



Cuba Maymester with La Picadora community members

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Upcoming Events

Ag Dawg Kickoff will be Sunday, August 24th from 6:00-8:00pm at the UGA Livestock Arena

32nd Annual Insect-ival is September 17th from 9:00am-1:00pm at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia

DW Brooks Lecture and Awards will take place on November 8th 3:30pm

Congratulations!

- Two of our alumni were included in UGA Alumni Association 40 Under 40 Class of 2022: Joel McKie, BSA '05 (AGBU), JD '08, and Rachel Santos, BSA '10 (AGEC)
- Whitney Jones, advisor to our department received a 2021 Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Advising Award
- Dr. Cesar Escalante received the 2022 Graduate School Outstanding Mentoring Award
- Ph.D. student James Davis working with Dr. Michael Adjemian won Best Ph.D. Paper award at the Commodity and Energy Markets Association meeting in June
- Grace Ann Ingram, M.S. student in Environmental Economics, received second place in the 2022 E. Broadus Browne awards for Outstanding Graduate Research
- Laura Alfonso, Graduate Program Administrator, was presented with a 35 Years of Service Award by the Dean in April





**From Interim Department Head,
Gopi Munisamy...**

Greetings All:

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your support during this transition to new AAE leadership. Dr. Octavio Ramirez has been a pillar of strength over the past 14 years, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors. I also take this opportunity to thank Dr. John Bergstrom and Dr. Jeffrey Jordan for decades of exemplary service to AAEC, CAES and UGA.

Back in June, I shared with you our recruitment plan for the next 6-18 months, and let us all look forward to welcoming five new faculty. Many thanks to Dean Place and our Associate Deans for supporting our critical needs with resources. Most of you are on one or more search committees and I am sure your efforts to woo outstanding folks to join us will pay off!

You all know of our recent staff additions, Catie Young joined AAE as the Administrative Manager last Fall, and we recently onboarded Lynn McDermott to fill the vacant Administrative Associate position. Welcome again to you both!

We are on the cusp of a top 10 ranking among agricultural economics departments in the United States, and your continued contributions across our mission areas – Extension, Research, Teaching and Service – greatly aid our vision to achieve a top 5 ranking. My hearty thanks to you all. Congratulations to our new academic placements, Raghav Goyal (off to LSU) and Alankrita Goswami (off to Manitoba), and to many of our graduates placed in industry! We look to forward to your many contributions to the profession and economy.

Congratulations to Jeff Dorfman and Wenyang Li, Ph.D. '19, for the 2022 Outstanding AJAE article award! Many of our faculty have been spotlighted in recent CAES articles – Mike Adjemian, Ben Campbell, Susana Ferreira, Yangxuan Liu, John Salazar, Amanda Smith, and others – my sincere thank you for engaging our stakeholders!

Our alumni and friends supported us through tangible and intangible contributions throughout the years, and especially during Covid-19 times. We are grateful for their continued support. Thank you.

It has been a busy summer, but that means our efforts and impacts are visible and paying off. Stay cool!

