



Greetings from the Department Head

Dear Friends:

You are cordially invited to attend the 13th annual Conner Connects Banquet on Thursday, April 17, 2014 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 students and visit with faculty, staff, and other departmental alumni. If you would like to attend this event, please contact Mrs. Audrey Cox (ahl@uga.edu) or use the registration form included in the newsletter.

Another important spring event is the department's upcoming annual Rod Ziemer Lecture. Our Graduate Student Association (GSA) will be hosting this event at 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in 104 Conner Hall. We are honored to have Dr. Keith Coble, who is the W.L. Giles Distinguished Professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics of Mississippi State University as this year's guest speaker. He will deliver the lecture entitled, "Implications of the 2014 Farm Bill and the Future of Farm Policy in the U.S."

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our fall 2013 graduates. Thirty-three undergraduate students and 3 graduate students received their degrees last fall. I am pleased to report that we currently have an enrollment of 271 undergraduates and 66 graduate students (26 PhD, 33 MS, and 7 MAB). More importantly, from my exit interviews with them, it is apparent that most are not having much difficulty finding gainful employ at very competitive salaries in their chosen career paths!

The activities and accomplishments of our QuizBowl Team are also highlighted in the newsletter along with those of other students, faculty members, and alumni. Please be sure to read our Graduate Student Spotlight featuring Will Thompson, a second-year M.S. student and our Alumni Spotlight featuring Mr. Bob Parker, President and CEO of the National Peanut Board.

A great accomplishment that I am very pleased to report is that Dr. Michael Wetzstein received the USDA National Teaching Award for Food and Agriculture Science. This award is given to a single faculty member selected from the agricultural science colleges across the country. I would also like to congratulate our J.W. Fanning Professional Award recipients – Dr. John C. McKissick is the winner of the 2013 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award and Jim Faircloth is the winner of the 2013 J. W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award.

I hope you enjoy reading about the activities and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni as much as I enjoy relating them to you. Please consider sharing updates about changes in your life with us so that we can write about them in the newsletter. It is always a pleasure to hear from our alumni and friends.

Sincerely,
Octavio Ramirez
Professor and Department Head

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Conner Connects



Conner Connects Banquet-2014

The members of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club and the AAEC Graduate Student Association cordially invite you to join us for our 13th annual Conner Connects Banquet.

*Thursday, April 17, 2014, 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 10. If you have questions regarding the banquet, please call 706-542-2481 or email

ah1@uga.edu



CONNER CONNECTS REGISTRATION

(Due April 10)

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: 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 2013!



Undergraduate Students

Name	Honors	Degree	Major
Christopher Bryan Arnett		BSA	AAE
Brandon Russell Arnold		BSA	AGB
William Bradley Atkinson		BSA	FIMA
Rebekah Leigh Beasley		BSA	AGB
Robert Charles Bell		BSA	AGB
Dana Ruth Berger		BSA	AGB
Gerald Macklin Bienn		BSES	EEM
Craig Phillip Bland		BSES	EEM
Timothy Brock Boleman		BSA	AAE
Daniel Nicklaus Branscum		BSA	AGB
Davis Michael Bruorton		BSA	AGB
Zeke Mackenzie Bryant	(Magna Cum Laude)	BSA	AAE
Colby Ashton Cantrell		BSA	AGB
Matthew Lynn Dumbleton		BSES	EEM
Steven Fini		BSES	EEM
Grant Allen Greene	(Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
Lauren Noelle Guffey		BSA	AAE
Clinton Odell Hall, Jr.		BSA	AAE
Megan Leigh Hooper		BSA	AGB
Cleveland Norton Jackson	(Magna Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
Harrison Ross Laird	(Cum Laude)	BSES	EEM
Callan Brooke Littrell		BSA	AGB
William Harbert Martin, III		BSA	AGB
James Cooper Morgan		BSA	AGB
Shannon Audrey Parrish	(Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
Michael Douglas Paul, Jr.		BSES	EEM
Brandon Hanshaw Phillips		BSA	AGB
Joshua Michael-Cho Philips		BSES	EEM
Zachary Dean Snyder		BSA	AGB
Morgan Barbara Strickland		BSA	AGB
Carrie Aileen Tucker		BSA	AGB
Michael Joseph Werrick		BSA	AGB
Britt Charles Willingham, Jr.		BSES	EEM

Graduate Students

James Wyatt Cothran
Grace Rocio Melo
Xiaosi Yang

MS
MS
MS

AAE
AAE
AAE



Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduation– Fall 2013



***UGA Quiz Bowl Students Attend the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Meetings in Dallas, Texas
February 1-4, 2014***

UGA’s Agricultural and Applied Economics Quiz Bowl students participated in the academic bowl competition at the annual meeting of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) in Dallas, Texas, February 1-4, 2014.

