alumni News**

**Swagata “Ban” Banergee** (Ph.D. in agricultural economics in 2004) has recently accepted a new faculty position as an associate professor of agribusiness in the School of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He began his new position in August 2012 and is teaching introduction to agribusiness, agricultural consulting and sales, and agribusiness management.

**Cheng Qiu** (Ph.D. in 2012) is working for IBM in San Mateo, California as a statistician/science QA engineer. She works with a group of scientists and engineers to develop and validate analytical software/models that help large CP companies generate insights into how their customers purchase their products. She has developed, published, and executed test plans for a complex, multi-tiered set of applications/models throughout the product life cycle. She has also employed economics and statistical knowledge to test new features and improve these models and validated their forecasting accuracy.

**Madhur Lamsal** is working as a senior analyst at DNV KEMA Energy & Sustainability in Fairfax, Virginia.

**Shanshan Lin** (Ph.D in 2011) is a senior associate with Discover Products, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois. She designs and conducts advanced statistical and economic analysis including modeling, segmentation, and economic logic to support business objectives for portfolio risk management. She coordinates projects to meet business requirements and assists in the management of outside vendors for modeling projects that are outsourced. In addition, she provides implementation specifications to Business Technology and other business units and generates score validation reports periodically for score management purposes.

**Derreck Nassar** (BSA in agribusiness in 2006) works for United Egg Producers (UEP), a national trade association of egg farmers whose membership produces approximately 92% of all the eggs produced in the U.S. Each year, one of Derreck’s duties involves coordinating egg donations to Feeding America Food Banks across the U.S. Since 2008 when the program was established, UEP farmers have donated over 56 million farm fresh eggs that would otherwise have gone to retail outlets. The donations garner great public relations for the farmers on a local and national basis.

Because of Derreck and his associates’ 2012 public relations efforts, UEP and their public relations firm GolinHarris were awarded the Phoenix Award by the Georgia Chapter of Public Relations Society of America.

**Myung Park** is working as an economist with the Korea Energy Economics Institute.

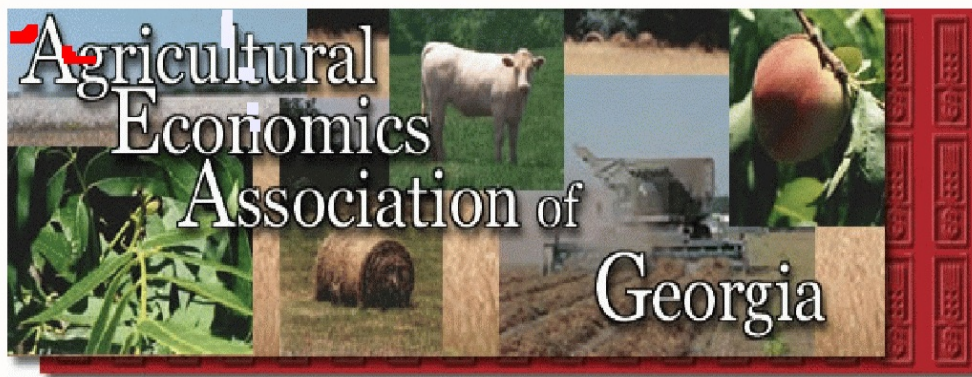
**Stephanie Petter** (BSES in environmental economics and management in 2012) is working as an analyst with Revenue Management Solutions in Tampa, FL doing menu pricing, media optimization, and real estate location analysis based on statistical analysis. Their clients are all nationally recognized chain restaurants. In an email to Dr. Warren Kriesel, Stephanie wrote, “I was a student of yours last year in econometrics, and I also had you a few years ago as well. I have recently gotten a job, and I just wanted to let you know that our work with SAS basically helped me land it...I am mostly working with SQL instead of SAS but the people who I interviewed with were very impressed with the work we had to do for your class. I thought I would share with you so that you could pass it on to your next class that econometrics can actually help you get a really great job out of school.”

**Christopher Rutland** (BSA in agribusiness in 2009) is working as a consultant at Informa Economics in Memphis, Tennessee.



## 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](mailto: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.



### 2012 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award Winners

The Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) presents yearly awards to agricultural economists who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level. Candidacy is limited to agricultural economists operating in Georgia and/or graduates of a degree program offered by the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at The University of Georgia.

There are two awards which are based on the number of years of experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award* is presented to those with more than ten years of professional experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award* is presented to those with ten years or less of professional experience.

Congratulations to our 2012 winners!



The 2012 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award was presented to Mike Giles at the 28<sup>th</sup> J.W. Fanning Lecture on November 15, 2012 at the Georgia Center. Mike is president of the Georgia Poultry Federation, a trade association which represents poultry growers, processors, and allied industry in Georgia, the nation’s leading poultry-producing state. Mike has served as a member and chair of numerous advisory boards and councils. He was recognized with the Georgia Egg Commission’s Good Egg Award for service in the egg industry and received the 2012 Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Friend of Agriculture Award.



The 2012 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award was presented to Betsy McCorkle (BSES in environmental Economics and management in 2008). She obtained her master's in environmental management from Duke University in 2010. Betsy is currently employed as director of government affairs for the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA). Betsy also continues to work at Beyond Consulting, LLC based in Cary, NC., a company she founded in 2010. It is a political consulting firm specializing in research and policy analysis for political campaigns in the southeast.

Nominations will be open this summer for the 2013 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Awards. We will provide more information about the award nomination process in the summer 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](http://www.aeag.uga.edu). An investment in AEAG is an investment in your future.

*Bryan R. Tolav*, (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](http://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](http://www.aeag.uga.edu)