With very best wishes,

Gopi Munisamy
Interim Head



Thank you Dr. Octavio Ramirez for 14 years of leadership to the department



Dr. John Bergstrom



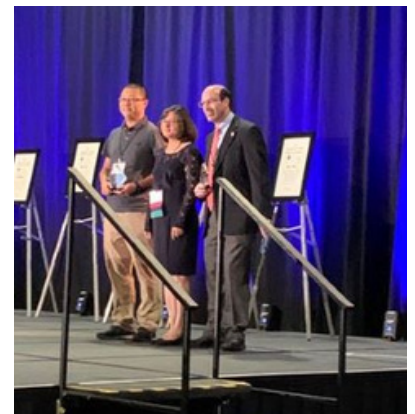
Dr. Jeffrey Jordan



Raghav Goyal



Alankrita Goswami



Drs. Dorfman & Li accepting award

Cuba Maymester

May 15–27, 2022

Delayed several years, the department's Cuba Maymester was realized this summer. The study abroad, Cuba: Sustainability, Food Security, and Economic Transition, was developed by Dr. Octavio Ramirez several years ago. While Dr. Ramirez was unable to be on-the-ground in Cuba, he worked with Dr. Susana Ferreira and Catie Young to ensure the program's success. Sixteen students including five graduate students from various majors and various UGA campuses attended the twelve-day program. The visit included lectures from an environmental history professor and an economics professor both from the University of Havana, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Institute for Food and Hygiene, and a visit to a polyclinic. Participants stayed in "casa particulares" or homestays for a full immersive experience and had the opportunity to visit local produce markets, eating at a vegetarian restaurant in Havana, touring a tobacco farm, and visiting the agrotourism area of Vinales along with many other sightseeing opportunities. They also worked on several organic farms including La Picadora community located in the center of the country and Finca Tungasuk located in the Artemisa Province just outside Havana. Agribusiness and Management minor and Cuba participant, Naomi Shin, gives her account of Finca Tungasuk.

My Cuba Experience

written by Naomi Shin, 4th year
Biological Science student



From L to R: Lateefah Noel Key, Abby Green, and Naomi Shin

On day 8 of our study abroad trip, our group visited the Artemisa Province which is located about an hour and a half southwest of Havana. The farm that we visited is run by a couple who immigrated to Cuba to live their dream of being farmers. They wanted to focus on sustainable agriculture and knew that Cuba was a great place to implement their dream of growing healthy and nutritious foods in local communities. The farm had a multitude of crops such as mangos, plantains, beans, and mamey. They also grew some medicinal herbs and had their own beehives. After we learned about the farm, we had the opportunity to help out. We were divided into groups of people who wanted to dig holes, plant mango trees, and sort beans. Because I wanted to experience what it was like to be a farmer, I ended up going with the group that was going to plant mango trees. We were led to where the mango trees needed to be planted by one of the workers of the farm and he showed us the mango trees that we were planting were all grafted because it is the most time-efficient, rather than planting mango seeds. He also showed us a mamey tree and stopped to cut up some fallen mamey for us to try. It tasted AMAZING (imagine biting into a spherical mango). Once we were done planting the trees, we went back to the area where we would be eating lunch. The worker then showed us where the beehives were kept. They were located above a small pool which prevents ants from climbing up to the beehives. We had the opportunity to taste the honey and the pollen, which were both DELICIOUS. Up until that point, I thought I had experienced the farm to its full capacity, but I was wrong. Lunch was served by the couple that ran the farm and it was nothing shy of phenomenal. The side salads were fresh and packed full of zest and flavor while the rice and beans were rich with savory seasoning. The chicken was moist and tender and the ripe plantains were as sweet as the honey we tried from the beehive. That meal was hands down by far my favorite of the entire trip. Overall this experience falls under the must-do-again category and also the unforgettable category.

Want to read about more student experiences?

[Ag Dawgs Abroad Blogs](#)

MASTER AGRIMANAGER PROGRAM

By Jordan Powers, Public Relations Coordinator, CAES Office of Marketing and Communications

ATHENS, Ga. — Since launching Silo Springs Ranch in 2020, Audrey Gravelle and her husband have jumped many hurdles associated with starting a farm. They've found a meat processor, formed a limited liability company (LLC) and marketed the finished product — in this case, grass-fed and finished cattle that is processed locally and sold directly to customers in Georgia.

Starting a farm or agribusiness is more complicated than often realized — and comes with plenty of risk.

"There are five primary areas of risk in agriculture — production, marketing, human, legal and financial," said Amanda Smith, UGA Cooperative Extension economist and agribusiness instructor in the University of Georgia Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

"Producers in Georgia are tremendous at producing high-quality agricultural products, but it is vital to focus on the other areas of risk to promote sustainability of the farm business."

Although Gravelle and her husband already had their LLC and an operational business, a UGA Cooperative Extension post on Facebook promoting the UGA Master Agri-manager Program piqued their interest.

Launched in November 2021 to address the business management-related areas of risk, the Master Agri-manager Program helps participants think strategically about their farming and agribusiness operations. Initially delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first session included 16 farmers and agribusiness owners who were interested in learning how to think strategically about the business

side of their operation. The classes also led participants through networking sessions, discussion, hands-on work and role-playing.

