Making Magic at Disney
FROM AG HILL

Dear Alumni and Friends,

New Year celebrations happen often in this college. We celebrate the new calendar year in January, as a new fiscal year in July and a new academic year in August. This year, we greeted each with great concern.

There’s no denying that the past few years have been hard for everyone. They’ve taken a serious toll on this college and our ability to serve Georgia. The days of working harder to do more with less are gone. We’re putting plans in place to focus on what we can continue to do with what we have.

We started the financial year in July with news of a state revenue increase for June. The good news continued through July and August. We aren’t celebrating yet, but we hope the predicted slow recovery is indeed under way.

Just as most New Year celebrations come with resolutions, I want to start this “new year” off with some resolutions, too. First, we resolve to help the 2010 freshmen who chose our college from a plethora of options to learn, grow and achieve great things. These newest CAES family members will benefit from some of the best minds in agriculture as these faculty teach their classes, share their expertise in labs and advise these students along their journey. Students are fortunate to be surrounded by an extended family of alumni and supporters who care about their futures and who will help provide them with every advantage possible.

Second, we resolve to provide the best science possible to grow Georgia agriculture, whether that means giving input to Congress working on the next farm bill, searching for solutions to problems in the field, tracking down sources of foodborne illnesses or unlocking genetic codes that lead to better crops, pest prevention and medical miracles.

And we will find a way to live up to our obligation to deliver lifelong learning to people across Georgia. It’s hard to put a sunny face on Extension when we are minus so many agents and specialists. The reality is that there are needed services we simply can no longer offer. There are opportunities we have to let pass because we don’t have the capacity to take them on.

A group of Extension faculty, with advice from throughout the organization, spent several months designing a new model for UGA Extension education delivery. We expect this new system to give us the best shot at meeting the needs of those we serve. It will look different. It will feel different. But, it will help keep Extension working as a valuable asset in Georgia communities.

With a bright, well-educated workforce, sound science, solid policy and effective Extension programs, we can deliver on the promise of our land-grant mission and help lead the region to a new place of prominence in the global marketplace.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Angle
Dean and Director
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Fungus resistance testing kit

Brown rot, caused by the fungus Monilinia fructicola, is the No. 1 disease of peach fruit in the Southeast, according to CAES associate professor of plant pathology Phil Brannen. While fungicides can help prevent brown rot, which occurs during wet seasons, a percentage of the population is fungicide-resistant. Because the resistant fungus looks like the rest of the fungal strains, it is impossible to determine resistance just by examining infected fruit.

Without proper treatment, brown rot can cause a 100 percent loss of peaches and spell disaster for growers.

Brannen helped create a fungicide resistance testing kit for peaches in a partnership with Clemson University assistant professor of fruit pathology Guido Schnabel. Brannen performed a lot of the fieldwork while Schnabel developed and tested the individual components in the lab.

“The ability to control brown rot is reduced by [fungicide] resistance,” Brannen said. “The kit allows producers to get a general feel for what is going on in their crops and how to adjust their spray programs.”

The testing kit is simple, quick and easy to use, Brannen said. Farmers swab a sample of the fungus from peaches onto an agar testing tray pre-loaded with different classes of fungicides. After 72 hours, the samples are analyzed for their degree of growth and resistance. Growers then enter the data into a Web application to receive management recommendations based on their specific situation.

“Now when brown rot occurs, the producer knows the fungicide failed and won’t continue the same treatment,” he said.

Growers can then increase the rate of the fungicide to beat the resistance, mix it with a different fungicide or use an entirely different fungicide with a different mode of action. The testing kit, which is currently in use in Georgia and South Carolina, can help prevent farmers from having complete peach crop failures in wet years.

Brannen and Schnabel also analyze the data entered into the website for patterns of resistance development and to see where the resistance is prevalent.

“In addition to directly learning more about the emergence and spread of field resistance, [we are able to] analyze resistance mechanisms on a very basic, molecular level,” Schnabel said. “Such information is critical for an in-depth understanding of fungicide resistance.”

Growers from Michigan and Tennessee have already requested kits, Schnabel said.

“Before the kit, there was no way to easily and readily detect resistance,” Brannen said. “We want to make the kit available to producers and county agents” across the country. “It has great potential because brown rot is a problem throughout the nation not only on peaches, but also on apricots, nectarines, cherries and plums.”

In the future, the same concept for the kit could also be adapted for other fungi and stone fruits, he said.

“Now when brown rot occurs, the producer knows the fungicide failed and won’t continue the same treatment.” - Phil Brannen, associate professor of plant pathology

By Allie Byrd

From vaccines to French toast, there isn’t much UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences faculty, staff and alumni can’t create. Over the years, they’ve licensed their research to seed companies, designed food products for Sam’s Club and helped farmers protect peach crops from fungi. Their inventions and products are used around the world to help farmers, producers and families improve their crops, industries and lives.
**Frozen foods**

Anna Ellington Wilson (MS – Food Science, ’07) works as a food technologist for Rich Products, an international food company that specializes in frozen dough products and appetizers.

