



Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

The University of Georgia

Alumni Newsletter

Summer, 2011

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Greetings from the Department Head



Dear Friends:

I hope you are enjoying your summer and have been able to take a well-deserved vacation! This season in the department is usually a bit more relaxed, and faculty and staff are able to catch up on some of the work that had to be pushed back during the very busy fall and spring semesters. We do not yet have the final numbers on undergraduate majors, but it appears that the department will again experience a record-high graduate student enrollment this fall.

We had a great time at our annual Conner Connects banquet in April. I enjoyed visiting with alumni, current students and their parents, the academic quiz bowl practice competition between faculty and the department's team, and the remarks of the event's speaker, Mark Eason, who is the director of fiscal affairs for our College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. You can read more about him in the Alumni Spotlight of this newsletter.

Outstanding faculty members were also recognized at Conner Connects. Dr. Greg Colson was presented the 2011 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member Award by the Graduate Student Association and Dr. Jeff Dorfman was presented the 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Member Award by the Agricultural & Environmental Economics Club. Outstanding Staff Member Awards were presented to Laura Alfonso by the Graduate Student Association and to Sarah Hull by the Agricultural & Environmental Economics Club. A number of our students, both undergraduate and graduate, were recognized for their notable achievements. You may read about them in this newsletter.

We have good reasons to be proud of our students. At the end of the spring semester, 38 undergraduate and 3 graduate students completed their degrees. One of our most recent Ph.D. recipients, Ruohong Cai, is our featured Graduate Student in this newsletter. Ruohong has accepted a position at Princeton University as a post-doctoral research associate. Our Faculty Spotlight features Dr. Wojciech Florkowski who is located at the Griffin Campus. Dr. Florkowski's current research focuses on the commercialization of peanut production technology and marketing in west and east Africa.

The date for the J.W. Fanning Lecture, which we sponsor along with the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, has not yet been set. We will send you information about it when a speaker and venue are selected. In addition to the lecture, the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award and Distinguished Young Professional Award will be presented at the event. I ask that you please consider nominating qualified individuals for these prestigious awards. The criteria and instructions are listed on the last page of the newsletter. Also, please contact Ms. Audrey (ah1@uga.edu) if you would like to join our faculty and students in attending this 27th J.W. Fanning Lecture!

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An alumni information form is attached to the newsletter. It would be most helpful if you could fill it out and return it to us. We like to stay in touch with our graduates and learn about your activities and accomplishments after leaving the department. You will also find the names of those who have made financial contributions to our scholarship funds during the last fiscal year listed in the newsletter. These contributions ensure the continued quality educational experiences that are an integral part of student life in the department and enable us to provide scholarships to our deserving students. We are so grateful for your generosity!

Sincerely,
Octavio Ramirez
Department Head & Professor

Conner Connects 2011



The annual Conner Connects Banquet was held at the Botanical Gardens in Athens on April 26, 2011. The featured speaker for the event was Director of Fiscal Affairs for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Mark Eason. Faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students received recognition for their accomplishments and outstanding service. Student award recipients are listed below.

Student News

2011 Undergraduate Award Winners:



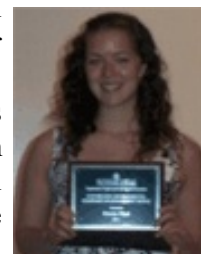
The Outstanding Agribusiness Senior Award winner is **Katie Williams**. Katie is an agribusiness major from Madison, GA. She is a Presidential Scholar, a Block and Bridle Little International Grand Champion, a past vice president of finance for Pi Beta Phi Sorority and past president of the UGA Dairy Science Club. She has been a member of UGA HEROs, the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club, and the Student Alumni Association. Her numerous activities while at UGA include Relay for Life, elementary school volunteer, animal control volunteer, and 4-H volunteer. Katie served as the Georgia Department of Agriculture Intern in Brussels, Belgium in the summer of 2010.