Five students in Agricultural and Applied Economics, **Jonathan Balchus, Jaclyn Beckley, Patrick Conner, Alan Gluck,** and **Savannah Koeting**, competed in the SAEA’s Academic Quiz Bowl in Dallas, Texas. The Quiz Bowl format mixes students from other association universities into teams of four who compete against each other in a Jeopardy format. Moderators read from a test bank of questions on micro and macro-economic theory, agribusiness/finance, quantitative methods, resource policy, management, and potpourri. Several team members made it through to the tenth round, which was a very good showing against tough competition.

The team attended the SAEA Reception/Super Bowl party at the Eddie Dean’s Ranch in Dallas and a student reception at the Press Box Grill.



Alan Gluck, second from left, and his teammates, the Waves, at the Academic Quiz Bowl.



Jonathan Balchus, far right, and his teammates, the Chippewas, at the Academic Quiz Bowl.



Jaclyn Beckley and **Alan Gluck** check scores at the Academic Quiz Bowl.

UGA students, **Jonathan Balchus**, **Jaclyn Beckley**, **Savannah Koetting**, **Alan Gluck**, and **Patrick Conner**, SAEA Reception/Super Bowl party at the Eddie Dean's Ranch in Dallas.



Colby Cantrel and **Heather Hatzenbuhler** now have their papers from the SS-AAEA competition published online. Colby's paper is entitled, "Flavor of Georgia: Entrepreneurship and Value Added Products" and Heather's paper is entitled, "Opportunities for Water Conservation in Georgia: Alternative Energy Technologies in Planned Generation Facilities." Here is the direct link: <http://www.aaea.org/membership/sections/ss-aaea/ss-aaea-journal/2013-journal>.

Shengfei Fu is the winner of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association's Outstanding Master's Thesis Award for her thesis entitled, "Crop Insurance Saving Accounts." Congratulations, Shengfei, on this well-deserved honor! Shengfei is now enrolled in the department's Ph.D. program.



Rod Ziemer Lecture- 2014



The annual Rod Ziemer Lecture is set for Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 11:00 am in 104 Conner Hall. Lunch will follow the lecture with details to be determined at a later time. The Graduate Student Association is pleased to announce that they will have Dr. Keith Coble of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University (MSU) as this year's guest speaker. The lecture is entitled, "Implications of the 2014 Farm Bill and the Future of Farm Policy in the U.S." Dr. Coble was named the W.L. Giles Distinguished Professor at MSU in 2009. His background encompasses both academic and government experience. Before accepting his position at MSU, he served as a team leader at the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He regularly speaks to groups and policy makers interested in food and agricultural policy. Dr. Coble has testified before congressional committees and has co-authored over fifty reports for government agencies. His insurance analysis and studies have modified several billion dollars of U.S. crop insurance premiums per year. He has been appointed as an underwriting reviewer for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors and a member of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture - a workgroup on size and scope of risks.

Graduate Student Spotlight

Will Thompson is in his final semester as an M.S. candidate majoring in agricultural and applied economics. He first came to the department in fall 2011 to satisfy some prerequisites for the M.S. program and was named a Presidential Scholar during that time. He holds a B.A. from Davidson College and won the History Department Award for Most Outstanding Senior Thesis at Davidson.



Early in Will's second semester, Global Health Action (GHA), an Atlanta-based NGO, approached Will's major professor, Dr. Nick Magnan, about evaluating their flagship economic development program. Will was presented the opportunity to work on this research project, which he found to be very interesting.

GHA has operated a goat transfer program in the Haitian countryside since the late 1980s. They provide subsistence farmers with a pregnant female goat – a local Creole doe that has been crossed with a purebred Boer – as well as training in animal husbandry, feeding and care, and veterinary basics. The resulting offspring are hardier, more disease resistant, and grow bigger faster than the native Haitian goats. The idea is for beneficiaries to build small, sustainable herds so that they can occasionally sell goats to buy nutritious food, medicine, or pay school fees.