Her latest product, the “meathall marinara melt,” is available at Sam’s Clubs nationwide. Other products she’s helped create, such as French toast and cheese sticks, can be found in Wal-Mart, Kroger, Publix, Winn Dixie and other grocery stores throughout the country. At the research and development lab in St. Simon’s Island, Ga., she develops new food products for both consumer brands and food services, like schools and restaurants.

“We look at consumer and restaurant trends to come up with ideas for products we feel like consumers will like,” she said. Her target consumers are moms who cook for their kids.

Wilson creates easy-to-prepare products that both kids and adults enjoy. “We try to develop products that can be microwaved quickly or baked in 10 to 15 minutes,” she said. “I love working with food and cooking, and I get to do something different every day.”

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**Poultry vaccine**

Poultry is the largest agricultural commodity in Georgia, and parasitic diseases in chickens can be devastating to the industry. CAES poultry science professor Larry McDougald created a vaccine that prevents the avian parasitic disease coccidiosis, which lives in the intestines and causes infection and bird loss. Symptoms include diarrhea, mucus and fluid buildup, blood in droppings, emaciation, morbidity and death.

“Every group of birds can have this infection,” McDougald said. “In chickens it can cause producers to lose a large number of birds.”

Although a vaccine already existed, it wasn’t compatible with broiler production because of growth and performance side effects, McDougald said. Seeing a need, he created an attenuated vaccine that induces immunity but doesn’t cause infection, thus preventing the negative side effects of the existing vaccine. McDougald’s vaccine took 10 years to develop and received USDA registration in 2008.

“The goal is to reduce the disease so that it doesn’t exceed the level of being a nuisance,” McDougald said.

Pharmaceutical and biologics company Merial licensed the vaccine, which is currently being sold on a limited basis to test markets. Named HatchPak Cocci III, the vaccine is sprayed on chickens. The chickens then preen, cleaning their feathers and swallowing the vaccine. Because the vaccine is a biological rather than chemical approach to disease control, it satisfies the broiler industry’s issues with medications as well as drug resistance.

**Fruit blotch detection**

Fruit and vegetable favorites like watermelon, squash, cucumber and honeydew melon can be ruined by a disease known as bacterial fruit blotch. It affects fruits and vegetables in the cucurbit, or melon and gourd family, causing dramatic symptoms like dark water-soaked areas and lesions on the plants and the fruit. If the disease-causing bacteria get into crops too early, the fruit will rot, often causing a 100 percent loss.

“Bacteria are single-celled organisms, and it is very difficult to rapidly distinguish different species phenotypically,” Walcott said. “When we use the primers to detect genes that are unique to this bacterium, it gives a higher level of confidence that the target pathogen is present.”

Walcott and Schell created three primer pairs — now licensed by UGA to a seed testing company — to detect three different genes unique to the bacterial fruit blotch pathogen. If seeds are pathogen-free, they are cleared for sale. These primers can significantly improve the seed industry’s speed, efficiency and accuracy of testing for the pathogen.

Behind every product lies an inventor with the ability to see a need and the imagination to create a solution. CAES alumni, faculty and staff use the knowledge and resources the college has to offer to conduct critical research and create new products and technologies. These inventions improve lives and make industries more efficient, helping growers and families in Georgia and throughout the nation.
p well before sunrise every work day, Truman Earl “Tray” Anderson, III (BSA – Horticulture, ’08) helps tend, cultivate and create the dozens of gardens and hundreds of flower beds at Disney World’s Epcot Center. “We typically work from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m., but for festivals or major installations, we come in early – midnight,” he said. For the annual Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival and Food and Wine Festival, teams of people come in “early” for five straight weeks. “Working from the time guests leave until they arrive again in the morning preserves the show,” Anderson said. “For the park to be completely different overnight is magical.”

But the illusion of a wave-of-the-wand overnight transformation requires a lot of work. It takes teams of 40 or more people to install big flower beds. Irrigation crews, electricians and horticulturists from other Disney parks pitch in for big reveals. And everything is scheduled months in advance. For the 2010 Flower and Garden Festival, held March 3 to May 16 at Epcot, horticulture crews created 120 floating gardens, 600 container plantings, 119 topiaries and 47 flower towers ranging from 4 to 8 feet tall. Gravity-defying impatiens and violas perched on the World Showcase lagoon in foam planters tethered to a weight. The floating garden, combined with topiaries of Mickey and Minnie, Peter Pan, Beauty and the Beast, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and other beloved Disney characters, greeted visitors with a vibrant floral display. “We worked installing 60,000 annuals in one week,” Anderson said. “It was a team effort, and my hands were in a lot of projects.”