The Outstanding Agricultural & Applied Economics Senior Award winner is **Philip Klayman**. Philip is an agricultural & applied economics major from Suwanne, GA. He is an Honor

Student, on the Dean's List, and a member of the Ag Econ Quiz Bowl Team and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Honor Society. He has served as an assistant to the dean and on the Advisory Council for Franklin Residential College. In addition, he has served as a Youth Group Intern for his church, a volunteer for Life on Life Campus Ministries, and as a Mentor Volunteer for Crosstrainers.

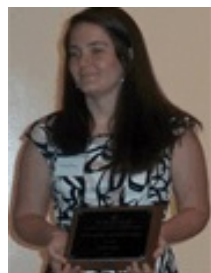
The Outstanding Environmental Economics & Management Senior Award winner is **Kristin Ward**. Kristin is an environmental economics and management major from Alpharetta, GA. She is a Presidential Scholar, on the Dean's List, and she speaks and writes fluent Spanish. Kristin is an Oasis Católico Volunteer Tutor, a volunteer at the Chipping in for Children Charity Golf Tournament, a member of the UGA Ecology Club and the UGA Spanish Language Learning Community. She served as an intern for the Kimberly Clark Corporation during summer months for 3 years, and she is currently a volunteer intern at Athens Land Trust.





The Outstanding Senior Award winner is **Kayla Calhoun**. Kayla is an environmental economics and management major

from Colquitt, GA. She is a Presidential Scholar, an Honors International Scholar, and a member of the Alpha Zeta Agricultural Honors Society. Kayla is the co-founder and president of the International Association of Students in Agricultural or Related Sciences. She is also the social chair of the Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority and served as vice president of Campus Outreach for UGA Habitat for Humanity.



The Outstanding Leadership Award winner is **Gena Perry**. Gena is an agribusiness major from Flovilla, GA. She is on the Dean's List, an Emerald Scholar, and the recipient of the Sigma Alpha Leadership and Baby Bull Awards. She served as president of the Ag Hill Council

and the college's Senator for the Student Government Association. She has served as treasurer and vice president of the Agricultural and Environmental Economic Club, 1st vice president and philanthropy chair of the Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority, treasurer of the Ag Hill Council, treasurer of IAAS UGA, and a member of the Alpha Zeta Agricultural Honors Fraternity. She has been active in Relay for Life, Keep AAC Beautiful Road Clean-ups, Backpacks for Homeless, and Run in Her Shoes 5K.

Scholarship Winners:



Firor Memorial Scholarship Winners - \$1500 each:

Kathryn Buford **Kristin Ward**

Proctor Memorial Scholarship Winner - \$1200

Heather Hatzenbuhler

Georgia Farm Credit Associations Scholarship Winners - \$1200 each:

Jennie Allison **Zeke Bryant**
Maggie Dudacek **Mary Alice Jasperse**
Shayna Pollock

Tate Brookins Memorial Scholarship Winners - \$1000 each (except where indicated):

Kamran Ahmad **William Broder**
Jarret Cohen **Devin Hosea (\$1200)**
Matthew O'Meara **Alexandra Wright**



Mary Ann Turrentine, a senior agribusiness major, is interning this summer at Kalu Yala, a sustainable company, in San Miguel, Panama. She is currently working on two gardens, one for the company's intern house and another on the school grounds to benefit the community.

Lisa Ann King (BSES in environmental economics and management, spring 2011) has been accepted into the environmental technology graduate program at the Imperial College London. She will be moving to London in the fall and begin her classes in early October. Imperial College London ranks seventh among the top universities in the world.

Two students from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics were selected as College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Ambassadors: **Alec Asbridge** (EEM) from Hood River, OR and **Jim Loughridge** (AGB) from Chatsworth, GA.

