Greetings from the Department Head

Greetings to the extended agricultural and applied economics family. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and has some good vacation trips or special activities planned. This newsletter contains a mix of departmental news, especially reports of various awards won by faculty, staff and, most important, students. Inside you will find details of a bunch of our best students who were recently awarded scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year. In total, these students received $21,000 in scholarships. This is due in large part to the generosity of donors such as you. The ConnerConnects banquet was a huge success and included the presentation of the first ever Stephen J. Brannen Leadership Award. The $500 award will help a student go to Brussels this summer to intern in the Georgia Department of Agriculture office there. This is exactly the sort of extracurricular learning experience that the Brannen Fund is designed to help students afford. I thank everyone who has contributed in the past for making opportunities like this possible and encourage you to donate again so that we can increase our scholarship awards, enabling us to reward more students in future years than we can afford to now. There is a convenient form included in this newsletter. So enjoy your summer and we hope to see or hear from you soon.  

Jeffrey Dorfman

ConnerConnects, 2007

The annual ConnerConnects Banquet was held on April 19, 2007 at the State Botanical Gardens Georgia Visitors Center in Athens, Georgia. The banquet provided a wonderful opportunity for college administration, alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends to socialize and become better acquainted. Rachael McCall, president of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club, presided over the event. We were honored to have Jack Bauerle, UGA’s swimming and diving coach and upcoming 2008 U.S. Olympic swim coach, as our keynote speaker.

We extend our thanks to our banquet sponsors for their generous support which contributed greatly to the success of the event: Steve Brannen, Classic Groundcovers, the Georgia Agribusiness Council, and Gresco.
2007 Annual Tom Frazier Memorial Golf Classic

The 2007 Annual Tom Frazier Memorial Golf Classic was held Friday, April 20, 2007 at the newly renovated University of Georgia Golf Course. Competition was friendly but fierce as four teams tied for low gross honors shooting scores of 67. Using the scorecards to break the tie, the team of Larry Cunningham, Chris Cunningham and Neal Johnson won first place gross. Two teams tied for low net honors with a net score of 59. Using the scorecards again to break the tie, the team of Rachael McCall, Jeff Teasley and Chris Peters beat the team of Bill Frazier, Randall Cofer and Forest Stegelin, whose team took second place net honors. Individual awards went to the following: closest to the pin went to Larry Cunningham on hole 3, Mat Thompson on hole 8, Luke Lanier on hole 13 and Jeff Teasley on hole 16. William VanLandingham won both long drive awards on holes 1 and 18. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following: Bischero’s Italian Restaurant for sponsoring team prizes for low gross, Forest Stegelin for donating the sleeves of golf balls for individual awards, Dave Cousart and the staff at the UGA Golf Course, the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and last but not least, a special thanks to Jo Anne Norris, Jeff Dorfman, and Chris Peters for their work behind the scenes in making this event possible.

Undergraduate Student News

Four departmental students were selected for Congressional Agricultural Fellowships and will be working in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2007.

Chris Chammoun will be working in the office of Senator Johnny Isakson.
Betsy MacMillan will be working in the office of Congressman Jim Marshall.
Bo Faircloth will be working in the office of Congressman Sanford Bishop, Jr.
Preston Cox will be working in the office of Congressman David Scott.

Cathy Strickland will spend the summer of 2007 working as an intern for the Georgia Department of Agriculture in Brussels, Belgium.
Award Recipients:

Outstanding Senior - Jim Faircloth

Jim is an Agribusiness major from Thomasville, Georgia. Among numerous other campus activities, Jim has served as president of AGHON, treasurer of the Ag Hill Council and as an Ambassador for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. He is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a recipient of the Sam Elliott Pope Memorial Scholarship.

Outstanding Agribusiness Major - Susannah Martin

Susannah is from Brooklet, Georgia. She served as the Collegiate 4-H Homecoming Chair, as a member of the Dance Marathon Special Events Committee, and the Picture Representative Slating Committee. She has served the community as a volunteer for the Boys and Girls Club, the East Georgia Regional Medical Center and the Northeast Georgia Food Bank. She is the recipient of the Mike Harper Leadership Scholarship, the CAES Alumni Association Scholarship, and the Tommy Irvin 4-H Scholarship.

Outstanding Environmental Economics & Management Major - Matt Davidson

Matt is from Atlanta, Georgia. He is a hardworking student who earned Dean’s List Honors.

Outstanding Agricultural and Applied Economics Major - Asa Ornelas Gonzalez

Asa is from Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. She was in the 6% of CAES undergraduate students who earned Dean’s List honors for the 2006 Fall Semester. She participates in an after-school tutoring program for Hispanic children at Pinewoods Library and also does some Spanish tutoring.

Leadership Award - Rachael McCall

Rachael is an Agricultural Economics major from Rochelle, Georgia. She is a National FFA Alumni Council Board Member and served as the Southern Region National FFA vice-president in 2005. She served as a member of the Governor’s Agricultural Education Advisory Commission Committee and is president of the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club. Also, she is the recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Award.
Scholarship Recipients 2007 - 2008

Georgia Farm Credit Associations Scholarship  
Billy (Bo) Faircloth  
Rachael McCall  
Luke Lanier  
Chris Cunningham  
Jim Faircloth

Firor Memorial Scholarship  
Megan Knott  
Katherine Zimpel

Proctor Memorial Scholarship  
Tiffany Williams  
Nathan Tyson  
Andrew King

Co-Bank Scholarship  
Betsy MacMillan

Tate Brookins Scholarship  
Adam Herbert  
Andrew Menaquale  
Shannon Yee

Tom Frazier Scholarship  
G. Ward Black, Jr.

Georgia Cooperative Council Scholarship  
Chris Chammoun

Leadership Awards:

$500 Stephen J. Brannen Award - Brussels Internship  
Cathy Strickland

$500 Tate Brookins - Congressional Fellowship  
Preston Cox

$500 Tate Brookins - Congressional Fellowship  
Bo Faircloth

$500 Tate Brookins - Congressional Fellowship  
Chris Chammoun

$500 Tate Brookins - Congressional Fellowship  
Betsy MacMillan
Agricultural & Environmental Economics Club Officers for 2007-2008

President
Rachael McCall

Vice President
Brett Cochran

Secretary
Ward Black

Treasurer
Bo Faircloth

Ag Hill

Representatives
Ben McCorkle

Matt Waters

Faculty Advisor
Dr. Jim Epperson

Other News

Brandon Harrelson is the 2007-2008 president of the Ag Hill Council.
Amanda Eade is the 2007-2008 secretary of the Ag Hill Council.
Andrew Menaquale ranked in the top 5% of the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Seniors.

Graduate Student News

The following graduate students were presented awards at the Graduate Student Awards Ceremony on May 1, 2007.

Vahe Heboyan - 2007 Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award

Elizabeth Hill - 2007 Claudia DePalma Davis Outstanding M.S. Student Award


Yingzhou Yu - 2007 Rod Ziemer Outstanding Ph.D. Paper Award for “Evaluating Agricultural Banking Efficiency Using the Fourier Flexible Functional Form”

Faculty News

Dr. Barry Barnett was presented the 2007 Outstanding Faculty Award by the Graduate Student Association. He has resigned from his position as associate professor and has accepted a faculty position in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Mississippi State University.

Students, faculty, and staff wish Dr. Barnett great success in his new position.
Jeffrey H. Dorfman, professor and interim department head has been named to a four year term as editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (2008-2011) by the board of the American Agricultural Economics Association.

Dr. Cesar Escalante was presented the 2007 Junior Achievement in Research Award by the UGA Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society in Agriculture in recognition of outstanding research accomplishments in his early academic career. Dr. Escalante has also been promoted to associate professor and granted tenure.

Dr. Nathan Smith received the Tifton Campus Junior Extension Scientist Award for Excellence.

Kim Waters (Accountant III) was presented the 2007 Outstanding Staff Award by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club. Kim was also presented the 2007 Outstanding Staff Award by the Graduate Student Association.

Dr. Dmitry Vedenov was presented the Outstanding Faculty Award by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club.

Chris Cliett (B.S.A. in agricultural economics in 1984) has been promoted to executive vice president and elected to the board of directors of First Southern National Bank in Statesboro. Chris is the chief credit officer of First Southern and is one of the founders of the bank.

Clint Murphy (B.S.A. in agribusiness in 2004) accepted a position with Ducks Unlimited as South Georgia regional director.

Steve Newton (B.S.A. in agricultural economics in 1979) has been named the executive vice president of the Southern Nursery Association, Inc. Steve has been serving in the Bush Administration as State Executive Director of the Georgia Farm Service Agency and most recently as Special Assistant to the Administrator in Washington, D.C. as State Executive Director.
We are so grateful to our alumni and friends for their financial support of the department. Listed below are the names of those who have made financial contributions to the department from June 11, 2005 - May 31, 2007:

**$1000-$10,000**
- Jere T. Thorne
- Dr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Brannen

**$500 - $999**
- Dr. Kenneth Foster
- Hayden A. Cox
- Larry Cunningham
- Dr. George Shumaker
- Xuecai (Jack) Wang
- R. Jerry R. Crews
- Wilbur C. Mull - Classic Groundcovers, Inc.
- C. Randall Nuckolls
- James E. Brown
- Dr. Eugene Cox Murkison
- Dr. Ivery & Pat Clifton
- William & Martha Givan
- Phil or Jim Ham, Sleepy Creek Farms
- Peter & Lynn Alzano
- John Colin Perner
- Pepsico Foundation, Inc.

**$200 - $499**
- Dr. & Mrs. Josef Broder
- Dr. & Mrs. Wen Williams
- James R & Nancy R. Donald
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Colin Ingram
- Adolph Sanders
- Richard K. Noles
- Josh Chandler
- Johnny E. Hyers & Louise J. Hyers
- Randall Calvin Copeland & Mrs. Mary Mittner Copeland
- Anastasios Haniotis
- Nancy Carol Firor Kibbee for Hugh V. Firor, M.D.
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Beasley
- Jerry & Karen Crews
- Ruel Max Sellers
- Dr. James Epperson

**$1 to $199**
- Mr. & Mrs. William Anthony Schwoerer
- Dr. Fred C. White
- Ronny Max Franks
- Robert Lewis Newsome III
- Ellis Brothers (William Ellis)
- George Edward Thornton & Mrs. Lee Duvall Thornton
- UBS Matching Gift Program for Joseph Sammons
- Melissa K. Inoue
- GlavoSmith Kline - company match for William A. Schwoerer
- The Dawson David Company, LLC (David Lorrens)
- Eric Eugene Skinner
- Desmond Wright Harp
- Clark Joseph Anderson
- Mr. & Mrs. James Edward Trevithick
- The Wachoa Foundation, Inc.: company match for Franklin Earl Aldag
- Mrs. Leigh B. Wilson
- Bruce Erwin Butler
- Ernest Clinton Smith III
- Peter Buton Hendrix
- Mr. & Mrs. Russell Dudley Brumby
- Michael A. Buchheit
- Dr. Patricia Ellen Norris
- Susan Ballou Wiles
- Keith Boyett
- George & Susan Livingston III
- Jeffrey Alonzo Minor
- Stephen Patrick Griswell
- Judy Johnson Watters
- Robert H. Cole
- Deborah McKinney Dent
- John Hayes
- Jackie W. Hartley
- Mary Jane Wilson
- Donald Altman
- Denise W. Smith
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Scott Wolf
- Leon Horace Langley, Jr.
- Donna Leigh Stokely
- Gene & Janene C. Sullivan
- Dr. Anne Firor Scott
- ERA First Realty of LaGrange, Inc. (Jerry Johnson)
- Robert and Jayne Hill
- T. Kelley White
- Mr. & Mrs. Max Sellers
- Mr. & Mrs. Walter G. Culverhouse
- Mr. & Mrs. John Chilang Chung
- Fred & Peggy Greer
- Ira Buddy Lee
- Stephen C. Morse
- Garland Thompson
- Wilson Weathersby Farm
- Dr. James Elbert Nix
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Moss
- Chris Lance
- Walter J. Drabantowicz, Jr.
- Robert A. Hill
- Dr. David Bruce Narrie
- William H. Mills
- Jerry H. Padgett
- Dr. Henry Doss Brodnax, Jr.
- Rodney Nathan Fowler
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Colin Ingram
- Dr. & Mrs. Wen Williams
- Jonathan Carlton Wicker
- J.C. Kirk
- Thomas J. Fox
- Emory Brooks
- Hakeem O. Akinsanya
- Leah Camp Atkinson
- Chris Batchelor
- Devine Properties, LLC
- Sharon Gabel Buchanan
- Pamela G. Willis
- Skyline Plumbing & Septic, Inc.
- Fred Thrower
- Alex G. Lebedeff
- Joseph Deloach
- Sam H. Gordy
- Aleksandar Zelenovic & Hope E. Bryer (In memory of Charles Seckinger)
Your tax deductible contributions to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics programs help to ensure the continued quality educational experiences that are an integral part of student life in the department. Your contributions will aid the department in providing scholarships and resources for students to travel and compete in professional programs, develop leadership skills and generally improve the department’s teaching programs. Additional support is needed for the Improvement Fund, as well as endowments for scholarships, leadership awards, and a distinguished professorship. Many employers will match employee contributions to their alma maters. Please check with your company to see if it will match your contributions to the department.

Please consider making an investment in future economic leaders by supporting our educational programs. Checks should be made payable to the Arch Foundation and mailed to 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. You may specify which fund you want your contribution to support: Agricultural Economics Fund (supports general departmental activities), Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund, Tom Frazier Scholarship Fund, Wen Williams Scholarship Fund, Evan Brown International Education Fund, William Firor Scholarship Fund, Roy Proctor Scholarship Fund, or Tate Brookins Scholarship Fund. (Please see form on last page.)

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**Outstanding Agricultural Economist Awards—Now Accepting Nominations**

The Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia (AEAG) presents yearly awards to agricultural economists who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level. Candidacy is limited to agricultural economists operating in Georgia and/or graduates of a degree program offered by the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia.

There are two awards which are based on the number of years of experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Young Professional Award* is presented to those with ten years or less of professional experience. The *J. W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award* is presented to those with more than ten years of professional experience.

Nominations for the awards may come from anyone. AEAG members, faculty, alumni, students and agricultural economists in the state are encouraged to nominate qualified candidates for the awards. Also, agricultural economists should feel free to nominate themselves.

The nomination process is simple. Provide a brief description of the nominee’s accomplishments, education, work experience, current position, past recognitions and awards, and contact information. Send nominations to the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. The deadline for award nominations is September 15, 2007. AEAG Board members will select award recipients. Both awards will be presented at the luncheon following the annual J. W. Fanning Lecture in November.
My Contributions to The University of Georgia
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Agricultural Economics Improvement Fund
(supports general department activities).................................$__________

Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund.................................$__________

Tom Frazier Scholarship Fund..........................................................$__________

Wen Williams Scholarship Fund..........................................................$__________

Evan Brown International Education Fund........................................$__________

William Firor Memorial Scholarship Fund.......................................$__________

Roy Proctor Memorial Scholarship Fund...........................................$__________

Tate Brookins Scholarship Fund..........................................................$__________

Total $__________

Please make checks payable to the Arch Foundation and mail to 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

Contributors of $500 of more will receive one commemorative item of their choice from the list below at no charge.

Poster – Agribusiness, Environmental Economics & Management, or Agricultural Economics
T-shirt - Agribusiness, Environmental Economics & Management, or Agricultural Economics
(Please indicate size: small___ medium___ large___ extra large___.)

Name_____________________________________________________________________________

Address___________________________________________________________________________

City_________________________________ State________________ Zip _____________________

Phone __________________________ Email ____________________________________________

Thank you for your contributions!