



## Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
The University of Georgia

*Alumni Newsletter*

*Summer, 2009*

*Page 1*

### Greetings from Department Head



Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to continue to be in touch with you through this newsletter, and update you again on the status of our departmental programs and other important news.

On the undergraduate front, I am glad to report that the demand for our three traditional majors, Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, and Environmental Economics and Management, remains strong and we anticipate another record enrollment in fall 2009. A fourth major, Food Industry Marketing and Administration, will also be available this fall in Griffin and Athens. This is a joint program with the Food Science and Technology Department to train students in business administration skills as well as food science technical knowledge. It is expected that the graduates from this program will become part of the next generation of managers in the food processing industry. If you know of any young men or women that might be interested in pursuing this or any of our other majors, please ask them to get in touch with me. Keep in mind that our Agribusiness degree is now being offered on the Griffin campus as well.

On the graduate front, we have finished a comprehensive review and upgrading of the curriculum of our Masters and PhD programs to a level of rigor comparable to those in other preeminent U.S. universities. Now we are focusing our efforts on recruiting top quality students who will become the next generation of academic scholars, leaders, and innovators in the

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fields of agricultural, environmental, and applied economics. If you know of an intellectually talented individual who is interested in a more advanced education, please ask her/him to get in touch with me.

As you might know, our annual Conner Connects banquet was held at the State Botanical Gardens Visitors Center in Athens on April 21, 2009. It was a great time for students, parents, faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, and friends to get acquainted and reacquainted. Graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and staff received recognitions and awards for outstanding accomplishments. We hope that you decide to join us at this event next spring!

In addition, with great pleasure, I announce that Dr. Jim Epperson is in this newsletter's faculty spotlight. Deservingly, Dr. Epperson received the Gamma Sigma Delta Senior Distinguished Teaching Award this year. He is also an outstanding researcher in the fields of agribusiness marketing and management. He has been a faculty member in the department for 32 years, touching and impacting the lives of thousands of students during his illustrious career. Our alumni spotlight goes to Mr. J. V. Rogers Jr., who is a 1941 graduate of our department. He is now ninety years old and, without a doubt, one of our most senior alumni. Please take the time to enjoy the details of Mr. Rogers' honorable life story below. We are also pleased to be able to provide information on the whereabouts and accomplishments of several other alums in the alumni news section.

Also recently, Dr. Michael Wetzstein and Dr. Cesar Escalante were presented the 2009 Outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate Faculty Awards, respectively, Dr. Curt Lacy received the college's Junior Extension Award of Excellence, and Dr. Greg Fonsah was honored with the Sigma Chi Research Award for improving fruit production in Georgia. Not surprisingly, Ms. Jo Anne Norris was again recognized with the Outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate Staff Awards. Please join me in congratulating these distinguished faculty and staff members in their accomplishments and service. On a sad note, we announce that Dr. Richard Schermerhorn retired in June, 2009, after over nineteen years of service. He will continue to be associated with the department in his role as the executive director of the Georgia Cooperatives Council.

In closing, let me say the department continues to be engaged in several other efforts to improve the quality, relevance, and breadth of our programs, which I will discuss with you in future communications. In the following pages, you will also find a variety of additional news on the accomplishments and activities of our faculty and students. As department head, I could not be more proud of their efforts and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Octavio A. Ramirez  
Professor and Head

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### **Degree Name Change**

Effective Spring Semester 2010, the department's Master of Agricultural Economics degree (M.A.E.) will be changed to the Master of Agribusiness degree (M.A.B.).

### **Conner Connects - 2009**

The Conner Connects banquet was held at the State Botanical Gardens Visitors Center in Athens on April 21, 2009. It was a great time for students, parents, faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, and friends to get acquainted and reacquainted. For the second year, both graduate and undergraduate students received recognition and awards for outstanding accomplishments. In addition, students presented awards for Outstanding Staff and Outstanding Faculty.