This is the style of program most associated with Heifer International, but practiced all over the world by innumerable NGOs. However, despite the immense popularity of these livestock transfers, there is very little academic literature devoted to them, and we still have a poor understanding of how they work. In order to help fill this void, Will went to Haiti last summer to conduct a household survey of recent beneficiaries. The survey was designed to measure indicators of early progress towards building viable herds and capturing household and community factors that lead to variations in success across beneficiaries. While data is still being analyzed, Will states that he has found strong, statistically significant, and in some cases, surprising results. These findings will help GHA refine their program design, enabling them to assist beneficiaries more efficiently.

In addition to helping GHA, working on the project has advanced Will toward his career goals far beyond his expectations. In collaboration with GHA and with Dr. Magnan's counsel, Will developed the survey instrument, coded it in CSPro (a powerful survey tool used by governments and NGOs all over the developing world), recruited and trained a team of Haitian enumerators, arranged logistics, and then finally put the survey in the field. Since returning to Athens, Will has gained experience working with raw primary data, which he is using to produce two very different documents – a program evaluation for GHA and his M.S. thesis. He was also able to spend six weeks in a Haitian Creole immersion program. Will feels that having the opportunity to develop practical field work skills so early in his career will serve him well in future, whether he winds up in academia, the NGO world, or a government agency like USAID.

In the immediate future, Will's research will take him further afield. After completing his M.S. this semester, Will plans to enroll in the Ph.D. program, where he will continue his study of asset transfers, this time in Nepal.

Will was born and raised in Douglasville, Georgia, but currently considers Athens his home. He likes to spend his leisure time with his wife and his dogs. He also loves to travel, cook, and read.

Attention Former Graduate Students!



We would like to keep up with our graduate students. Please email us with your most recent news. We would like to know what has taken place in your life since obtaining your degree. Please send us an email and include information about where you are working, position title, recent moves, marriages, births of children, addresses, and email addresses. Also, if there is something you want to share in the newsletter, please let us know. You may email your information to Audrey Cox at aaecnews@uga.edu or mail the information to Audrey Cox, 303 Conner Hall, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, Athens, GA 30602.

Faculty News

Dr. Michael Wetzstein Wins National Teaching Award

Dr. Michael Wetzstein is the recipient of the National Teaching Award for Food and Agriculture Science from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). This prestigious award honors university faculty for the use of innovative teaching methods and service to students and was presented to Dr. Wetzstein at the 126th APLU annual meeting in November in Washington, D.C. The award is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and APLU. Included in this recognition was a \$5000 stipend which Dr. Wetzstein donated to the department to strengthen instructional programs. Congratulations and thank you, Dr. Wetzstein!



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 2013 Holiday Luncheon in December 2013.

Dr. Jack E. Houston, Jr. 30 years
Dr. Glenn Ames 40 years

Presentations

Research Presentations at Major National or International Professional Conferences

The following participation took place or presentations were made at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meetings in Dallas, Texas, February 2-6, 2014:

Angioloni, Simone, Jack E. Houston, and Glenn Ames, "Food Insecurity and Educational Achievement."

Awondo, Sebastain, "Potpourri." (Selected Papers Session 29) Moderator.

Awondo, Sebastain and Esendugue Fonsah, "Short Run and Long Run Dynamics of the Demand of U.S. Tree Nuts." Presented by Sebastain Awondo.

Berning, Joshua, "Using Self-Reported Data Collection and Analysis to Facilitate Student Learning: A Case Study." Presented by Joshua Berning.

Campiche, Jody, Steven Klose, and **Nathan Smith**, "2014 Farm Bill." SERA 39 presentation.

Davis, Todd, John Anderson, and **Nathan Smith**, "Evaluating the Impact of Proposed Farm Bill Programs with Crop Insurance for Southern Crops."

Fonsah, Greg, "Fruit & Vegetable Outlook." Presented by Greg Fonsah.

Fu, Shengfei, Anna Klepacka, and Wojciech J. Florkowski, "Household Whole and Low Fat Milk Consumption in Poland: A Bivariate Two-Part Model." Presented by Shengfei Fu.

Ghimire, Ramesh, "Factors Affecting Individuals' Decision to Participate in Conservation Easement."

Presented by Ramesh Ghimire.

