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Take a peek at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm.

“No matter where you look, it seems like every plant has a story to tell—and maybe a secret history.”
NORMAN WINTER
Director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah

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T
here was a time, not too long ago, when having a phone in your car was a futuristic dream and people scoffed at the idea of computers small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. Today, owning a cellphone is the norm, and smartphones put making phone calls and accessing a world of information at our fingertips. Technological advancements are changing how we think, how we do business and even how we farm.

As agricultural production in the western U.S. becomes more tenuous, some of the nation’s top agricultural firms are eyeing the more hospitable environment and business climate found in the Southeast—especially in Georgia.

Georgia has long been a leader in agricultural technology development. From plant breeding and animal cloning to variable rate irrigation and precision farming, we’ve led the way. Now, interdisciplinary approaches that focus on developing, refining and deploying new research and technologies that he at the intersection of the engineering and agricultural science disciplines must be a priority.

Putting aside their football rivalry, the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech have partnered with the Georgia Department of Agriculture to create a new initiative that could give our agricultural technology development the turbo charge agribusinesses are looking for when it comes to sound investments in the future of farming. The new Georgia Agritechology Innovation Initiative will use the existing strengths of our educational institutions and the Georgia Department of Agriculture to create an interdisciplinary education and high-tech innovation conduit for addressing future challenges in food and agriculture in the state, the nation and the world.

Advanced technology will play an ever-increasing role in developing solutions to meet future food and agriculture demands of the growing world population. Georgia can lead the way with cutting-edge research, technology development and education, driving transformational innovation in modern agricultural production and food processing.

Today’s problems are more complex. The solutions require high-level, science-driven innovation. This powerful partnership of some of the best engineering minds in the world combined with our internationally renowned agricultural expertise could help Georgia explore a new frontier for feeding the world’s population and growing Georgia’s economy.

“Georgia has long been a leader in agricultural technology development. From plant breeding and animal cloning to variable rate irrigation and precision farming, we’ve led the way.”

In 2013, Georgia’s top five export destinations for agricultural products were Canada, China, Mexico, Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. Georgia is the country’s No. 1 exporter of poultry and peanuts.

Georgia’s exports of agricultural products totaled $4.5 billion in 2013, sending Georgia-grown goods worldwide.

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@UGA_CollegeofAg

Percentage that Georgia exports of agricultural products have increased over the past decade.

282%
Even when they’re on a rival’s field, the Georgia Bulldogs often play on home turf. In addition to Sanford Stadium, the following SEC football fields use Tifway Bermuda, a turfgrass bred on the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences’ campus in Tifton.

Bryant-Denny Stadium, University of Alabama
Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn University
Commonwealth Stadium, University of Kentucky
Davis Wade Stadium, Mississippi State University
Williams-Brice Stadium, University of South Carolina
Neyland Stadium, University of Tennessee
Kyle Field, Texas A&M University

Andrea Gonzalez

SOURCE: BRIAN SCHWARTZ, UGA DEPARTMENT OF CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES
noteworthy

From the Red to the Black

Last October, non-essential federal agencies shut down after politicians couldn’t agree on how to fund them. While balancing the federal budget may seem like a nearly impossible task, a group of UGA freshmen made it happen in just one semester. Sixteen students enrolled in “Balancing the Federal Budget in Fifteen Weeks,” a First-Year Odyssey class taught by Jeffrey Dorfman, a CAES professor of agricultural and applied economics, learned about the federal budget and researched and evaluated proposals on ways to balance it. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that, for the current fiscal year, the federal government will spend $650 billion more than it makes, adding to the country’s $16 trillion debt. “[These students] realized this all actually matters to them,” Dorfman said. “It’s their money [and] they’re the ones going to get stuck with the bill.”

Applied economics students balance federal budget in one semester

Unlike existing Congressional proposals that project a balanced budget within a few years, Dorfman required his students’ ideas to reflect immediate savings. Ideas included increasing the age for Social Security eligibility to 70, decriminalizing and taxing marijuana, and cutting defense spending by 10 percent.

By the end of the semester, the students’ proposed budget projected savings of $702 billion—enough to eliminate the country’s current $650 billion debt and leave a $50 billion budget surplus. • April Bailey

For more information about Dorfman’s economics research, read his "Forbes" column at forbes.com/sites/jeffreydorfman.

Summer on the Hill

CAES students intern in D.C.

Instead of lounging by the pool, six CAES students spent their summer preparing legislative briefs, attending agricultural committee hearings and conducting agriculture-related programs for members of Congress through the 2014 Congressional Agricultural Fellowship program.

This year’s fellows, chosen by legislators after a lengthy application and interview process, included:

• Sarah Brown, a senior from Statesboro studying agricultural and applied economics (Sen. Saxby Chambliss);

• Mary Catherine Cromley, a junior from Brooklet studying agricultural and applied economics (Sen. Johnny Isakson);

• Sarah Carnes, a sophomore from Statesboro studying environmental economics and management (Rep. Sanford Bishop);

• J. Thomas Golden, a junior from Swainsboro studying agribusiness and agricultural and applied economics (Rep. Jack Kingston);

• Tess Hammock, a sophomore from Forsyth studying agricultural communication (Rep. Austin Scott);

• Michael Thompson, a sophomore from Toccoa studying agricultural and applied economics (Rep. Doug Collins).

The Congressional Agricultural Fellowship is made available through the Deans’ Promise, a collection of enrichment opportunities ranging from internships to study abroad programs that encourage CAES students to participate in learning experiences beyond the classroom. • Merritt Melancon

Students representing UGA as 2014 Congressional Agricultural Fellows include (from left, back) J. Thomas Golden, Michael Thompson, Sarah Brown, Tess Hammock, (front) Sarah Carnes and Mary Catherine Cromley. The students attended agricultural committee hearings and conducted ag-related research while earning course credit.

For more information about Dorfman’s economics research, read his "Forbes" column at forbes.com/sites/jeffreydorfman.
During his 27-year tenure with the University of Georgia, Ed Kanemasu, the recently retired assistant dean of international affairs and director of global programs for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, worked to initiate global partnerships from Haiti to Japan and developed a strong international agriculture certificate program for both undergraduate and graduate students. Because of his efforts, about one-third of CAES students study abroad today, and dozens of the college’s research and Extension faculty work on international projects each year.

“Ed Kanemasu led the effort to move the college from [an institution] focused almost entirely domestically to one that [has] allowed [us] to become a player around the world in teaching, research and outreach,” said CAES Dean and Director Scott Angle.

