Engineering Independence
FROM AG HILL

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Growing up hearing stories about the Great Depression makes us wonder if the economic conditions we face today will set a new benchmark for future generations. In the midst of these volatile times, there are stories of struggles and triumphs. There are also opportunities to make cultural, pragmatic changes that often can only be born of necessity. And, there are some bright-shining lights in this dim economic picture.

Agriculture is among the brightest.

Added pressures of the economic downturn, backlash from food safety breaches and pending policy addressing climate change are forcing the world to rethink how we produce, market, trade and transport food. We must reduce carbon emissions, find alternatives to fossil fuels, increase the focus on food safety and carefully consider international policy affecting how we can produce enough food to feed the growing population. How we address these challenges will largely be answered in the classrooms, research facilities and Extension programs of American land-grant universities.

Keeping these vital programs moving against the current of dwindling budgets will be a challenge. I am confident we, and our colleagues across the country, are up to the challenge of recruiting, educating and training a strong agricultural workforce. The University of Georgia continues to draw the brightest minds from across the state, the nation and the world. It’s our job to make sure those incoming students know about the opportunities available in agriculture.

A recent UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development study shows that by 2016 there will be twice as many agricultural jobs available in Georgia as there are students graduating from Georgia colleges in agriculture-related programs. That often puts agriculture in the enviable situation of picking a position rather than searching for work.

A UGA Career Center survey showed that less than six percent of CAES graduates said they were still seeking employment, compared to numbers as high as 31 percent in other UGA colleges. Their starting salaries, including bonuses, are second among UGA colleges behind only the Terry College of Business. And, CAES tops all UGA colleges in the percentage of students attending graduate school, with 34 percent seeking advanced degrees.

Many students come to CAES following family tradition and dedication to an agrarian way of life. Others choose agriculture as an extension of their curiosity about science. Still others find agricultural careers the answer to an altruistic calling to help their fellow man. No matter why they choose agriculture, the future is bright.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Angle
Dean and Director
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

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SOUTHSCAPES

Contents

Engineering Independence

William “Billy” Fletcher describes his office as half doctor’s office, half body shop. Fletcher (left) is using his CAES engineering degree as a prosthetist.

Features

Prolific Peanut Production

Lust for Local

Teachers Make the Grade

Water Ways

Q&A with “Bo” Ryles

Student Spotlight

CAES Notes

Lead Dogs

Alumni Line

Outreach

Research

Teaching

Extension

On the Cover

Cover Photo by Stanley Leary

4

6

9

10

15

16

17

20

23
Peanut Rx, growers can greatly reduce costs,” Beasley said.

Peanuts are also affected by what happens in Washington, D.C., where decisions are made that can help or hurt farmers, said Stanley Fletcher, a CAES economist and coordinator of the National Center for Peanut Competitiveness.

The center created and maintains model farms, which are composed made from information from real farms. They simulate different growing regions in Georgia and other states. When a regulatory or policy issue comes up, Fletcher and his staff plug in the scenario to see how it would impact the farms and send that information to the right decision-makers.

Earlier this decade, the federal government ended the Depression-era peanut quota program, which regulated prices and how many and where peanuts could be grown. Today, peanuts compete nationally and internationally for market share, something new for the crop, said Nathan Smith, a CAES Cooperative Extension economist.

Georgia is one of the most diversified agricultural states in the country, he said, and peanuts are just one part of most farming operations.

“There are no farms in Georgia that just grow peanuts,” he said. “Many grow three or four other crops along with livestock, too. We gather the information growers need and present it in a way that they can tailor to their own operations to make the best choices on acreage, inputs and marketing.”

County agents are also essential to the communication chain, as farmers often view them as the face of the college.

“Farmers benefit greatly from having information and updates on research provided to them through their local agricultural Extension agent,” said Donald Chase, chairman of the Georgia Peanut Commission research committee.

CAES research benefits both farmers in Georgia and those in states that don’t have peanut research programs. “CAES provides the qualified staff and the Georgia Peanut Commission provides seed money in a partnership that provides needed research for Georgia producers,” Chase said.

Planting, growing and harvesting is only half the battle. CAES food science researchers find new and improved ways for people to benefit from and enjoy the nutritional value of peanuts.

Food scientists and nutritionists have helped to increase U.S. peanut consumption by 14 percent over the past five years, said Rakesh Singh, head of the CAES food science and technology department.

This research is often funded by Georgia farmers through funds they pay to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which are administered by the National Peanut Board and Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission.

“(Checkoff) funds are used for research projects in the Southeastern United States,” Singh said. “So actually, farmers are funding projects that will help create a demand for their crops.”

The Federal Collaborative research and Support Program for Peanuts, housed on the Griffin campus, provides $450,000 annually for peanut food science research, said Tim Williams, the program’s director.

Peanut products created by CAES researchers include peanut butter tarts, peanut chips and peanut crackers. They’re also working on peanut pasta, a peanut puffed snack food and a peanut burger.

CAES researchers are developing products with added health benefits, too. Funded in part by a multi-year, $1 million U.S. Peanut CRSP grant, CAES food scientist Anna Resurreccion modified peanuts in her Griffin laboratory to increase their level of resveratrol, an antioxidant that protects against cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer’s, and delays the aging process. These modified peanuts have up to 12 times more resveratrol than red wine.