Alec Asbridge, a third-year environmental economics and management major from Hood River, Oregon, is featured in the 2011-2012 CAES academic year recruitment calendar. Alec stated that **Dr. Jeffrey Mullen** has been very influential to him as his advisor -- always receptive and welcoming each time he went to his office with questions. He added that Dr. Mullen reached out to him to make sure that everything was going well, and encouraged him to explore different learning options that he had not considered.

Alec's main exposure to agriculture was apple and pear orchards near his home town. He interned for the Los Angeles Dodgers for two years and was given the opportunity to work with the players and celebrities creating media content for the organization. He believes that this experience will be very beneficial to his future. In his leisure time, Alec enjoys playing a lot of tennis which helps clear his mind when exams come around.

2011 Graduate Student Award Winners:



The Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award winner is **Wesley Burnett**. Wesley is from Atlanta, GA. His major professor is John Bergstrom. After completing his Ph.D program, Wesley plans to be a researcher and teacher in a research university. He hopes to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental economics.



The Claudia Depalma Davis Outstanding M.S. Student Award winner is **Ganna Sheremenko**. Anna is from the Ukraine. Her major professors are Drs. Cesar Escalante and Wojciech Florkowski. She hopes to become a high-level professional in Agricultural and Applied Economics and take her knowledge back to her country.



Curve.”

The Outstanding M.S. Paper Award winner is **Xiaofei Li** for his paper titled, “Effects of China’s Antidumping Tariffs on U.S.-China Bilateral Poultry Trade.” After completing his education, Xiaofei plans to return to China and devote himself to solving the famine and poverty issues in rural areas.

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Congratulations to all of our award winners!

Myra Clarisse Ferrer participated in the French and European Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Study Abroad Program for Maymester. The program lasted three weeks and was conducted in Toulouse, France through Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse (ENSAT).



Ajita Atreya was awarded the 2011 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant by the UGA Graduate School.

Luis Moises Pena-Levano was awarded the 5th place Carl K. Kossack Calculus Prize from the Department of Mathematics in April. At the end of 2010, he received the Outstanding Peruvian of the Year Award which was presented by the Ambassador of Peru in an Honor Ceremony in Honduras, which Ambassador Castro arranged in Luis's honor to recognize all of the awards he has received, including the Golden Cup of Zamorano. Forty people attended the ceremony, 20 of which were ambassadors from other countries.



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 Hudson at aaecnews@uga.edu or mail the information to Audrey Hudson, 303 Conner Hall, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, Athens, GA 30602.

Congratulations to our students who graduated from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the spring of 2011:



Name	Degree	Major
Elizabeth Jane Carter	BSA	AAE
Trevor Kevin Cobb	BSA	AAE
Marshall Robert Faircloth	BSA	AAE
Philip Ross Klayman (Cum Laude)	BSA	AAE
Bernard N. Tokarz	BSA	AAE
.....		
James Alford Arnold, III	BSA	AGB
Joseph Adams Batrous (Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
Kathryn Genevieve Bowerman (Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
William Albert Eubanks	BSA	AGB
Steven Michael Gower	BSA	AGB
Brandon Rex Harrelson	BSA	AGB
Robert James Jourdan	BSA	AGB
Sarah Lynn Locker	BSA	AGB
Lloyd Francis McCants, III	BSA	AGB
Derek Carl McLendon	BSA	AGB
Michael James Murray	BSA	AGB
Marjorie Eugenia Perry	BSA	AGB
Chandler Dumont Sims	BSA	AGB
Andrew Truett Stevenson (Magna Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
Benjamin Lee Thacker	BSA	AGB
Katie Ann Williams (Summa Cum Laude)	BSA	AGB
Ashleigh Melissa Ammons	BSA	AGB
.....		
Angela Marie Boothe (Cum Laude)	BSES	EEM
Kayla Ariel Calhoun (Summa Cum Laude)	BSES	EEM
Jeffrey Blake Carnaham	BSES	EEM
Jeffrey Blake Chandler, Jr.	BSES	EEM
Rachael Noel Gass (Cum Laude)	BSES	EEM
Kyle Jacob Gatlin	BSES	EEM
Lisa Ann King (Summa Cum Laude)	BSES	EEM
Abby Dean Moore (Magna Cum Luade)	BSES	EEM
Hannah M. Morris	BSES	EEM
Margaret Caroline Portwood	BSES	EEM
Geoffrey Colin Pratt	BSES	EEM
Justin Trey Reed	BSES	EEM
Amanda Leigh Statham (Magna Cum Laude)	BSES	EEM
Travis Alan Voyles	BSES	EEM
Lauren Bishop Woodliff	BSES	EEM
Wendy K. Wright	BSES	EEM
.....		
Myrna A. Ornelas Gonzalez	MS	AAE
Kristin Nicole Schnake	MS	AAE
James Wesley Burnett	Ph.D.	AAE