To keep the park’s gardens looking beautiful throughout the season, Anderson and his team replaced spent plants, pulled weeds, watered plants, checked on topiaries and replaced chrysalises (butterfly cocoons) in Minnie’s Magnificent Butterfly Garden. “We wanted butterflies to be constantly hatching so guests could watch them throughout the day,” he said.

The 2009 annual Food and Wine Festival boasted an enormous Swiss cheese topiary made of green and yellow lysmachia moss. Every year before the fall event, which hosts 25 to 30 booths representing foods from around the world, the Disney tree farm gets a list of represented countries and finds plants that are used in their traditional cooking. “We try to create pairings for the show and will try to grow a special container [planting] for each country,” Anderson said. “So, for example, we will grow lemongrass for China. We want guests to see what they are eating.”

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“My grandmothers always loved flowers and were encouraging of me just planting weeds in the yard. I guess horticulture has always been somewhere in my blood.”

– Tray Anderson

Before his current job tending a traditional English garden in Epcot’s United Kingdom pavilion (center), Anderson worked in almost all of the Disney parks, as well as Downtown Disney and the behind-the-scenes tree farm.
“Tray brings imagination and creativity to our team. ...Some of us who have been around a while need a little creative spark, and he offers that to us.”

—Michele Giger Rohrmann, Disney Area Horticulture Manager

Anderson grew up visiting Disney World with his family. “I remember coming to Space Mountain when I was 10-years-old,” Anderson said. “I always thought it was really cool to visit. When I grew older, Epcot became my favorite place.”

Anderson said his family encouraged his love of plants and flowers. “My grandparents always loved flowers and were encouraging of me just planting weeds in the yard,” he said. “I guess horticulture has always been somewhere in my blood.”

Although he started out at Georgia Tech as an architecture student, Anderson soon found CAES’ horticulture department. He credits horticulture professors Tim Smalley and Paul Thomas for teaching him the skills he uses today. “Without them I probably wouldn’t be here today or have had the internship opportunity at Disney,” that led to his current job, he said.

Disney Intern

Anderson is “so creative in so many areas,” said Smalley, who worked at Disney from 1977 to 1979 growing large trees and shrubs for Epcot before it was built and labeling and keeping records on unusual plants. “He could sculpt, photograph, design gardens, build hardscapes and arrange floral displays. He won the photography contest for my study abroad course with one picture, and his other entry for the contest was second.”

Anderson joined the UGA horticulture club while taking classes and became involved with the Southeastern Horticulture Society’s annual flower show, putting together booth displays with other club members. “And they started winning awards,” Thomas said. “His artistic talent for putting things together really paid off. The displays came together very nicely under Tray.”

While horticulture students can choose to be involved in several clubs and activities, they are required to complete a semester as an intern, whether paid or unpaid. “We believe in practical experience,” Thomas said. “We think the students need to try out a job before they commit their life to it.”

Ever since his childhood visits, Anderson had always wanted to work for Disney. Recognizing his desire to work for such a high profile company, Thomas and Smalley encouraged Anderson to apply for a prestigious Vic and Margaret Ball Intern Scholarship, which provides money for horticulture and floriculture students to gain hands-on experience.

“I saw a young kid with potential,” Thomas said of his nomination. “You have to be pretty special to even be considered. It is extremely competitive.”

Students choose the company they work for and are permitted to work in each aspect of the business for two weeks. The idea is that in six months the intern has seen the whole picture of a company. In the end, the student can earn up to $6,000 in scholarship money. Five to 10 Vic and Margaret Ball Intern Scholarships are awarded each year nationally, and UGA horticulture students usually get at least one every year.

Part of the scholarship allowed Thomas to visit Anderson. “I was blown away by what he was doing,” Thomas said. “He was putting together huge topiaries and awesomely creative materials.”

Before the end of Anderson’s internship, he’d been offered a full-time job.

Magical career

Anderson’s Disney career began in June 2007 at Hollywood Studios and has taken him through jobs at most of the parks, Downtown Disney and even the tree farm. “I am able to move around Disney where opportunities pop up,” Anderson said. “Disney is unlike any landscape company out there. There is such diversity. If you want to mow, you mow; if you want to create topiaries or containers, you do; if you are interested in the trial gardens or being an arborist and working with trees, we have that, too.”

He currently works at Epcot, tending a traditional English garden in the United Kingdom pavilion. “I am able to move around Disney where opportunities pop up,” Anderson said. “Disney is unlike any landscape company out there. There is such diversity. If you want to mow, you mow; if you want to create topiaries or containers, you do; if you are interested in the trial gardens or being an arborist and working with trees, we have that, too.”

Every year, Anderson works with teams of horticulturists, irrigation crews and electricians to create elaborate floral displays for the Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival and the Food and Wine Festival.

“Tray’s talent and skills have played a part in our decision to move him around,” said Michele Giger Rohrmann, an area horticulture manager at Disney. “He is talented with perennial gardens and container gardens as well as topiary design. As the property gets older, it needs rejuvenating. Tray brings imagination and creativity to our team, and we allow him to use it in the garden. Some of us who have been around a while need a little creative spark, and he offers that to us.”