In honor of his work, the college created the Edward T. and Karen Kanemasu Global Engagement Award. The purpose of the scholarship award is to transform the way students view the world, encouraging them to find innovative solutions to complex poverty problems. Applications for the new scholarship will be accepted in spring 2015.

To make a gift to the Kanemasu Global Engagement Award, visit global.uga.edu/kanemasu.

Empowering Africa

Extension system could improve food security

At the World Affairs Council of Atlanta’s Health in Africa Summit in May, CAES Dean and Director Scott Angle (right) and Nuradin Osman (center), AGCO Corporation’s director for Africa and the Middle East, discussed ways to overcome Africa’s food security issues by creating an Extension-like system to get university research to farmers in the fields. Coca-Cola’s sustainability officer, Beatriz Perez (left), moderated the panel.

To make a gift to the Kanemasu Global Engagement Award, visit global.uga.edu/kanemasu.

A Kenyan woman shows off the tassels of maize, one of Africa’s dominant food crops.
Food Safety Goes to Market

Bying locally grown produce at the farmers market can be a great way to get fresh fruits and vegetables, but it doesn’t guarantee the produce is free of foodborne-illness-causing microbes. Just like supermarket food, locally grown food must be correctly handled to be safe for eating when it’s served on the dinner table.

That’s the message UGA Extension food safety specialist Judy Harrison shares when she meets with farmers market organizers and vendors throughout Georgia as part of the “Enhancing the Safety of Locally Grown Produce” training program, which she’s led since 2012. Harrison and CAES sustainable agriculture coordinator Julia Gaskin came up with the idea to develop a food safety curriculum for farmers and farmers market managers after talking about the growing popularity of farmers markets and the issues that could affect safety of produce from farms selling directly to the public.

The curriculum they created, with the help of Mark Harrison and Jennifer Cannon in UGA’s Department of Food Science and Technology, as well as extension specialists from Virginia and South Carolina, offers farmers and market managers checklists and fact sheets that provide information on the best way to tackle common food safety issues.

“The program, which is also being used by county extension agents in Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee, has two goals: keep consumers safe, and help protect the burgeoning local food movement from suffering the crippling effects of a health scare. “Our goal is to train farmers and market managers about how to enhance the safety of locally grown and marketed products...”

JUDY HARRISON

A food wash that, in only 60 seconds, kills pathogens on produce, kitchen counters, cutting boards and commercial food processing equipment.

A way to kill harmful microbes in food processing facilities using beneficial microorganisms.

A method for eliminating E. coli in cattle watering troughs.

A way to reduce the number of harmful E. coli microbes in cows by feeding them beneficial bacteria.

Identifying a culture that substantially reduces and/or eliminates the amount of salmonella and Campylobacter in commercially processed poultry, which often produces an alternative to antibiotics.

For more information, contact Judy Harrison at judyh@uga.edu.

To watch a video highlighting Doyle’s food wash, visit tinyurl.com/food-wash-video.
Luck be a Ladybug

In many cultures, ladybugs are a sign of good luck. Brad Hounkpati, a doctoral student and Fulbright scholar in the Department of Entomology, hopes they will also become a symbol of sustainable farming in his native West Africa.

Growing up on a farm in Togo, Hounkpati watched sugarcane, cassava, corn and okra die from pest infestations and felt powerless. “From this sad experience, I decided to become the solution-giver myself,” he said.

Partially funded through a Borlaug LEAP Fellowship, Hounkpati’s research focuses on using lady beetles in integrated pest management programs in eight West African countries. “By using natural enemies like lady beetles instead of relying on chemical pesticides, we can significantly reduce pest resistance, protect the environment, eat healthy and save money,” Hounkpati said.

FAITH PIPPERS

FLAVOR OF GEORGIA WINNER

A Better Cheddar

When Tim Young of Nature’s Harmony Farm in Elberton took home the grand prize at the 2014 Flavor of Georgia food product contest, he wanted his win to help put Georgia-made cheese on the map. Young’s Georgia Gold Clothbound Cheddar Cheese is one of dozens of award-winning cheeses Georgia creameries have produced in the last several years. Now, along with staples like peaches and blueberries, Georgians can build one heck of a locally sourced, award-winning cheese plate.

MERRITT MELANCON

Researchers Develop a Better Way to Test for Toxins

For more than 40 years, Bisphenol A, more commonly known as “BPA,” was used in everything from plastic baby bottles and the lining of metal food containers to dental sealants. When scientists began seeing a connection between BPA and abnormal sperm and egg development, it set off worldwide public health concerns.

Three UGA researchers have discovered a more efficient, accurate and cost-effective way to pinpoint potentially harmful chemicals like BPA before they cause health problems. Their testing protocol uses cells in a petri dish and takes weeks, whereas current testing methods involve using live mice and rats and can take years of research per chemical tested.

Considering the vast number of untested chemicals—as many as 80,000—animal testing will never be a practical method to detect possible toxicants.

CAES animal scientists Franklin West and Steve Stice have collaborated with Mary Alice Smith, an environmental health science toxicologist in the UGA College of Public Health, to test the efficiency of a technology West and Stice developed to measure the effects of environmental toxicants.

“Using animal studies, you are looking at more than a year to test a chemical in rodents. Using this test, we get results in two to three weeks at most.”

STEVE STICE

Stice, West and Smith use human stem cells to generate early sperm cells, which allows for the testing of toxic effects on sperm development throughout their maturation process. This is critical, as sperm cells are highly vulnerable to toxicants.

This new testing model fills a void left by current methods and provides human-specific results.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded Stice and his colleagues part of a $3 million grant to streamline the testing system, so they can more quickly determine the physiological effects of environmental chemicals on children and infants.

FAITH PIPPERS

DID YOU KNOW?

In the average life span of two to three years, one ladybug can eat up to 5,000 aphids, thrips, mealybugs and mites.

Faith Pippers

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLAVOR OF GEORGIA CONTEST, VISIT flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu.
Running for Office

Walk Georgia gets local governments moving

Hundreds of the state’s county commissioners, city council members and other local government administrators traded their dress shoes for sneakers this summer to participate in walking events, which were offered as a part of their association conferences. The wellness walks were an opportunity to get community leaders excited about combining physical activity with work to expose them to the benefits of the UGA Extension Walk Georgia program.

Both the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) conference in April and the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) conference in June took place in Savannah. Two- and three-mile walking routes brought participants to River Street in the pre-caffeinated hours of the morning while local 4-H volunteers and members cheered on their elected officials as they set the example of being physically active.