Ghimire, Ramesh, “An Evaluation of the Impact of Site Specific Attributes of Freshwater Recreation Participation.” Presented by Ramesh Ghimire.

Kaninda Tshikala, Sam and **Esendugue Greg Fonsah**, “Assessing the Impact of Migration and Remittances on Technology Adoption in Rural Senegal.” Presented by Sam Kaninda.

Karali, Berna and Gulcan Onel, “Nonlinear Basis Forecasting.” Presented by Berna Karali.

Lacy, Curt, “Livestock Outlook for 2014.” (Organized Symposium Session 7) Moderator.

Li, Xiaofei, Cesar Escalante, and **James E. Epperson**, “Agricultural Banking and Bank Failures of the Late 2000s Financial Crisis: A Duration Model Analysis.” Presented by Xiaofei Li.

Luo, Tianyuan, “Agricultural Policy Potpourri.” (Selected Papers Session 18) Moderator.

Luo, Tianyuan and **Cesar Escalante**, “Determinants of Occupational Changes of U.S. Migrant Farm Workers Under Recessionary Times.”

Meng, Ting and Lynne Seymour, “Model County-level Poverty Rate in Georgia Using Spatial Analysis Method.” Poster presentation by Ting Meng.

Meng, Ting, Wojciech Florkowski, Daniel Sarpong, Anna V. A. Resurreccion, and Manjeet Chinnan, “Expenditure on Fresh Vegetables, Fresh Fruits, and Peanut Products in Urban Ghana: Does Location Matter?” Presented by Ting Meng.

Nambiar, Padmanand Madhavan, Wojciech Florkowski, Manjeet Chinnan, and Anna V. Resurreccion, “Factors Driving Fruit and Vegetable Expenditures and Consumption Frequency in a Lesser Developed Country: An Analysis of Urban Households from the Republic of Uganda.”

Perry, Gena, Curtis Lacy, and John Bernard, “Conventional Versus Pasture-Based Dairy Systems: An Economic Analysis.” Presented by Gena Perry.

Pruitt, J. and **Curtis Lacy**, “Economic Returns and Risk Analysis of Forage Wrapping Technologies.”

Rama, Eric, Richard Lacy, Dennis Hancock, and Lawton Stewart, “Economic Analysis of Three Stocking Systems in the Southeastern US.” Presented by Eric Rama.

Smith, Nathan and Luis Ribera, “Livestock Outlook for 2014.” (Organized Symposium Session 7) Organizers.

Smith, Nathan and Luis Ribera, “Southern Crops Outlook for 2014.” (Organized Symposium Session 5) Moderator and organizers.

Smith, Nathan and Mark Welch, “Grains Outlook for 2014.” (Organized Symposium Session 5) Presented by Nathan Smith.

Smith, Nathan chaired SERA39 Public Issues Education Information Exchange Group annual meeting.

Xian, Hui, Gregory Colson, Bin Mei, and **Michael Wetzstein**, “Assessing the Feasibility of Cofiring Wood Pellets with Coal for U.S. Electricity Generation: A Real Option Analysis.” Presented by Hui Xian.

Yan, Yiwei, Glenn Ames, Tinggui Chen, and **Gregory Colson**, “Willingness to Pay for Safer Dairy Products in China: Evidence from Shanghai Customers’ Purchasing Decision of Bright Dairy’s Baby Cheese.”

Alan Gluck, Savannah Koetting, Jonathan Balchus, Patrick Conner, and **Jaclyn Beckley** participated in the SAEA undergraduate Quiz Bowl at the association meetings in Dallas. Glenn C.W. Ames, faculty adviser, coordinated the students’ participation in the Quiz Bowl.

Other National or International Presentations:

Centner, T.J., and N.S. Eberhart, "Incorporating Best Management Practices for Hydraulic Fracturing," International Conference of Planning, Law, and Property Rights, Haifa, Israel, February 2014.

Other Presentations

Jones, G. and **C. L. Escalante**, "The Farmers' Demand for Microloans." Selected Poster, 2014 Sustainability Science Symposium and Workshop, University of Georgia. February 2014.

Osinubu, A. and **C. L. Escalante**, "Contributions to a Sustainable Community and the Challenges in Attaining Sustainability of Farm Operations: The African American Female Farmer's Perspective." Selected Poster, 2014 Sustainability Science Symposium and Workshop, University of Georgia. February 2014.