“This technology will help increase the number of product lines made using resveratrol-enhanced peanuts and will give the manufacturers a competitive advantage,” Resurreccion said.

A chocolate peanut spread, Vitamin-A fortified peanut butter and a reduced-calorie, cracker-coated peanut snack were also developed from the project. The fortified peanut butter is sold commercially in the Philippines, where 15 percent of preschool children are Vitamin-A deficient.

CAES will continue to help the peanut fight its challenges in both the field and the market place. Its economic weight has loomed large in Georgia for a century, and likely will for centuries more. It’s almost like the state was made to grow them.

UCGA peanut agronomist John Beasley (left) and research assistant John Paul collect data from peanut test plots on the UGA Tifton campus.

By Brad Haire and Sharon Dowdy

I

It has been said that if God intended to create a place to grow peanuts, it surely was Georgia’s Coastal Plain region with its sandy, loamy soil and long growing season.

“Unfortunately, that same environment makes for near-perfect conditions for disease and insect outbreaks,” said John Beasley, a College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences agronomist.

To help farmers fend off diseases and insects, the legume’s primary enemies, CAES faculty and staff conduct hundreds of research trials across the state each growing season. CAES faculty and staff conduct hundreds of research trials across the state each growing season.

To stay in business, farmers primarily need cultivars that can produce high yields in Georgia’s disease-friendly environment, he said. For decades, the University of Georgia peanut breeding program has met this need.

In the mid-’90s, the Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus threatened the industry’s sustainability. Old varieties were too susceptible to the disease, which damaged 12 percent of the 1997 crop, costing $40 million in losses or preventive measures.

Then CAES released Georgia Green, a TSWV-resistant variety that literally saved the industry. Last year, the disease affected only 1 percent of the peanut crop, costing farmers $2 million to $3 million, Beasley said. The program continues to release more-improved varieties.

To fight other diseases, CAES researchers pool information from several departments to create Peanut Rx, an index tool that assigns numbers to dozens of cultivars and production techniques. It provides guidance on planting date, insecticides, row pattern, tillage methods and plant population. Based on their personal management decisions, farmers add the numbers to gauge their annual disease risk.

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“By using improved cultivars and the
Extension-led farmers markets meet farmers’ and consumers’ needs

By Stephanie Schupska

Saturday, 6:00 a.m.
The sun still hasn’t cracked the night sky with light when Louise Estabrook leaves her red and black tailgating tent into the back of her truck. She checks to make sure none of her sticky notes have fallen off her poster board before grabbing her cowboy hat.

She’s ready for another summer Saturday at the Riverside Farmers Market. Partnering with the City of Roswell, Estabrook helped start and now manages the Certified-Georgia-Grown market, one of a number of fast-growing local markets led by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agents.

6:31 a.m.
Estabrook pulls into Riverside Park on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. On weekdays, she works as a UGA Extension agent in north Fulton County. On Saturdays, she’s the market manager. “If people can’t make it to my office during the work week, there’s not much recourse for them,” she said. “Just for being a sixth day for the office, it’s great.”

A few minutes later, early-rising runners cut through the fog by the river. Vendors arrive with their produce, breads, flowers, soaps, candles, salsa, coffee and plants. Estabrook checks her board and adjusts her sticky notes – each one has a vendor’s name on it – and directs vendors to their spots in the closed parking lot.

She’s expecting 48 vendors today. Estabrook welcomed eight vendors when she opened the market last year. The market’s rapid growth and popularity follows increasing consumer demand for fresh, locally grown produce.

At the same time Estabrook arrives at the Roswell market, to the east in Clarke County, Extension agent Amanda Tedrow is pulling into the Athens Farmers Market.

The Athens area has responded extremely well to having the Extension tent set up. At both the Roswell and Athens markets, Master Gardeners are on hand to answer questions ranging from composting to canning.

6:54 a.m.
By now, egg vendor Tim Gray has sold out. Gray increased the size of his flock because of the market, but still can’t keep up with the demand. By 11 a.m., most of the produce vendors will also be sold out, including the peach growers who drive up from Fort Valley.

The Roswell and Athens markets are just two examples of UGA Extension-led markets operating across the state. In Pulaski County, Extension agent Ronnie Barentine’s biggest challenge is having enough produce. His farmers also sell during the week, which is why he’s hoping for a location to start a daily farmers market.

Five years ago, Barentine, a few transplants from Atlanta, local farmers and the Hawkinsville Better Hometown Authority started the Hawkinsville Farmers Market. Before then, the local farmers would travel to Cordele and Macon to sell their harvests. “They would set up at vacant lots around town and sell, too,” he said.

The Cordele State Farmers Market has been open since the late 1940s and is one of 15 state farmers markets listed on the Georgia.gov Web site. Some are still booming, but that doesn’t make them easily accessible for all Georgians.

6:54 a.m.
Back in Roswell, Leslie Reed is loading up on her favorite market purchases. “We do a walk at the river, and then we make ourselves ill eating,” Reed said. She buys tamales by the dozen from Juan Pablo Diaz of Zocalo’s Restaurant. He also sells refried bean dip, mole, salsas and tortillas.

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7:20 a.m.
Back in Roswell, a vendor yells a greeting to Estabrook: “Good morning, cowgirl! How are you?” Estabrook checks him in and then tells her UGA Extension – Fulton County Master Gardener volunteers where she wants the Extension tent set up.