“They’re not just supporting people; they’re getting out there and doing what they’re supporting,” said Marc DelCampo, event volunteer from Effingham County 4-H. The walks were sponsored by Walk Georgia, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Local Governmental Risk Management Services, Inc., ACCG, GMA and others.

Walk Georgia is a free, Web-based program that encourages Georgians to lead healthier lifestyles by allowing them to track their physical activity online. Participants are also educated through a wellness- and physical activity-related blog. Through a $1 million, three-year grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, Walk Georgia aims to reach Georgians. The exhibit was housed at the Richard B. Russell Building Special Collections Libraries from May until August. As part of the event, representatives from the Georgia General Assembly presented resolutions recognizing the centennial. A commemorative video, which included interviews with Governor Nathan Deal and former President Jimmy Carter, also debuted.

On May 15, more than 300 guests celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Extension System at the opening reception of an exhibit highlighting the organization’s impacts in Georgia. The exhibit was housed at the Richard B. Russell Building Special Collections Libraries from May until August. As part of the event, representatives from the Georgia General Assembly presented resolutions recognizing the centennial. A commemorative video, which included interviews with Governor Nathan Deal and former President Jimmy Carter, also debuted.

NEW ASSOCIATE STATE LEADER

The son of a former Extension home demonstration agent, Craven Hudson grew up in 4-H. Now he’s set to help lead Georgia’s 4-H program as its new associate state leader.

Hudson comes to University of Georgia from North Carolina State University, where he served as the executive assistant to the director of Cooperative Extension. He brings more than 25 years of extension experience to the peach state.

“Cranen’s background as a county extension agent and knowledge of fund development and organizational skills will help Georgia 4-H continue to be among the best 4-H programs in the United States,” said State 4-H Leader Arch Smith.

Hudson’s first goals are to grow adult volunteer involvement and increase the retention of Cloverleaf 4-Hers (fifth- through sixth-graders). “4-H is a phenomenal part of Extension, and it’s the part that can transform the future,” he said.

“Certainly all the other parts are important, but I am excited about being able to focus on what we can do so that our youth can become citizen-leaders.”

For more information or to register, visit walkgeorgia.org.

MORE ONLINE

To see the video, learn about Extension’s history in Georgia or share your Extension story, visit 100years.extension.uga.edu.

KATHRYN SCHILORO

NEW WAY TO WALK

Georgians aren’t the only ones hitting refresh. The Walk Georgia website underwent a complete overhaul this spring and summer, the first in its seven-year history.

WHAT’S NEW?

• Access the physical activity tracking website year-round, with two, 12-week statewide community sessions annually.
• Stay connected through Facebook and Twitter.
• Log miles on the go with mobile-device-friendly access.
• Use Walk Georgia as a completely free wellness program.
• Create groups of any size.

PLUS

• Flexibility for schools, businesses and organizations to customize their own campaigns (any time of the year for any length of time).
• Incentive grants are available to schools and community organizations through local UGA Extension offices. Call 1-800-AM-UGA1 or visit extension.uga.edu to get connected to your county office.

For more information or to register, visit walkgeorgia.org.

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• Josh Paine


Celebrating 100 years of Cooperative Extension

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• Josh Paine

Sparking Memories

Beverly Sparks retires from UGA Extension, leaving a legacy of growth and research.

By Sharon Dowdy
Photography by Holly Brown
F or more than 30 years, Beverly Sparks has focused on conducting research, publishing papers, educating Extension agents and, most recently, leading University of Georgia Extension. Since retiring on July 1, her new six-month goals include improving her golf game, spending more time in her kayak and printing photos from her post-retirement Alaskan vacation. And, she wants

“After 33 years working in Extension, I’m proud to know we are just as important now as we were in the past. There are always going to be new problems, and our relevance is still there.”

she might have to get my county agent to help me,” laughs Sparks, who has led UGA Extension for the past seven years.

“Making History”

Many people view Sparks as a trailblazer because she was the first female to lead UGA Extension. She doesn’t agree.

“I was the first female ag specialist at Texas A&M, but Georgia already had some female specialists on staff when I came here, and other states have had female Extension leaders,” she said. “I had already been working with some amazing female Extension leaders like (former UGA Extension district heads) Rene Daily and Susan Harrell.”

Plus, Sparks said she wasn’t raised to see gender differences.

“I grew up in a household where my brother (UGA Extension entomologist Stormy Sparks) made the best cheesecake in the world and he did his own laundry. We never had those limitations,” she said.

Still, Sparks didn’t initially set out to follow in her father’s footsteps and become an entomologist, and she never imagined she’d be where she is today.

“Scientific Beginnings”

Sparks enrolled at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and earned a degree in agriculture while working on the UGA Griffin Campus (then the Coastal Plain Experiment Station). Then, she headed to UGA for an undergraduate degree in horticulture, working with Gary Couvillon as her major professor. Employed part-time at a florist in Tifton, she briefly considered a career in greenhouse production, but she realized that wasn’t for her.

While working on her master’s degree, an internship led her to the UGA Griffin Campus (then the Georgia Experiment Station), where she studied the scale species’ taxonomy for three summers under the tutelage of Dr. H.H. Tippins. Officially bitten by the entomology “bug,” Sparks headed to Louisiana State University to pursue a doctorate.

Her father, then an entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was less than excited to hear about her newfound love of entomology.

“He said, ‘Oh, no. You’ll never get a job, and I’ll have to support you for the rest of your life,’ she remembers. Turns out, her father didn’t have to pay her bills after all. Sparks finished her Ph.D. and started her first job as an extension entomologist at Texas A&M University, working in 18 counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Seven years later, the head of UGA’s Department of Entomology, T. Don Canederly, called to encourage her to apply for one of three faculty positions.

“He asked me if I would be interested in coming home. He was another great mentor,” she said. So in 1989, she headed back to Georgia and became UGA’s Extension entomologist in Athens. (The other two positions were filled by Kris Beanland in Griffin and Will Hudson in Tifton, both of whom are still with the university.)

Sparks studied fire ants and other ornamental and turf pests, and worked closely with the structural pest control industry. But her favorite aspect of the job was training county agents.

“Becoming a Leader”

In 2000, Sparks walked away from urban pests, hung up her lab coat and became director of the northeastern district of UGA Extension.

“I knew I was looking for a challenge, and I really enjoyed working with the agents,” she said. “It was a totally different path, but in those four years, I learned a lot about the organization and about management.”

In 2005, Sparks took another step up the administrative ladder and became interim director of Extension before officially assuming the post in 2007.