We are always looking to learn how to better promote and grow our business," Gravelle said. "We were finally able to get our farm number after months of trying, which was nice to get done. The financial and cost analysis aspects were very educational, and the networking with other producers was great too."

A farm serial number identifies a property as a farm through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is used to identify land when applying for grants, loans and some governmental programs, according to Smith. Once established, it remains associated with the land, not the farmer.

The idea for the Master Agri-manager Program originated with former Monroe County UGA Extension Agent Caitlin Bennett Jackson, who felt that producers in her region could benefit from a more intensive farm business management program similar to other successful "master" programs like UGA GrassMasters or the UGA Master Cattlemen's Program, according to Smith.

"Seeing the farmers that took part in the first session and reading their feedback shows that there is a need for this program in Georgia," said Blake Carter, the primary county Extension agent on the Master Agri-manager Program team. "The plan is to offer the program again in other districts, working alongside other Extension agents. It gives agents the opportunity to meet their clientele's needs as well as develop further as agents in the field of agribusiness and agricultural economics."

Interested farmers and agribusinesses should be on the lookout for the promotion of the program from their local county Extension agent, Smith added.

Alton West, who is in the process of clearing land for his own cattle operation, said the program was a great fit for his hands-on learning style and taught him to not be intimidated to learn a new way of doing things.

"This program empowered me to think differently — for example, how to market my products not only to my community, but to have an online presence, to switch it up," West said. "I learned to set realistic goals and studied who my market is and how I'll appeal to them. That was priceless to me."

Seen in [Morning Ag Clips](#)

Check It Out Cultivating Curiosity Podcast

A podcast on how science and agriculture impact our lives hosted by the Office of Marketing and Communications

Latest Episodes:

- Serving up the facts: Food science and safety
- UGA Trial Gardens
- An up-and-coming coastal commodity



SEPTEMBER is Food
Safety Education
Month



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
EXTENSION

Coming soon to [UGA Extension's YouTube channel](#): "10 Tailgating Food Safety Tips"

AAEC at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting

AAEA held their annual meeting July 31-August 2, 2022 in Anaheim, California. Our department had representation from both faculty and students who presented on a variety of topics.

Congrats to Dr. Will Secor & graduate students, Mounata Dahal and Peter Sayal for finishing 3rd in the Case Study Competition



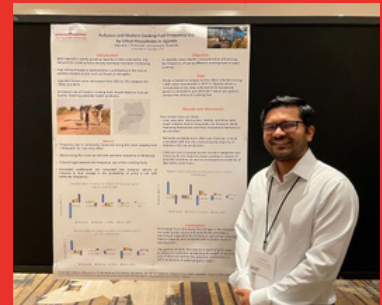
Mounata Dahal, M.S. student and Peter Sayal Ph.D. student, present their case study, "Online Agribusiness Marketplace platform based in Brazil"



Grad Students at AAEA

Faculty Presentations:

- Craig Landry, "Preferences for Post-Storm Coastal Adaptation"
- Mateusz Filipski, "Impacts of City Life on Nutrition"



Sulakshan Neupane, Ph.D. student

Graduate Student Presentations

Keniche Kuroiwa, Ph.D. student, "Do Stronger Intellectual Property Rights Increase Patents? Natural Experiments in Japan"

Twinkle Roy, Ph.D. student, "Economic Value of Restaurant Safety Measures & Propensity to dine during COVID"

Jungkeon Jo, Ph.D. student, "Demand for Rail Transportation of Grain to the Southeastern US"



Jo during presentation

Penghui Gao, Ph.D. student, "Banking Efficiency Analysis for US Agricultural and non-agricultural banks: Comparative Period Analysis between the Great Recession of the late 2000's and the Current Pandemic conditions"

Shaonan Wang, Ph.D. student, "The Impact of the 2009 WIC Food Package Revision on Participants' Food and Beverage purchases," "Economic effects of plant-based milk introduction on consumers and dairy industry," and "Using True Price Indices to Measure the Real Purchasing Power of the WIC Fruit & Vegetable Voucher"

Snapshots

CUBA



Welcome and Welcome Back Potluck



Look for more updates on faculty, staff, students, publications, grants, and other activities in our Fall newsletter