### **Awards presented at ConnerConnects: *Undergraduate Student Awards***



(From left to right) Outstanding Leadership Award – **Ward Black**, Outstanding Agricultural & Applied Economics Senior Award – **Kim Darnton**



(From left to right) Outstanding Agribusiness Senior Award – **Chris Rutland**, Outstanding Environmental Economics and Management Senior Award – **Preston Cox**

**Congressional Ag Fellowships for the Summer of 2009:**



**Rachael McLocklin** will be working in the office of Senator Saxby Chambliss



**Caroline Portwood** (left) will be working in the office of Senator Johnny Isakson.

**Scholarship Winners:**



**\$1200 Georgia Farm Credit Association Scholarship Winners**

**Zeke Bryant**  
**Ashley Dronenburg**  
**Marjorie Perry**

**Kathryn Thomason**  
**Katie Ann Williams**

**\$850 Firor Memorial Scholarship Winners**

**Mary Alice Jasperse  
Lisa King**

**Dana Schroeder  
Kristin Ward**

**\$750 Proctor Memorial Scholarship Winners**

**Teal Jordan**

**Matthew O'Meara**

**\$1500 Georgia Cooperative Council Scholarship Winner**

**Kayla Calhoun**

*2009 Graduate Student Awards*



Claudia DePalma Davis Outstanding M.S. Student Award - **David Keiser**  
(presented by Dr. Michael Wetzstein)

Outstanding Ph.D. Student – **Zibin Zhang**,  
(presented by Dr. Michael Wetzstein)



Outstanding M.S. Paper Award – **Florence Santos** for “The Impact of Labor Constraints on the Farm Performance” (presented by Ruohong Cai).

Outstanding Ph.D. Paper Award – **Kavita Sardana and Oleksiy Tokovenko** for “Dynamic Private Provision of a Discrete Public Good Under Heterogeneity of Agents.”

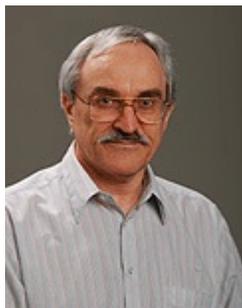


**Uthra Raghunathan** was selected to receive the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Outstanding MS Thesis Award. Her major professor is Dr. Cesar Escalante and members of her Advisory Committee are Drs. Jeffrey Dorfman, Jack Houston, and Glenn Ames.

**Travis Smith** received Honorable Mention for his MS thesis, "What's Driving the Organic Milk Market? A Consumer Demographic Protrayal," from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) last February. His major professor is Dr. Charlie Huang and members of his advisory committee include Dr. Wojciech Florkowski, Dr. Michael Wetzstein, and Dr. Biing-Hwan Lin (ERS,USDA).

**Wesley Burnett, Myra Clarisse Ferrer and Ruohong Cai** received honorable mention at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Case Study Competition in Milwaukee, WI in July. Their team advisor was Dr. Cesar L. Escalante.

### **Faculty Spotlight**



**Dr. James E. Epperson** is the recipient of the 2009 Gamma Sigma Delta Senior Distinguished Teaching Award. He is also the recipient of the 2007 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Auburn University and a Ph.D. from Mississippi State University.

Dr. Epperson is an outstanding researcher and teacher in agribusiness marketing and management. He has served the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia for 32 years, and his research is highly regarded nationally and internationally. He has conducted research and taught in three countries outside of the U.S.: Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Taiwan.

Dr. Epperson's highly recognized applied research program is directed towards practitioners, decision makers, extension professionals, and researchers in other disciplines as well as agricultural economics. The scope of his research has included marketing and exchange efficiency, interregional and international trade, the impact of promotion and advertising, consumer demand for food, government farm-lending efficiency, and designing financial instruments to offset federal disaster payments.

Having begun his career in the fall of 1977 in the Agricultural Economics Department at the UGA Experiment Station in Griffin, Dr. Epperson initiated an ongoing research program in cooperation with colleagues in 18 states which continues to this day. He also served as a cooperator for the Mellon Foundation research conducted at the Experiment Station in Tifton.

The primary thrust of Dr. Epperson's research has been to promote efficiency in the fruit and

vegetable marketing system through generation and provision of information to enhance the decision-making process of producers and agribusinesses. Early on, he became a top grant recipient in the college because of his successful projects involving emerging electronic technology in agricultural marketing. Through grant funding, Dr. Epperson supported and involved numerous graduate students in his research.