At both the Roswell and Athens markets, Master Gardeners are on hand to answer questions ranging from composting to canning.

“The Saturday market now averages 1,800 people,” Tedrow said. “The Athens area has responded extremely well to having the market. There’s a tremendous support here for the smaller farmer.”

Athens used to have a state farmers market, but the building where it was housed now sits abandoned except for volunteers where she wants the Extension booth set up.

There’s definitely been a trend across the country to get back to local foods and know where your food came from,” Tedrow said. “The Athens area has responded extremely well to having the market. There’s an extremely large support here for the smaller farmer.”

Kevin Barentine’s biggest challenge is having enough produce. His farmers also sell during the week, which is why he’s hoping for a location to start a daily farmers market.

That’s part of the reason the Hawkinsville market opened. Plus, it’s starting to spark the town back to life.

“Really, these efforts – the farmers market, working on the river park, the beaches to the annual yard sale – they’re all starting to work together to make Hawkinsville a place to come on Saturdays,” Barentine said.

8:34 a.m.
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“If people can’t make it to my office during the work week, there’s not much recourse for them,” she said. “Just for being a sixth day for the office, it’s great.”

6:00 a.m.
Estabrook hands me a cowbell. She doesn’t usually share the honor, but this Saturday, I’m in charge of walking up and down the market with her, ringing the bell to ceremoniously open the market.

8:54 a.m.
By now, egg vendor Tim Gray has sold out. Gray increased the size of his flock because of the market, but still can’t keep up with the demand. By 11 a.m., most of the produce vendors will also be sold out, including the peach growers who drive up from Fort Valley.

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The Cordele State Farmers Market has been open since the late 1940s and is one of 15 state farmers markets listed on the Georgia.gov Web site. Some are still booming, but that doesn’t make them easily accessible for all Georgians.
9:30 a.m.

In Athens, Indroo passes out forks. For $5, customers get four slices and a chance to name the best pie. The Vidalia onion tart wins out over the blueberry, tomato and blueberry-carrot. Randall Abney and his wife Carolyn, who baked the savory pie, moved to Athens in part because of the farmers market.

“When we came here last year, there was just a corner of tents,” she said. “Now, there’s no more room to put another tent. They’re really doing a good job with things.”

9:45 a.m.

“People absolutely love the market,” Estabrook said. “From the viewpoint of the vendors, it has truly become a family unit. We’ve all become good friends.” Until the market closes at noon, Estabrook will circulate through the market answering questions, chatting with vendors and helping out where she’s needed.

10:00 a.m.

A local acoustic band, Synergic, fills the air with music and the market is at its most crowded. Soap maker Jennifer Rosenthal of Indigo Bath and Body says the Roswell market is about more than just food. It’s also about education. Children who visit her booth learn how soap is made, which she views as an introduction to chemistry.

10:15 a.m.

The vegetables in the Dragonfly Farms’ booth have dwindled down to a few peppers and a squash. David and Marie Arnal of the Atlanta Bee Factory are mixing up more honey lemonade.

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10:45 a.m.

Estabrook gathers children volunteers to ring the cowbell to close out the market.

12:00 p.m.

The markets close down with the clang of a bell in Roswell and with the clunk of tables being folded in Athens. The Hawkinsville market will stay open into the afternoon, giving attendees plenty of time to buy a Mennonite-made cake or a watermelon or two, as well as continue a conversation.

12:07 p.m.

Estabrook hugs Will Jackson before he drives away in his truck. He says he works harder as a farmer now than he did when he worked on “all of the computer systems in the 1960s and 70s” at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Estabrook finishes a discussion with a Master Gardener as her husband and son pack up her tent. She’s completed her Saturday Extension work, and she’s happy about a job well done. After all, being at the market is “good visibility for UGA Cooperative Extension – Fulton County,” she said.

For more information on Georgia farmers markets, visit www.pickyourown.org/GAfarmersmarkets.htm or www.localharvest.org.
Playing under the water sprinkler isn’t an unusual way for children living in Georgia to cool off on a hot summer day. Standing under one that can dump a thousand gallons in just minutes is, and it’s a cool way to learn an important lesson about the state’s most valuable resource.

Before they can respect it or better conserve it, children need to learn the important roles water plays in their lives. From streams and rivers to irrigation and food to just plain refreshing fun, water touches everyone, said Jennifer Grogan, county 4-H agent for University of Georgia Cooperative Extension in Mitchell County. “It’s the essential ingredient to life and a healthy economy, particularly in southwest Georgia,” she said.

Grogan started the three-day 4-H2O summer camp last year to literally get the hands of area 4-H’ers wet with learning. “Many kids don’t understand about water. They think you just go turn on the faucet and there it is,” Grogan said. “With this camp, we want them to understand the connection of all aspects of water, which is one of our main focuses in 4-H.”

On a hotter-than-normal June day at the UGA C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park near Camilla, Ga., 6th middle school 4-H’ers from Mitchell, Dougherty, Baker, Worth and Decatur counties saw firsthand how water is used wisely for farming in their area and why. They learned how the Floridan aquifer – the region’s largest underground water supply – is recharged with rainfall during a typical year, and how a pump and well are used to draw water from it and other sources. Experts showed them cutting-edge technology that farmers use to conserve water, putting just the right amount on fields to grow healthy crops while protecting rivers and streams.