At the time this issue went to press, Anderson had decided to leave Disney to pursue other opportunities.
Looking over his long list of discoveries, one has to ask: “How does he think this stuff up?” The answer appears to be that he has born brilliance with a dash of boyish curiosity.

Discoveries at UGA

When he cloned the world’s first calf from a carcass at UGA in 2002, he named her KC after the kidney cell from which she was created. KC soon proved clones can reproduce naturally when she birthed a calf. Stice let students in his lab name the new baby Sunshine – a reference to the ’70s pop band K.C. and the Sunshine Band.

Last year, Stice developed a product for the Department of Defense that he calls fracture putty. The gooey substance can regenerate bone, mending injuries in just 48 hours. He described it as being “kind of like Silly Putty with stem cells.”

After developing the world’s first ready supply of progenitor neural cells that can provide billions of cells in a kit for research, Stice stumbled upon an interesting idea. He could use the cell kits to make chemical weapon detectors. As he explained it, “the cells in the detection system work like a canary in a coal mine.”

Understandable science

A certain nice-guy image emanates from Stice’s seeming assumption that everyone’s mind works like his and everyone understands his science. Yet, he pays careful attention to not leave others behind in the discussion.

“I remember when the stem cell debate was first coming up in the Legislature,” recalled veteran Atlanta Journal-Constitution political reporter Jim Galloway. “Steve came down to the paper and met with us. He could explain this stuff in a way that you could really understand it, but he never treated you like there was any chance you might not.”

Too often scientists are comfortable detailing intricacies of new discoveries and then shy away from a simple statement of why it matters. Stice, who wanted to be a veterinarian before biology captured his imagination, has always been intrigued by science but is also driven to make a difference. He thrives on innovations that do something.

Student to mentor

Stice’s latest discovery found him in a reverse role from his first big breakthrough with transgenic calves George and Charlie. Instead of being the student working with a mentoring professor, Stice was mentor to a brilliant student, Franklin West, as they produced the world’s first transgenic pigs with pluripotent cells and tissue.

What a difference a decade makes. Just over 10 years ago, the University of Georgia lured a young scientist named Steve Stice from Massachusetts to pioneer a program in animal biotechnology – an area that was mysterious to many and scary to some.

Today that start-up program is recognized around the world as a leader in cloning and stem cell technology development. Stice is seasoned in the program’s leading role, but he’s still part dreamer, constantly asking those “what if” questions that fuel innovation.
“These pigs hold real promise for treating, and potentially curing, Type I diabetes.”

- Steve Stice

Science, continued from previous page

All pigs love to snort and roll in the mud, but not every pig gets shampooed until he’s pink and shiny by UGA scientist Steve Stice. Why the pampering? These pigs may hold the key to future treatments and a potential cure for Type I diabetes.

These pigs hold real promise for treating, and potentially curing, Type I diabetes,” Stice said.

Detailing how they came up with the process, Stice moved quickly around his office, showing photos on the computer screen to help tell the story. He was careful to make it clear this was a team effort.

“I had worked on this for 20 years and couldn’t find that final key to make it happen,” he said. As a student, “Franklin found the key. He figured it out.”

In a recent press conference to announce the discovery, which occurred just seven days after West was hired to announce the discovery, which occurred just seven days after West was hired to

Stice explained that pigs are preferred models for studying human disease. “It helps you study heart disease if you have a model that will develop, well, heart disease,” he said. “Mice don’t get heart disease. Pigs do.”

West said the pair produced these pigs using a new process they developed, which eliminates the controversial cloning process.

“Ooh,” Stice said the pluripotent pigs should drastically reduce the rejection rate for human organ and tissue transplants.

“Ahhhh,” West said they want to see if the process can prevent endangered animals from becoming extinct, or, given the right DNA sample, resurrect a woolly mammoth.

Whoa!

“But, that’s a long way down the road,” Stice cautioned.

Finally, the pigs were escorted into the room. Stice led the media to the livestock arena floor for an up-close view.

What few in this press conference knew was that just before the media arrived Stice was in the livestock stalls shampooing the pigs. He wanted them to look their best for the cameras.

“The first thing they’ll do is root in the dirt – they are pigs. But at least they will look nice when we bring them in,” he said as soap suds dripped from his elbows.

Next the discovery will move to clinical trials. A joint project with Emory University will determine if the pigs can live up to their potential and prove the pluripotency of the cells will indeed improve organ and tissue treatments.

“We’ll see what the possibilities are for these pigs,” Stice said, “then we’ll start looking for what’s next.”

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Research

“Along the way, somebody had told them they couldn’t do anything, and here they were, learning something.”

R egina Holliday spent more than 300 days living out of a suitcase. In January 2009, she gave up her books, courses, classmates and fast-track veterinary school goals to become the 2008-2009 National FFA Organization’s Southern Region Vice President. During her time on the road, she visited 38 states, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and spent a week in Japan representing FFA.