Rusiana, H. and **C. L. Escalante**, "Issues in Organic Farmers' Access to Credit and Credit Risk Measurement." Selected Poster. 2014 Sustainability Science Symposium and Workshop, University of Georgia, February 2014.

Rusiana, H. and **C. L. Escalante**, "Organic Farmers' Access to Credit: Reconciling Lenders' and Farmers' Perspectives." Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG) 2014 Conference, Mobile, AL, January 2014.

Smith, Amanda R., W. Don Shurley, Scott Tubbs, Michael Toews, Glendon H. Harris, and Guy D. Collins, "Economics of Cover Crop and Supplemental Fertilizer in Strip Tillage Cotton." Poster Presentation at the 2014 Beltwide Cotton Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 6-8, 2014.

Shurley, W. Don, Amanda R. Smith, A. Stanley Culpepper, and Robert L. Nichols, "Economic Analysis of Heavy Rye Cover Crop to Control Glyphosate Resistant Palmer Amaranth in Cotton." Presentation given at the 2014 Beltwide Cotton Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 6-8, 2014.

Shurley, W. Don, "Cotton Economic and Price Outlook for 2014." Invited Presentation to the South Carolina Cotton Growers Annual Meeting, Orangeberg, SC, January 23, 2014.

Shurley, W. Don, "Farm Bill Program Options for Other Crops in Title I." Invited Presentation to the Southern Cotton Growers-Southeastern Cotton Ginners Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC, January 29, 2014.

Xian, Hui, Gregory Colson, Bin (Richard) Mei, **Michael E. Wetzstein**, "Environmental Incentives for Cofiring Wood Pellets with Coal in U.S. Electricity Industry: A Real Options Analysis." Poster presented by Hui Xian, Sustainability Science Symposium and Workshop, UGA Hotel and Conference Center, February 28, 2014.

Publications

Journal Articles and Other Refereed Publications

Berning, J. (2014) "The Effect of Breakfast Cereal Coupons on the Nutritional Quality of Household Purchases." *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*, 17(A): 41-60.

Berning, J. and S. Murphy. (2014) "Does Individualized Health Information Regarding Alcohol Consumption Affect Consumption Among Risky Drinkers?" *American Journal of Health Promotion*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4278/ajhp.130411-QUAN-167>

Centner, T.J., G. Colson, and A. Lawrence. (2014) "Assigning Liability for Pesticide Spray Drift." *Land Use Policy*, 36:83-88.

Centner, T.J., and L.K. O'Connell. (2014) "Unfinished Business in the Regulation of Shale Gas Production in the United States." *Science of the Total Environment*, 476-477:359-367.

Centner, T.J. and M.A. Johnson. (2013) "Recent Rural Law Developments in the United States." *Agrarisch Recht*, 12:422-428.

Epperson, J.E. and **C.L. Escalante**. "The Eurozone Crisis and the Valuation of U.S. Food Companies." *Journal of Agribusiness*, 31(1/2): 109-116.

Ferreira, Susana, Kirk Hamilton and Jeffrey R. Vincent. (December 2013) "Does Development Reduce Fatalities from Natural Disasters? New Evidence for Floods." *Environment and Development Economics*, 18 (06): 649-679.

Kostandini, Genti, Elton Mykerezzi and **Cesar Escalante.** (2014) "The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the U.S. Farming Sector." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 96(1):172-192.

Kostandini, Genti, Roberto La Rovere, Tahirou Abdoulaye. (2013) "Potential Impacts of Investments in Drought Tolerant Maize in Africa." *Food Policy*, 43: 213-226.

Lima, D., **G. Colson,** **B. Karali,** B. Guerrero, S. Amosson, and **M.E. Wetzstein.** (2013) "A New Look at the Economic Evaluation of Wind Energy as an Alternative to Natural-Gas Powered Irrigation." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 45(4):739-751.

Meng, T., Florkowski, W. J., Kolavalli, S., and Ibrahim, M. (2013) "Coping with the Heteroscedasticity in Applied Research: A Comparison of Three Methods of Food Expenditure Estimation in Northern Ghana's Rural Households." *Roczniki Naukowe Stowarzyszenia Ekonomistow Rolnictwa i Agrobiznesu (Annals of The Polish Association of Agricultural and Agribusiness Economists)*, 15(6): 202-209.