Looking back over her Extension career, Sparks only has one regret—that she wasn’t a 4-Her.

“We were only supposed to be in Tifton for a year, so I wasn’t active in 4-H. But I was friends with Pat Barkaloo’s students. What a missed opportunity that was. 4-H benefits so many kids, especially ones that are introverted like I was,” said Sparks.

Sparks is happy to be retiring at a time when Georgia Extension is just what she calls “a fast trajectory.”

“After 33 years working in Extension, I’m proud to know we are just as important now as we were in the past. There are always going to be new problems, and our relevance is still there. We have new agents that learn in different ways, and they will teach in different ways,” she said.

Sparks may have set the bar high, but she’s confident the next generation of leaders will be blazing their own trails.

Two funds have been set up for those wishing to honor Sparks’ legacy. Gifts to 4-H will help build a fund she is establishing for Georgia 4-H’ers. The Sparks Family Enrichment Fund, in the UGA Foundation, will provide support for educational enrichment opportunities for students in the Department of Entomology and honor Sparks’ work in the field of entomology. Contributions may be made by check to the “Georgia 4-H Foundation” or the “UGA Foundation” and mailed in the Southscapes envelope insert. Please designate “Sparks” on the memo line.
The ideal way to learn about something is to go where it’s done best and dive right in. That’s how 19 CAES students majoring in animal science, agricultural communication and agricultural economics found themselves in Uruguay, where sustainable agriculture is not just a buzzword, but a way of life, and where cows outnumber humans 3-to-1.

Uruguay’s climate, soils and crops are similar to Georgia’s, which—when combined with strong alumni connections—make it a choice study abroad destination. The students’ tour of southeastern Uruguay, led by Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (INIA) agronomist and economist Bruno Lanfranco (MS – Ag and Applied Economics, ‘00; PhD – Ag and Applied Economics, ’01), featured visits to two research stations, similar to UGA Extension’s research stations.

Students explore ‘greener’ pastures on Uruguay’s sustainable farms during spring break.

By Angela Rowell, Merritt Melancon and Amanda E. Swennes
Photography by Angela Rowell

Breaking From the Herd
Hosted by CAES alumni who live and work in Uruguay (see page 26), the students spent a week learning first-hand how farmers in this tiny South American country built a robust agricultural export industry around sustainable cattle ranching. The students toured large and small pasture-based dairies and beef cattle operations, as well as rice and soybean farms whose harvests are destined for export and byproducts to feed the country’s cattle.

They learned by listening to lectures by agricultural researchers at the Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (INIA is similar to Georgia’s agricultural experiment stations) and talking with Uruguayan farmers. Showing up for class meant tromping through fields, and some of their most memorable teachers were tiny, newborn calves.

Uruguay offers the perfect classroom for students looking to explore novel ways of cattle farming and to discover how consumer demand for grass-fed beef affects U.S. markets, said Curt Lacy, an agricultural and applied economics professor who co-teaches the course, “Uruguay: Sustainable Beef and Grain Production and Marketing Systems,” with fellow agricultural economics professor Nathan Smith.
Uruguayan cattle are raised free of antibiotics and supplemental growth hormones and the feed does not contain animal protein. The animals predominately eat grass and roam the land at leisure. Every cow has been tagged since 2006, so diseases can more easily be traced back to the source and managed quickly and effectively. Uruguayan herds are foot-and-mouth disease-free thanks to biannual vaccinations.

“As agriculture becomes much more global, giving students the opportunity to see the economics of production at the international level is important,” Lacy said.

In addition to visiting both family farms and larger-scale corporate operations, the students saw the entire production process—from birth to the meat-packing plant, and harvest to shopping bag—for two of Uruguay’s top commodities: beef and rice. Ultimately, the students saw how a culture known for valuing tradition—as they still rely on herding dogs and gauchos—integrates cutting-edge genetic scoring and animal husbandry practices to be one of the world’s most successful beef exporters.

“I have always dreamed of owning my own farm, and from behind my textbooks it seems fairly easy. But now I know it’s more than pen and paper; it’s hard work, dedication and passion. Thanks to the Deans’ Promise, I was able to have a hands-on experience with many agricultural industries. It was the first time in my life when I realized how large of an impact agriculture has on not just America, but the world.”

CHASITY TOMPKINS, AG AND APPLIED ECONOMICS, ’15

Left: On a visit to El Arroyito farm and ranch, the group meandered through soybean and rice fields and even rode a rice combine. After seeing the crop in the field, the group toured the Saman rice mill to watch the rice being processed.

Above: The students quickly learned why Uruguay holds the Guinness World Record for per-capita consumption of beef and veal as they dined on asado (barbecue), chivitos (steak sandwiches) and milanesas (thickly breaded steak filets).
Sarah and Rachel Harrison, twin sisters and poultry science majors from Tifton, Georgia

“I have fallen in love with research. Helping faculty solve problems in the poultry industry is a great opportunity that most people don’t have as an undergraduate student.”

– Rachel Harrison

The Deans’ Promise is a commitment at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to enrich our students’ experiences beyond the classroom. By supporting the Deans’ Promise, you create opportunities for CAES students to study abroad, gain valuable experience in internships and externships, and participate in field research. Consider making a gift today so our students can continue to grow personally and professionally.

Donate before Dec. 31, 2014, and your gift will be matched, helping more students like Sarah and Rachel explore new horizons at CAES.

Uruguay’s 11.1 million head of cattle outnumber Georgia’s 1.3 million head of cattle nearly 10-to-1. The population of Uruguay is 3.395 million, compared to 9.92 million people in Georgia. At approximately 62.1 kilograms (136 pounds and 14.51 ounces) per person, it’s no wonder the country has the highest per-capita consumption of beef and veal in the world.

To enrich our students’ experiences beyond the classroom. By supporting the Deans’ Promise, you create opportunities for CAES students to study abroad, gain valuable experience in internships and externships, and participate in field research. Consider making a gift today so our students can continue to grow personally and professionally.

This was the second CAES study abroad course in Uruguay. During this most recent trip, the class witnessed the signing of a cooperative agreement between INIA and UGA to encourage future collaboration, primarily in the area of pasture-based livestock production systems research. Before the ink was dry, Lanfranco, Lacy and Smith were already discussing plans for the future.

For more information on the Uruguay study abroad program, visit students.caes.uga.edu/go/uruguay.
Every year, a foodborne disease sickens one out of six Americans. That’s about 48 million people. Nearly 128,000 will be hospitalized, and 3,000 will die from ingesting harmful foodborne bacteria. Those statistics, released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2011, are what Deann Akins-Lewenthal (BSA – Food Science, ’02; MS – Food Science, ’05; PhD – Food Science, ’08) wants people to understand.