“The majority of the time, I traveled by myself,” she said. “It was a growing-up experience.”

Leaving Georgia

Holliday first joined FFA as a freshman at East Laurens High School. She’s shown cows, attended conventions and learned about leadership. At UGA, she was a member of the agricultural sorority Sigma Alpha and the Block and Bridle Club and served as a CAES Ambassador.

Until becoming a national FFA officer, she was on track to graduate from UGA in May 2010 with an animal science degree. From there, she planned to attend UGA’s College of Veterinary Medicine, become a large animal vet and return to her hometown of Dublin, Ga., to join the practice of the veterinarian she’s shadowed for the past few years. Instead, he encouraged me to see the world and to realize that there’s more to the world than Dublin, Ga., she said.

It was just the push she needed.

During Holliday’s whirlwind year, she was in New York one day, in Arizona the next and then on to North Dakota. She spoke at hundreds of FFA clubs, taught dozens of workshops and hung out with kids all over the nation.

Upstate New York

Despite all the miles and handshakes, one place stands out as her favorite. Heritage Farm in upstate New York provides learning and supported employment opportunities for developmentally and physically challenged adults.

“The farm has mini science lessons for adults that they would not have been able to experience otherwise,” she said.

“They were so proud of collecting one egg or making butter.

“Along the way, somebody had told them they couldn’t do anything, and here they were, learning something.”

A week in Japan

She also stayed with a family in Japan, matched to them because of their daughter’s love of animals. They spoke little English and she knew few words in Japanese, so her short week was a lot like playing charades.

The family of four lived in a tiny apartment – Holliday slept in a sleeping bag next to her Japanese sister – and had so little room in their car that she had to ship her luggage to her next location in Japan from the local gas station.

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“We were there to learn how they live,” she said. “We had fun together, ate together and watched TV together.”

Back home

On Oct. 24, 2009, Holliday handed over her responsibilities over to Chelsea Doss from Tennessee. Today she’s serving as a mentor, volunteering with junior livestock programs, taking care of her own herd of cows, giving back to her community through her church and planning to graduate from UGA in May 2011.
Even before a Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake shocked Haiti and crumbled its capitol, poverty and hunger suppressed the Caribbean country.

In March, the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences sent a team of experts to the troubled country to create and foster sustainable agricultural practices for farmers there.

The team was led by Ed Kanemasu, the CAES director of global programs, and included CAES assistant dean for Extension Steve Brown, CAES agronomist David Kissel, Birdsong Peanut Company logistics manager Sally Wells, Atlanta-based League of Hope executive director Graham Huff, who funded and organized the trip, and CAES communications expert Brad Haire.

“THE MISSION (OF THE TEAM) IS TO SEE HOW WE MIGHT EMPLOY [UGA] RESOURCES TO HELP HAITI.”

~Graham Huff, executive director, League of Hope

A Haitian girl carries water past fallen rubble in Port-au-Prince. The Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake killed an estimated 225,000 people and left a million more wondering what to do next.

A small tent encampment stands under the shadow of a destroyed building in Port-au-Prince.

A Haitian farmer stands in his field near Los Palis. Haitian farmers produce only half of the food needed in the country each year.

The team brought 150 pounds of U.S. peanut butter into the country. Kanemasu hands out some of it to eager kids on a Haitian country road.

Continued on next page.
Help for Haiti, continued from previous page

Children eat mangoes and stare at UGA agricultural experts toiling in a field in Los Palis. One in five Haitian children suffers severe malnutrition, but many more don’t get the proper nourishment needed for healthy immune systems.

Kanemasu, left, and Kissel, right, take soil samples and a GPS reading in a field in Los Palis.

Haitian native and retired Tuskegee University professor Suchet Louis teaches farmers in Los Palis about drip irrigation. “The people need a hand up instead of hand outs,” he told the Georgia team. “More than anything, we need education; and without it lives will never improve.”

A 30-acre Zanmi Agrikol farm is an oasis among the barren mountains that dominate Haiti.

Zanmi Agrikol, the agricultural arm of the Boston-based Partners in Health, creates ready-to-eat rations for distribution to several of its clinics across Haiti. The company wants to produce more of their peanut-based brand Nourimanba using locally grown, quality peanuts.

The Georgia team discusses proper peanut storage and handling with Zanmi Agrikol representatives at one of the organization’s newly built facilities.

A Haitian woman prepares dinner at the Zanmi Lasante medical compound in Cange. Most Haitians live on less than $2 a day.

But we do have the expertise to help the people there develop better agricultural systems that can produce better, more nutritious food without them being dependent upon food being sent to them.”

~Steve Brown, CAES assistant dean for Extension
1940s

Abit Massey, BBA – Business, ’49, is being inducted into the Junior Achievement Northeast Georgia Business Hall of Fame. Massey is a former UGA Alumni Association president, former CAES Alumni Association president, member of the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame and long-time Georgia Poultry Federation president.