The 4-H’ers also helped calibrate a 260-foot center pivot irrigation system. They played tug-of-war with a tractor. “Who won? It depends on who you ask,” Grogan said. “We feel like these 4-H’ers are the kids likely already knew.”

The park facility has been a platform for educational programs for adults in the area for several years, he said. This was the first time an in-depth program was developed at the park for such a young audience.

The park is in the heart of the state’s heaviest agricultural water-use area: the Dougherty Plain. It is where water research and outreach programs are conducted by both UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

In 2000, then 80-year-old C.M. Stripling, an early advocate of responsible irrigation and forestry practices in southwest Georgia, donated 133 acres of his land to Mitchell County to lease to CAES to establish the park. Since his death, Stripling’s family has continued to be water management and conservation leaders in the area. To help the 4-H2O summer campers, the Stripling family donated 75 percent of the camp’s total cost, estimated to be $150 per student. They will continue to do so for the next several years, too.

Stripling’s son, Charles, charged the students at the camp to become their own leaders and wise users of water for their generation.

“You will be learning a lot about water during this week, but you will also deal with the issue of water use and management for the rest of your life,” Stripling told the inaugural campers. “We are proud you are here. Let this be the first day for you to begin your education on how to be responsible stewards of water and its management.”

After the lesson in agricultural water use, the students spent their second day at the Flint RiverQuarium in Albany, Ga., where ecological experts introduced them to the many habitats along the Flint River and the creatures that call its banks home. There they learned how it all can be protected for future generations to enjoy.

And on the third day, there was splashing, as campers visited Water World in Dothan, Ala. They learned how water is used for entertainment, lessons the kids likely already knew.
Today, Fletcher is using his University of Georgia biological engineering degree as a prosthetist and orthotist with Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics Inc., in Columbus, Ga. His career choice allows him to treat patients just the way he envisioned and use the engineering skills he honed while studying at CAES.

“I wanted to be a family physician and know people from birth to death,” Fletcher said. “Now I’m forming those kinds of relationships.”

His parents were both UGA alumni (William “Bill” Fletcher, Jr., BSA, ’74 Ag. Mechanization and Patricia Fletcher, FCS, ’75 Home Economics Education). His mother, Patricia, is a retired UGA Cooperative Extension agent and his father, Bill, is a diehard bulldog fan. You’d think UGA would have been first on Fletcher’s college choice list. It wasn’t.

“I was thinking about medical school, but biomedical engineering allows you to take premed required courses without limiting your career options,” Fletcher said.

Wanting to become a biomedical engineer, Fletcher first looked at Georgia Tech’s offerings.

“They didn’t have a program, but they were willing to make one for me,” he said. “Mercer had a program, but the tuition was more expensive.”

In the end, he followed in his parents’ footsteps and became a Georgia Bulldog. During his junior year at CAES, Fletcher explored the idea of becoming a physical therapist. Following his mother’s suggestion, he volunteered at a physical therapy office and soon discovered that wasn’t the job for him.

Next he decided to test drive becoming a prosthetist. He called four prosthetics offices in search of an internship. “I was willing to work for free and everyone said ‘no’ except for Hanger in Athens,” Fletcher said. “I worked with them for a semester and asked a million questions.” (With more than 600 offices, Hanger is the world’s largest clinical provider of artificial limbs. The company was established by Civil War Confederate soldier J.E. Hanger, the war’s first amputee.)

By a stroke of luck, Fletcher found a flyer publicizing an Amputee Coalition of America camp in need of counselors.

Having been a 4-H summer camp counselor at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, the opportunity was tailor-made for him. Fletcher served as an ACA counselor for three summers.

Next, Fletcher enrolled in graduate school at the University of Connecticut to study prosthetics and orthotics.

“My undergraduate degree at Georgia really prepared me for graduate school,” he said. “My UGA background was such that a lot of my (graduate) classes felt like repeats of material I had already been taught. I learned how to apply it clinically at graduate school.”

Soon Fletcher was working on his first year of residency at Shriners Hospital in Springfield, Mass.

“My Shriners Hospital experience was truly invaluable,” he said. “In that year alone, I was involved in fitting more than 50 patients for arms. I saw more arm amputees in a year than some prosthetists do in an entire career.”

With his career well under way, Fletcher married his college sweetheart, Katherine Doster (’02, BA, history education, ’04, MS, physical education). The couple first met during 4-H district project achievement at Rock Eagle. They now have two daughters, Carter, 3, and Larkin, 1.

Fletcher returned to his home state for another year of residency with Hanger in Macon before joining the company full-time.

Today, he describes his Columbus office as a “combination physician’s office and body shop.”

On one side of the building he helps patients with wound and edema care and guides them through the process of being fitted for prostheses. On the other, he and his staff build artificial limbs.

“We help patients who have partial missing fingers [and] those who are missing both arms up to the collar bone,” Fletcher said.

CAES GRADUATE LENDS MORE THAN A HAND TO HIS PATIENTS

Story by Sharon Dowdy
Photos by Stanley Leary
"I’m with my patients for hours on end, and I build strong bonds with them. Seeing the fruits of my labor help someone get up and walk is incredible."

The most advanced prosthetic hands available now work with sensors. "When a patient thinks about opening the hand, it opens," Fletcher explains. "When your muscles fire, they give off a signal and the computer picks up on it and controls what the hand does."