For the past five years, Akins-Lewenthal’s primary responsibility as a food microbiologist with ConAgra Foods has been food safety. She recently received a promotion and is now director of microbiology and food safety. Akins-Lewenthal oversees the corporate microbiology and allergen groups of ConAgra Foods and is responsible for establishing a strategy to identify and address food safety risks in products and manufacturing facilities. She also evaluates and integrates new technology into ConAgra’s food safety programs.

A 2014 UGA Alumni Association “40 Under 40” honoree, the CAES alumna also has a personal desire to keep consumers, like her family, safe.

“Food safety education is very important to me. At ConAgra Foods, we are constantly mindful that millions of people trust us each day to provide safe, wholesome food. Ensuring food safety is everyone’s responsibility, and I want people here in Nebraska, my hometown of Tifton, Georgia, and around the world to understand the dangers associated with not cooking or handling food properly,” Akins-Lewenthal said.

READY TO EAT

Unfortunately, not all consumers comply with cooking instructions. The results can be dangerous—sometimes even fatal.

Akins-Lewenthal and her fellow scientists have been working since 2009 to develop a patent-pending product, SafeGuard™ Ready-To-Eat Flour, a product of Ardent Mills. Progress includes developing a process to remove potential pathogens from flour through heat treatments. The idea behind a ready-to-eat product is that the raw ingredient has a reduced risk of pathogen contamination.

“When we make food [products], we expect people to follow the intended use and cooking instructions, but we know that’s not always the case,” she said. “Providing ready-to-eat solutions is one way we can help reduce the risk of someone getting sick.”

“However, it is important for people to understand that it is not just the raw ingredients that pose a risk, but that storage, handling and preparation of food is equally important,” she said.
Nearly 125 years after the first clumps of bamboo were planted in Savannah soil, the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm are poised to become one of the East Coast’s premier garden tourism destinations. Until you can make time to visit this hidden gem in person, take a look at the gardens’ storied past, present and future.

By Norman Winter
Photography by Norman Winter unless otherwise noted

Clockwise from top right: The 51-acre gardens are home to several crystal clear connecting lakes and a water garden. David Fairchild, renowned American plant explorer and botanist, with his family visiting the historic Japanese timber bamboo grove circa 1919. A fiery maple tree signals the changing of the seasons.
No matter where you look, it seems like every plant has a story to tell—and maybe a secret history. Some of the gardens’ historic buildings, trees and shrubs date back to 1919, when the gardens operated as a U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Introduction Station. In the 1940s, Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone helped conduct rubber research in Greenhouse No. 2.

Today, the gardens are abuzz with plans and projects for the future. The new Andrews Visitor and Education Center (above) is scheduled to open in late 2014, and designs for the formal garden are ready to be turned into reality. The largest bamboo maze in the United States has been planted, and design and construction is also underway in the shade garden. The commitment of the University of Georgia’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences coupled with the tireless efforts of the non-profit Friends of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens has this historic garden ready for the future.

Left: The gardens feature four enormous Lord’s hollies, also known as Kurogane hollies (Ilex rotunda). Each December, the gardens are lit with more than 275,000 lights, making the hollies an even more astounding sight (and an easy perch for a mockingbird). The gardens are open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. For more info or to plan a visit, go to coastalgeorgiabg.org.
Imagine you’re a high school student at a local party. The DJ has everyone getting down on the dance floor. Your friends are playing beer pong and a guy is handing out drugs and party necklaces. You’re having a blast.

All of a sudden, you hear a loud crash. Everyone runs outside to see a terrible car wreck. Local emergency personnel arrive, but two of your friends are now dead and another has to be airlifted to the hospital. The driver is arrested for drunk driving and vehicular homicide.

This was one scenario Morgan County High School freshmen experienced on May 6 during the first Teen Maze, the brainchild of five Morgan County 4-H’ers. For decades, high school administrators have parked mangled vehicles on their campuses as visual reminders of the consequences of drinking and driving. The Teen Maze stepped up this tactic by several notches.

Some 275 freshmen drew random cards and experienced the effects of life-altering situations, like driving drunk, being arrested, becoming a teenage parent and contracting a sexually transmitted disease.

The maze took just an hour to complete, but it was the result of two years of planning by the Morgan County 4-H’ers. The students first worked with adult leaders to determine how they could improve their community. Their research revealed several teen-related issues, many the result of poor decision-making.

“The goal was to have the teenagers realize the consequences of a wide range of risky behaviors,” said Janet Woodard, Morgan County Extension agent.

The maze was funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Engaging Youth Serving Communities grant from the National 4-H Council and became a reality through the support of volunteers from the local 4-H office, high school, health department, sheriff’s department, hospital and court system.

In addition to the mock party and car accident, students were “arrested,” handcuffed and charged with a variety of crimes ranging from shoplifting to underage drinking. The teens wore prison garb, sat in a mock holding cell, were fingerprinted and stood before a judge for sentencing.

The maze also included real-life situations, like a first “sexual experience” after which teens drew pregnant or not pregnant cards. The “pregnant” students, both boys and girls, donned a pregnancy vest that simulated weight gain and made the choice to raise their child or put the child up for adoption. Based on their choice, the students either learned more about adoption or completed a series of child care lessons, including how to diaper and bathe a baby. They also saw the effects of taking drugs while pregnant by holding an underweight “baby.”

Students who pulled a not pregnant card sighed with relief, only to be issued an STD card instead. A spin of a wheel determined which disease they “contracted,” and the students were then educated on the STD’s life-altering effects, complete with graphic photographs.

“The 4-H’ers who planned the event were the driving force in making this happen. They are truly a great example of youth making a difference,” Woodard said.

Victoria Cagle, a member of the planning team, attended the event despite the fact that she already graduated from high school. She plans to help with future Teen Mazes, too.

“The Teen Maze was a life-changing event, not only for each and every student, but also for each and every volunteer, no matter how large or small their contribution was,” Cagle said. “Just knowing that by doing this event I could save someone’s life makes every ounce of effort I put into this project beyond worth it.”

An anonymous post-event survey of students showed that most plan to either abstain from or stop having sex and many plan to stop “hanging out with the wrong people.” Many also plan to “start thinking before making decisions,” “stop using drugs,” “start being a dad and taking care of my baby” and “start being more careful about the crowd I hang out with.” One student summed up the event by saying “doing the wrong thing can get you into a boatload of trouble.”

• Sharon Dowdy

Morgan County 4-H’ers host Teen Maze to teach peers the consequences of poor choices

PHOTOS BY SHARON DOWDY

From left to right: The Teen Maze begins with a staged, violent wreck following a “party.” Morgan County law enforcement officers, EMTs and an emergency helicopter were on hand to make the scene more realistic for the freshmen who participated. Students experienced first-hand the consequences of poor decision-making, such as being arrested. In one scenario, a vest simulated weight gain during pregnancy and was tried on by both boys and girls.
It’s been almost a decade since a mass die-off of honey bees in the United States brought the public’s attention to the decline in honey bee populations that had worried entomologists for decades. Colony collapse disorder, a problem resulting from a collection of symptoms that killed off 60 to 75 percent of some beekeepers’ hives seemingly overnight during the winter of 2006 and 2007, made headlines and heroes out of bees.
Beekeeping is big business in Georgia, with the reported farm gate value of honey bee services and honey at about $17.5 million. That’s a lot, but it pales in comparison to the value of the actual work that bees—and pollinators in general—do for the state’s overall economy.

A recent study by UGA researchers found that pollinators—bees, wasps, butterflies and birds—have a $367.3 million impact on the state’s economy.

“This can be considered a lower bound of the value of pollination services in Georgia,” said Ashley Barfield, an agricultural and applied economics Ph.D. student, who conducted the study as part of her master’s thesis.

While populations are still declining, beekeepers haven’t seen anything like the 2006–2007 die-off since then, beekeeping has picked up, the public is more aware of the need for protecting pollinators and funding for research on bee decline has increased. Researchers, including scientists with the UGA Honey Bee Program, are diligently looking for ways to help managed bee populations survive the matrix of invasive pests, pesticide poisoning, nutritional stress and emerging diseases that threaten honey bees every year.

The crisis helped focus public funding and jump-started many pollinator education and research efforts, said Jennifer Berry, research coordinator for the UGA Honey Bee Program.

“I kind of look at colony collapse disorder as having a silver lining,” she said. “It was bad. Lots of beekeepers went out of business and that was a horrible thing, but it was the first time the general public really knew about the crisis we are having with bee populations.”

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Barfield’s study focused on the value of Georgia crops that partially or completely rely on pollination by insects and birds. The study doesn’t account for ornamental crops or pollinators’ roles in providing forage for beef and dairy cattle. She used a known pollination dependency ratio, which describes how much of each crop would not develop without pollination, to determine how much of each crop’s farm gate value is due to pollinators.
“It’s a percentage from zero to 100 that quantifies the impact of pollination on either the quality or quantity of a crop,” she said. “So you can say this much of the value of this crop is dependent on pollination.”

Previous studies working to calculate the value of pollination tallied the price that farmers paid to rent bees and relied on the reporting of beekeepers. Unlike Barfield’s study, these evaluations didn’t account for the value of wild pollinators or feral bees, and may have missed rental revenue generated by cash-and-carry deals. Therefore, the new study is a more accurate reflection of the broad ecosystem service values provided to agriculture by pollinators.

Barfield completed the study as a part of an interdisciplinary team. Other researchers on the project included John Bergstrom and Susana Ferreira of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics; Keith Delaplane of the Department of Entomology; and Alan Covich of the Odum School of Ecology.

The decline in honey bee populations isn’t just a problem in the United States, and the impact of UGA’s bee research program doesn’t stop at the U.S. border.

This year, Keith Delaplane, a CAES entomology professor, was inducted into the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in recognition of his research on honey bees and their disappearance. British Ambassador to the United States Sir Peter Westmacott presented Delaplane with the honor on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II at a ceremony in February 2014 at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. Induction into the order is bestowed on individuals who have demonstrated distinguished service to the arts and sciences and public services. Delaplane received an honorary induction, reserved for non-British nationals who have made significant contributions to British interests.

In addition to his UGA-based research program, he has worked on and off in Britain since 2000 as a program reviewer for the United Kingdom Natural Environment Research Council. Over the past 14 years, he has given support to local and national beekeeping associations throughout the U.K., where he is well known for his scientific and educational outreach work. He was instrumental in forming the Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers, and in 2012 and 2013 he was a visiting sabbatical scientist at the U.K.’s National Bee Unit in York, England, where he and his British colleagues conducted research on honey bee pollination, health and breeding.

“Dr. Delaplane’s critical work to help save the honey bee, a vital part of the agricultural ecosystem, is a tremendous example of how our scientists are helping solve problems here and around the world.”

CAES DEAN AND DIRECTOR SCOTT ANGLE
How Bees Influenced a Nation

The honey bee [Apis mellifera], or honey bee, although not native to the Western Hemisphere, has played a significant part in the United States of America’s beginning, culture and symbolism. The first colonies of honey bees sailed from England on Dec. 5, 1621, to the Governor of Virginia.

The arrival of honey bees added four new pieces to barter or trade in the Colonies: honey, wax, propolis and honey bees. Honey was used for sweetening foods and medicines and for making mead. Wax was used in making candles, for sealing letters, waterproofing leather, [smoothing] thread for sewing, to bind sealing letters, waterproofing leather, and medicines and for making mead. Honey bees are creatures of an intricate and complex nature, involved in a society that closely resembles that of human beings. The bee’s behavior reflects American virtues and values, such as fidelity, loyalty and comradeship. The honey bee has been used as a symbol of responsibility, industry and stability from the time of the Romans, and is found often in the [states that were] Colonies.

Honey bees are bees. The bee’s behavior reflects American virtues and values, such as fidelity, loyalty and comradeship. The honey bee has been used as a symbol of responsibility, industry and stability from the time of the Romans, and is found often in the [states that were] Colonies.

Editors’ note: Madeline Hillebrand is a home-schooled ninth-grader who has been an active 4-H member in Coweta County for four years. This piece is an excerpt from her essay, “How Bees Influenced a Nation,” which won first place in the 2014 Georgia Beekeeping Essay Contest. To read the full essay, visit caes.uga.edu/alumni/news/.

DID YOU KNOW?
The honey bee is the state insect for Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Hives for Hire

Some of Georgia’s largest cash crops depend on bee pollination to successfully make it from planting to harvest. To help maximize fruit production, farmers often rent beehives to ensure there are bees buzzing when crops are blooming.