60s

1960s

John Ameroso, BSA – Agronomy, ’68, retired from his position as New York City’s first Extension agent. Ameroso’s work as a Cornell University Cooperative Extension agent started in 1976 when gardening enthusiast Rep. Fred Richmond (D-Brooklyn) garnered funds for an Extension office in New York City. His goal was to show that urban food gardens could help feed inner-city neighborhoods. By 1994, under Ameroso’s leadership the Urban Gardening Program had expanded to 23 cities and was producing $16 million worth of food each year.

1970s

Dennis Swartzell, BSA – Horticulture, ’76, is a principal of Horticulture Consultants Inc. in Las Vegas, Nev. Swartzell has more than 33 years of experience in the landscape industry, including the management of greenhouses, urban parks and university campuses. He is the emeritus director of landscape at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and was the first certified arborist in Las Vegas and the first board-certified Master Arborist in Nevada.

1980s

Mark Esoda, BS – Agronomy, ’81, will be inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame in January 2011. A past president of the CAES Alumni Association and current member of the CAES Dean’s Advisory Council, Esoda is a certified golf course superintendent and nationally recognized expert in golf course maintenance practices and procedures.

1990s

Chris Batchelor, BSA – Ag Economics, ’91, has received a master of arts in theological studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Batchelor currently owns and operates Skyline Plumbing and Septic Inc. in Hiram, Ga.

2010s

Paul Wojkowski, MS – Horticulture, ’93, gave the keynote address at the European Society for Agronomy Conference in France in August 2010.

E. Middleton “Mid” Thorne, III, BSA – Ag Economics, ’75, is a principal of Swartzell Consultants Inc. in Las Vegas, Nev. The firm provides financial consulting services to many of the world’s leading agricultural companies.

1940s

1950s

1960s

Bruce Blakely, BSA – Food Science, ’62, received the 2009 Award of Merit from the American Dairy Products Institute. Blakely, of Visalia, Calif., was recognized for his work as a Cornell University Cooperative Extension agent and for his service as the Extension agent in New York City.

1970s

Fred Harrision, MED – Ag Economics, ’72, is the former dean of Fort Valley State University’s College of Agriculture, Home Economics and Allied Programs. He will be serving on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency state committee in Georgia. This committee oversees agency activities such as carrying out the state agricultural conservation programs, resolving appeals from the agriculture community and keeping producers informed about FSA programs.

1980s

Jennifer Beiler Carter, BS – Biological Science, ’97, is the director of outreach for the Society for Science and the Public. She and her husband live in Centreville, Va.

1990s

Peter Taormina, MS – Food Science, ’96, has been elected to a three-year term as president-elect, president and past president of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. NAES-4-HA has 3,650 members. Blodseck will begin serving as president in November 2010.

2010s

Lori Purcell Bledsoe, MAEAT – Ag Extension, ’96, has been elected to a three-year term as president-elect, president and past president of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. NAES-4-HA has 3,650 members. Blodseck will begin serving as president in November 2010.

1940s

1950s

1960s

Fred Chambers, BSA – Agronomy, ’56, wrote in to say, “I treasure the experience I had at the UGA College of Agriculture. It made lots of difference in my lifetime of agricultural knowledge and sharing with farmers and the ag industry.”

1970s

Robert J. Jones, MS – Agronomy, ’75, senior vice president for systems academic administration at the University of Minnesota, is one of the 2010 recipients of the Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award. Sponsored by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, the annual award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to international education at public and land-grant institutions. Jones is being honored for his efforts to raise the visibility and priority of UMN’s international programs by establishing international partnerships, facilitating global scholarship and faculty development and recruiting international students and scholars.

1980s

Cindy Haynes, MS – Horticulture, ’91, Ph.D. – Horticulture, ’96, is an associate professor of horticulture at Iowa State University. She will receive this year’s Teacher Fellow Award from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. Haynes teaches home horticulture, herbaceous ornamentals, international travel in horticulture and youth horticulture courses. Haynes has published research on youth programming at public gardens. Her Extension activities include coordinating the Iowa Master Gardener program, the Herbaceous Perennial Saturday Symposium, ISU Home Demonstration Gardens Field Days and Yard and Garden Online (www.yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu).

1990s

Chris Batchelor, BSA – Ag Economics, ’91, has received a master of arts in theological studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Batchelor currently owns and operates Skyline Plumbing and Septic Inc. in Hiram, Ga.

2010s

He and his wife, Amy, have been married for 19 years and have one son, Daniel, who is in the seventh grade. Over the past few years, Batchelor has traveled to Alaska, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Israel and Oregon on mission trips.

Theresa Malundo, MS – Food Science, ’92, Ph.D. – Food Science, ’96, became vice president of science and technology at Z Trim in March 2010. Based in the Greater Chicago area, Z Trim manufactures multifunctional dietary fiber ingredients.