After six years at the Experiment Station in Griffin, he was invited to join the research and teaching faculty in the Agricultural Economics Department in Athens because of his exceptional involvement in the graduate program. Dr. Epperson continued to support and involve numerous graduate students in his research through grant funding for interregional and international competition analyses for fruits, vegetables, and related commodities. His research was part of an interdisciplinary grant project involving some 15 cooperators in three states, representing nine disciplines, over the twelve-year life of the project. In recent years, Dr. Epperson's grant funding has supported graduate student research in national and international market opportunities and global competitiveness for southeastern U.S. producers of fruits and vegetables. He has also served as a primary cooperator to the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development and initiated a major grant proposal to ascertain the impact of promotion and advertising on the consumption of Vidalia onions.

Dr. Epperson teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He is recognized as one of the outstanding teachers in the department as evidenced by his excellent teaching evaluations and nine student-driven teaching awards, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The courses in agribusiness marketing and agribusiness management taught by Dr. Epperson are key components to the undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics.

### Faculty News



**Dr. Cesar Escalante** was presented the 2009 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award.

Dr. Escalante gave an invited presentation at the UGA Global Educational Forum, GA Center for Continuing Education, in March, "Addressing the Credit Needs of Asia's Poor Households through Microfinance Lending Schemes."

**Dr. Greg Fonsah** was presented the Sigma Chi Research Award for improving fruit production in Georgia.



**Dr. Curt Lacy** was presented the Junior Extension Award of Excellence which is awarded to professionals with less than ten years of experience.





**Dr. Richard Schermerhorn** retired from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA in June 2009 after over nineteen years at the university. He will continue to work closely with the department in his role as the Executive Director of the Georgia Cooperative Council, Inc.



**Dr. Michael Wetzstein** was presented the 2009 Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Award.

### **Who's Been Where & Why**



**Dr. John Bergstrom** traveled to Austin, TX in April to present research and participate in the annual technical meeting of the W-2133 Regional Research Project as the official UGA representative.

**Dr. Terry Centner** traveled to New Haven, CT in February to participate in a panel at Yale Law School. Dr. Centner also traveled to Daytona Beach, FL in July to present a paper at the International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment.

**Dr. Stanley Fletcher** traveled to Washington, D.C. in February to make a presentation at the American Farm Bureau Federation Meeting. He also traveled to Western Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma in March and April to conduct research updates of peanut representative farms. He traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC in May to make a presentation at the 2009 National Peanut Supervisors Conference.

**Dr. Wojciech Florkowski** traveled to Chiang Mai, Thailand in June and July to attend the International Economics of Horticultural Science Conference. He traveled to Amelia Island, FL in June to attend the 2009 USA Peanut Congress. He also traveled to Charleston, SC in June to participate in a board of directors meeting for the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

**Dr. Greg Fonsah** traveled to Orange Beach, AL in June to attend the 2009 Southern Region Extension Economics Meetings.

**Dr. Jack Houston** traveled to Lihue, HI in June to present two papers at the Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meetings.

**Dr. Charlie Huang** traveled to Lihue, HI in June to present a paper at the Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meetings.

**Dr. Jeff Jordan** traveled to Charleston, SC in June to participate in a board of directors meeting for the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

**Dr. Berna Karali** traveled to St. Louis, MO in April to attend the NCCC-134 Conference.

**Dr. Jeff Jordon** traveled to Charleston, SC in June to attend a board of directors meeting for the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

**Keith Kightlinger** traveled to Washington, D.C. in May to co-chair the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee activities. He also traveled to Durham, NC to represent UGA at the annual meeting of the land grant universities.

**Dr. Warren Kriesel** traveled to Lubeck, Germany in June to present a research paper at the Regional Science Association Meeting.

**Dr. Curt Lacy** traveled to Lihue, HI in June to present a paper at the Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meetings. He also traveled to Orange Beach, AL in June to participate in the 2009 Southern Extension Committee's Annual Meeting. Dr. Lacy traveled to Gainesville, FL in April to give presentations at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course.