Featured Graduate Student

Ruohong Cai



Ruohong Cai recently completed his Ph.D. program in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia. He also holds an engineering degree from Zhejiang University. Originally from Zhejiang Province, China, he has been living in Athens four years while working toward his Ph.D degree.

Ruohong has been selected to present a paper at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) annual meetings in Pittsburgh and is the recipient of a travel grant which will help with the expenses of his travel to the meetings. He is a member of the AAEA, and has served as president of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduate

Student Association.

Ruohong has accepted a post-doctoral associate position at Princeton University where he will be working with professors of economics and climate change. He stated, "The Ph.D. program at UGA trained me well, and I really appreciate that our professors were very supportive of my research." Ruohong's long-term career goal is to stay in academia and devote himself to the study of climate change impacts. He is hopeful that his research will provide useful information for agricultural producers and policy makers.

Ruohong is married, and he and his wife, Yinzhi, have a daughter, Erinn. When he is not working, Ruohong enjoys spending time with his family.

Staff News



The winner of the 2011 Outstanding Staff Award from the Graduate Student Association is **Laura Alfonso**. Laura is a Library Associate III. She has worked at the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics 12 of the 26

years that she has worked at the university. She is an avid cowbell enthusiast.



The winner of the Outstanding Staff Award from the undergraduate Agricultural & Environmental Economics Club is **Sarah Hull**. Sarah is a building services worker. She has worked in the department over 13 years. In her leisure time,

she enjoys spending time with her husband and granddaughter.

Faculty News

Dr. Terry Centner has been appointed to the editorial board of *Agriculture*, an MDPI open access journal.



The 2011 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member Award winner is **Dr. Greg Colson**. He joined the department in August 2009 and teaches AAEC 2580, applied microeconomic principles and AAEC 6590, microeconomics: theory with applications II. Dr. Colson received his Ph.D. in economics from Iowa State University.





The 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Member Award winner is **Dr. Jeff Dorfman**. This is Dr. Dorfman's fifth time to receive this honor (1998, 2001, 2003, and 2006). He was selected as the Outstanding Graduate Faculty member in 1991 and 1992. Other teaching awards include the D.W. Brooks Teaching Award in 2004 and the Southern Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award in 2004.



Dr. Esendugue Greg Fonsah has been appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of Ghana, Legon as an external examiner of theses in the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness.



Amanda Smith attended the Extension Academy for Professional Excellence (EAPE) in Athens, GA during May 24-26, 2011. The EAPE

is a professional development opportunity available to select early to mid-career extension faculty who are dedicated to fulfilling extension's mission and have demonstrated potential as future leaders of the organization.

Publications



Centner, T.J. (2011) "Challenging NPDES Permits Granted Without Public Participation." *Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review*, 38:1-40.

Colson, G. and W.E. Huffman. (2011) "Consumers' Willingness to Pay for Genetically Modified Foods with Product-Enhancing Nutritional Attributes." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 93(2):358-363.

Centner, T.J. (2011) "Addressing Water Contamination from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations." *Land Use Policy*, 28:706-711.