Fletcher and three of his CAES classmates (Scott Guetter, Jeff Lepis and Kristina West) developed a similar prosthetic hand during a senior engineering course (ENGR 4920) in which students perfect and refine products that are already on the market. "That team set the bar too high for my future students," said CAES professor Tim Foutz who, along with other UGA engineering faculty, teaches the course. "After three or four meetings I just let them go and they ran with it."

Color switches are used to match skin tones and some prosthetic arms are realistically designed, from the hair on the forearms down to the moons on the fingernails. Today, prosthetics may cost as little as $1,000 for a simple partial hand and $1,000 for a simple partial hand to $100,000 for a full prosthetic arm. "Men don’t seem to care and many actually want their limb to look high-tech. Ladies usually like to have them covered," he said. "One of our ladies is a quilter and she has a quilted arm," he said. "We have men who request UGA sleeves for their limbs." He laughs and says other southeastern conference teams are also built close relationships as if he were. And while he may not be a small-town doctor, he and his patients have built close relationships as if he were. "I’m with my patients for hours on end, and I build strong bonds with them. Seeing the fruits of my labor help someone get up and walk is incredible," he said. [3]

With Columbus so close to the Alabama/Georgia state line, he also treats sports injury patients from Auburn University.

I could be designing medical components like artificial knees and sitting at a computer all day long using AutoCAD," he said. "But I get to take a patient who has an amputation, who’s gone through a huge psychological change, and help them get to a point where they are crying with excitement instead of sadness. They are so happy when their mobility returns and they are no longer dependent upon others. It makes their family at ease, too, to know that their family member is independent again.

And while he may not be a small-town doctor, he and his patients have built close relationships as if he were. "I’m with my patients for hours on end, and I build strong bonds with them. Seeing the fruits of my labor help someone get up and walk is incredible," he said. [3]

When did you decide you wanted to work for the state 4-H program and did you have an early goal to someday lead the program?

I was first introduced to 4-H as a fifth grader at Eastman Elementary School. In high school, the idea of becoming a county agent emerged. By the time I was a senior at Dodge County High School I was certain I wanted to be a county agent and work with 4-Hers. Being an effective 4-H agent was my dream. District and state opportunities come along as natural progression of the job. I began to consider those opportunities based on strong encouragement from coworkers and Extension administrators like Don Cowan, Melvin Davis, Bill Edwards, Charles Roland, Tom Rogers and Tal Dussall.

How has the program changed and grown since you were first named Georgia State 4-H Leader?

We have significantly built on traditional components of Georgia 4-H’s success? There are several, including:

- Being a partner with public education at all levels;
- Sustaining a reputation of leadership with state and local elected officials;
- Our talented and hard-working staff;
- A supportive administration;
- Safe and outstanding 4-H centers; and
- Our large, engaged alumni base.

What do you think are the key components of Georgia 4-H’s success?

"BO" RYLES

Where would you like to see Georgia 4-H in five to 10 years?

As current and needed as it is today, I’d like to see 4-Hers enjoying all new cabins at Rock Eagle, a 4-H professional on staff in every county and more in our largest counties, an increased presence in our urban centers and continued enhancement of the school partnership. I’d like to see us as a national leader in 4-H science efforts and serving an expanded role as the source for youth leadership development. I’d like to see a 4-H Foundation that is even more prosperous in securing support for 4-H and another former 4-Her elected governor.

Mostly, I know I can only see through today’s lens. My biggest hope is that visionary, engaged leaders will be leading Georgia’s best youth organization — Georgia 4-H.

How do you plan to remain involved in the program?

So much of my life and my heart is with 4-H, I’ll always be ready to help as needed, yet I understand now is the time for Georgia 4-H to move on with new leadership. I am confident Georgia 4-H will reach new heights of excellence.
Young Scholars program sparks interest in global health

By Allie Byrd

Christine Akoh wants to change the world through agriculture, one country at a time.

A sophomore food science major from Athens, Akoh aspires to work as a global health advisor and help reduce hunger and poverty and improve health.

She got her first taste of international agriculture as a high school student when she was selected for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Young Scholars Program. Through the program, Akoh worked alongside CAES faculty and assisted with research in pharmacology, entomology and food science.

The program allowed her to travel to Honduras in 2008, where she planted chili peppers and toured farms. She also participated in homestays and took Spanish classes.

“I love the Young Scholars Program. It was my first time doing research and traveling abroad,” Akoh said. “Going to Honduras helped me realize I can live abroad and do international work, and it sparked my desire to want to help people in other countries.”

Having graduated from high school, Akoh is no longer eligible to participate in the Young Scholars Program so now she serves as a chaperone. In her new role, she traveled to Costa Rica in 2009. There she and the Young Scholars program sparked interest in global health.

“I was very excited about being back and feeling like I was really helping something,” Akoh said.

After graduating from CAES in 2012, Akoh plans to attend graduate school and work to help achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which include reducing hunger and poverty.

Many of the goals are tied to agriculture, she said. She first studied the goals in an international agriculture development class taught by CAES assistant professor Maria Navarro.

“The class opened my eyes to a lot of global health problems and what federal and international organizations are doing to help,” she said. “I became interested in international agriculture and global issues and learned key elements that make international development organizations successful.”

