



Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, The University of Georgia

Newsletter

Summer, 2004

75th Anniversary

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia celebrated its 75th anniversary during April 2004 in a series of special events. The Rod Ziemer Lecture was held April 14 with John Baffes from The World Bank as the speaker. The Conner Connects spring banquet was on April 15 at the State Botanical Garden with approximately 100 people in attendance. On April 16, the department held its first annual golf tournament, the Tom Frazier Golf Classic, for alumni, students, faculty and staff with 24 participants.



Former Faculty Reminiscing

The Rod Ziemer Lecture



John Baffes

The title of the 2004 Rod Zeimer Lecture was "Experience with Decoupling Agricultural Support." The speaker, John Baffes, is currently a Senior Economist in the Development Prospects Group, The World Bank. He monitors global commodity markets, analyzing agricultural policy reforms. The presentation reviewed the experience with decoupling government support for agriculture from production decisions in the European Union (1992), Mexico (1994), U.S. (1996) and Turkey (2001). He also discussed a number of one-time buyouts, including the U.S. peanut program, Canada's crow rate subsidies, and New Zealand's exit grant. A copy of the lecture is posted on the departmental web site at <http://www.agecon.uga.edu/~aaec/ziemer.html>.

Conner Connects, 2004

Our annual banquet proved to be successful again this year. The many guests at the celebration, including college administration, alumni, students, parents, faculty, and staff indicates that the department is well connected. The venue for this 75th anniversary festivity was the Conservatory at the Botanical Gardens, which provided a perfect setting for the occasion. Presiding at the banquet was president of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club, Ross Yasin.



Ross Yasin



Wen Williams

The keynote speaker this year was Dr. Wen Williams, a retired faculty member of the department. Dr. Williams spoke about his memories of the department and the noted changes over the years. His presence at the event carried a meaningful connection among current and former faculty, staff, and students.

The Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club gave out three special awards this year to those people who positively impacted their education. The first award, Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award, went to a truly deserving faculty member, Dr. Barry Barnett. He is well known and respected among students and faculty in the department. Dr. Barnett teaches microeconomics and agricultural policy. He has encouraged many students to enhance their education through the Washington, D.C. and Brussels internships. We are pleased to have him in our department. The Outstanding Staff Member Award went to Chris



Barry Barnett

Peters, Director of Computer Support Staff. His services provide communication and computer availability throughout the department. The special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Ms. Jo Anne Norris to express the students' gratitude for her vital services to the department. Jo Anne is the office manager for the department, but her duties extend beyond her title. She is responsible for advising students and making sure each student meets his or her graduation requirements, as well as coordinating all departmental functions.

Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Terry Centner, presented the student award and recognized the scholarship recipients at the celebration. The Outstanding Senior Award went to Cameron Tribble, an environmental economics and management major. Cameron has participated in many university activities, including study abroad and the Washington, D. C. internship program.



Cameron Tribble

We would like to extend a special "thank you" to the sponsors of our 2004 Conner Connects Banquet: Steve Brannen, Dan Jeter, Jere Thorne, Steve Turner, Bob Shulstad, and Wen Williams.

Tate Brookins Scholarship

Mrs. Ann Brookins, mother of the late Tate Brookins, joined the festivities at the Conner Connects banquet and was present for the awarding of the first Tate Brookins Scholarship which was presented to an outstanding student, Joel L. McKie. Mr. McKie was recently presented the Rising Star Award as the outstanding junior in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The scholarship fund was established by Frank and Ann Brookins to honor their son, Tate Brookins, who graduated from UGA with a degree in agricultural economics in 1994. Tate was a photographer for the



Ann Brookins

Georgia Bulldogs during his college years. Tragically, Tate lost his life in a motor cycle accident in 1997 at the age of 27. The Tate Brookins Scholarship Fund provides young men and women the opportunity to gain an education and enrich their academic experience at the University of Georgia. The department is pleased to honor the memory of Tate Brookins and appreciates the support of Mr. and Mrs. Brookins. Contributions to the Tate Brookins Scholarship Fund may be made through the University of Georgia Foundation.

First Annual Tom Frazier Golf Classic

The First Annual Tom Frazier Golf Classic was held Friday, April 16, 2004 at the University of Georgia Golf Course. The golf course was in excellent condition and participants could not ask for nicer weather. The team of Greg Ashley, Jeff Dorfman, Chris Peters and Jeff Teasley won Low Gross honors with a score of 63.



Tom Frazier

Low Net honors went to the team of Ken Fillman, Brian Lassiter, Mike Lassiter and Jay Scholfield with a score of 56. The team of Chris Baucom, Chris Groskreutz, Curt Lacy and John Raffa took second place with a score of 57. Individual awards were presented to the following: Chuck Laughlin for closest to the pin on hole 3, Patrick McPherson for long drive on hole 4, Jeff Teasley for closest to the pin on hole 8, Curt Lacy for closest to the pin on hole 13, Chris Baucom for closest to the pin on hole 16 and Brett Tucker for long drive on hole 18. A special thanks to Forrest Stegelin for sponsoring the University of Georgia Golf Towels that went to each participant as part of the tournament tee package. Also a special thanks to Jo Anne Norris and Chris Peters for their work behind the scenes in making this event possible.



Some of the Golf Tournament Participants

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, 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. The deadline for award nominations is September 1, 2004. AEAG Board members will select award recipients. Both awards will be presented at the luncheon following the annual J. W. Fanning Lecture in November.

Faculty Awards

Professor Terry Centner was presented the Senior Faculty Award by Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society of agriculture, on March 31, 2004.

Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award: Dr. Barry Barnett was awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club at the Conner Connects Celebration on April 15, 2004. Dr. Barnett teaches microeconomics and agricultural policy to undergraduates.

Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award: Dr. Barry Barnett was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award by the Graduate Students’ Association at their reception on April 23, 2004.



Barry Barnett



Bill Givan

AGHON Honor Society: William “Bill” Givan, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural and Applied Economics was inducted into AGHON as an honorary member during spring 2004.

Staff Awards



Chris Peters

Chris Peters received the Outstanding Staff Award from the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club at the annual Conner Connects spring banquet on April 15, 2004 for his dedicated service. Chris, Director of Computer Support Staff, provides computer

support for faculty, staff and students in the department.



Jo Anne Norris

Jo Anne Norris was presented a special Lifetime Achievement Award by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club to express the students' gratitude for her vital services to the department.

Jo Anne, Office Manager, works as the degree program specialist, advising students and making sure each student meets graduation requirements.



Donna Ross was presented the Outstanding Staff Award by the Graduate Students' Association at their reception on April 23, 2004. Donna is a senior secretary for Drs. Wetzstein, Epperson, Vedenov, Escalante and Centner and is very helpful to graduate students when they need her assistance.

Undergraduate Student Awards and Recognition

Cameron Tribble, an environmental economics and management major from Dublin, was presented the Outstanding Senior Award in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the annual Conner Connects spring banquet on April 15, 2004.

Student Awards and Recognition at the South Campus Student Awards Banquet on April 13, 2004: Joel McKie, an agribusiness major from Abbeville, was presented the Rising Star Award by the Alumni Association of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. This award recognizes the outstanding junior in our college who has excelled in both academic and leadership activities. Joel has maintained a 4.0 grade-point-average while being active in a number of organizations. Dylan Clark was recognized for graduating in the top 5% of the 2004 class with a 3.91 grade point-average. Clint Murphy was recognized for graduating in the top 5% of the 2004 class with a 3.89 grade-point-average. Brandon

Henry, an agribusiness major from Chatsworth, and Ken Eason, an agribusiness major from Claxton, were both presented the Nesbitt-Flatt Award for Excellence in Leadership and Scholarship.

AGHON Initiates: Kathryn Hulst, an agribusiness major, and Jeffrey Register, Jr., an agricultural economics major, were inducted into AGHON during the spring semester. AGHON is the highest honor for students in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

CAES Ambassadors: Candice Clark and Joel McKie, both agribusiness majors from Wilcox, have joined the CAES Ambassadors. As ambassadors, they will represent the college in student recruitment and public relations activities throughout the year.



The 2004 Congressional and Brussels Interns

Tim Haley, an agricultural economics major from Jackson, will intern with Senator Saxby Chambliss. Rob Millings, an agribusiness minor from Moultrie, will intern with Representative Sanford Bishop. Sam Daniel, an agricultural economics major from Claxton, will intern with Senator Zell Miller. Ross Yasin, an agribusiness major from Perry, will intern with Representative Jack Kingston. Ken Eason, an agribusiness major from Claxton, will intern with Representative Max Burns. Candice Clark will work part of the summer of 2004 with a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C. and part of the summer with one of our alumni, Emily Howard, in Congressman Kingston's office. Joel McKie will work with the American Farm Bureau in Washington, D. C. during the summer of 2004. Allison Barnes will work as an intern with the Georgia Department of Agriculture in Brussels, Belgium during the summer of 2004.

2004 - 2005 Scholarship Awards

Georgia Farm Credit Associations – Allyson L. Barnes, Samuel H. Daniel, Marilynn H. Howard, Bruce W. McPherson and Jonathan J. VanDerZee

Firor Memorial Scholarship – Clint Murphy and Dylan S. Clark

Proctor Memorial Scholarship – Orion Stavre

Co-Bank Scholarship – Joshua R. Chandler

Tate Brookins Scholarship – Joel L. McKie

Georgia Cooperative Council – Jessica Wood



L to R: Bruce McPherson, Marilynn Howard, Clint Murphy, Orion Stavre, Jessica Wood, Joel McKie

Graduate Student Awards and Recognition

At the Graduate Students’ Association reception on April 23, 2004, the following students were recognized: Swagata Banergee received the Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award. Oleksiy Tokovenko received the Outstanding M.S. Student Award. Dmitriy Volinskiy received the Outstanding Ph.D. Paper Award for “Valuation of Farmland Conservation Easement Programs for Georgia: A Random Coefficient Panel Approach.”

What Career Have You Chosen?

Your career choice would be of interest to current and prospective students. Please tell us about it by answering the short survey included with this newsletter and returning it to Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. Your updated information will be posted on the departmental website. The survey may also be downloaded and emailed to aaecon@agecon.uga.edu. Thank you for your participation!



Scenes from the ConnerConnects Banquet



Scenes from Tom Frazier Golf Classic

Alumni Survey - Agricultural and Applied Economics Department

Name (include Miss, Ms., Mrs., or Mr.) _____

Degree(s) (Major, University and Year) _____

Would you please comment on the quality of the department's undergraduate/graduate programs (courses, faculty, staff, networking, etc.).

Contact Information

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Employment

Employer: _____

Current Job Title: _____

Current Job Responsibilities: _____

News: Do you have a news update to be published in the Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAE) Department's Alumni Newsletter and/or posted on the AAE Alumni web page?

I am willing to have this information published in a newsletter or posted on the Agricultural and Applied Economics alumni site on the Internet.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return your address and career information on the completed form to Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509 or e-mail the information to <aaecon@agecon.uga.edu>.