**Dr. Luanne Lohr** traveled to Washington, DC in June to present a paper at a USDA, ERS Workshop.

**Allen McCorvey** traveled to Texas and New Mexico to conduct research updates of peanut representative farms. Mr. McCorvey also traveled to North Carolina and Virginia in February for the same purpose.

**Dr. Jeff Mullen** traveled to Germany in June to conduct a seminar on water demand and energy and to Venice to attend the International Energy Workshop.

**Dr. Timothy Park** traveled to Washington,

D.C. in May to meet with researchers at the Food Economics Division of ERS, USDA and the Food Marketing Institute.

**Amanda Smith** traveled to Lake Buena Vista, FL in April to give a presentation at the Georgia Peanut Achievers Club Annual Educational Meeting. Amanda traveled to Orange Beach, AL in June to participate in the 2009 Southern Extension Committee Annual Meeting.

**Dr. Nathan Smith** traveled to Biloxi, MS to make a presentation to the National Peanut Buying Points Association Annual Meeting in March. Dr. Smith traveled to Reno, NV to present a poster and attend the National Extension Risk Management Education Conference in March.

**Dr. Michael Wetzstein** traveled to Baku State University, Azerbaijan to attend the Academic Fellowship Program Discipline Meetings in May.



### Staff News



**Karina Koppius** is now the senior accountant for the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Karina was the administrative associate in Suite 314 Conner Hall for three and one half years prior to assuming her

current position.

**Jo Anne Norris** is the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Undergraduate Staff Award and the 2009 Outstanding Graduate Staff Award. Congratulations, Jo Anne, on the well-deserved recognition!



### **Alumni Spotlight**



**Mr. J. V. Rogers, Jr.** is a 1941 graduate of the Agricultural Economics Department of the University of Georgia. He is now ninety years old and is, no doubt, one of our most senior alumni. After receiving his B.S.A. in 1941, Mr. Rogers joined the U.S. Air Force and fought for his country in World War II. Upon returning from the war in 1946, Mr. Rogers was recruited by Dr. William Firor, head of the Agricultural Economics Department, to work as an associate professor in the department. At that time, there was a large number of ex-service men enrolling in the department through the educational programs of the military services. The entire faculty consisted of Dr. Firor, Dr. King, Dr. Fanning, and Mr. Rogers. During that time, Mr. Rogers also worked as a county agent. In 1949, he accepted a position as regional marketing manager with the National Cottonseed Products Association in Atlanta.

Mr. Rogers was recalled to military service during 1951 and 1952 to serve in the Korean War. After returning home, he accepted a position with Amax, Inc., Phosphate-Potash Division. From 1953-1960, he was an area sales manager, then he was promoted to regional sales manager in 1960. He was promoted to director of sales in 1967 and served as vice president of marketing from 1970 to 1983. In addition, he served on the board of directors of the division for three years until it was corporately restructured.

While Mr. Rogers was a student at the University of Georgia, he was a member of the Agricultural Economics Club and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He worked at Norris Hardware Company in Athens to supplement the cost of his education. He received further training and graduated from the Sales Analysis Institute Foundation of Illinois, Inc.

Since his retirement in 1983, Mr. Rogers has served as a consultant and chairman of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) of the Kansas City and Greenville, SC chapters of the small business administration as a business consultant. He has also served as an elder at the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Mauldin, South Carolina.

In his leisure time, Mr. Rogers enjoys pheasant and dove hunting.

## **Alumni News**

**Tom L. Davis** (BSA in Agricultural Economics in 1974) has received his RW/AC certification by the International Right of Way Association. Tom also holds an SRA certification and is a member of the Appraisal Institute, the National Auctioneers Association, the Augusta Multi-list Association, the Augusta Appraisal Council, and is a licensed broker and auctioneer in Georgia. He is a general certified appraiser in Georgia and South Carolina. He and his wife Gartine have three daughters: Avary Pelphrey (teacher), Ft. Worth, TX; Lucy Davis (physician), Greenville, SC; and Katie Davis (athletic trainer), Athens, GA.

**Sam Pugh** (BSES in EEM in 2006, MS in EEM in 2008) and Katie Hanks (MS in EEM in 2007) are now married. Congratulations Sam and Katie!