Mullen, J.D., M. Lamsal, and **G. Colson.** (2013) "Green Roof Adoption in Atlanta, Georgia: The Effects of Building Characteristics and Subsidies on Net Private, Public, and Social Benefits." *Environmental Science & Technology*, 47(19):10824-10831.

Parker, Phillip and **J. S. Shonkwiler.** (2014) "On the Centenary of the German Hog Cycle: New Findings." *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 41: 47-61.

Watson, M., C.L. Escalante, and **G. Ames.** "Motivations and Challenges in Farm to School Participation: Nutritional Versus Food Hardship Considerations." *Journal of Agribusiness*, 31(1/2): 47-64.

Other Publications

Shurley, Don and Amanda Smith. "2014 Cotton Price Situation and Outlook." *2014 Georgia Cotton Production Guide*, CSS-14-01, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, January 2014.

Shurley, Don. "Cotton." *2014 Georgia Ag Forecast*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, January 2014.

Smith, Amanda, Nathan Smith, and **Don Shurley.** "Row Crop Net Returns." *2014 Georgia Ag Forecast*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, January 2014.

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.

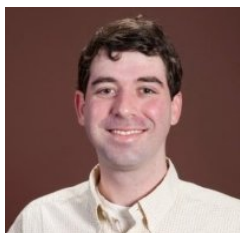
Manuscripts undergo strict, double-blind peer review and the editors will strive to make the editorial process move as rapidly as possible. The *Journal* is particularly interested in publishing papers that will appeal to academic researchers, government agencies, and people working in agribusiness. Please send your manuscripts and other editorial communications to JABEdit@uga.edu.

Alumni News



Jennie Allison (M.S. in environmental economics in 2013) is an economic development project manager at the CSRA Regional Commission in Augusta, Georgia. Jennie is involved in the writing and administration of state and federal grants to develop and improve the

economies in the thirteen Central Savannah River area counties, as well as promoting the region's development as a whole. She is currently managing over \$3 million in grant funding.



Carter Dunn (M.S. in agricultural and applied economics in 2008) is an economist at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His focus is on production economics, interactive crop budgets, the yearly whole farm planning guide, and yearly crop research verification trials. Carter is an M.B.A. candidate and expected to receive his degree from the University of Arkansas in 2014.

Myra Clarisse Ferrer (Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics in 2012) is a senior analyst – customer insights and advanced analytics at Walgreen Company in the greater Chicago area. Clarisse's work involves assisting with management decision-making and developing strategies and tactics to drive performance towards increased sales, profits, market shares, and other company goals.



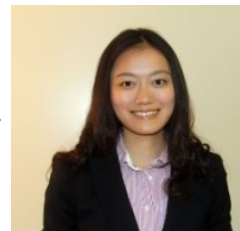
Michelle Hayes (M.S. in agricultural and applied economics in 2013) is a sales representative at Dow AgroSciences in New Bern, North Carolina.

Asa Ornelas (M.S. in agricultural and applied economics in 2011) is a senior strategic marketing analyst at PulteGroup near Orlando, Florida.



Jack Purvis (M.S. in agricultural economics in 2011) is a business analytics analyst at HAVI Global Solutions in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Cheng Qiu (Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics in 2012) is a statistician/science QA engineer (enterprise marketing management) at IBM Demand Tec Solutions in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Phil Shouterland (BSA in agricultural economics in 2005) launched the Team Type 1 Foundation on November 14, World Diabetes Day. The Foundation is a nonprofit which aims to address disparities in diabetes care around the world. The foundation will provide up to seven scholarships of \$5,000 each to help student-athletes and their families offset the cost of diabetes care. The program is modeled on Macedonia's national diabetes program developed by Phil's wife, Dr. Biljana Southerland, who serves as program director, medical and governmental affairs, for the Team Type 1 Foundation. Phil is co-founder and CEO of Team Nova Nordisk (formerly Team Type 1), a global sports organization for more than 100 endurance athletes with diabetes. www.teamtype1.org

Katie Williams (BSA in agribusiness in 2011) is the staffing manager at Accounting Principals in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is responsible for sourcing and recruiting accounting professionals in temporary, temporary to hire, and direct hire positions. She works with a number of candidates across accounting positions including payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, collections, credit, purchasing, staff accountants, financial analysts, and accounting managers.