Witoom Prinyawiwatkul, MS – Food Science, ’92, Ph.D. – Food Science, ’96, received the 2010 Distinguished Achievement to Agriculture Award from the Louisiana State University-Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta. He has worked for the ISU Department of Food Science since 1996.

2010s

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Find us on Facebook

Find us on Facebook and become a friend of the UGA CAES Alumni Association. Search “Ag Alum.”

Continued on next page
What is the most important lesson your mentor taught you?

Compiled by Sharon Dowdy

My grandmother, Mrs. Pauline Johnson, taught me the value of hard work and the satisfaction of seeing a project come to fruition. Her love of gardening and the outdoors instilled in me an appreciation for the same. I’ll always remember visiting her old farmhouse and watching the first crocus poke through the ground in the winter, gathering eggs in the hen house, picking fruits and vegetables in the garden and sitting on the porch on hot afternoons eating watermelon and talking about how we needed rain.

Halley Granitz
Admissions counselor
UGA Griffin Campus

Ms. Betty Gooch, the secretary who held my position before me, taught me to always pay attention to the details and keep good records. She worked for UGA for 30 years.

My mom, Bonnie Ledford, taught me to do the right thing, especially when it is also the hard thing to do.

Freya Browning
Administrative associate
Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center, Blairsville, Ga.

The biggest thing I learned from Don Morris, retired UGA Cooperative Extension agriculture and natural resources agent, was not to worry so much because things generally have a way of working themselves out if you just let them. And, 99 percent of the time, this is true.

Stephanie Baxler
Extension coordinator
Coweta County

One of the most important things I’ve learned from Dr. Marianne Robinette is to never put a limitation on your potential. There may be many goals and tasks during your career that seem above and beyond your capabilities, but don’t shy away from opportunities just because you think they are unachievable. Some of the biggest discoveries about yourself are found out by attempting the seemingly impossible, whether you succeed or fail.

Sam Washley
Administrative Associate II
Department of Entomology

To include your professional class notes in the next issue of Southscapes, please e-mail Juli Fields at jfields@uga.edu, or call (706) 542-3390.
EXTENSION LEADERSHIP SYSTEM CHARTS NEW COURSE IN PULASKI COUNTY

By Faith Peppers

Over the past century, county Cooperative Extension agents have been widely recognized as agents of change. They’ve led changes in agricultural practices, technology, food handling and youth development. Now, they are getting creative once again to face the challenges of changing budgets.

Ronnie Barentine (BSA – Ag Economics, ’95), Extension coordinator in Pulaski County, found one innovative way to address his county’s budget needs that is catching on fast – a county endowment fund.

About a year ago, Barentine asked for assistance to start a program endowment fund that would help support his county Extension needs. State funds were being slashed. County budgets were getting tight. The timing was right to get creative, and Barentine went straight to the people he knew would be dedicated to helping – his Extension leadership system team.

Niki Coody (BSA – Ag Communication, ’96), CAES major gift officer in Tifton, and Kristi Hughes, Extension development coordinator, attended Barentine’s next ELS team meeting in Hawkinsville and presented them with information on endowment funds. Barentine hoped this would get the ball rolling and help him get an idea of whether or not the team thought it would work. He didn’t expect to hit the ball out of the park on the first pitch.

Shortly after the meeting adjourned, Jerry Davis, general manager of the Heart of Georgia Peanut and Gin Company, returned to the Extension office with an amazing offer. He felt the initial $10,000 check to kick off the county’s $100,000 endowment fundraising campaign.

Two weeks later, the Pulaski County Extension Endowment Fund Campaign kicked off as Davis presented a $10,000 check from the Heart of Georgia board of directors. Ultimately, they hope to raise $100,000 to benefit Pulaski County Extension programs.

Barentine says he learned an important lesson from this experience. “You just never know what help might be available to you,” he said, “and there are people looking for a way to give to the community who may not be aware that Extension needs the help.”

Our donors and friends helped CAES again be No. 1 in UGA fundraising. This is likely to be another hard budget year, and your gifts are vital to helping us provide the education, research and service Georgia needs. Thank you for keeping the college high on your list of giving choices.”

~ Scott Angle

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON BRINGS DONORS, STUDENTS TOGETHER

By Jonnie Tucker

More than 125 students, donors and CAES administrators were on hand at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education on April 1, 2010, for the annual Celebration of Student Support.

Each year at the event, donors make personal connections with the students who benefit from their generosity. The students also get the opportunity to say thank you to their benefactors in person and share with them what this support means for their educational and career goals.

Within the college, more than 100 endowed and annual scholarships benefit nearly 200 CAES students per year.

Ways to give...

All gifts are tax deductible through the Arch Foundation at the University of Georgia and are reflected in a donor’s overall giving to UGA. Donors have up to five years to complete a pledge. Options for giving:

Checks (payable to the Arch Foundation) • Credit Card Matched Gift • Securities • Life Insurance Policies
Charitable Remainder Trusts • Life Insurance Policies • Real Estate • Will Maximize return for local use with an endowment fund. Endowments and investments can be started with as little as $10,000.

For more information about making a gift to CAES, contact the Office of College Advancement at (706) 542-2190 or visit us online at www.caes.uga.edu/alumni/gifts.

Left to Right: Whitney Franks (Georgia Dairy Memorial Scholarship), Christopher Pritchett (Emory Lynn), Bill Chalo (Dr. Robert Lewrey), April McDaniel (Southern States), Justin Brown (CAES Alumni Association – East GA Chapter), Katy Kellow (Daisy Campbell Rhodes) and Mary Alice Jasperne (Jim Andrews Family Foundation, Hear Memorial).
Travel with CAES Alums and Friends

By Juli Fields

Twenty-one CAES alumni and friends spent seven days touring the gardens of southern England in July with horticulture professor Tim Smalley, who provided insights into gardening history and philosophy. Highlights included stops at the Royal Horticultural Society Garden Wisley, Stonehenge, Sissinghurst Gardens, Sissinghurst Castle Garden, a private tour of the Peto Garden at Lord Manor by owners John and Elizabeth Hignett and a stop at Longstock Park Water Garden, dubbed the “finest water garden in the world” by the International Waterlily Society. Longstock is only open to the public 12 days per year.

Plans are underway for the 2011 trip to the beautiful and historic formal gardens of Italy. Join Dean Angle, Tim Smalley and CAES alumni and friends for a tour of the “Holy Land of Garden Design,” including visists to the world’s best-known

Renaissance fountain garden, Villa D’Este, and one of the world’s finest botanical gardens, Villa Taranto on Lake Maggiore. The group will also join the CAES viticulture class in Cortona for a tour of the vineyards, olive groves and winery at the Falconeri winery in Tuscany.

If you are interested in traveling to Italy with CAES June 2-11, 2011, contact Juli Fields at jfields@uga.edu or (706) 542-3190. Watch the CAES alumni website www.caes.uga.edu/alumni for more details.

Save the Date!

We’re doing lunch this year! Mark your calendars for the 2011 Ag Forecast seminars. Speakers from UGA and local communities will be covering Georgia’s economic outlook and the current locally grown trend.

January 24: Gainesville
Georgia Mountains Center

January 25: Tifton
Tifton Campus Conference Center

January 27: Statesboro
Nesmith Lane Conference Center

February 9: Carrollton
Carroll County Ag Center

February 10: Macon
Georgia Farm Bureau Building

Registration will open at 9:30 a.m. The seminar will be held from 10 a.m. to noon and will be followed by a networking lunch. For more information and to register, visit www.georgiaagforecast.com.

2011 Georgia Ag Forecast

CAES By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage of Employment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAES</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Education</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odum School of Ecology</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry College of Business</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication</td>
<td>21%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CAES ranks 1st in employment for UGA graduates, with only 6% still seeking jobs one year after graduation.

CAES ranks 2nd of all UGA in starting salaries of Bachelors degree graduates ($41,200), behind the Terry College of Business ($46,000).

From Four Towers

Alumni and Friends,

If you are like me, your college years were challenging and fun and, more importantly, filled with experiences that set an exciting career direction in motion. Nearly 40 years later, I can remember the professors, campus organizations and friendships I developed during my time at UGA. As I think back on those days, it is my opinion that those of us who have walked the walk are responsible for ensuring others following after us have similar opportunities to do the same.

I am honored to be serving as president of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association this year. I feel my service is a tremendous responsibility that gives me a chance to pay back a small portion of what was given to me during my time at UGA. Your alumni association board is a dedicated group of people wanting to serve both our alumni and our current UGA students. We are working hard to offer you opportunities to participate, support and develop a deeper relationship with the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Our college faces many challenges in the new academic year. As you know, Georgia is in one of the worst financial crises the state has ever faced. Due to the actions of so many of our alumni and friends, we were able to save the college from taking deeper budget cuts; however, there will still be reductions in programs and services.

To keep our state and college strong, we must work together to give gifts of money, time and service. If you have ideas, suggestions or want to volunteer, please feel free to call me at (706) 255-5655 or Juli Fields, director of alumni relations, at (706) 542-3190. We need and value your participation. I encourage you to join your alumni association leadership in giving back a small portion of what our college has given you.

Sincerely,

Charles Hall
BSA – Horticulture ’72
MS – Horticulture ’74

Charles Hall
BSA – Horticulture ’72
MS – Horticulture ’74
Teri Berryman won the first CAES Facebook photo contest with her “Teri-fying” robber fly picture. Terri Kimble’s bee and Japanese beetle photos gave that fly a run for its money, but in the end CAES fans opted for “eww!” over “aww....” Thanks so much to all who participated. It was a lot of fun. Become a Facebook fan of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to keep up with what’s happening at the college and participate in future contests.

~ Robin Pratt, CAES web developer