Colson, G. (2011) "Methodological Developments and Issues in Experimental Auctions: Discussion."

American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 93(2):535-536.

Ferrer, M.C., E.G. Fonsah, and C. Escalante. (2011) "Risk-Efficient Fumigant-Mulching System Alternatives for Bell Pepper Production." *Journal of the ASFMRA*, 162-171.

Fonsah, E.G., W.G. Hudson, P. Sumner, and J. Massonnat. (2011) "Performance of 'Veinte Cohol': A Short Cycle Banana Cultivar Trial in the South Coastal Plain of Georgia." *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, 42(1):48-53.

Fonsah, E.G., G. Krewer, J. Ed Smith, D. Stannaland, and J. Massonnat. (2011) "Economic Analysis of Blueberry Production in Georgia Using Enterprise Budget." *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, 42(1):54-58.

Menapace, L., **G. Colson,** C. Grebitus, M. Facendola. (2011) "Consumers' Preferences for Geographical Origin Labels: Evidence from the Canadian Olive Oil Market." *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 38(2):193-212.

Ramirez, O.A., C.A. Carpio, and R.M. Regesus. (2011) "Can Crop Insurance Premiums Be Reliably Estimated?" *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, 40(1):1-10.

Nzakju, K., **J.E. Houston,** and **E.G. Fonsah.** (2011) "U.S. Demand for Fresh Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Imports." *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, 42(1):96-100.

David J. Spielman, **Dawit Kelemework Mekonnen,** and Dawit Alemu. (2011) "Seed, Fertilizer, and Agricultural Extension in Ethiopia." Development Strategy and Governance Division, International Food Policy Research Institute, ESSP II Working Paper 20.

Yin, J., D. Koné, M. Rodriguez-Carres, M.A. Cubeta, L.L. Burpee, **E.G. Fonsah,** A.S. Csinos, and P. Ji. (2011) "First Report of Root Rot Caused by Binucleate Rhizoctonia Anastomosis Group F on Musa spp." *Journal of Plant Disease*, 95(4):490.

Presentations



Dr. Glenn Ames presented a paper titled, “Universidad Veracruzana-University of Georgia: A Partnership for Rural Economic, Educational, and Human Capital Development,” at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators 2011 Annual Conference & EXPO session on “What Do High-Performing Partnerships Have in Common?” in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in June.

Ajita Atreya presented a paper titled, “Flood Risk and Risk Perception: Evidence from Property Prices in Georgia,” at the Climate Information for Managing Risk Symposium in Orlando, FL in May. The paper was co-authored by **Dr. Susana Ferreira**.

Simon Choi presented a paper at the Western Regional Science Association 50th Anniversary Meeting in March, titled “Using the Population-Employment Ratio to Assess the County Level Population Projections in the SCAG Region.” The presentation was co-authored by Simon Choi, JiYoung Park and **Changkeun (Peter) Park**. **Changkeun (Peter) Park** presented a paper at the meeting titled, “Future of Inland Empire Region of Southern California: Applying a Vector Auto-Regression Model for Logistics Job Growth Pattern Analysis.” The paper was co-authored by **ChangKeun (Peter) Park**, KiHong Kim, Simon Choi, and JiYoung Park. **Changkeun (Peter) Park** also presented a paper at the Southern Regional Science Association 50th Anniversary Meeting in New Orleans, LA in March titled, “Measuring Inter-County Spillover Economic Effects of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission in Southern California Region.” The paper was co-authored by **ChangKeun (Peter) Park**, JiYoung Park, and Simon Choi.

Dr. Greg Colson co-presented a paper in Bamako, Mali in June with Belco Tamboura of the Institut Polytechnique Rural at a session entitled, “Promotion of Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Mali,” as part of the UDSA/Borlaug Scientific Exchange Workshop on Adaption of Poultry Production in the Context of Climate Change in Mali.