The program allowed her to travel to Costa Rica and Honduras (bottom photo). From working in a food science laboratory (top photo) to spending time in Costa Rica with her host mother Elizabeth Mata (center photo), Christine Akoh is enjoying her CAES educational experience. The college's Young Scholars Program allowed her to travel abroad to Costa Rica and Honduras (bottom photo). She now serves as a student mentor for the program.

Keeping Quality in the Classroom

By Faith Peppers

One of the strongest statements CAES makes to parents and students is demonstrated daily through the devotion of quality faculty in the classroom. You hear their names called out at award ceremonies. You will read about them in this magazine. Students will urge each other to sign up for their classes. And, often, you will find their names on scholarships, fellowships and internships given in their honor.

The late Gary Couvillon was one of those special teachers. Couvillon joined the University of Georgia faculty in 1963. He was named head of the horticulture department in 1986 and held that position for 12 years.

His career in horticulture and at UGA was highlighted by major contributions to teaching, research and administration. Teaching was of paramount importance to him during his 42-year tenure. He also considered a classical horticulturist, exceptionally well versed in all aspects of the discipline.

He won nine teaching awards, including the prestigious D.W. Brooks and L.M. Ware Awards, as a testament to his teaching skill. He was a Fullbright Scholar and a NATO Fellow, and faculty advisor to hundreds of undergraduates and to the Horticulture Club. His ability to communicate and his wide knowledge of horticulture made him a highly sought-after consultant. He had projects in Costa Rica, Brazil, India, Paraguay, Egypt and Japan. And, for 10 years, he was the Faculty Athletics Representative on the UGA Athletic Board.

In honor of his years of dedicated service to the horticulture department, the UGA Horticulture Club has endowed a scholarship in Couvillon’s memory that will help the department maintain the excellence he exhibited every day.

There is no greater way to honor those who dedicated their lives to education than continuing to provide that same level of excellence in their honor. To find out more about making a gift in the name of a special professor or advisor, contact Rob Cooper at (706) 542-3396, rck@uga.edu; or mail a check with detailed information about who you wish to honor to: CAES Office of College Advancement, 117 Four Towers Building, Athens, Ga., 30602. 17

Plowing Forward into the 21st Century

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences recently accepted a donation of two new McCormick tractors for use on our research farms. We are not only testing new varieties of crops, we are testing the latest in farm machinery to hit the market. The college’s partnership with McCormick International will improve productivity and allow us to explore the latest innovations while providing feedback to the company. CAES Dean and Director Scott Angle accepted the tractors during the Southeast Research and Education Center Field Day held Aug. 19 in Midville. “Partnerships with global companies like McCormick International allow us to remain a cutting edge college of agriculture and provide outstanding opportunities for our faculty, staff and students to utilize the latest technology available,” said Angle, shown in the foreground with CAES administrators Joe West, Steve Brown and Bob Shultstad.
Supporters toast viticulture programs, professorship

By Faith Peppers

Most Georgians know wine by the bottles they buy in it. But some know wine by the grapes that hang in abundance in their fields. Georgia’s wine grape growers are adding a touch of Italy and Sonoma Valley to the mountains of north Georgia. The industry is growing so quickly that it has tripled its acreage in the past five years.

To provide the state’s wine grape and wine making industry with the research and workforce it needs, the University of Georgia is expanding programs in viticulture—the science of growing grapes—and enology—the study of wines and wine making—and establishing a new professorship.

Georgia’s 2008 grape crop was worth $10.5 million, up from $6.4 million in 2003. The state’s 26 wineries generate $41 million per year and provide 430 jobs throughout the state’s economy.

This rapid growth has created a critical need for research scientists, a trained workforce and regional outreach efforts, said J. Scott Angle, dean and director of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. “It is our job, as a land-grant university, to provide cutting-edge research, sound economic development advice, outreach training and classroom education to support the emerging industries in Georgia,” Angle said.

“This professorship will give us a prime opportunity to help foster this new industry in Georgia.”

The person in this position will work with industry leaders to address research needs, engage world-renowned wine makers and grape growers and boost agitourism in Georgia.

To help get the professorship started, the college hosted a fundraising event on June 11. “An Alfresco Evening on the River” featured wine, entertainment and food from Atlanta-area chefs at the home of Richard and Sherri Smith in Atlanta. More than 170 people attended the event, which raised about $85,000.

“This event began a campaign to raise funds for a $350,000 endowment to support this important new professorship,” said Martha Ezzard, a member of the CAES Advisory Council. Ezzard co-chaired the event along with Carla Fackler and Donna Masinter.

“A first-class academic program in viticulture and enology with extensive internship opportunities will help today’s CAES students become the leaders of the Georgia wine industry tomorrow,” Ezzard said. She and her husband, John, have hosted interns at their Tiger Mountain Vineyards in Rabun County, Ga., for the past two summers.

For more information or to contribute to the endowment, call the CAES Office of College Advancement at (706) 542-3390.

College gardening show goes regional

By Faith Peppers

After a 10-year run, the final episode of Gardening In Georgia with Walter Reeves, a Georgia Public Broadcasting television series produced by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, will air this fall and Your Southern Garden, a new regional show, will take its place. The new show, a CAES production in cooperation with the University of Florida IFAS Extension, will air across the Southeast.

Your Southern Garden is a one-of-a-kind program geared specifically for the Southeast and unique to land-grant television programs. It features UGA and UF experts, top-notch sources from local gardens, green industry businesses and homeowners in the region.