**Brad Merry** (BSA in Agribusiness in 2001) opened his new company, Merry Lumber Company, L.L.C. in February 2009. This new venture will service all domestic and international hardwood and yellow pine markets. It will provide green and kiln dried lumber to end users, concentration yards, and distributions yards.

**Dr. Swagata (Ban) Banerjee** has joined the faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Agribusiness at Alabama A&M University. He is now residing in Huntsville, AL. Prior to this position, Dr. Banerjee was working as a post-doctoral associate at the Delta Research and Extension Center of Mississippi State University at Stoneville, MS.

**Bruce McPherson** (BSA in Agribusiness in 2006) was commissioned as an Army officer through the UGA Army ROTC program. He recently finished his first 12-month deployment with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Afghanistan and returned to Fort Campbell, KY where he is stationed. Bruce's first six months in Afghanistan were spent as an infantry platoon leader commanding about 30 men, and the next six months, he was a company executive officer, second-in command of about 100 men. Bruce was recently promoted to captain. He will be moving to Fort Benning in Columbus, GA shortly where he will attend the Captain's Career Course before assuming command of an infantry company sometime next spring or summer. He is thrilled to be so close to UGA football. Congratulations, Bruce, on your promotion! Thank you for your dedicated service to our country, and welcome home!

**Matt Davis** (BSA in Agribusiness in 2008) is engaged to Cindy Poore of Bishop, GA. Matt is employed with B.B. Hobbs, Inc. in Charleston, SC, and Julie is currently employed with Pettigrew Medical Business Services in Watkinsville. Julie plans to graduate from Athens Technical College with a degree in Respiratory Therapy in September 2009, and the couple will be married on September 19, 2009.

**Shannon Yee** (BSA in EEM in 2008) is now working on a Master's of Advanced Studies at the University of California in San Diego.

### **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 had 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 Hudson at [aaecnews@uga.edu](mailto:aaecnews@uga.edu) with the word "news" in the subject line, or mail the information to Audrey Hudson, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, 303 Conner Hall, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

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### **Contributions Thanks**

We are so grateful to our alumni and friends for their financial support of the department. Listed below are the names of those who have made financial contributions to the department from March 1, 2008 through July 31, 2009.

**Donald P. Block**  
**Mr. David Jonathan Bradley & Mrs. Nancy Bradley**  
**Dr. & Mrs. Josef Meinrad Broder**  
**James Edward Brown**  
**Mr. Jack Phillips Buchanan, Sr.**  
**Robert & Maxine Burton**  
**David Chyen**  
**Mrs. Carole Doswell**  
**Walter J. Drabantowicz, Jr.**  
**Dr. Robert William Dubman**  
**Dr. James E. Epperson**  
**Dr. Hugh Valentine Firor**  
**Dr. Archie Flanders**  
**GA Coop Council, Inc.**  
**Mr. William L. Howard**  
**JK Group, Inc.**  
**Dr. Yvonne J. Kumi**  
**Alex G. Lebedeff**  
**Mr. Richard Cary Mathews & Dr. Deborah Jaudon Mathews**

**Mr. & Bradley Roy Mitchell & Mrs. Martha P. Mitchell**  
**Mr. Richard Dennis Moore**  
**Dr. Eugene Cox Murkison**  
**Dr. & Mrs. David Bruce Narrie**  
**C. Randall Nuckolls**  
**Dr. & Mrs. Jerry H. Padgett**  
**Mr. & Mrs. George Scott Patton**  
**Joseph Sean Ragsdale**  
**Dr. & Mrs. Octavio A. Ramirez**  
**Capt. William E. Riley & Mrs. Peggy Boynton Riley**  
**J. V. Rogers, Jr.**  
**R. Max Sellers**  
**George Shumaker**  
**Henry C. Smith, Jr**  
**Deborah L. Thorsen**  
**Jonathan C. Wicker**  
**Dr. & Mrs. F. Wen Williams**

## **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) or the Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund, please make checks payable to the Arch Foundation. To support the 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. Mail all checks to 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