Dr. Terry Centner presented a paper titled, “Sustaining Agricultural Production through Disease-Control Programs: Balancing Competing Interest,” at the Asian Conference on Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment in Osaka, Japan in June. Dr. Centner also presented a paper titled, “Contract and Tort Law Issues for Veterinarians,” at the 48th Annual Veterinary Conference in Athens in March and a paper titled, “Environmental, Agribusiness, and Public Health Law,” for Phi Alpha Delta, The University of Georgia in Athens in March.

Dr. Susana Ferreira presented her paper titled, “Nature, Socioeconomics, and Flood Mortality,” at the 2011 Georgia Water Resources Conference in April. In June, she participated in the Inaugural Summer Conference of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economist in Seattle, WA and discussed the paper, “National Evidence on the Non-Market Economy,” by Bieri, Kuminoff and Pope. She also chaired the session, “Coast and Floods,” and presented the paper, “Nature, Socieconomics, and Adaptation to Climate Change: New Evidence from Floods,” which was co-authored by Jeff Vincent and Kirk Hamilton.

Vahé Heboyan presented a paper titled, “Estimating and Projecting the Effects of Natural Amenities on Future Rural Population Migration Patterns Under Alternative Climate Change Scenarios,” at the Western Agricultural Economics Association meetings in June. The paper was co-authored by Ken Cordell, **Vahé Heboyan**, **Florence Santos**, and **John Bergstrom**

Padmanand Nambiar presented a poster titled, “Socioeconomic Factors Affecting the Likelihood of Being an Overweight Korean Woman,” at the 2011 Global Education Forum at the University of Georgia in March. Co-authors of the poster were **Drs. Wojciech Florkowski** and Dong-Kyan Shu. The poster won first prize in the graduate student category.

Amanda Smith made a presentation titled, “The Use of Technology and Social Media in Extension Program Delivery,” at the Southern Extension Economic Committees annual meetings in Lexington, KY in June. She also served as chair of the meetings.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Wojciech J. Florkowski



Dr. Wojciech J. Florkowski is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics located at the Griffin Campus. His appointment is 90% research and 10% instruction. Dr. Florkowski began his career at the University of Georgia as an assistant professor in 1986 and was promoted to associate professor in 1993 and to professor in 2002.

Dr. Florkowski graduated from the Academy of Economics (two years ago the name changed to Poznan University of Economics.) in Poznan, Poland in 1978. He received an M.S. and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois in 1983 and 1986, respectively.

An accomplished linguist, he speaks several languages. He is fluent in English and Polish (his native language). He speaks good Russian and German and basic French.

The United States Agency of International Development (USAID) is funding Dr. Florkowski's current research project on commercialization of peanut product technology and peanut product marketing in west and east Africa. Dr. Florkowski collects information from households in Ghana and Uganda in order to study consumer food choices and purchasing behavior. His goal is to improve product development, distribution, and marketing, emphasizing highly nutritious peanut products and to enhance the safety of the manufactured and consumed peanut products. The results of his research are important to the stability and economic growth of sub-Saharan African countries and will support the development of private sector economies, while enhancing the capacity of their public research institutions. This grant from the Peanut Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) supported by USAID also helps in funding graduate students in the department. Dr. Florkowski collaborates with food scientists from the university on this project.

This current research project fits into Dr. Florkowski's broader interest in the economics of consumer behavior, implications of consumer choices to farmers, manufacturing, and consumer well-being, including implications of food imports to the safety and nutrition of the society. He has continued his early research in the areas of pecan marketing and the ornamental and turf industry by cooperating with scientists from other disciplines on issues relevant to the industry and homeowners. In collaboration with scientists from other disciplines, he also works on issues of post-harvest handling of fruits and vegetables.

Dr. Florkowski has served as secretary of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association since 2005. He is a member of the Griffin Campus Library Committee and Employee Council. In addition, he serves as the southeastern editor of *The Pecan Grower*, on the advisory board of *Economics and Environment*, and *Journal of European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists - Polish Division*, and he is an editorial board member of the *Poznan University of Economics Review*.