“We aim to give gardeners in this growing region a program full of educational information they can use outside today,” said Scott Angle, CAES dean and director. “It also allows us to pool regional resources and talent to deliver the best product we can.”

Show host Walter Reeves, a retired UGA Cooperative Extension agent, will continue to bring the same down-home flavor to this new project. Working closely with UF and UGA Extension specialists and researchers, Reeves will show viewers how to put the universities’ expertise to work in their lawns and gardens.

Food safety experts from the UGA Center for Food Safety, including Director Michael Doyle, will deliver the latest food safety updates and pending food safety policy changes at the 2010 Georgia Ag Forecast. And, UGA economists will give the annual agricultural economic outlook. Mark your calendar today for the location nearest you:

January 23: Rome
January 26: Gainesville
January 27: Statesboro
January 28: Tifton
January 29: Macon

For more information, and to register, visit www.georgiaagforecast.com.

Food Safety Discussion in January

Food safety is a matter of national security, and it’s especially the case in Georgia. In fact, you could say our agricultural industry is the backbone of the Georgia economy, and is a major factor in the nation’s food supply. To raise awareness of this issue, the Georgia Farm Bureau is excited to bring the event, “Food Safety and the Farmer,” to Savannah.

The program will focus on protecting food safety in the field and in the kitchen. The program will take place on Saturday, January 23, at 9 a.m. at the Georgia Farm Bureau Building in Savannah. A light breakfast will be provided.

For more information, contact the Georgia Farm Bureau at 912-964-1414 or visit www.gafarm.com.

Gardening In Georgia will air throughout the Georgia Public Broadcasting viewing area, across north Florida and down to Tampa. Check local listings for showtimes in your area.
**1940s**

William “Bill” Lanier. BSA–Agriculture ’49, received the Georgia Farm Bureau Commodity Award in recognition of a lifetime of service to Georgia agriculture. A native of Candler County, Lanier began farming row crops, raising livestock and growing timber at the age of 20. He is a World War II veteran and served as a Seabee in the U.S. Navy. He served as president of the Candler County Farm Bureau for 21 years and president of Georgia Farm Bureau from 1964 until 1970. He also served six terms in the Georgia House of Representatives. In 2004, he was inducted into the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame. He is a past recipient of the Progressive Farmer Man of the Year in Service to Georgia Agriculture Award and was named the Georgia Tree Farmer of the Year in 1995.

**1960s**

Lee E. Blakey. BSA–Food Science ’62, of Visalia, Calif., received the 2009 Award of Merit from the American Dairy Products Institute. Blakey was recognized for his service to the nation’s dairy industry. He retired in 2008 after a distinguished career in the dairy industry working with companies such as Land ’O Lakes and Saputo Cheese & Protein. He continues to serve as a dairy industry consultant and is also chairman of the organizing committee for the 2011 International Whey Conference.

**1970s**

Indra Deo Singh. Ph.D.–Agronomy (Genetics & Plant Breeding) ’71, is an international expert on cultivation and processing of tea and crop diversification. He is currently a consultant to the tea plantations in India and abroad, develops human resources for the tea industry, provides technical support to finance management, directs research and development, prepares user-friendly literature on tea and gives technical support to the government of India on policy-related issues of the tea industry. Singh lives in Siliguri, Darjeeling, India.

**1980s**

Sam G. Lang IV. BSA–Agronomy ’71, owns Fairway Green in Raleigh, N.C. Fairway Green is one of the most successful lawncare businesses in the country, consistently recording an annual 10 to 15 percent growth rate. In 2003, Fairway Green was recognized by Lawn and Landscape magazine as one of its “Top 10 Companies in the Green Industry” nationwide. In 2004, Landscape Management magazine and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America named Lang its Lawncare Person of the Year.

Angela Stewart DeLorme. BSA–Ag Economics ’81, owns and practices with Angela Stewart DeLorme, P.C., a law firm specializing in real estate, wills, trusts, probate and small business law.

Glenn Smith. BSA–Ag Economics ’82, is vice president of global operations for TraceGains. Smith joined the organization in 1999 and served as USA county manager from 2001 until 2008. TraceGains delivers positively assured traceability to food packers, processors and retailers to help secure the supply chain.

Brett Davis. BSA–Agronomy ’84, works for Georgia Power Land Resources as a land management specialist in their Jackson lake office. Davis works to make sure all leased lots on the lake are up to standards and that everything within the shoreline stays within the guidelines of the company’s federal Energy Regulatory License.

Philip Schretter. BSA–Horticulture ’87, serves as grounds superintendent at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah. Schretter joined the university in 1993.

**1990s**

Hall Harden. BSA–Economics ’91, has been named senior director of sales for Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance Companies. He joined the Georgia Farm Bureau in 1998 and was named Assistant Director of Marketing in 2001. Harden is responsible for the implementation of the Farmers of the Year program.

Carmen Bennett. BSA–Animal Science ’97, M.Ed–Ag Education ’02, is a math teacher at Louisville Middle School in Louisville. She earned National Board Certification in 2004 and is in the process of completing her dissertation for a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction. She is married to Pete Bennett (BSA–Ag Education ’98), MAEd–Ag Extension ’01 and they have two daughters, Ali Grace and Adeline Belle. The family lives in Waynesboro, Ga.

Doug Makemson. BSA–Horticulture ’92, is a metal sculptor whose art is exhibited around the United States. The representational sculptures are made from steel, stainless steel, copper and brass. Almost all of the raw materials Makemson uses are recycled from businesses, scrap yards and farming activities. (The steel and chrome sculpture pictured above, “Henry,” was created from a John Deere hay baler.) The use of thick or non-corrosive material ensures his work will last when exposed to the outdoor environment. In the 1980s, Makemson focused on farming activities. He says he created “the time-honored performance art that all farmers do: the winding windrows of cut hay, the field of hay bales ready to move in the afternoon slanting sun, the forms and textures of the vegetable garden and the sounds of animals chewing contentedly in the barn.” In 1994 he transferred his energy to metal sculpting. His work can be viewed at www.makesculpture.com.

**2000s**

Lisa Ann McKinley. MAEX–Ag Extension ’93, is an environmental scientist for EPAs Water Protection Division. She recently received a Superior Accomplishment Recognition Award and a Time O’Ri Award for her work conducting multiple CAFO inspections during 2009.

Chris Tuten. BSA–Bio Sciences ’97, is a financial advisor with Douglas National Bank.

Lisa Ann McKinley. MAEX–Ag Extension ’93, is an environmental scientist for EPAs Water Protection Division. She recently received a Superior Accomplishment Recognition Award and a Time O’Ri Award for her work conducting multiple CAFO inspections during 2009.

**2000s**

Mary Ann Davis Parsons. BSA–Ag Communications ’02, M.Ed–Ag Leadership ’06, was recently named interim executive director of the Georgia 4-H Foundation. Parsons has been with the 4-H Foundation since 2005, previously as director of development.

Joy Carter. BSA–Ag Communications ’97, M.Ed–Ag Leadership ’07, director of communications for the Georgia Peanut Commission, was recently honored with the Andy Markscar Horizon Award. The award was presented by the American Agricultural Editors’ Association’s Professional Improvement Foundation and John Deere. The annual award is given to an AAEA member who embodies the youthful vigor, energy, passion, dedication and creativity shown by Markscar in his volunteer work for AAEA. Editor of The Furrow, Markscar died in 2006 from heart problems. Carter serves as president of the Georgia FFA Alumni Association and co-chair of the Affiliate Advisory Committee for AAEA. The winner receives a $2,500 stipend. Carter plans to use the stipend to attend the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists annual meeting in Belgium in April 2010. (Pictured left to right: Gil Gullickson, chairman of the AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation; Joy Carter, Andy Markscar Horizon Award winner; and Barry Nelson, John Deere manager of media relations.)

Timothy Daly. MS–Entomology ’03, is a Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Agent. He lives in Snellville.

Jessica Cuthkin. BSA–Horticulture ’04, works in product development / technical sales in the flower seed division of American Takii Seed in Salinas, Calif. American Takii Inc. sells only (Continued on next page)
TRAVEL WITH CAES ALUMS AND FRIENDS

Story and photos by Juli Fields

Thirty CAES alumni and friends traveled over 900 miles of Ireland’s narrow roads touring many of the country’s most famous southern gardens and farms. Horticulture professor Tim Smalley guided the group and provided tremendous insight into the history and philosophy of Irish gardening. The seven-day trip began in Ennis on Ireland’s west coast and concluded in Dublin in the east.

For many, the highlight of the trip was an evening in a bed and breakfast near Kilkenny, where hosts shared their personal accounts of life on the farms and rural lands of southern Ireland. Other highlights included the Cliffs of Moher; the Burren, Bunratty Castle, Mushuck House and Gardens, Garinish Island Gardens, Kilkenny Castle, Glendalough, Powerscourt and St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Plans are underway for a 2010 trip to England. The tour includes visits to the Royal Horticultural Society’s gardens at Wisley, Stourhead, Hidcote, Rossburn, Henry VIII’s Hampton Court, and Sissinghurst. Extracurricular highlights of the tour will be punting like an Oxford student on the Cherwell river, strolling through picturesque Cotswold villages, visiting Shakespeare’s birthplace in Stratford-Upon-Avon, petting rare livestock breeds at the Cotwell Old Farm, and a free day for sightseeing, theater and shopping in London.

The trip registration price includes a $500 tax-deductible donation to support the Deans’ Promise, which funds student internships, fellowships, study abroad programs, leadership training, service learning and research opportunities.

If you are interested in traveling with CAES in 2010, please contact Juli Fields at jfields@uga.edu or (706) 542-3390.

NOTE FROM A READER

“I was very pleased to receive the Spring 2009 issue of Southscapes, which I found very interesting and thought provoking. The write-up on “Growing Agritourism in Georgia” was very interesting and timely. It could be an eye-opener for urban populations all over the world. It reminds me of my days in Athens when I was pursuing my master’s degree at the University of Georgia in Horticulture. While I was doing research in the Ag Biotechnology Lab, I realized that the university had a lot of potential for agritourism.”

~ Indra Des Singh, Sipirpur, India (Ph.D., Agronomy: Genetics & Plant Breeding, ’71)
Burgers, Bugs and More at the CAES Annual Welcome Back Party

Avian biology major Samantha Litz takes a closer look at a hissing cockroach at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences annual welcome back party. The event gives CAES students, faculty and staff the opportunity to chat over hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers. It also gives students the opportunity to promote and learn more about CAES clubs, organizations and opportunities—like study abroad and the college's certificate programs.