## **Outstanding Agricultural Economist Awards—Now Accepting Nominations**



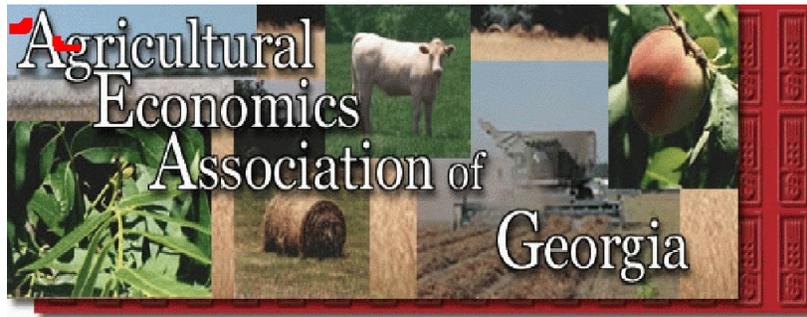
The Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) presents yearly awards to agricultural economists who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level. Candidacy is limited to agricultural economists operating in Georgia and/or 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 Young Professional Award* is presented to those with ten years or less of professional experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award* is presented to those with more than ten years of professional experience.

Nominations for the awards may come from anyone. AEAG members, faculty, alumni, students, and agricultural economists in the state are encouraged to nominate qualified candidates for the awards. Also, agricultural economists should feel free to nominate themselves.

The nomination process is simple. Provide a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments, education, work experience, current position, past recognitions and awards, and contact information. Send nominations to the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. The deadline for award nominations is September 30, 2009. AEAG Board members will select award recipients. Both awards will be presented at the luncheon following the annual J. W. Fanning Lecture in the Fall.

*(See next page for Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia Section)*



Dear Agricultural Economics Association Members and Graduates,

We want you!

Dr. Ramirez and the board of the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) are excited about serving the Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics. We are also excited about the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia and the many ways the department and association can work together to create new opportunities for the department, AEAG members, and graduates.

Dr. Ramirez and AEAG are very eager to work together to strengthen AEAG. In order to do that, we want to create a very strong leadership. We are looking to our AEAG members (and prospective members) to help us out. If you are involved in the agriculture industry and feel you can be an asset to our organization, we invite you to join the leadership in either a board capacity or an advisory capacity. We need board members who will be committed to the organization and can invest just a little time and energy – as well as new ideas! We need nominations from the membership by those who want to nominate themselves or from those who know someone who will be an asset. Current board members who want to stay involved are also welcome to nominate themselves for another term (only if your term will be up this year).

We hope to create a few opportunities for members to network with one another, to work with the department, to provide internships, and to help promote the fields of agricultural and applied economics.

If you are not a member of the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, and you want to support the association and the field of study, membership is easy and very affordable. 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. Agriculture and its fundamental role in growth and development has recaptured the public's attention. All too often economic criteria are ignored in public and private decision making. We must be more effective in communicating the relevance of agricultural economics. 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. These are some of the goals of the association – and we need members to make this happen.

As a member, you will receive a return on your investment. Membership in the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) provides opportunities for professional interaction for those interested in agricultural economics and offers practical solutions for problems facing Georgia's agriculture. AEAG membership also 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

In addition, AEAG enjoys an active relationship with the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia. The activities of the association provide occasions for interaction among AEAG members, faculty, and students. This interaction provides students and professionals important opportunities to network for the purpose of future career connections and the sharing of information and knowledge. AEAG members are invited to the department's annual undergraduate spring banquet, which provides numerous opportunities to meet students interested in employment and internships.

Membership is very affordable – regular memberships are only \$25 per year. That is a very small investment, yet a great opportunity to support the field of study that led many of you to successful careers. Lifetime Memberships are also available. If you would like to know more about AEAG, please contact us at (706) 542-2481 or visit the AEAG website at <http://www.agecon.uga.edu/~aeag/>. We look forward to interacting with you about the issues that concern agricultural economists and our other related fields.

Kristin McWhorter  
AEAG President

#### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Check one:*

Student Member - \$10

Corporate Membership - \$150

Individual Member - \$25

Individual Lifetime Membership - \$250

Library/Institutional Member - \$35

Corporate Lifetime Membership - \$1000

Please send your membership application and dues to the following address:

Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia,