Class Act
Ag alum expands family business
30
Four Towers: It’s not just the view that’s changed
Over the past two years, the college developed a strategic plan to solidify our position as one of the world’s preeminent colleges of agriculture.

Working under this plan, we continue to strive to:

• Move CAES educational programs to the forefront of U.S. land-grant institutions.
• Create vital, dynamic and engaged county Extension education programs.
• Focus on the pressing issues of food, health and wellness, breeding and genetics in plant and animal science; environmental stewardship, and sustainable food production systems.
• Develop strong, well-supported basic and applied research programs.
• Have the most productive, innovative and respected faculty and staff in the land-grant system.
• Maintain current funding, expand existing sources and seek new, diversified resources.
• Ensure our organization and the public understand and appreciate the value of our programs.

Shifts in global food production dictate an enhanced education system that encourages innovation to make that possible. Each part of the massive engine that drives worldwide food production is vital for successfully feeding the world.

Like colleges of agriculture across America, CAES has faced a multi-faceted problem: soaring enrollments, dwindling budgets, pressure to focus on sustainability and questions about the safety of high-yield technologies. These issues arose as many of our researchers, teachers and experts retired, creating a college-wide knowledge drain.

To meet these challenges, we developed a five-year strategic plan to ensure a prosperous future. We will build upon our traditional strengths to educate the agricultural workforce, search for new discoveries and deliver Extension education, addressing Georgians’ most pressing needs. We have already begun assembling the brightest minds in agriculture to lead the charge.

We will target resources and expertise on areas in which we excel and can have the most impact. Traditionally, our greatest strengths have been plant and animal breeding, food safety, production efficiency and local education efforts to get innovations into the field. New market demands make it imperative that we increase sustainable practices to produce an abundant, safe food supply with minimal environmental impact.

Our action plan, which details the path we will take to reach these goals, is online at: caesplan.caes.uga.edu. I hope you will take a moment to review it and see what the future has in store for our college.

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Dean and Director
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Add address this, so we all have to partner together with public and private organizations to help Georgians.”

Each Walk Georgia session provides motivation to individuals or teams of four, including a leaderboard, county facts and a newsletter that gives information about healthy lifestyle changes, state parks and nutritious recipes.

“Why we need to make physical activity a part of our culture and daily lives, through programs that are not dependent on a fee or a gym,” Murray said. “To me, the beauty of Walk Georgia is that it meets people where they are.”

For more information or to participate, visit walk.georgia.org.

University of Georgia President Jere Morehead has made connecting with the state’s agriculture industry a top priority since assuming his post last July.

One of his first tasks was taking an agricultural tour of the state, coordinated by Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, in September. The tour included stops at Lewis Taylor Farms in Tifton, the UGA Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center in Lyons and UGA’s bull test station in Rome.

“This is the most important industry in the state of Georgia,” Morehead said during the visit. “The University of Georgia has always been supportive of the state of Georgia, so I thought it was very important that I get out across the state and do this farm tour.”

Student garden resources

By Andrea Gonzalez

UGA Extension now offers a free, online resource center for teachers and volunteers looking to start a school garden or improve the use of existing school gardens. The one-stop-shop provides advice on starting and maintaining a school garden, lesson plans based on UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Standards, and grants and funding opportunities for those who want to create hands-on, educational experiences outside of the classroom. CAES horticulture professor David Knauft developed the content for the site. Former middle school agiculture teacher and incoming CAES master’s student Alicia Holloway worked closely with Knauft to adapt and organize the lesson plans for use in kindergarten through eighth grade classes.

For more information, visit extension.uga.edu/12/school-gardens.
Newest research and education center essential

Story and photo by Merritt Melanson


Leading leaders

By Faith Peppers

After a nationwide search, the college named Kathleen (Kay) D. Kelsey head of the department. Dr. Kelsey, who has been a part of the agricultural community engaging with the University where she was a student for 30 years, is that leader.” And I’m confident Dr. Kelsey will be a leader to guide that growth, the past decade and continues. It is an area of study that has grown rapidly over the years. “It is an area of study that has grown rapidly over the past decade and continues to grow. We need a dynamic leader to guide that growth, and I’m confident Dr. Kelsey is that leader.”

Kelsey comes to UGA from Oklahoma State University where she was a professor of evaluation. “I am excited about engaging with the agricultural community about the most pressing issues of our time, including animal production systems, soil protection, and water quality and conservation.”

In addition to providing the land needed for faculty to complete long-term agricultural research projects, the Campbell center also serves as a hub for sustainable farming outreach and Extension programs – including field days.

“The goal was to rebuild the Campbell facility as a center of excellence for research, teaching and Extension in agriculture and natural resource management.”

Through a preliminary agreement with the federal government, the University of Georgia took over management of what was then the J. Phil Campbell Sr. Natural Resource Conservation Center in August 2012 after closure of the facility by the USDA. The research station was subsequently deeded to the University System of Georgia in September 2012. Currently the center hosts projects on pasture management, crop and watershed management, and grass-fed cattle diets. “Our goal was to rebuild the Campbell facility as a center of excellence for research, teaching and Extension in agriculture and natural resource management,” said Harald Scherm, CAES assistant dean for research.

Oconee County Extension agents, who moved into one section of the center’s main building in early 2013, help host these events and make sure the research reaches the local community.

In addition to Oconee County 4-H meetings and Extension workshops, the center allows community members to come together once a week to pack grocery boxes for the Food to Kids program, said Denise Everson, family and consumer sciences Extension agent for Oconee and Athens-Clarke counties. “We’re only able to do this because we have the space, and we would not have been able to do this before,”

Everson said. “This is one more way that Extension can give back to the community and make Oconee County healthier and stronger.”

 Smartyplants: CAES mobile apps help professional, home landscapers

By Sharon Dready

In the year since it’s been up and running, the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences’ J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center in Watkinsville, Ga., has become essential to the research, teaching and Extension missions of the college, as well as to the surrounding community.

To reach the growing portion of Georgia’s population who rely heavily on smartphones and mobile devices, UGA Extension specialists have created several mobile apps.

Native plants

Based on a popular printed UGA Extension publication, Native Plants of North Georgia: A Photo Guide for Plant Enthusiasts, this free mobile app helps users identify and learn about common native plants through photographs and descriptions of plant parts, bloom times, habitat and more. iOS and Android versions can be downloaded at extension.uga.edu/mobile.

Integrated pest management

Another app, IPMPro, helps greenhouse industry professionals make pest management decisions, train employees and keep pesticide records. IPMPro works for USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4 through 9, which includes 22 states from west of the Mississippi River, northeast to Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and south to the Gulf Coast.

UGA faculty created the app with their colleagues at Clemson University, University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee, Virginia Tech, North Carolina State University and University of Maryland.

The app costs $24.99 and can be downloaded at IPMProApp.com. A home version, IPM Lite, is available for $9.99 and provides research-based information on how to keep home landscapes healthy.

Turf

Another app, IPMPRO, which is available for $9.99, provides turfgrass varieties, pests, weeds and diseases. It comes in three versions: Turf Management Lite, Turf Management Subscription and Turfgrass Management – Spanish. The Lite and Spanish versions are free. The subscription version costs $20 per year and includes everything from the lite version, plus information on pest control applications and a pesticide database.

The Turfgrass Management Calculator app covers all types of applications, pesticide rates, fertilizer requirements, l copresure and runoff, and calibration of sprayers and spreaders. It converts units from standard to metric, includes more than 16,000 pre-programmed calculations and costs $5.

The TurfWeeds app teaches users about turfgrasses and weeds through a series of flashcards. It’s a free application, as is the newest app – Turfgrass Management Quiz, a trivia-style education game. The UGA turf apps can be downloaded at GeorgiaTurf.com or through iTunes.

"Something to Bark About"

Compiled by Amanda E. Swennes

The National Science Foundation ranks UGA’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences fourth in the nation based on total expenditures for research and development.

According to Diverse Issues in Higher Education, UGA ranked 17th in total number of master’s degrees in agriculture and related sciences awarded to all minorities.

UGA is No. 49 out of 100 for the number of U.S. patents granted in 2012. (No. 66 worldwide) based on data obtained from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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Retired Georgia 4-H State Leader Roger “Bo” Ryles has been inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Affectionately called “Dr. Bo” by Georgia 4-Hers, Ryles led the Georgia program from 1994 to 2009. Under his leadership, Georgia 4-H centers received more than $20 million in public and private funds for improvements. He was instrumental in acquiring what is now Fortson 4-H Center. He also co-founded and led the biennial Georgia Youth Summit, a program designed to increase youth awareness of state and local issues.

While leading the program, Ryles established the Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Award, the volunteer-led Legacy Ball and 4-H partnerships in Tunisia and Puerto Rico.

Bo Ryles

Ryles retired in 2009 but remains actively involved in Georgia 4-H.

“No matter how long I live, I can never give back all 4-H has given to me, but I surely can keep working at it,” Ryles said. “4-H gave me a forum to gain confidence, gain knowledge, learn to communicate, and a safe place to fall down and get back up. This recognition is huge in my mind and even bigger in my heart.”

In the news

Compiled by Stephanie Schupski

CAES had three of the top 10 UGA faculty most-quoted in the media from November 2012 to October 2013.

1. Mike Doyle, director, UGA Center for Food Safety

518 media mentions | Quoted on: food safety topics
Ad value: $357,871.70*

2. Ynes Ortega, associate professor, UGA Center for Food Safety

520 media mentions | Quoted on: cyclospora
Ad value: $154,617.26*

3. Stanley Culppepper, weed science specialist, UGA Extension

221 media mentions | Quoted on: Palmer amaranth
Ad value: $134,463.49*

* A calculation of what the space of a news article would have cost if an ad of the same size was purchased.
Growing success in Tifton

By Clint Thompson

The University of Georgia Tifton campus, long known for world-renowned research from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, is now making a name for its academic program. Case in point: Last spring’s graduating class had a 100-percent job placement rate.

“People want our graduates. The only complaint we get about our graduates is there aren’t enough of them,” said Joe West, assistant dean of the UGA Tifton campus.

UGA Tifton’s graduates are in high demand because they are being trained and taught by scientists known across the world for their agricultural expertise. Such instructors include Dr. George Vellidis, an expert in precision agriculture; Dr. Glen Harris, a soil fertility expert; and Dr. Craig Kiner, the brain trust behind the Future Farmstead Project — a model for new and emerging technologies, renewable energy, equipment advancements and conservation techniques.

“The success of academic programs on the UGA Tifton campus is built around world-class researchers who are teaching the Tifton students. There is no substitute for having the researchers directly engaged in teaching and growing Georgia’s future agriculturalists and making an impact on the lives of young people,” Peake said. "If they have an interest in one area, we’ll go a little further in that area." 

"I never teach a class the same way twice. I try to let the students guide the topics," said Jason Peake, an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication and the director of academic programs on the Tifton campus.

Peake has been instrumental in educating middle school and high school agriscience teachers across the state, more than 60 of whom are UGA Tifton campus graduates.

“It is incredibly rewarding to see Tifton agricultural education graduates directly engaged in teaching and growing Georgia’s future agriculturalists and making an impact on the lives of young people,” Peake said.

A DESIRE TO TEACH

Much of the success of UGA Tifton’s academic programs can be attributed to the work ethic and selfless nature of the campus faculty. Scientists such as Vellidis and Harris dedicate time to help educate future agricultural leaders.

“I thought it was good for the campus, that’s why I volunteered,” said Harris, who started out solely as an Extension specialist, and truly did volunteer to teach classes for about five years before officially getting a teaching appointment. “I went into teaching 11 years ago having no idea if I’d like it or not. But I guess it’s no surprise that a guy with an Extension personality can take that experience to the classroom and like it.”

Harris credits a unique teaching style for his classroom success.

“I never teach a class the same way twice. I try to let the students guide the topics,” he said. “If they have an interest in one area, we’ll go a little further in that area.”

Vellidis, who was instrumental in the academic program’s 2003 startup, says he wanted the opportunity to share his agricultural wisdom by teaching locally.

“A lot of us have always wanted to teach. Before this program, people on the Tifton campus had to drive to Athens to teach two or three times a week,” he said. “It just takes up your entire day to teach one 50-minute class. I just stopped doing it. I had this desire to be able to teach here.”

HANDS-ON APPROACH

One benefit of having scientists and researchers doubling as teachers is that students are able to study alongside while the research is being conducted. For example, in Vellidis’ class, students learn about yield monitors while observing a cotton picker or peanut combine. In Harris’ soils and hydrology class, students travel to Providence Canyon State Park in Lumpkin, Ga., to learn first-hand about erosion.

“We know we could do things a little differently here versus Athens. We’re right in the heart of Georgia’s production ag area,” Harris said. “My course is very hands-on. I’m not going to apologize for that. I had a student one time on my evaluation say I teach the course like job training. I said, ‘Wait a minute, was that supposed to be a derogatory comment? I think that’s a compliment.’

Vellidis acknowledges that students can get easily fatigued if they’re stuck in a class every day during a semester, which is why he believes lab work serves as both an important teaching tool and career preparation.

“You see students in labs and a spark is there. They’re so excited to get their hands on stuff and be able to use it. That translates to when they’re out there getting jobs. When you tell a student their prospective employer has interest in someone with precision ag experience — that they can say they’ve used all the equipment and are familiar with all the equipment — they have a competitive advantage over someone who may have just seen a picture of it in a PowerPoint presentation,” Vellidis said.

ALUMNI-APPROVED

In a little more than a decade, the UGA Tifton campus has demonstrated a propensity to produce top-notch leaders in all areas of agriculture. Past graduates are quick to credit Tifton’s professors for their professional success.

“I was told by two or three different administrators that the way I handle my classes, it looked like I had been teaching for 10 to 15 years. I attribute all that to UGA Tifton and the staff there,” said Michael Lee Barnes, a second-year agriscience teacher at Lowndes High School in Valdosta, Ga.

Brittany Schwing, a 2013 UGA Tifton graduate and first-year agriscience teacher at Northeast Campus in Tift County, echoes Barnes’ sentiments.

“I know that graduating from the University of Georgia has prepared me for my future. Without a doubt, I know that I have received the best education in my field.”

Starting in May, the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Tifton campus will get a makeover.

The Tift Building — built in 1922 and the campus’s oldest building — will undergo renovation. The Georgia legislature approved $4.7 million in the state budget last May for the project. The building, which has been vacant for several years, will house administrative offices and a classroom.

While the building’s renovation will help alleviate much-needed space concerns, due in part to six new scientists being hired over the past year, it will also serve as a recruiting tool for prospective students. The Tift Building’s renovation is the first step in a major makeover coming for what is essentially the front door of the UGA Tifton campus. Assistant Dean Joe West hopes future updates will bring a complete renewal to the front of the campus.
In June 2013, Sam Ingram (Jackson County agriculture and natural resources Extension agent) and I traveled to Mukono, Uganda, to bring 16 farmers from six different areas of the country together to learn new farming practices based on our knowledge of sustainable agriculture. The goal was to have these farmers act as mentors, first implementing these practices on their own farms and then teaching their neighbors how to raise crops using the same techniques.

The workshop covered key principles of sustainable agriculture. We explained how to build soil fertility through crop rotation, cover crops and composting. We also taught methods of better seed selection, weed control and planting. For example, a common planting method in Uganda is to walk through a field and throw seeds out. This results in clumps of three or four plants and a lot of open space. Instead, we taught the farmers how to plant in rows using a spool of string and sticks to mark seed spacing. It might sound simple, but this method will help increase their yield, which will increase what they can raise to both eat and sell.

We also covered how to scout for insect and disease pests and how to use pesticides safely. Finally, with the help of a farm budget worksheet provided by the Georgia Small Business Development Center, we discussed ways to evaluate whether their farms were economically sustainable.

After the workshop, we traveled with a local leader throughout the country, visiting the workshop participants’ farms. We were able to observe existing farming practices and offer specific advice on ways to implement the methods we’d taught at the workshop. The hope is to go back for a follow-up visit later this year.

Editor’s note: This was Bob Waldorf’s third ag-focused trip to Uganda. On his most recent visit, one farmer was excited to show off his raised bed with leafy greens — a technique he learned from Waldorf’s 2012 workshop. “He was so proud because he’d planted and sold enough greens to pay for his daughter’s education for the next year,” Waldorf said. And that’s why he’ll keep going back. Bob is agriculture and natural resources Extension agent in Banks County.

Russ Fortson was part of a team of scientists who worked on controlled ecological life support systems for future space stations or moon bases.

By Merritt Melancon

Russ Fortson (BSA – Ag Engineering, ’83, MS – Ag Engineering, ’87) took his knowledge of agriculture and engineering from CAES all the way to NASA.

Fortson started his career as a UGA Extension engineer conducting energy audits of greenhouses and tobacco drying barns. Over the years, he turned the hours he spent driving around south Georgia in a dusty, old, state pick-up truck into the experience and background he needed to work for NASA.

“I had a very strong foundation that I got here at the University of Georgia studying agricultural engineering,” he said.

First at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and later at the Johnson Space Center in Texas, Fortson was part of a team of scientists who worked on controlled ecological life support systems for future space stations or moon bases.

“When you travel in space you have to take food, water and air,” Fortson said. “Everything that keeps people alive, you have to take with you when you travel in space.”

Fortson’s team studied water and nutrient cycling inside a closed system and grew crops that could be used to generate oxygen, clean the water supply and feed the space crew.

“I was well versed in that [after] having worked with greenhouses,” he said. “Some of the engineers from other disciplines, the more traditional aerospace engineers, felt like, ‘Wait, I’ve already got to keep humans alive and now you want me to keep plants alive, too? No, the plants are keeping you alive. It required a little bit of a change of thought.’”

Fortson continues to work on life support and reliability projects for spacecraft as a contractor for both NASA and several private space exploration companies, and still gives credit for his space work to his education at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.
in its 35-year history, the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program has reached more than 1 million students with its science-based field study programs and set the standard for similar programs nationwide.

While Georgia 4-H may be best known for youth development programs offered through UGA Extension’s 4-H clubs, the organization has offered environmental education to young people across the Southeast since 1979.

Last October, the Environmental Education program’s staff, administrators and founder, Diane Davies, celebrated the millionth student to attend classes through the esteemed program.

With more than 44,000 public, private and home-school students attending courses annually, the program has inspired an entire generation of youth through classes that draw on Georgia’s unique ecosystems to teach lessons in biology, environmental science and ecology.

“Too many children have not been afforded the chance to experience nature,” said Arch Smith, Georgia 4-H state leader. “The 4-H Environmental Education program provides hands-on learning in the natural environment at our five 4-H centers, from the mountains to the Piedmont to the sea.”

The professional staff at the five centers (Rock Eagle in Eatonton, Wahsega in Dahlonega, Fortson in Hampton, Burton on Tybee Island and Jekyll on Jekyll Island) hire and train college graduates as seasonal instructors to deliver a research-based curriculum linked directly to the Georgia Performance Standards.

“Teachers and parents recognize the program for bringing school concepts to life and connecting students to the natural world using the outdoors as a classroom without walls,” said Melanie Biersmith, the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education state Extension specialist.

“I could teach about [these topics] in the classroom all day long, but when the kids actually get out and get their hands on the activities and participate, they are [having] experiences that they will always remember,” said Carol Payne, a teacher from Rome City Schools who has brought her students to EE programs for nearly two decades.

“We’ve had kids that this is the first time they’ve ever seen a campfire or the ocean,” she said. “It’s just a great program and I wish all of the kids in the state of Georgia got to participate.”

While the programs emphasize science, lessons also touch on history, language arts and mathematics in...
Honor a visionary

Museum named for Diane Davies

Story and photo by Sharon Dowdy

The natural history museum at Rock Eagle 4-H Center was recently named in honor of Diane Davies, the now-retired Georgia 4-H educator who created the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program in 1979 with a $300 budget and a basketful of dreams.

Davies was instrumental in the museum’s creation, and she wasn’t shy about using creative and unconventional ways to generate funds for exhibits, like asking the Georgia Egg Commission to fund the dinosaur egg exhibit.

“Working as an environmental educator has impacted my life far more than any other decision I have made,” Gray said. “I had never felt like I was making such a real, tangible difference in people’s lives as I felt when I was working for Georgia 4-H EE. This position is not only fun, but gives [instructors] the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally.”

Many educators take the skills they acquire from teaching youth about environmental education to other professional roles, from national park rangers to schoolteachers to nature center naturalists — including Gray, who now serves as an education manager for the Orlando Science Center.

According to Diane Davies, former state Extension specialist and founder of the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program, they also carry with them the program goals, values and curriculum. In turn, these resources are used by other organizations both nationally and internationally, impacting the lives of youth not just in Georgia but also across the globe.

For more information about the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program, visit georgia4h.org/ee.

### Honor a visionary

**Museum named for Diane Davies**

Story and photo by Sharon Dowdy

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“I approached them saying, ‘kids are already interested in dinosaurs, this is one way you can get them interested in eggs,’” she said.

UGA Extension Associate Dean Beverly Sparks remembers the early phases of the museum design, and Davies’ passion for the project.

“I toured the building with Diane when I was a young UGA entomologist,” she said. “Diane lit up when she told me what her vision was for the museum as she pointed at the blank walls.”

First housed in the Barkaloo-Rich Building at Rock Eagle, the museum has played an important part in teaching children in the Environmental Education and summer camp programs about the world around them.

“I wanted all the (Environmental Education program) resources, like the museum, to be a window to the world for the thousands and thousands of children we serve in this program. To see the enthusiasm for learning in their eyes, there is no greater reward than that,” Davies said.

addition to promoting team building and communication skills.

“I have seen those ‘light bulbs’ go off in [students’] heads as they make connections between what goes on in nature and what goes on in their daily lives,” said former instructor Sarah Gray (MAL – Ag Leadership, ’10).

For the seasonal staff, the program is often one of their first professional experiences after graduation, and an opportunity to put their knowledge and communication skills to use.

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**Continued from previous page**

produced in Georgia, with a corresponding farm gate value of approximately $847 million of the total — more than a 200-fold increase since 1993. In the same year, CAES-developed hydrangea cultivars, such as Endless Summer®, Lady in Red™ and Twist-n-Shout™, comprised more than half of all the hydrangeas sold in the U.S.

Perhaps most striking has been the impact of CAES-developed blueberry cultivars. Rebel, Suziblue and Titan™, for example, have led the upsurge of Georgia’s blueberry industry. In 2011, this previously emerging crop had a farm gate value of more than $255 million — and CAES-developed blueberry cultivars accounted for more than half of the market share ($135 million) of all blueberries produced in Georgia. Quite a difference from a farm gate value of only $2 million in 1993.

Moving technology from the lab or field to the marketplace can help establish incentives for research and development, and connecting industry with university expertise and innovations promotes economic development and increases research visibility.

The next time you eat a PB&J sandwich, enjoy blueberries with your cereal or pick out a new plant for your garden, you’re helping a little piece of our college make a big difference in your state, nation and the world.

By Brent Marable

**UGA-developed plant cultivars**

If you’ve played a round of golf lately, chances are your ball rolled onto a green or fairway carpeted in TifEagle or TifSport, two turfgrass cultivars jointly developed by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the U.S. Department of Agriculture that have become famous across the golf industry for their overall playability and adaptability. The grass that helps you sink that perfect putt is just one of many plant cultivars developed by our college’s researchers that has become a backdrop to everyday life, yet has a massive impact on our state’s economy.

CAES-developed plant cultivars have generated more than $66.8 million in royalty revenue since 1990 and currently contribute more than $1 billion in annual Georgia farm gate values. Up to 50 percent of royalty revenue from those plant cultivars is reinvested back into research at CAES.

Since 1990, CAES research efforts in plant breeding alone have yielded more than 350 commercially available plant cultivars. Of those, 139 are agronomic crops, such as peanuts, forages, wheat, cotton and soybeans; 102 are horticultural food crops, such as blueberries, pecans, peaches, muscadines and vegetables; 95 are ornamental plants, such as flowering shrubs, trees and bedding plants; and 14 are turfgrass varieties, such as seashore paspalum, centipedegrass and bermudagrass, like TifEagle and TifSport.

Around the state, CAES-developed plant cultivars have a significant impact on market share. For example, in 2012, CAES-developed peanuts accounted for 95 percent of all peanuts produced in Georgia, with a corresponding farm gate value of approximately $847 million of the total — more than a 200-fold increase since 1993. In the same year, CAES-developed hydrangea cultivars, such as Endless Summer®, Lady in Red™ and Twist-n-Shout™, comprised more than half of all the hydrangeas sold in the U.S.

Perhaps most striking has been the impact of CAES-developed blueberry cultivars. Rebel, Suziblue and Titan™, for example, have led the upsurge of Georgia’s blueberry industry. In 2011, this previously emerging crop had a farm gate value of more than $255 million — and CAES-developed blueberry cultivars accounted for more than half of the market share ($135 million) of all blueberries produced in Georgia. Quite a difference from a farm gate value of only $2 million in 1993.

Moving technology from the lab or field to the marketplace can help establish incentives for research and development, and connecting industry with university expertise and innovations promotes economic development and increases research visibility.

The next time you eat a PB&J sandwich, enjoy blueberries with your cereal or pick out a new plant for your garden, you’re helping a little piece of our college make a big difference in your state, nation and the world.

By Brent Marable (BSA – Horticulture, ’96, MAL – Ag Leadership, ’13) as a plant licensing manager for UGA’s Technology Commercialization Office, a unit of the Office of the Vice President for Research.

**UGA-developed plant cultivars have generated more than $66.8 million in royalty revenue since 1990.**
Off guard
Ag in Afghanistan completes its mission  By Merritt Melancon

Since 2011, more than 150 Georgia National Guardsmen have worked with the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to help villagers in Afghanistan develop more productive and profitable farming operations.

Each year, the Georgia National Guard has deployed about 50 guardsmen as part of three separate Agribusiness Development Teams. While some of these guardsmen had a background in agriculture, others received their first exposure to agronomy, animal husbandry and basic entomology from UGA Extension specialists during their pre-deployment training.

“The training was very basic and tailored to the best of our ability to the conditions we thought these teams might find in Afghanistan,” said Steve Brown, assistant dean for Extension and UGA’s training coordinator for the ADT missions. “When they got on the ground, they had to take what we taught them and apply it to some very unique situations.”

Each Agribusiness Development Team has focused on different projects, from working directly with herdsmen and fruit growers to develop stronger growing practices and business plans, to working with government officials to set up Afghanistan’s version of the Cooperative Extension System. Other teams worked with women’s groups, teaching the basics of small flock chicken rearing and food preservation.

While the U.S. Department of State reports that only 12 percent of Afghan land is arable, agriculture is one of the largest industries in that country. Farmers in the region are known primarily for livestock production, but the countryside is also filled with fruit orchards and wheat fields.

Guardsmen from each ADT group deployed to Afghanistan have reported that Afghans know how to farm their land, but they want to make their operations more productive and profitable. The goal of the UGA-trained Agribusiness Development Teams was to provide them with the knowledge and training they needed to make that leap.

“We used a train-the-trainer approach,” said Col. Barry Beach, commander of the Georgia National Guard’s ADT III. “We provided agricultural and veterinary knowledge instead of sending money on projects or purchasing specific equipment. … This method allowed us to connect with the villagers and connect them with their government through agriculture.”

While the training provided by UGA Extension focused solely on the agricultural conditions the guardsmen might find on the ground in Afghanistan, the faculty who participated in the training also felt as if they were helping the Afghans build a more stable society.

“It has been a pleasure working with the men and women of the Georgia National Guard for the past three years,” Brown said. “The faculty who participated in the training stepped up to the plate and went beyond what was expected of them.

“Agriculture is a fundamental component of the human condition on Earth, and political stability is often associated with an ability to feed yourself and your family,” he said.

For more information about earlier missions, visit tinyurl.com/ADTFall11 and tinyurl.com/ADTSpring13.

U.S. Army Maj. Eugene Johnson, a veterinarian with Georgia ADT III, Regimental Combat Team 7, explains how to aid livestock with birthing problems to staff members of the directorate of agriculture, irrigation and livestock during veterinary classes in Kajaki District, April 24, 2013.

100 years of UGA Extension

The men and women of UGA Extension improve lives, build economies and help protect the state’s precious natural resources by providing practical solutions to an ever-changing, modern society. This year, UGA Extension celebrates its rich 100-year history in Georgia and looks forward to what lies ahead.
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension was founded in 1914 through the Smith-Lever Act, a federal law that established and funded a state-by-state national network of educators who bring university-based research and practical knowledge to the public. A hundred years later, UGA Extension remains committed to providing unbiased, research-based information to Georgians in the areas of agriculture, the environment, families, food, lawn and garden, and youth.

Through a well-organized network of specialists, agents and staff covering nearly every county across the state, information is delivered both online and in person in the form of classes, workshops, programs, events, publications and more.

The early Cooperative Extension Service was based in agricultural and home demonstration work and helped farmers, homemakers and young people with their daily lives. Through the years, Extension projects may have changed, but the core goals haven’t. This year, we celebrate Extension’s commitment to working for and with the people, always meeting them where they are, whether that’s the home, field or classroom.

Agriculture

Agriculture and natural resources agents continue to work with farmers through traditional face-to-face workshops as in the early days of Extension. They also work with schools on programs like farm-to-school workshops and provide training through technology, including online classes, DVD series and smartphone applications.

Environment

UGA Extension helps increase environmental awareness and ongoing efforts to protect natural resources by offering expertise in topics like invasive species, pollution prevention and soil and water conservation.

Family

UGA Extension helps parents and families make informed decisions to create healthy home environments. Family and consumer science agents give direction in areas such as childcare, financial planning, healthcare, home businesses, sustainable living, home safety and more.

Food

Family and consumer science agents help consumers make confident and informed decisions on topics from nutrition to food costs. They also provide safe food handling, preparation, serving and preserving guidelines for consumers — and teach ServSafe trainings to food service businesses — to help reduce foodborne illness.

Lawn and Garden

As the number of urban gardeners increases, so does the number of phone calls and emails to UGA Extension offices asking for advice on everything from controlling pests to selecting plant varieties. To help agents answer these questions, volunteers are trained in “backyard gardening” through the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program.

4-H Youth Development

In the early years, Extension agents led tomato clubs for girls and corn clubs for boys. Today, UGA Extension coordinates the state’s largest youth development program, Georgia 4-H, which assists youth in acquiring knowledge and developing life skills that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society.

For more information or to share your Extension story, visit 100years.extension.uga.edu.

“We have the best Extension service that I know of anywhere. Our agents provide a lot of research and initiatives for us to learn about different crops, which helps us fuel the economy.” Bill Binn, owner, Lewis Taylor Farms, Tifton, Ga. “We’re trying to help growers make better decisions and ultimately be more profitable and more sustainable.”

“Solar technology, especially in remote locations in their pastures where it’s too expensive to run power lines. We are also working with anaerobic digestion — taking animal and forage wastes and converting it into methane gas that can be used for either energy or heat.” Gary Hawkins, alternative energy specialist, UGA Crop and Soil Sciences Department, UGA Tifton campus.

“My goal for each person that I work with is to see an improvement in their diet, an improvement in their children’s diets and an improvement in what and how they are preparing their food for their family.” Beffie Morse, EFNEP program assistant, Athens-Clarke County.

“Georgia’s always had a part of the development of food preservation and food safety through Extension. One of the reasons why we think it’s really important to be able to provide the ServSafe program to people is that that certification enables them to either keep a job or to get a job.” Elizabeth Anderson, Extension food safety and preservation specialist.

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Ryan Rutland’s dream has become a reality. What began as a business plan Rutland (BSA – Agribusiness, ’08) developed as a student at the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has quickly transformed into a successful and popular south Georgia agritourism destination.

The Market at Rutland Farms, located on a 2,500-acre family farm in southern Tift County, is a year-round venture that stocks fresh produce and Southern specialties, educates visitors about agriculture and entertains people of all ages.

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“The basic idea was to give people that don’t have the opportunity or chance to come to a farm every day the ability to experience what we experience out here,” Rutland said. “I knew agriculture was Georgia’s biggest industry and second was tourism. I felt that if you combined the two industries into one, it would be a pretty good marriage.”

Rutland Farms is owned and operated by Ryan and his father, Greg. Together they grow a variety of crops such as watermelons, peanuts, cotton and tobacco. In 1998, Greg saw an opportunity to sell a portion of his strawberry crop in a retail shop located on the farm, and so began the Strawberry House — a precursor to today’s Market.

A decade later, Ryan’s college business plan would begin to play a major role in the growth of the retail aspect of the farm, but as businessmen, both Rutlands wanted to be sure that whatever steps they took were the right ones because, in essence, they would be permanent.

“I told him, ‘Anything we do here and put on this farm is forever,’” Greg said. “That’s the way I looked at it growing up. That’s the way my dad looked at it. I wanted Ryan to have that same vision. So whatever we put here, it had to work.”

So far, so good. Business last year doubled what it generated in 2012, The Market says.

“It’s a challenge for the students, but it’s also fun because it allows them to apply their knowledge to solve a real problem,” Vellidis said.

FARM-FRESH FARE

Today, The Market sells produce grown on about 60 acres at Rutland Farms, including strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, peaches, peas, tomatoes, greens and cucumbers. The Rutlands also harvest and sell pecans every fall.

“We wanted to be able to give people farm-fresh produce. Most people can’t get that in their local grocery store,” Ryan said. “When you think about an apple pie, if you are like me, you think about your grandmother’s recipe. My grandmother always used fresh apples straight from the orchard because they make the best pies. I think everyone should have that same opportunity.”

Throughout the year, The Market also hosts fun, educational activities for kids of all ages. For the fall, the Rutlands plant a giant corn maze (see sidebar) and a pumpkin patch. In the spring, visitors can enjoy picking their own strawberries straight from the orchard because they also harvest and sell pecans every fall.

“The basic idea was to give people that don’t have the opportunity or chance to come to a farm every day the ability to experience what we experience out here. I knew agriculture was Georgia’s biggest industry and second was tourism. I felt that if you combined the two industries into one, it would be a pretty good marriage.”

— Ryan Rutland

THE PLAN

One of Ryan’s final tasks in his agribusiness class was to create a business plan, which included an analysis of what it would cost to actually implement an idea, from doing a demand analysis to calculating advertising and budgeting for day-to-day operations to projected profits five years down the road. Rutland’s hope was to develop an idea that could be carried out in the real world, ideally on his family’s farm.

“Both my grandfather and my dad added value to the operation with various ideas and implementations, and I didn’t want to be any different. My idea was to put together a retail agritourism business that was profitable,” he said.

Rutland pitched his plan to multiple professors, who insisted he follow through on the idea.

“As I recall, he had really great potential with his plan, and I told him that he did,” said James Epperson, an agricultural and applied economics professor. It was in Epperson’s class that Rutland formed his agritourism business plan.

“I made him aware of all the attributes as to why this business would work. He had some unusual advantages that other people don’t have — he’s close to the Interstate, already had the land and had family down there.”

Although The Market has proven to be successful so far, the fear of the unknown initially made the Rutlands hesitant to pursue it.

“It’s not easy to take a leap of faith,” Ryan said, “but that’s exactly what we did. Obviously, starting a new business requires a lot of capital and planning. In this instance, we didn’t have any models to go by because the concept of agritourism didn’t really exist yet.”

The store, fall festivals and field trips have far exceeded Rutland’s original business plan. In two years of operation, The Market has attracted between 90,000 and 120,000 people a year.

“We had two ‘fall fun’ days two weekends in October, and one of those days was the biggest day for The Market yet,” said Valerie Noles (BSA – Agribusiness, ’13), The Market’s manager. “We saw more than 800 people on that one day.”

Mapping a maze

By Clint Thompson
Photos courtesy of Rutland Farms

Visitors to The Market at Rutland Farms’ annual 5-acre corn maze have puzzled their way through the shape of a Georgia Bulldogs football helmet, the UGA mascot Uga VI and Rutland’s grandfather, Bruce, who passed away in July 2013.

To make the corn maze, Ryan called upon the expertise of UGA students in a precision agriculture class and the South Scapes team. “There’s so many families that don’t understand agriculture,” Rutland said. “I told Ryan if we do anything, we need to help educate kids and help them understand where their food comes from and what life is like on the farm.”

Today, The Market sells fresh produce and local goods, and offers visitors a chance to learn about agriculture first-hand on a family-owned and -operated farm.

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Ryan Rutland created The Market at Rutland Farms based on a business plan he initially developed as a CAES student. Today, The Market sells fresh produce and local goods, and offers visitors a chance to learn about agriculture first-hand on a family-owned and -operated farm.
“Sixty years young with the best yet to come!” That’s how I was greeted on my 60th birthday. It’s a nice way to celebrate a milestone while focusing on the great years ahead. This is how the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences wants to celebrate the CAES Alumni Association’s 60th anniversary this year — honoring the thousands of alumni and friends who have poured countless hours of service into this organization to bring us where we are today.

From the very beginning, through contributions of time, talents and money, volunteers have enthusiastically dedicated themselves to making sure that our college would continue to significantly contribute to local and world communities. In 2014, just as in 1954, our alumni volunteers work together — little by little, step by step — to turn ideas like the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame; the scholarship program; the Eterna Endowed Fund; state, regional, national and international alumni events; the South Campus Tailgate, and Southscapes magazine into great things for CAES! All of these events and programs started as a small idea and are now among our strongest alumni outreach efforts.

As the legendary coach John Wooden put it, “It’s the little things that are vital, for little things make big things happen!” One volunteer with one idea can make all the difference. That’s why your time, ideas and contributions are needed now more than ever. Make 2014 more than a birthday celebration. Make it the year you pledge to give back to CAES. With teamwork, fellowship and support, we will maintain the accomplished programs of the past and build new and innovative programs to support the ever-changing needs of our community.

Let’s celebrate big in Athens on Sept. 19 at our 60th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet. I would love to see 600 of you at the banquet to celebrate our organization’s 60th birthday, all proudly sporting a CAES donor ribbon. Thanks to you and so many before you, we are 60 years young and the best is yet to come!

Sincerely,

John McKissick
BSA – Ag Economics, ’74
MS – Ag Economics, ’78
Family gives back with scholarship for upperclassmen
By Merritt Melancon

Larry Cunningham (BSA – Ag Economics, ‘80) and his wife, Sharon (BSHE – Home Economics, ‘77), have always had a special place in their hearts for UGA’s South Campus and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The couple met at an Alpha Gamma Rho social, and Larry asked Sharon to marry him at a bus stop near Stegeman Coliseum. Their ties to South Campus became stronger when their son Chris (BSA – Ag Business, ‘07) chose to pursue a degree there.

New generation, new ideas
Chris was instrumental in helping R.L. Cunningham and Sons, Inc., his family’s fourth-generation peanut shelling operation and buying point in Quitman, Ga., acquire state-of-the-art equipment and develop state-of-the-art transport, shelling and drying techniques.

“Chris was instrumental in helping us after graduation, with everything that he had learned, that’s when the growth became exponential,” Larry said.

But Chris isn’t the only Cunningham to join the family business after graduation. His brother, Robert, a 2004 Georgia Tech grad, created a Microsoft Access program that organized the company’s records electronically. Larry credits part of his success to the knowledge he gained as a CAES student and to the research-based information the college provided.

“What the college has done with Extension and research in terms of peanut breeding and engineering has really benefited our business,” he said.

Time to give back
Although they’ve been long-time Georgia football season ticket holders and UGA Athletic Association supporters, last year Larry and Sharon decided to put an equal emphasis on academics.

Larry credits part of his success to the knowledge he gained as a CAES student and to the research-based information the college provides.

“What the college has done with Extension and research in terms of peanut breeding and engineering has really benefited our business,” he said.

The newly endowed Cunningham Family Scholarship was created to specifically help CAES upperclassmen.

The scholarship, which will first be awarded in fall 2014, will be given to a sophomore, junior or senior studying agriculture, with preference given to students from Brooks County or south Georgia.

A leg up
By Amanda E. Swennes

The UGA Block and Bridle Club has committed $25,000 to establish the Block and Bridle Scholarship, which will provide support for undergraduate club members who exhibit leadership and good character and who have helped to advance animal agriculture. Funding comes from proceeds raised during the annual Great Southland Stampede Rodeo, which the club organizes.

Fourth-generation peanut shelling operation and buying point R.L. Cunningham and Sons was once again named to the Bulldog 100 (No. 49). With strong ties to South Campus, Larry and Sharon Cunningham (left, with sons and daughters-in-law Kristin and Chris (center) and Susan and Robert (right)) recently endowed a scholarship to help CAES upperclassmen complete their education.

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For more information, visit ads.uga.edu/academics/clubs.

Breaking ground
Story and photo by Sharon Dowdy

Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers across the state are known as overachievers. Just last year, 3,266 Master Gardeners volunteered 203,888 hours of their time working in Extension offices across the state. So CAES Development Officer Montrese Adger Fuller was not surprised when Georgia Master Gardener Association members took only three years, not the allotted five, to raise the $25,000 in endowment funds needed to start a scholarship.

The Georgia Master Gardener Scholarship will be awarded to a UGA junior or senior majoring in horticulture. This isn’t the first time Georgia Master Gardeners have created a scholarship to help educate the next generation of horticulturists.

“Outreach is education, our alliance is with the horticulture department and our philosophical rationale is to encourage young gardeners to have the same passion for growing, learning and teaching that we have,” said former Georgia Master Gardener Association President W.H. Smith.

The new scholarship will help students like Mason Westmoreland of Commerce, Ga., who received the Athens-area Master Gardener Scholarship.

“The generosity of the Master Gardeners gave me the freedom to devote more time to my academics by providing valued financial support, and every bit counts,” he said. “I’m very proud of the investment they made in my future.”

Mary Lewis, a horticulture major from Charleston, S.C., credits her scholarship for allowing her to attend CAES.

“Because of the Master Gardeners’ scholarship, I am able to come to a school where I am not just an ID number, but a person who is valued, not only for my brain, but for my personality and myself,” she said.

When classes start this fall, there will be one more horticulture student benefiting from the generosity of a group of the state’s biggest overachievers.
Four Towers
By Andrea Gonzalez

When Four Towers was built in 1940, no one expected it to serve as more than just a dairy barn – and that’s all it was known as until the mid-1970s. Today, the East Campus building is home to the University of Georgia Visitors Center, the CAES Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication, the state’s North Region Agricultural Education offices, the CAES student activity center and the CAES Office of External Relations.

1937-1940
A barn was built to UGA’s dairy cows to replace the former dairy barn, which was destroyed by a fire in 1935. The building was one of the smaller campus construction projects funded in part by the Public Works Administration. The estimated cost was $35,000. The dairy barn complex consisted of a storage barn, stanchion barn, milking parlor, cow test barn, calf barn and silos.

1942
Governor Henry W. Talmadge dedicated the Dairy Cattle Nutrition Laboratory in May. The lab, located in the northern wing, was used for biochemistry, bacteriology and histology research for dairy cattle, livestock and poultry nutrition.

1952

1953
Aerial photo of Four Towers and the surrounding landscape.

1953-1940

1957
The Georgia Poultry Federation rescued the “Old Dairy Barn” from demolition and converted the space into offices and conference rooms for Extension Poultry Science and the Department of Poultry Science. Live chickens were housed in the northern end of the building until 1997.

“We received a call that the Old Dairy Barn was to be destroyed, and that if the Georgia Poultry Federation could raise $32,000, the building would be made available to Extension poultry. The wrecking equipment was already there, but the wrecking balls were held to allow the effort.” — Abit Massey, president emeritus of the Georgia Poultry Federation

Four Towers (a reference to the building’s four silos) was coined during the renovation and remains today.

1976
The space also became home to the CAES Office of External Relations and the Georgia Ag Hall of Fame.

1979
Extension plant pathologists also moved their offices into the building, using part of the space for the plant disease clinic and the nematology laboratory.

1995-1996
The southern end of the building was converted into space for the University of Georgia’s first visitor’s center, which opened the summer of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta and welcomed the spectators of the events held at UGA. Since it opened, the center has provided individual and group tours for more than 186,300 visitors.

1997-1998
The northern end of the building was renovated after the Agricultural Alumni Association and the Ag Hill Council worked together to create an activity center where student groups could hold meetings — a project in the making since the 1940s.

Very little is recorded regarding the history of the Old Dairy Barn, now known as Four Towers. Did we miss a key milestone in this storied building’s history? Tell us at: tinyurl.com/CAESFourTowers.
The Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame welcomed two new inductees on Sept. 20. George Claud “GC” Adams, known as Georgia’s founding father of 4-H, and Louis Boyd, a retired CAES animal scientist, were selected by the awards committee. Those inductees are nominated by members of the public and selected by the awards committee. Those nominated are required to have impeccable character and outstanding leadership, have made noteworthy contributions to Georgia’s agricultural landscape, and have been recognized for achievements in agriculture as well as other areas.

George Claud “GC” Adams

“GC” Adams organized the first Boys’ Corn Club in Newton County, Ga., in 1904. In 1913, the Girls’ Tomato Club was created. These clubs are widely known as the predecessors of the Georgia 4-H program. In 1913, the Girls’ Tomato Club was created. These clubs are widely known as the predecessors of the Georgia 4-H program. In 1913, the Girls’ Tomato Club was created. These clubs are widely known as the predecessors of the Georgia 4-H program.

In this day of rapid progress and change, it is important to remember that over to preserve Georgia’s rich agricultural history,” said Julli Fields, director of alumni relations for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, “This willingness to think outside the proverbial box led to CAES becoming one of the premier UGA units for generating funding to strengthen the department and operations at UGA Experiment Stations across the state.

“Adams’ legacy as an educator and public servant lives through the 4-H program,” Smith said, “which today reaches more than 184,000 of the youngest students of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.”

Louis Boyd

Louis Boyd was a champion of the animal sciences at UGA in the 1960s and ‘70s. He merged the CAES departments of animal science and dairy science and brought in new sources of external funding to strengthen the department and operations at UGA Experiment Stations across the state.

“This willfulness to think outside the proverbial box led to CAES becoming one of the premier UGA units for generating private support,” said Rep. Chuck Williams, who graduated from the college in 1977. When Boyd retired from UGA in 1992, he was asked to develop and lead the statewide Advisory Board for Agricultural Experiment Stations in Georgia. This board later merged with the Extension Advisory Council, forming the CAES Advisory Council.

“Dr. Louis Boyd epitomizes those traits that qualify one for the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame,” Williams said. “The Hall of Fame is Georgia’s singular most significant recognition of exceptional service to agriculture in our great state.”

Representatives in 1936. He served on agriculture and education committees. In 1932, he was elected commissioner of agriculture. He was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002. “Adams’ legacy as an educator and public servant lives through the 4-H program,” Smith said, “which today reaches more than 184,000 of the youngest students of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.”

1970s

Paul J. Bello (BSA – Entomology, ’79) recently published his second book, The Cockroach Combat Manual II, which he co-authored with former CAES professor Austin M. Frishman. Paul works as an urban and industrial consulting entomologist and lives in Alpharetta, Ga. He serves as a technical advisor for the Certified Pest Control Operators of Georgia, has appeared on National Geographic Television and is an industry trade journal contributor and sought-after speaker on various pest management issues.

1980s

Brice Nelson (BSA – Animal Science, ’85) was recently named director of student and employer engagement for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Brice coordinates student recruitment activities for the college and interacts with employers wanting to fill job openings. If you know of a student interested in attending CAES or of your company needs to fill an internship or full-time position, contact Brice at brensen@uga.edu or call 706-542-8814.

1990s

Steve Morgan (BSA – Ag Economics, ’90, MS – Ag Economics, ’92) is a financial advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, and works in Villa Rica, Ga. His business focuses on retirement plan rollovers and income planning in Villa Rica and Newnan, Ga., and serves clients in the surrounding counties. He holds the Series 7, 63 and 65 registrations, insurance license and Chartered Retirement Plan Counselor® designation.

John Benefield (BSA – Ag Economics, ’93) is a technology consultant for Hewlett-Packard, working on the AGCO Corporation account. He manages their North American virtual server infrastructure.

Stephen Roy (BSA – Ag Mechanization, ’86) was recently named president of Mack North American Sales and Marketing, Mack Trucks, Inc., is part of the Volvo Group, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of trucks, buses, construction equipment and marine and industrial engines.

2010s

Chow Wai Chan (MS – Food Science, ’93) is a principal consultant with Best Global Consultant in Hong Kong.

John Kerry Courchaine (BSA – Animal Science, ’94, MS – Animal Science, ’96) serves as a research and development manager for Protein Products, Inc., a protein rendering company that manufacturers pet food and livestock feed ingredients. Based in Gainesville, Ga., Kerry manages technical services for the cattle feed and oil plant located in the Delta Region of northeastern Mississippi, as well as new product development for the ingredient company. He recently helped the owners of Protein Products diversify their business by establishing Big Creek Foods, LLC, a pet treat company currently under construction in Gainesville. Kerry will also serve as research and development manager at Big Creek Foods, where his focus will be on product development.

Brent Marable (BSA – Horticulture, ’96, MAL – Ag Leadership, ’13) is a plant licensing manager with the University of Georgia Research Foundation, where he is responsible for managing, licensing and protecting intellectual property of CAES-developed plant cultivars, including peanuts, wheat, blueberries and ornamentals. Brent currently serves on the board of directors for the CAES Alumni Association as vice chair of the awards and recognition committee, and is a member of the Oconee County 4-H development team. He and his wife, Mandy, (BA, ’94, MED, ’96), and their two sons live in Oconee County and attend Antioch Christian Church, where Brent serves as an Elder.

Eric Eugene Skinner (BSA – Ag Economics, ’99) is the Southeastern regional manager for Terra Renewal Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Darling International, Inc. Terra Renewal Services performs land application of wastewater from food processors for beneficial use as fertilizer.

To include your professional class notes in the next issue of Southscapes, email Julli Fields at jfields@uga.edu or call 706-542-3390.
Alumni achievement awards
By Erica Tieslo

Six outstanding alumni were recognized during the 2013 Alumni Association Awards Banquet on Sept. 20 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. These awards recognize outstanding CAES alumni who have achieved excellence in their chosen field and/or in their community.

Michael Edward Rasher (BSA – Agronomy and Geology, ’78) used his degrees to launch a career pioneering new technologies and developing techniques to protect the nation’s farmlands and waterways. His efforts to use GIS satellites and other remote-sensing technologies to create more accurate maps earned him recognition from NASA and the United Nations.

Stanley Lamar Coley (BSA – Agriculture, ’95, MS – Agriculture, ’70, Ph.D. – Reproductive Physiology, ’76) pioneered embryo transfer techniques and helped teach cattle breeders across the globe how to improve their cattle stocks. Coley also worked to help northeast Georgia build a new economy around the life sciences and life science research.

Sydne Moody Smith (BSA – Ag Communication, ’05) has worked with U.S. legislators to bring about positive change for agriculture. Smith began working with former Gov. Sonny Perdue in 2005 as one of 30 interns. In this position, she served as a liaison between Perdue and the University of Georgia. In 2011, Smith became director of public policy, a position she still holds.

Robert Lawton Stewart, Jr. (BSA – Animal Science, ’01) has used his education to help Georgia cattle farmers make their operations as efficient as possible. As a UGA Extension beef specialist, Stewart uses technology to deliver materials and programs to help improve farmers’ livelihoods. He also researches management and nutrition strategies to improve the efficiency of cattle and the economic livelihood of beef producers.

Betsy MacMillan McCormick (BSA – Ag and Applied Economics, ’08) has used her knowledge of environmental science and environmental economics to work with sustainable energy groups and politicians. She currently works as director of government affairs at the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association and as managing partner at Beyond Consulting, LLC.

2000s
Lauren Jarrett (BSA – Ag Communication, ’02) was recently named teacher of the year for Chattooga, Ga., County Schools. She is an agricultural education teacher at Summerville Middle School. She completed her master’s degree in agriculture from Oklahoma State University in December.

Carter Dunn (BSA – Agbusiness, ’05, MS – Ag and Applied Economics, ’08) is an agricultural economist for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

Katie Gillespie (BSA – Agbusiness, ’05) is a market development manager and manages several food service on-premise customers in downtown Atlanta, including the Georgia Dome, Philips Arena, GWCC, Georgia Aquarium and the World of Coca-Cola. In her spare time, Katie enjoys attending UGA alumni events like the Women of UGA lunches, Calling All Dawgs and Bulldogs After Business Hours through the Metro Atlanta Chapter.

Adam Godfrey (BSA – Turfgrass Management, ’05) is the senior assistant golf course superintendent for The Reserve Club at Woodside Plantation. He and his wife Amanda live in Evans, Ga.

Anna Yeager Lacy (BSA – Horticulture, ’05) is a nursery specialist for the Augusta National Golf Club.

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Brett Tucker (BSA – Agribusiness, ’05, MAL – Ag Leadership, ’08) is a land acquisition agent for the Georgia Transmission Corporation, an electric cooperative owned by 38 of Georgia’s EMCs, in Tucker, Ga. He acquires land rights for substations and transmission lines. Brett currently serves on the public affairs committee for the CAES Alumni Association. In his spare time, he farms pecan trees to keep him connected to his south Georgia roots. He and his wife, Jan, also are assembling a team for the Gold Retriever Rescue of Atlanta and the CAES Alumni Association, where she serves on the awards and recognition committee.

Andrea Gonzalez (BSA – Ag Communication, ’11) has been working as an editor and social media coordinator for the CAES Office of Communications and Creative Services in Athens for the past two years. In November of 2013, she began a new position as associate editor for UGA Extension publications.

Katie Gaaza (BSA – Ag Communication, ’12) is the special events and donor relations coordinator for CAES. Based out of the Office of External Relations at Four Towers, she works closely with alumni, donors, faculty, staff and students, and loves continuing to be a part of the CAES family.

Kayla Calhoun (MS – Environmental Economics, ’13) started a new job in 2013 with CDC, which includes immunization-related economics research for CDC’s Immunization Services Division. She does immunization-related economics research for CDC’s Immunization Services Division. She and her husband, Nick Whitehead, are involved with the Atlanta Mission and are assembling a team for the organization’s annual Skidmore.

Jessica Harston (BSA – Animal Science, ’13) competed in the 2014 Miss Rodeo USA pageant and won the People’s Choice Award and Fourth Runner Up. She was one of 10 finalists in the week-long competition which included horsemanship, interviews, exams and modeling. It is put on by the International Finals Rodeo and hosted by the International Pro Rodeo Association. While at UGA, Jessica’s emphasis was in equine management. She was also part of the Large Animal Critical Care Team at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine and was a teaching assistant for equine classes.

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Field research
Compiled by Amanda E. Swennes

ATHENS-AREA
4,230 total acres divided among five farms:
J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center, horticulture research farm (Durham farm), plant science farm, Iron Horse farm and Department of Animal and Dairy Science Farm are used by researchers to study row crops, annual ryegrass, soybeans, grain sorghum, wheat, cereal rye, timothy, ponds, riparian areas, cattle handling facilities, ornamental breeding (both woody and herbaceous perennials), pecan breeding, peach disease management, blueberry physiology and disease management, pumpkin and watermelon breeding and evaluations, student landscape management laboratory plots, organic vegetable production, honeybee disease management, weed science, biofuels, sugar cane, switchgrass, turfgrass, cotton, corn, maize, millet, insect/pest management, wheat and soil judging, wetlands and floods, dairy and beef cattle, meat science, and horse and forage research programs.

GRiffin
1,134 total acres divided into 237 research plots used by 20 researchers*

studying turfgrass, blueberries, azaleas (deciduous and evergreen), abelias, woody ornamentals, small fruits, Christmas trees, floriculture, vegetables, wheat, rye, small grains, seashore paspalum, tall fescue, zoysiagrass, creeping bentgrass, corn, soybeans, daylily, muscadines, grapes and pine trees (lobolly and longleaf).

Source: George V. Granade, research-station superintendent

Tifton
5,675.35 total acres divided into 670 test plots used by 59 researchers*
growing 46-50 crop varieties, including: grasses (turf, annual and perennial grass, switchgrass and ornamental grasses), pasture land, forage land, silage, millet, blueberries, pomegranate, banana, muscadines, planted pines, alfalfa, clover, legumes, pecans, cotton, peanuts, corn (sweet, yellow and mixed), vegetables (bell pepper, poblano pepper, cabbage, cucumber, squash, zucchini, broccoli, onion, soybean, carrot, sweet potato), tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, pumpkin, sugar beets, kale, tobacco, sorghum, grain and ornamental plants, and researching dairy, swine, aquaculture and bull tests.

Sources: Tim Bus, research-station superintendent, and Tiffany Wiggins, UGA Tifton campus facilities management and operations office.

*Researchers from UGA Tifton, Griffin and Athens campuses, plus USDA ARS researchers, conduct experiments here.
University of Georgia students spent last Thanksgiving break in Costa Rica learning about the challenges, practices and cultural significance of growing, harvesting and processing coffee. Led by Associate Food Science Professor Ron Pegg, 20 students traveled to the UGA Costa Rica campus and toured both small and large coffee operations for nine days during the coffee-harvesting season.

Coffee is the second-most widely traded commodity in the world and the premier agricultural commodity of Costa Rica. Coffee: from bean to cup is one of the many CAES study abroad programs aimed at helping students become better global citizens. CAES students who participated were offered a $500 travel allowance from the Deans’ Promise program to help offset expenses.

For more details about this study abroad program and how to apply for the 2014 course, Nov. 22-30, please visit UGA Costa Rica’s website: tinyurl.com/CostaRicaCoffee.

A. Coffee at each stage of processing, from ripe cherry to roasted bean, arranged next to a traditional Costa Rican chorreador. A chorreador is a coffee-making device, consisting of a stand and cloth filter, that holds ground coffee while boiling water is poured over.

B. Two students rake coffee beans after the cherry has been removed. Coffee is usually dried in this manner at a beneficio (coffee processing facility) for several days or even weeks before it is roasted.

C. Students learn about shade-grown coffee on a family farm. Some students can be seen wearing canastas, baskets worn around the waist by workers to collect coffee cherries.

D. A Costa Rican coffee farmer explains the intensive labor that goes into harvesting coffee.

E. Students tour the roasting facilities of Coopedota, a large coffee cooperative in San Jose.

F. Coffee beans cool down after being roasted in a small drum roaster.

G. Ripe, red coffee cherries grow alongside green, unripe cherries. Not all coffee cherries ripen at the same time, making the harvest process very labor intensive.

H. Large, industrial roasters can roast up to several hundred pounds of coffee beans at a time.

I. Students learn about coffee processing equipment at Coopedota.
Top turf

By Sharon Dowdy

Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Club, located along the southeastern coastline of China’s Hainan Island, was selected by Golf Digest as the No. 1 New Golf Course in China for 2013. University of Georgia alumnus Mark Hollinger (BLA – School of Environmental Design, ’76), a golf architect with JMP Golf Design Group, designed the course, which he chose to cover with Sea Isle 2000 Paspalum, a turfgrass bred by CAES scientists. The salt-tolerant turfgrass grows on the course’s greens, tees, fairways and roughs.

A warm-season perennial grass, seashore paspalum is well adapted to the moist and salt-affected areas commonly found in coastal regions. It tolerates sandy and infertile soils, high concentrations of salt and occasional inundation by seawater.

“Paspalums do so much better in Asia because the quality of water there is [often] so poor. This grass is a lot more tolerant [of that],” Hollinger said. “We are starting to have a lot of success with UGA-bred paspalums now that there are seeded varieties.”

CAES developed the first seashore paspalum breeding program in 1993 in Griffin, Ga., with core funding from the U.S. Golf Association. The UGA seashore paspalum breeding program, led by CAES agronomist Paul Raymer, has released five cultivars and is recognized as the major contributor to seashore paspalum’s success. UGA-patented cultivars currently dominate the world market share.

Read more about CAES-developed turfgrasses and other plant cultivars on pages 17 and 27.