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 Spotlight

Robert (Bob) T. Parker IV



Bob Parker is the new president and chief executive officer of the National Peanut Board.

Bob Parker was named president and CEO of the National Peanut Board (NPB) in Atlanta in December 2012. Parker’s first year at NPB was a busy one with the undertaking of a new brand platform, “The Perfectly Powerful Peanut,” and a consumer education initiative on peanut allergy. The Perfectly Powerful Peanut was unveiled to the industry at the American Peanut Council winter conference in Washington, DC. The goal of the new brand platform is to raise consumer health and wellness association with peanuts and peanut butter. “Peanuts have more protein than any other nut, 7 grams of plant-based protein; they have more than 30 vitamins and minerals; and they offer heart health benefits. People love peanuts and peanut butter. They need to know that peanuts are a healthy nut option,” said Parker.

NPB is also tackling the food allergy issue head on with a major public relations initiative. To make sure that all information is accurate, NPB is working with a scientific advisory council comprised of world-renowned food allergy experts and researchers who provide ongoing guidance on food allergy issues. In its history, NPB has invested over \$10 million in food allergy research, outreach, and education, and there are now promising solutions on the horizon. The new initiative is a proactive program that allows NPB staff to respond to school bans, media inaccuracies, and food allergy questions.

Prior to taking the position at NPB, Parker spent twenty-six years with Alpharetta-based Golden Peanut Company. He served in various roles, including oversight of the company’s farmer stock procurement functions, its seed business, logistics, and operations in Argentina. At the time of his departure from Golden, he was Vice President of Industry Relations and Seed where he represented the company in relationships with growers, industry organizations, customers, government agencies, and government officials – elected and appointed. He also represented the company in industry leadership positions. While serving as Vice President of Procurement for Golden, the procurement group developed and implemented an industry-leading, web-based contracting and commercial settlement platform. In addition, Parker devised the concept, developed the methodology, and took a lead role in the industry’s adoption of “high moisture grading,” the culmination of more than ten years of testing, securing independent statistical validation, gaining stakeholder support, and lobbying the USDA to approve and implement through the Federal-State Inspection Service.

Parker is a 1977 graduate of the University of Georgia with a BSA in agricultural economics with a marketing

concentration. “I have been fortunate to spend my entire career in one industry, where I have developed many relationships and deep friendships,” said Parker. “Since graduating from Georgia, I have seen thirty-seven peanut crops and no two have been alike. The more I see, the more I realize that I still have a lot to learn. I take pride in promoting such a wonderful product and supporting the over seven thousand farm families who depend on peanuts for their livelihoods,” he added.

Parker and his wife, Margaret Ann, make their home in Atlanta.

Opportunity to Support Department

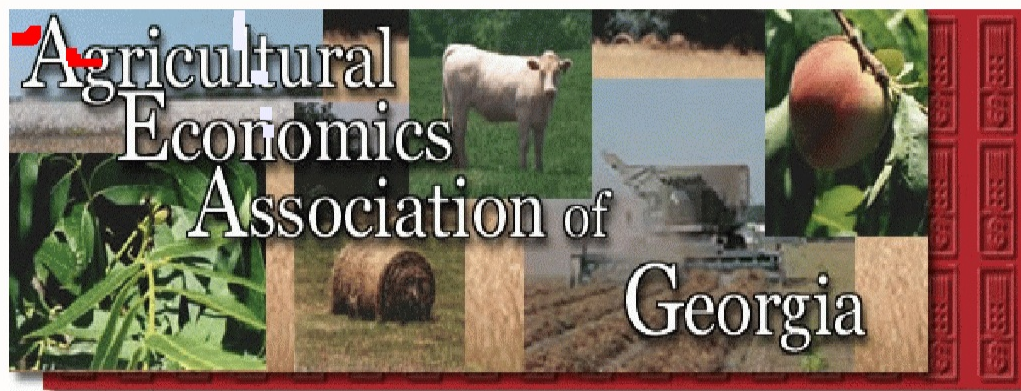


Please consider making an investment in future agricultural economics and agribusiness leaders of our state and nation by supporting our educational programs. To support the Agricultural Economics Fund (which supports general departmental activities), the Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund, Tom Frazier Scholarship Fund, Wen Williams Scholarship Fund, Evan Brown International Education Fund, William Firor Scholarship Fund, Roy Proctor Scholarship Fund, or Tate Brookins Scholarship Fund, please make checks payable to the UGA Foundation and make a notation on the check (or include a note) to indicate which fund you want to support. Mail all checks to Audrey Cox, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

Obituaries



Dr. James Oliver Wise, Sr., age 82, passed away on Saturday, November 16, 2013. Dr. Wise was a professor of agricultural economics at the University of Georgia for 32 years. He was a member of the St. James United Methodist Church in Athens, where he served in many positions of leadership. Funeral services for Dr. Wise were held at St. James United Methodist Church in Athens, with the Revs. Bill Curington and Jerry Meredith officiating. Interment was at Evergreen Memorial Park.



