Greetings from the Department Head

Dear Friends:

I hope you are all having a great summer! Here in the department, the faculty usually take a couple of weeks’ vacation, but things stay busy as we try to catch up on our research projects and prepare for fall teaching. Although the final numbers are not in yet, it looks like the department will experience another record enrollment this fall. Including double majors, we expect to have close to 300 undergraduates, and more than 50 graduate students!

This newsletter’s faculty spotlight, Dr. Jeff Dorfman, exemplifies our commitment to quality research that expands the frontiers of knowledge and makes our department nationally and internationally renowned. In addition to his very distinguished publication record, you will notice that Dr. Dorfman is currently an editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, an honor which is reserved for the very best researchers in our discipline. We also have good news related to our extension programs. Mrs. Amanda Smith, one of our Public Service Assistants based in the Tifton Campus, received the 2010 Junior Extension Scientist Award for Excellence from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Our alumni spotlight features Mr. Wilbur Mull who received a B.S.A. in 1963 and an M.S. in 1965 from our department. He is owner and operator of three businesses – Classic Groundcovers, Inc., Classic Auction Co., and Classic Realty and Auction Company. Classic Groundcovers is the largest wholesale nursery in the country specializing exclusively in groundcovers. Mr. Mull uses his auctioneering skills not only in business pursuits, but to help a wide range of non-profit organizations raise money. He has won a number of distinguished awards throughout his career including the Slater Wight Memorial Award, the UGA CAES Alumni Association Award of Excellence, and the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award.

Faculty awards were presented at the Conner Connects banquet. Dr. Cesar Escalante received the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award from the Department’s Graduate Student Association, and Dr. James Epperson was presented the Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Award by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club. Staff members Jo Anne Norris and Karina Koppius and several students were also recognized for extraordinary
service and accomplishments at the banquet. You may read about their awards in the newsletter. I also want to extend my thanks to Mr. Craig Scroggs for speaking at this event.

As you might know, our feature fall event is the J.W Fanning Lecture, which will be held on the morning of December 10 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. This year we are fortunate to have another very distinguished speaker, Dr. Mark Partridge, who is a professor and holds the Swank Chair in Rural-Urban Policy at the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at The Ohio State University. The title of Dr. Partridge’s lecture will be “Fighting Poverty One Community at a Time.” In addition to the lecture, the J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award and Distinguished Young Professional Award will be presented at this event. Please help us by nominating alumni for these awards. Criteria and instructions are listed on the last page of the newsletter. Also, please contact Ms. Audrey Hudson (ah1@uga.edu) if you would like to join our faculty and students in attending this 26th J.W. Fanning Lecture!

There is an alumni information form attached to the newsletter. Please consider filling it out and returning it to us, as we are very interested to learn about your activities and accomplishments after leaving the department. To finalize this introduction, I would like to thank the many of you who made financial contributions to our scholarship funds during the last fiscal year, whose names are meritoriously recognized in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Octavio A. Ramirez
Professor and Head

Conner Connects - 2010

The Conner Connects Banquet in April 2010 was a huge success with 75 plus in attendance. Our thanks go out to Craig Scroggs (B.S.A. in agricultural economics in 1981), a rural business cooperative specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture, for his informative and entertaining speech. We also extend our appreciation to our sponsors, Mike and Jennifer Buford, Kristin McWhorter, and Wilbur Mull. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal, fun, and fellowship. Graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and staff members were recognized for outstanding accomplishments.

J. W. Fanning Lecture

The 26th annual J. W. Fanning Lecture is scheduled for December 10, 2010. This year’s speaker will be Dr. Mark Partridge, the Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy at Ohio State University. He is a Faculty Research Affiliate, City-Region Studies Centre, University of Alberta and an adjunct professor at the University of Saskatchewan. Professor Partridge is co-editor of the Journal of Regional Science and serves on the editorial boards of Annals of Regional Science, Growth and Change, The Review of Regional Studies, and Region et Developpement. He has published over 100 scholarly papers and coauthored the book The Geography of American Poverty: Is there a Role for Place-Based Policy? Professor Partridge has received research funding from many sources including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Brookings Institution, European Commission, Infrastructure Canada, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, U.S. National Science Foundation, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. His research includes investigating rural-urban interdependence and regional growth and policy. Dr. Partridge also served as president of the Southern Regional Science Association.
Student News

Graduate Student News

2010 Graduate Student Award Winners

Anand Nambiar is the winner of the 2010 Claudia DePalma Davis Outstanding M.S. Student Award. (Presented by Dr. Michael Wetzstein)

Wesley Burnett is the winner of the 2010 Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award. (Presented by Dr. Michael Wetzstein)

Mohammed Alhassan is the winner of the 2010 Outstanding M.S. Paper Award and the title of his paper is “Valuing Weather Information in Irrigated Agriculture.” (Presented by Kavita Sardana)

Wesley Burnett and Myra Clarisse Ferrer are the winners of the 2010 Rod Ziemer Outstanding Paper Award and the title of their paper is “Dynamic Optimization of Nitrogen Use in Agriculture.” (Presented by Kavita Sardana)

Myung Park (Ph.D in 2010) has taken a position as a research fellow in economics at the National University of Singapore.

Oleksiy Tokovenko has accepted a position as a research professor of international trade and marketing at the Center for International Trade and Policy Studies at North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND.

Rod Ziemer Lecture

The annual Rod Ziemer Lecture, sponsored by the Graduate Student Association, featured Dr. Laurian Unnevehr and was held April 2, 2010. Dr. Unnevehr is the director of the Food Economics Division of the USDA-ERS, and she is recognized for original contributions in measuring the consumer benefits from agricultural research, the changing structure of U.S. food demand, and the cost-benefit trade-offs in food health regulation. Her lecture was titled, “Reducing the Costs of Obesity: What Can Economics Contribute?”

Undergraduate Student News

2010 Undergraduate Student Award Winners

Brock Young is the 2010 Outstanding Agricultural Economics Senior. (Presented by Dr. James Epperson)

Katie Thomas is the 2010 Outstanding Agribusiness Senior. (Presented by Dr. James Epperson)

Ashley Dronenburg is the 2010 Outstanding Environmental Economics and Management Senior. (Presented by Dr. James Epperson)

Kayla Calhoun is the 2010 Outstanding Leadership Award winner. (Presented by Dr. James Epperson)
Scholarship Recipients

AgSouth Farm Credit Associations Scholarship Winners:

Angela Boothe
Zeke Bryant
Shayna Pollock

Fior Memorial Scholarship Winners:

Gena Perry
Travis Voyles

Georgia Cooperative Council Scholarship Winner:

Katie Williams

Proctor Memorial Scholarship Winners:

Rachael Gass
Mary Alice Jasperse

Tate Brookins Memorial Scholarship Winners:

Kayla Calhoun
Heather Hatzenbuhler

Internships & Congressional Agricultural Fellowships

Katie Williams has been chosen as the 2010 Brussels, Belgium intern. She will live in Brussels, Belgium for twelve weeks during the summer of 2010 and work as an intern in the Georgia Department of Agriculture in Brussels. Katie is a third-year agribusiness major from Madison, Georgia.

Angela Boothe has been chosen for a 2010 Congressional Agricultural Fellowship to work in the office of Senator Johnny Isakson in Washington, D.C. Angela is a third-year environmental economics and management major with a minor in environmental law from Atlanta, Georgia.

William Collins, Jr. has been chosen for a 2010 Congressional Agricultural Fellowship to work in the office of Congressman Jack Kingston in Washington, D.C. William is a third-year agribusiness major from Thomasville, Georgia.

Faculty News

Dr. Cesar Escalante is the winner of the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award presented by the Graduate Student Association. (Presented by Clarisse Ferrer)

Dr. James Epperson is the winner of the Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Award presented by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club. (Presented by Gena Perry)
Mr. Keith Kightlinger retired from the University of Georgia effective July 1, 2010. He will return August 2 on a 25% part-time rehire appointment. Keith’s responsibilities have included the Farm Business Management Advisory Program (FBMAP), taxation, farm business management, and labor. His work with the FBMAP will continue for FY11. This will include record-keeping and analysis for the 2010 business/tax year and assisting current program participants to further develop their financial management record-keeping and management skills. The FBMAP will be terminated effective June 30, 2011. Program participants have already been notified of this change.

Keith will continue extension education programming efforts in the area of taxation. He will also participate part-time in the development and delivery of broad based extension educational programs in the areas of farm business and financial management. Please continue to call on Keith for clientele needs related to these issues.

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics would like to thank Mr. Kightlinger for more than 21 years of dedicated service. We are grateful that he will still be offering his expertise on a part-time basis.

Amanda Smith received the 2010 Junior Extension Scientist Award for Excellence. This award is presented in memory of Mike Bader.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Jeff Dorfman performs research in three areas: econometrics, productivity measurement, and the economics of land use. In econometrics, researchers apply statistical techniques to economic data. Dr. Dorfman is a specialist in Bayesian econometrics which deals with optimally combining information from data with what the researcher already knows from other sources. His work in this area has led to his recognition as the leading proponent of Bayesian econometrics within agricultural economics.

Recently, he was asked to be part of a select group of agricultural and resource economists who compiled a special issue of invited, retrospective papers to celebrate the centennial of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. Twelve papers were commissioned by the association's board of directors, with each paper dealing with a single field of research. Dr. Dorfman was one of four professors asked to co-author the paper on econometric developments over that 100 year period. The paper traces the most significant contributions to this field over the last century that have been made by agricultural and resource economists. At the AAEA Annual Meetings in Denver this July, Dr. Dorfman will make an invited presentation of the special paper.

Within Georgia, Dr. Dorfman is best known for his work on the economics of land use and development. He has worked with cities and counties throughout the State to help them understand the effects on their budgets of new developments in their communities (such as new businesses or increased residential population). Dr. Dorfman helps lead training classes for county commissioners and city council members for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association, as well as working with local governments on
a one-on-one basis. He also gives frequent talks around the state to civic, business, and government groups on land use topics such as farmland preservation, smart growth development, growth management, and the current economic climate.

Publications


Who’s Been Where & Why

**Dr. Terry Centner** traveled to Chengdu, China in June to present a paper at the Environmental Pollution and Public Health Conference.

**Dr. Jeff Dorfman** traveled to St. Louis, MO in April to present a paper at the 2010 NCCC-134 regional meeting.

**Dr. Cesar Escalante** traveled to Washington, D.C. in June to meet with officers and researchers at the USDA-Economic Research Service.

**Dr. Susana Ferreira** traveled to Montreal, Canada June 28- July 3 to serve as a discussant and present a paper to the Fourth World Congress of Environmental and Natural Resource Economists.

**Dr. Stanley Fletcher** traveled to Washington, D.C. in March to attend a meeting of the American Peanut Council. Also in March, Dr. Fletcher traveled to New Orleans, LA to represent the University of Georgia at the annual S-1043 Multi-State Research meeting. In June, Dr. Fletcher traveled to San Antonio, TX to participate in the 2010 US Peanut Supervisors meeting and to Amelia Island, FL to participate in the 2010 USA Peanut Congress.

**Dr. Berna Karali** traveled to St. Louis, MO in April to attend a Conference on Applied Commodity Price Analysis, Forecasting, and Market Risk Management.

**Mr. Keith Kightlinger** traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the annual meeting of the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee.

**Dr. Genti Kostandini** traveled to Orlando, FL in February to present a paper at the SAEA meetings and moderate a session at the conference.

**Dr. Warren Kriesel** traveled to Washington, D.C. in March to participate at the NE 1029 annual meeting.

**Dr. Curt Lacy** traveled to Indianapolis IN to participate in the LEAD 21 Class Conference.

**Dr. Don Shurley** traveled to St. Louis, MO in May to make an invited presentation, “Weed Control Costs in Georgia Cotton in an Environment of Glyphosate Resistance” at the Monsanto Crop Economics meeting.

**Dr. Nathan Smith** traveled to Biloxi, MS in February to make a presentation at the National Peanut Buying Points Association Winter Conference and Annual Meeting. In March, he traveled to Branford, FL to make a presentation at a Florida Tri-County Peanut meeting.

Staff News

Outstanding Staff Awards

**Karina Koppius** is the winner of the Outstanding Staff Award presented by the Graduate Student Association. (Presented by Clarisse Ferrer)

**Jo Anne Norris** is the winner of the Outstanding Staff Award presented by the Agricultural and Environmental Economics Club. (Presented by Gena Perry).
Alumni Spotlight

Wilbur C. Mull

Wilbur Mull is owner and operator of three thriving businesses—Classic Groundcovers, Inc., Classic Auction Co., and Classic Realty and Auction Company. As corporate president and owner of Classic Groundcovers, Inc., Wilbur has developed the business into the largest wholesale nursery in the country specializing exclusively in groundcovers, with annual gross sales of almost $4 million. Currently, Classic Groundcovers distributes nationwide and exhibits throughout the year at approximately 20 trade shows and field days across the country. By combining an aggressive and unique marketing strategy with “sudden service” and a quality product, Classic Groundcovers has built a solid business during its forty-seven year history.

Wilbur conducted some auctions while in high school and college to help pay for his education. In 1980 he attended the Missouri Auction School and has been a professional auctioneer ever since. He is the lead auctioneer for Classic Realty & Auction Co., Inc., which handles auctions for personal property, business, liquidation, real estate, and fund raising. Aside from this business venture, Wilbur uses his auctioneering skills to help a wide range of non-profit organizations raise money. Wilbur recently raised $1000 on 3 items auctioned for the Albion, New York FFA Chapter. He is a distinguished 1959 alumnus of the Albion FFA and was the keynote speaker for the 100th anniversary celebration in March.

Wilbur received a B.S.A. in agricultural economics in 1963 and an M.S. in agricultural economics in 1965, both from the University of Georgia. He completed all but the dissertation for his Ph.D. in marketing and was on staff at UGA while working on his degree and taught marketing. Wilbur has used his marketing skills to become an undisputed success in his various business pursuits. He affirms that the most important lessons he has learned in life are patience, consistency, honesty, and the golden rule.

He was a leader in the creation of Georgia Green Industry, an affiliation of related agribusinesses. Wilbur is active in civic organizations and has received numerous recognitions and awards, including the David Laird Memorial Award as Outstanding Young Nurseryman in the Southeast in 1976, and the Slater Wight Memorial Award in 1993, the most distinguished award given by the industry. In 1999, he received the Athens Area Small Business Person of the Year Award and the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association Award of Excellence. In 2003, Wilbur was presented the Jake Tinga Distinguished Professional of the Year Award. In 2004, he was honored as one of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity’s Brothers of the Century, and he received the 2005 J.W. Fanning Distinguished Professional Award for his many accomplishments.

Wilbur and his wife, Susan, have a twenty-six-year old son, Casey, who is pursuing a Ph.D. at UGA and a twenty-three-year old daughter, Shellie, who is a registered nurse in Athens. Wilbur is a member and deacon of the First Christian Church in Athens.
Alumni News

Swagata “Ban” Banergee (Ph.D in 2004) is an assistant undergraduate coordinator and faculty senator alternate in the Department of Agribusiness, School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Alabama A&M University.

Ben McCorkle (B.S.A. in 2008) and Betsy MacMillan McCorkle (B.S.A. in 2008) were married in June 2008. They now live in Cary, NC. Ben is currently an account executive at Enterprise Car Sales and Betsy recently completed an M.S. in Environmental Economics & Policy at Duke University. She is currently working as campaign manager for US. congressional candidate Frank Roche who is running for North Carolina’s fourth district congressional seat.

Paul Wojtkowski (M.S. in ag. econ. in 1985) has been invited to give a keynote address at the European Society for Agronomy Conference in France in August 2010 (see www.agropolis.fr/agro2010).

Request for News

We want to hear from you! If any of our alumni, faculty, students, staff, or friends have any news or announcements you would like to share in the newsletter, please notify us. We want to know if you have a new job, if you have moved to a new address, if you have married, if you have had a baby, or any other important events in your lives that you would like to share with the readers of the newsletter. Please email the information to Audrey Hudson at aaecnews@uga.edu with the word “news” in the subject line, or mail the information to Audrey Hudson, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UGA, 303 Conner Hall, Athens, GA 30602-7509.

Opportunity to Support Department

Please consider making an investment in future agricultural economics and agribusiness leaders of our state and nation by supporting our educational programs. To support the Agricultural Economics Fund (which supports general departmental activities) or the Stephen J. Brannen Student Leadership Fund, please make checks payable to the Arch Foundation. To support the Tom Frazier Scholarship Fund, Wen Williams Scholarship Fund, Evan Brown International Education Fund, William Firor Scholarship Fund, Roy Proctor Scholarship Fund, or Tate Brookins Scholarship Fund, please make checks payable to the UGA Foundation. Mail all checks to 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509.
Outstanding Agricultural Economist Awards – Now Accepting Nominations

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

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

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

The nomination process is simple. Provide a brief description of the nominee’s accomplishments, education, work experience, current position, past recognitions and awards, and contact information. Send nominations to the Agricultural Economics Association of Georgia, 303 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509. The deadline for award nominations is September 30, 2010. AEAG board members will select award recipients. Both awards will be presented at the luncheon following the annual J. W. Fanning Lecture in the fall.

The new editors of the Journal of Agribusiness, James E. Epperson and Cesar L. Escalante, would like to encourage all people interested in submitting articles to the Journal to do so. The Journal will publish papers and case studies on a wide range of topics including all areas of agribusiness, economic development, and environmental issues related to agriculture, and general empirical research within the broad range of agricultural economics.

Manuscripts undergo strict, double-blind peer review and the editors will strive to make the editorial process move as rapidly as possible. The Journal is particularly interested in publishing papers that will appeal to academic researchers, government agencies, and people working in agribusiness. Please send your manuscripts and other editorial communications to JABEdit@uga.edu.
Contributions Thanks

We are so grateful to our alumni and friends for their financial support of the department. Listed below are the names of those who have made financial contributions to the department from August 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Mr. Kenneth Beasley
Ms. Ruth E. Brannen
Dr. & Mrs. Josef Meinrad Broder
Mr. Walter J. Drabantowicz, Jr.
Ms. Haley Marie Engelberth
Dr. & Mrs. James Epperson
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Franklin
Mr. Chris Groskreutz
Ms. Jaime Davis Joseph
Dr. Yvonne J. Kumi
Mr. Leon Horace Langley, Jr.
Mr. C. McGinnis Leathers, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Lyu
Mr. Elliott Marsh

Ms. Kristin K. McWhorter
Dr. & Mrs. David Bruce Narrie
Ms. Beth Linnea Nielson
Mr. & Mrs. C. Randall Nuckolls
Ms. Gail A. Patton
Mr. Joseph Sean Ragsdale
Dr. & Mrs. Octavio Ramirez
Mr. Craig Scroggs
Mr. George Scott
Mr. William R. Seaton
Mr. Bryan R. Tolar
Mr. Steve Vick
Wells Fargo & Company
Dr. Thomas Kelley White, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Wen Williams
Alumni Information Form - Agricultural and Applied Economics Department

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

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

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

Contact Information

Address:

City: County: State: ZIP Code:

Home Phone: Business Phone:

E-mail Address:

Employment

Employer:

Current Job Title:

Current Job Responsibilities:

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

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

Signed: _____________________________ Date: ______________

Please return your address and career information on the completed form to Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, 301 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7509 or e-mail the information to aaecnews@uga.edu with the word Form in the subject line. Thank you.