Honey bees are more effective than other bees in open field pollination because they make repeated trips to a flower, distributing pollen more widely. Farmers choose to rent the bees because this is much easier than caring for them year-round. They are usually busy enough without the added requirements of beeive management. “They prefer to simply hire a professional,” said Keith Fielder, UGA Extension agent in Putnam County and former president of the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

Some critics believe the stress of traveling from field to field can contribute to declines in honey bee populations, but bee rentals are an integral part of modern fruit and vegetable farming. They’re also a big part of Georgia’s agricultural economy.

“A lot of people who have bees see it as a two-fold revenue stream; they’ll rent hives and then also sell honey. Diversity is the key to survival in the beekeeping world,” said Fielder.

One estimate values Georgia’s bee industry at about $17.5 million, including honey sales, bee sales, honey-bee equipment sales and bee rentals for pollination.

RENTING 101

In the fall and winter, producers contact beekeepers to reserve hives for their fields in the spring. Squash, cucumber, cantaloupe, watermelon, blueberries and apples all depend on bees for pollination.

Starting in March, beekeepers begin moving their hives across fields in south Georgia. April and May are their busiest months. Beekeepers typically move northward with the spring, moving their hives to new pollination jobs as the blossoms open.

Most beekeepers move their bees at night or early in the morning, when the majority of the bees are in the hive. Beekeepers will avoid moving a hive at all costs after the sun rises, or they risk leaving up to 90 percent of their colony behind. Another benefit of moving the bees at night is the cooler temperatures.

It’s good bee rental etiquette to call your beekeeper as far in advance as possible before spraying chemicals on your field. The beekeeper will move the colonies and replace them when the pesticide is no longer active.

The rental cost is usually $60 to $80 per hive in Georgia, but farmers in other states, like California, have paid upwards of $200 per hive for bees to pollinate high-dollar crops like almonds. Most farmers aim to have one hive per acre since bees have an effective foraging radius of about 400 to 500 yards.

The goal is to get bees on the ground when 15 to 20 percent of the crop’s blossoms are opening. “If you get the bees there before the crop blooms, they start working on something else. They’ll lock on to another source of nectar, and then they won’t switch back to the crop,” Fielder said.

Bees may spend anywhere between two and six weeks working a field, depending on the crop that is being pollinated. Some beekeepers will move their bees into the mountains by mid- to late June to collect nectar for sourwood honey.

The average number of managed hives varies greatly in Georgia.

The Georgia counties with the highest farm gate values from bee-related farm services and products, such as honey and rental agreements, are in the state’s commercial vegetable-producing region.

RENTING 101

How it Works

The average number of managed hives varies greatly in Georgia.

The average number of managed hives varies greatly in Georgia.
The Welk/McClure Scholarship was recently established by Al Welk to encourage undergraduates in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to attend the workshop and take up beekeeping. The annual $400 scholarship honors his friend and longtime Cobb County beekeeper Felton McClure.

"It’s my way of continuing Mr. McClure’s passion for beekeeping. Felton McClure took pride in his apiary, but also enjoyed teaching people about honey bees and encouraging others to take up beekeeping," Welk said.

The McClure apiary included more than 230 hives in Cherokee, Cobb and Lumpkin counties. The hives produced as much as 6,000 pounds of honey a year. "For new beekeepers, he would always find time to be a mentor," Welk wrote. "He would provide not just advice, but also hive parts or a swarm that he recovered. If the need arose, he [would] drop what he was doing and come over to examine a hive or help with a problem."

- Merritt Melancon

In addition to the Welk/McClure Scholarship, the Myron H. Schaer Scholarship supports grad students and post-docs researching honey bees and crop pollination. For more information, email Keith Delaplaine at kdel@uga.edu.
Relations Juli Fields at lead dogs
(706) 542-3390.
in attendance were Bruce Fowler, Ben Martin, Larry Hadden, Miguel Ruiz, Bob Chastain, Gerald Floyd This past April, the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo celebrated its 40th anniversary. Seven of the Advancements in Food Safety by Supplier of the Year Award for IsoAge was awarded the inaugural Romeo Toledo. In April 2014 2009, Rick founded the company develops and manufactures food an Athens-based company that co-founder of IsoAge Technologies, Rick Hull (BSA – Ag and Applied Economics, ‘06) is the human resources manager for Pazo Medequo, LLC. Stephanie Ramsey (BSA – Poultry Science, ‘81) is the deputy branch chief for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1990s Stuart Holmes (BSA – Agribusiness, ’86) is vice president of partner development at CarFinance Capital, LLC, in the greater Los Angeles area.

To include your professional class notes in the next issue of Southscapes magazine, email Director of Alumni Relations Juli Fields at jfields@uga.edu or call (706) 542-3390.

Sara Beth Pinson (BSA – Avian Biology and Biological Science, ’10; PhD – Poultry Science, ’11) and her dog, Icy, competed at the first Masters AgILITY Championship at Westminster on Feb. 8, 2014, in New York City. Icy was one of 15 mixed breeds (“All-Americans”) selected in a random draw to compete in the agility trial. While they didn’t qualify in either of their runs (small mistakes in both), they did have the honor of being the first All-American to compete in agility at Westminster by running as the 22nd dog in the 20” Master JW class. Sara Beth likes to say Icy is a “shapeshit terrier” (a mix of Whippet, Dalmatian, Border Collie, Jack Russell terrier and American Staffordshire terrier). Icy was adopted from Helping Paws Rescue in Athens in April 2008. Since 2010, she’s earned 12 American Kennel Club titles. Sara Beth currently works as a professional dog walker and dog trainer.

2000s Campbell Kirby (BSA – Agribusiness, ’01) lives in Alabang, Georgia, and is an attorney with Kirby & Kirby, P.C. Travis William Moore (BSA – Food Science, ’03) is a senior brew-master for Anheuser-Busch InBev. Clay Tolton (BSA – Animal Science, ’03; MS – Animal Science, ’06) is the District 2 field representative for Georgia Farm Bureau. Clay had worked for UGA Extension since 2007, most recently in Ehrart County, where he was the Extension coordinator. John Peters Jr, (BSA – Agribusiness, ’05) is the regional lending manager of six AgGeorgia Farm Credit offices in southwest Georgia. Chris Chammoun (BSA – Ag Economics, ’08) has joined the Georgia Cotton Commission as the director of public affairs. Chris previously worked as a project manager at the Center of Innovation for Agribusiness, a joint program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Ward Black (BSA – Ag Economics, ’96; MS – Ag and Applied Economics, ’11) works in industry affairs and business development at Langdale Industries, Inc., in Valdosta. Jason Kinsaul (BSA – Agribusiness, ’09) is the senior relationship analyst and vice president for Rabo AgFinance.

2010s Hunter Blair (BSA – Ag and Applied Economics, ’11) is the operations manager at ECOCO, LLC (sister company to Down to Earth Energy), in Monroe. Vahe Heboyan (PhD – Ag and Applied Economics, ’11) is an assistant professor in health and behavioral economics at Georgia Regents University in Augusta. Kristin Bradby (BSA – Food Science, ’12) was recently promoted to Dot Foods, Inc., East Coast Region leader. Based out of Dot Food’s distribution center in Vidalia, she will educate all members of Dot Foods on the culture surrounding “Lean thinking” (a culture of continuous improvement and efficiency based on the Japanese Toyota Production System) and facilitate lean projects for the company’s Georgia and Maryland distribution centers.

Josh Paine (BSA – Ag Communication, ’12) is currently the marketing specialist with the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in Athens. He assists with the overall planning and implementation of advertising and branding for the college and UGA Extension.

Maureen (McFerson) Hadden (BS – Food Science, ’85) has been promoted to technical supervisor Asia Pacific for Lopinski Foods, LLC. She and her husband, Luke Hadden (BS – Environmental Economics and Management, ’80), relocated to Singapore in August.

Heather Hatzenbuhler (BSES – Environmental Economics and Management, ’13) is an environmental public involvement coordinator with Adrian Collaborative in Duluth.

Follow the UGA CAES Alumni Association on Facebook and stay plugged into your alma mater. Search “CAES Alumni.”

This past April, the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo celebrated its 40th anniversary. Seven of the original rodeo committee members were honored on the last night of the three-day rodeo. The alumni in attendance were Bruce Fowler, Ben Martin, Larry Hadden, Miguel Ruiz, Bob Chastain, Gerald Floyd and Lee Eggert. The 41st Great Southland Stampede Rodeo will be held April 9–11, 2015. Additional information can be found at greatsouthlandstampederodeo.com.

HBB Bennett
Bennett has been called “the father of the commercial egg industry in Georgia.”

For more information and to read about all Hall of Fame inductees, visit caes.uga.edu/alumni/fame.
The Gem of South Campus

New students and visitors might find it hard to believe the green space that makes up most of South Campus was a major road just a few years ago. D.W. Brooks Mall, which stretches from Carlton Street and the Miller Plant Sciences Building to Soule Street and Hardman Hall, is the result of the largest green space project to be completed on the university’s main campus.

D.W. Brooks Drive, named in honor of D.W. Brooks (who holds the record for being both the youngest and oldest UGA professor), was a major vehicular artery for South Campus cars and buses until 2001. Completed in 2003, D.W. Brooks Mall makes up the southern end of the “Green Mile,” the primary pedestrian “spine” from North Campus to other areas of university grounds. UGA architects began working to unify the different architectural styles across campus. The mall construction project helped implement the university’s main campus.

The mall not only provides an aesthetically pleasing environment, it also adds to South Campus. The mall not only provides an aesthetically pleasing environment, it also adds to South Campus. The mall not only provides an aesthetically pleasing environment, it also adds to South Campus.

One of the biggest challenges, however, was blasting through the bed of granite that lies underneath most of South Campus. This was necessary for modernizing the sewer, water, electric, communications and steam infrastructure—updates that would be needed for future buildings like the Science Learning Center, which is scheduled to open fall of 2016.

GETTING “THE LOOK”

One major addition resulting from the new mall was the corn stalk fence, which serves as a symbolic and visual gateway to South Campus. The cast iron reflects the historic characteristics of the UGA Arch, the threshold of North Campus, while celebrating the agricultural heritage of South Campus. The original design came from a fence found in the New Orleans Garden District, but the fence post mold that was used was especially made for the project by Stewart Iron Works of Kentucky.

“The things missing from South Campus are markers and identifiers, or those elements specific to a place that are of special significance. These elements help to infuse a place with identity and meaning. Whereas North Campus has the Arch and the Chapel bell, South Campus really needed a kind of iconography to give it that same special and layered meaning of place. This project helped change that,” Simpson said.

Another unique feature is the circular lawn outside Hardman Hall. It was originally designed to contain a fountain similar to the one on Herty Field. Budget constraints prevented the installation, but the infrastructure to support adding a fountain in the future is in place.

The space serves as a symbolic memorial in conjunction with the campus arborium. When a tree planting is added to the arborium in someone’s remembrance, the name of the honoree is inscribed in stone at the base of the surrounding wall. The sidewalks in this area are imprinted with leaves as a way to tie the area to the campus arboretum.

The Alan Jaworski Plant Sciences Amphitheater behind the Miller Plant Sciences Building and the cobblestone semicircle off Carlton Street were also completed as a part of the project.

The last phase of the project includes designs for future development: extending D.W. Brooks Mall northward up the road to Conner Hall. Simpson said this phase is far off from even starting. One issue that would need resolving is the relocation of the Conner Hall parking lot. The planned design, which includes a large, oval-shaped lawn, butterfly walks (paths in the shape of butterfly wings) and trial gardens, would pay tribute to Conner Hall’s historical landscape.

Who was D.W. Brooks?

D.W. Brooks was not only one of the biggest contributors to our college, but he also played an influential role in Georgia agriculture. Founder of Gold Kist Inc. and Cotton States Insurance Companies, Brooks was the first inductee into the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame. He also advised seven U.S. presidents on agricultural issues and policies.

After receiving both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agriculture from the university, Brooks began his career as a UGA professor at the age of 19 and returned as a guest lecturer when he was in his 90s.

In addition to the road and mall named after him, his legacy is honored every fall through the D.W. Brooks Awards and Lecture. The lecture series, in addition to the teaching and excellence awards, are supported by the D.W. Brooks Endowment Fund, which also supports many other programs and activities in the college.
At the 2014 College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences International Agriculture Day celebration, the photo “Fields of Reeds” by Kai Wang (BSA – Biological Science, ’14) won first place in the Ag Abroad Photo Contest. Wang took the photo while living in Cusco, Peru, for six weeks. His photograph depicts a local woman harvesting reeds, which are used to build houses and make clothing.

“I think traveling abroad is important because it really broadened my view. I experienced a different culture and learned a new language. It also helped me choose a better career because now I know more about what I am truly passionate about,” Wang said. About 30 percent of CAES students study abroad while at the University of Georgia, and the college is actively working to increase that percentage by offering its students travel scholarships and assistantships. For more on ag abroad, read about our students that participated in the sustainable beef and grain production and marketing systems study abroad program in Uruguay on page 20.