Dr. Florkowski is a prolific author having authored or co-authored 11 book chapters, 93 journal articles, 202 convention papers, 147 trade journal articles, and a myriad of other publications. He serves as an advisor to graduate students assigned to him and assisted in the development of the Study Abroad Program at Chiang Mai University, Thailand.

In his leisure time, Dr. Florkowski enjoys kayaking, water sports, gardening, collecting stamps, and he is an avid long-distance runner. His wife, Malgorzata, is a program coordinator at the UGA Horticulture Department in Griffin.

Alumni Spotlight

Mark Eason



Mark Eason, director of Fiscal Affairs for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, was the featured speaker at the 2011 Conner Connects Banquet. Mark delivered a very entertaining and informative speech, laced with an abundance of homespun humor. He received a B.S. in 1979 and an M.S. in 1981 in agricultural economics from UGA. While he was a graduate student in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Mark worked as a teaching and research assistant.

After obtaining his M.S. degree, Mark accepted a position as a farm management economist in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida where he developed management educational programs and addressed market organization and structural problems in addition to his other duties. In 1983, Mark accepted a position as an extension marketing specialist in the Extension Agricultural Economics Department at UGA in Tifton. With a 100% extension appointment, Mark spent his time developing and implementing comprehensive marketing educational programs for farmers across the state. The central focus of his responsibilities included preparing and presenting educational programs on pertinent marketing problems faced by the peanut and cotton industries. He also served in an economic advisory capacity for the peanut and cotton specialist teams and provided educational programs for grain and livestock producers.

His specialist position required Mark to travel a lot when his sons were young. Although he truly enjoyed his work as a specialist, he wanted to spend more time with his family. When Mark was asked to apply for an administrative position, he did, and in 1986, Mark began his administrative career as head of Fiscal and Employee Benefits for the Cooperative Extension Service at UGA. His appointment was 100% administrative, and his responsibilities included directing and coordinating the activities of a staff of twelve people. The functions of this office included payroll, insurance, retirement, travel, personnel records, worker's compensation, budgeting, billing, deposits, contracts and grants, publication distribution, and penalty mail. At that time, the Cooperative Extension Service employed approximately 1,600 professionals and support staff which were located on three campuses and throughout Georgia's 159 counties. Mark stated that moving into administration from his specialist position was absolute culture shock. He had to get accustomed to mounds of paperwork, and he no longer controlled his own time. All of the changes took some adjusting, especially since earlier in his career, Mark had been determined to never sit behind a desk.

After two years, Mark accepted the position of head of Employee Benefits for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) at UGA, also a 100% administrative position. His duties included coordinating the college's staff benefit programs and assisting the director of Fiscal Affairs with the financial aspects of the organization. He was responsible for all of the university and federal benefits for all 3,500 CAES employees and over 600 retirees. Among numerous other duties, Mark was responsible for the CAES budget development, preparing the Cooperative Extension Service's zero based budget, compiling monthly and quarterly personnel expenditure reports, and assisting with numerous other financial reports. His routine duties involved working in the areas of payroll, contracts and grants, purchase and check requests, travel, and personnel issues.

In 1997, Mark moved into his current position, director of Fiscal Affairs for CAES at UGA. This position carries a 100% administrative appointment as well. His current duties include the development of annual operating budgets, the development of annual legislative budget requests for the college's teaching, research, and extension functions, the maintenance of the integrity of the accounting systems, the coordination of activities between the college and the offices of the university's Vice President for Business and Finance, Academic Affairs, Research, and Services. Mark's office is responsible for the management of an annual budget including funding from county,

state, federal, and private sources. The college's human resources function is also under Mark's purview. He reports directly to the dean and works closely with him and the three associate deans administering the college. Mark admits that when he was a student, he thought being an administrator would be a nice job because "they didn't do anything." After moving into administration, he found out just how wrong he had been.