2013 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 2013 winners!



Dr. John C. McKissick is the winner of the 2013 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award. He is a nationally recognized economist with responsibilities at the CAES in development and implementation of economics and marketing programs for Georgia agribusiness firms as well as policy and data studies for public and private decision makers. Primary areas of emphasis include price and profit outlook, cost and return analysis through enterprise budgets and records, marketing alternatives, market planning, and feasibility analysis. Most recently, Dr. McKissick organized the Fiscal Impact Center in the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and is the principal investigator on a federal grant to study pecan markets and the economics of alternative production systems in the

United States. He formerly served as the extension program coordinator for the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics and the Director of the University's Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development (CAED).



Jim Faircloth is the recipient of the 2013 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award. Jim is employed by Syngenta as a District Manager. He manages a team of 7 who are accountable for crop protection products, vegetable seed, seed-care products, corn and soy seed, and triticale in the area of Southern California, Arizona and Hawaii. One of Jim's major challenges in his new position is navigating the extensive regulatory laws in one of the most diverse agricultural landscapes.



The new officers of the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia are listed below:

Chris Groskreutz – President
Carrie Fowler – Secretary

Greg Tyler – Vice President
Candice Clark McKie – Treasurer



Greetings!

I am **Chris Groskreutz** and I am honored and excited to serve as president of the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG). I am also blessed to be a two time graduate of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department of the University of Georgia. I wanted to begin this letter by letting you know why my time on campus was a special time for me and ask you to do the same. It was during this time that I learned how large the world could be, yet how small it really is. It introduced me to people who would become friends, mentors, future bosses and even father figures. It also taught me that relationships today can mean the world for tomorrow and to never forsake them – Thank you Dr. Fred White and the late David Bennett for asking me to be a part of this organization 10 years ago! I will spare you any more of my personal remembrances, but I am willing to bet that many alumni share a similar fondness to Conner Hall, but for one reason or another, as life often does, you became well... a little “disconnected”.

For many of you reading this, you have seen this very effort repeated on a regular basis. You receive this newsletter; you skim through it and take away a nugget or two of information and maybe even some nostalgia - which is good! But then what? Do you hit delete or simply toss it in the trash? Or do you start to feel like you are missing out on something going on back in Athens? Be honest with yourself... in either case you aren't alone. The good thing is that if you want to do something about it, it's never too late. I'd like to invite you back.

I want to personally invite you to come join the Department and OUR students at the next Conner Connects banquet on April 17th. If you were fortunate to have attended a banquet in the past, you know the importance of this event and how it pays tribute to the hard work the students, faculty, and staff put into making Conner Hall the special place that it is. By simply showing up, you will share in this special time for our current students and demonstrate to them the importance of staying connected. If you can't tell by now, I'm a bit of a sentimentalist, but someone once told me that time is precious and because of that, it is the greatest gift of all. Please share an evening of your busy life with us and re-Connect with Conner! You'll be glad you did.

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

- To provide opportunities for the professional improvement of people interested in the field of agricultural economics.
- To provide a forum for the discussion of economic problems and issues of mutual interest to people working in agriculture, agribusiness, and related fields.
- To recommend solutions to economic problems facing Georgia's agriculture.

AEAG membership offers benefits through the following:

- *Journal of Agribusiness
- *J.W. Fanning Lecture
- *AEAG newsletter
- *Recognition for career accomplishments
- *Enhanced educational opportunities for students in agricultural economics

You can also stay connected by visiting our website at www.aeag.uga.edu. For more information on our organization and annual awards program, find us now on Facebook and maybe even on Twitter in the near future!

As our past President Bryan Tolar so eloquently put it last year, “An investment in AEAG is an investment in your future.”

Won't you join us?

Sincerely,

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