Mark leads a busy professional and personal life, serving on numerous college and university committees and a number of advisory committees for professional groups. He has also been active in the Oconee County 4-H and held various positions of leadership in the Boy Scouts of America.

In his speech at Conner Connects, Mark delivered a long list of one-liners on advice. He congratulated the students for choosing agricultural economics/business, stating that the degree offers opportunities that are not limited as with some other degrees. When he was in the 10th grade, Mark said that a county agent told him he should major in agricultural economics, and he never considered any other major. Mark noted that, as a general rule, people in agriculture care about others, and this statement certainly seems to hold true about Mark Eason.



Alumni News

Wesley Burnett (Ph.D. in 2011) has accepted a position as an assistant professor at West Virginia University.

Preston Cox (BSES in environmental economics and management in 2009) has been accepted into an internship program with the City of New York, Office of the Mayor, Office of Management and Budget, Environmental Protection Unit.

Shanshan Lin (Ph.D. in 2011) has accepted a position as an analyst with Discover Card in Chicago, IL.

Col. Wilbur C. Mull (B.S. in 1963 and M.S. in 1965 - agricultural economics) was recently inducted into the State of Georgia Auctioneers Hall of Fame. The high honor was presented at the association's annual summer meeting at the King & Prince Resort on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Dr. Albert Williams (M.A.E. in 1987 and Ph.D. in 1994) has been promoted to head of the Department of Economics and Finance at the Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University after three years of full-time service to that department. He is chair of the committees for several doctoral students and involved in conducting research on rice and livestock marketing in Belize. Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship has over 5,000 students and offers bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees.



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 with the word "news" in the subject line, or mail the information to Audrey Hudson, 303 Conner Hall, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, Athens, GA 30602-7509.



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 beginning July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Contributors--Beginning July 1, 2010

Ms. Virginia Louise Allison
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Thank you!



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 Department of Ag & Applied Economics, University of Georgia, 303 Conner Hall Athens, GA 30602-7509.

Alumni Information Form - 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:

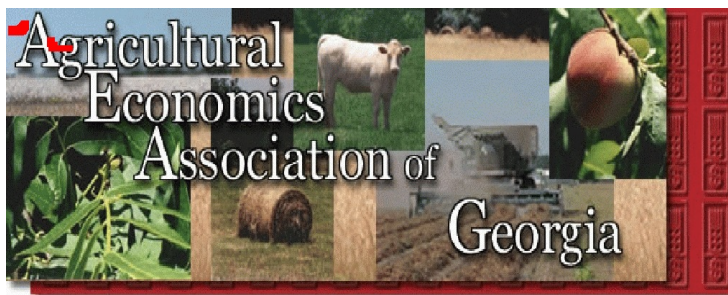
Current Job Responsibilities:

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 (*attached in a Word document*) to Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509 or e-mail the information to aaecnews@uga.edu with the word *Form* in the subject line. Thank you.



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, 2011. 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.

Membership in the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia is open to people sharing a common interest in agricultural economics, agribusiness, and related fields. Membership is by application or invitation by an association member. Individual membership in the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia is \$25 per year and includes a subscription to the Journal of Agribusiness and the AEAG Newsletter as well as attendance at the J.W. Fanning Lecture. Membership rates for students and associates (individuals within three years of graduation) are \$10 per year. The membership rate for libraries and other institutions is \$35 per year. Corporate membership is \$150 per year. Lifetime memberships for individuals and corporate members are \$250 and \$1,000, respectively.

I would like to join the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia!



Name _____
 Employer _____ Title _____
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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Please check one of the following:

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Membership \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Lifetime Membership \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library/Institutional Membership \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Lifetime Membership \$1000 |

Please send your membership application and dues to:

**Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia
 303 Conner Hall
 University of Georgia
 Athens, GA 30602-7509**

For more information, call 706-542-2481

or visit www.aeag.uga.edu