

FEB / MARCH 2009

AG HILL TOPPER

The Official Publication of South Campus

AGGIES ON THE HILL

As I looked forward to the start of my summer in Washington, D.C., I just knew that I was prepared. I had read up on the Farm Bill, found a place to live and mapped out how I was going to get to work. As I started out on that Monday morning I thought to myself, "I am working at the capitol of the greatest country in the world! I am going to be a part of history in the making! I might get to see the President!" And then I realized, "I have no idea about any of this!" And with all of this in mind I started the best summer of my life.

While serving as an Agricultural Fellow, I experienced and built my leadership skills through an internship like no other. While in Washington, DC I had the most enjoyable and in-depth internship that I could have ever imagined. While working for Congressman Jack Kingston of Georgia's First Congressional District, there were no boundaries in what I could experience or learn. Whether I was in a "behind closed doors" meeting discussing the ins and outs of the Farm Bill or getting ready for an appropriations markup, I was viewed by Congressman Kingston as his "right hand man" when it came to agriculture. As I built a firm and respectable foundation with my co-workers and the Congressman, there were many times when other people depended on me to share my knowledge and to complete assignments timely and accurately. Kingston's office definitely understands the value in having

an Agricultural Fellow and never stopped pushing me to learn and grow.

As an Agricultural Fellow I was considered a paid employee of Jack Kingston, while other interns came to Washington out of their own pocket, and I became more and more appreciative of this as the summer went on. Since I was in DC for 12 weeks, and most interns are only there for about five weeks, I was able to learn more and more about the legislative process. Whenever I was not performing specific tasks, I had the ability and freedom to attend hearings and press-conferences, or network with others on the Hill. While other interns spent the majority of their time sorting mail, answering phones, giving capitol tours, or stocking the refrigerator, I was busy attending meetings with my congressman and other of-

ice personal. Looking back on my 12 weeks in D.C., it is hard to condense everything I learned and experienced. From attending a meeting where Vice-President Dick Cheney spoke to watching the Farm Bill finally pass on the house floors, I saw and was a part of some interesting experiences.

Being an Agricultural Fellow gave me the opportunity to learn more about agriculture than I ever had. Agricultural policy is just as important as the farmers who grow our crops. Serving as an Agricultural Fellow is the most distinguished honor I have received.

By: *David Martin*



2008 Ag. Fellows (back row, left to right): Ward Black, Adrienne Gentry, David Martin. Front row (left to right): Ashley Hart, Brooke Heinz, Shannon Yee.



SOUTH CAMPUS CAREER & INTERNSHIP EXPO A VALUABLE RESOURCE

On Wednesday March 4, the Career Center is holding its annual South Campus Career and Internship Expo at the Georgia Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for all UGA students. Network with employers to learn about full time positions and internships in agricultural, environmental, natural resources, and other related industries. In order to get the most out of the career fair, bring plenty of copies of your resume, dress professionally, and do some research on the companies that will be there ahead of time.

The career center is available for quick questions about resumes, cover letters, job search strategies, etc. without an appointment Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Clark-Howell Hall. For more in-depth assistance or mock interviews, contact the Career Center at 706-542-3375 to schedule an appointment.

The employers currently listed to attend include Ag Farm Credit, Atlanta Country Club, Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Merial, Newly Weds Foods and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. For a complete list of employers, majors recruited, and position types, please visit <http://www.career.uga.edu/multimedia/SouthCampusCareerExpo2009.pdf> for more info.

By: *Andrea Gonzalez*

Visit the Topper online at www.uga.edu/alec/topper.html

Real Dawgs Run

Lace up your shoes and get ready to run with students, alumni and friends of the University of Georgia. The 2nd annual Dawg Trot 5K Run/Walk will be held on March 14 and will begin at 8 a.m. at Stegeman Coliseum and will take you through the heart of campus. For more information and to register, visit www.uga.edu/alumni.

By: *Kristy Sumner*



Weekend in the Classic City

This year the GA Collegiate 4-H is hosting Weekend in the Classic City (WICC) April 18-19 here in Athens. The event will immerse high school students from across the state in the atmosphere of Athens and the University of Georgia and is hosted by 4-Her's from different colleges and universities. Workshops will cover such topics as the college application and admission process, finding financial aid and scholarships, networking, time management, and preparing for college.

Other highlights include participating in a college and extramural fair, meeting Hairy Dawg and Miss UGA, eating downtown and in the UGA dining halls, attending a UGA baseball game and a performance by the a cappella ensemble "Note-worthy." The theme for this year is iChoose, iApply, iSucceed, iWICC.
By: *Daniel Williams*

CAES Student Spotlight Dallas Duncan

Major: Agricultural Communication and Animal Science

Hometown: Evans, Georgia

Year in School: Sophomore

Why did you choose your majors? I have always loved animals, and I always wanted to be a veterinarian. I also love to write, so I think I have found my niche in agricultural reporting.

Honors/Awards: Dean's List, Sigma Alpha Leadership Award and the Baby Bull Award

UGA Activities: Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Sigma Alpha Public Relations/Alumni chair, writer for the Red & Black.

What is your favorite thing about CAES? The college is small which allows for more in-depth and hands-on classes, and my advisors make an effort to get to know me. Also, CAES offers a lot of networking opportunities and countless activities for student involvement.



Photo by: *Blane Marable*

Interview by: *Meghan Cline*

"CAES offers a lot of networking opportunities and countless activities for student involvement."

- Dallas Duncan

Professional Plans: My options are open! I would like to earn my Master of Agricultural Leadership. I also plan to be an agricultural reporter in mainstream media. In the agricultural industry, everyone values and understands agriculture. I want to inform people who do not understand agriculture.

What is your favorite thing about Athens? I just love the atmosphere and the hospitality. You can walk down the street and see someone you know. It's really neat.

The Ag Hill Topper is published bimonthly as a service project of the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, located in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication, part of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia.

This issue's editor: *Meghan Cline*

CAES Ambassadors Receive National Award

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Ambassadors were recently recognized with the 2009 Excellence in Leadership Award during the National Agriculture Ambassador Conference. The annual leadership and professional development conference was hosted by Sam Houston State University

in Huntsville, TX. CAES Ambassadors received this award for creating leadership workshops which they present to student groups on campus and potential high school students.

The CAES Ambassador Program was created by the Office of Academic Affairs to assist with student

recruitment and public relations in the fall of 1988. The mission of the ambassador program is to recruit potential students, to represent our College, and to develop relationships which foster growth and leadership.

By: *David Martin*

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED FOR DOUBLE BRIDGES FARM

Almost seven years after purchasing 237 acres off Highway 78, the Animal and Dairy Science department can begin construction on a state-of-the-art facility—Double Bridges Farm. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring.

The Double Bridges project was initiated when the current South Milledge facilities began to show their age. Since the University is expanding down South Milledge, constructing a new facility was good for both the University and the department.

In addition to putting students

in a commercial learning environment, Double Bridges will be environmentally friendly, using techniques such as nutrient and waste management, water conservation, and daylight harvesting.

Double Bridges Farm will house sheep, beef cattle and swine. The swine units will use group sow housing and the beef and sheep operations will be on a rotating pasture system.

Since Double Bridges was funded by bond sales prior to the current financial crunch, University students will not see any additional tuition or

fee changes. The project coordinators have worked to design a facility that was in their original budget.

While some students are concerned with the distance from campus, there will be plenty of extension, teaching and research opportunities to balance out that one drawback.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about the production animal industry in a facility that suits the modern needs of the modern animal scientist.

By: *Dallas Duncan*

Affordable Study Abroad Opportunities Available

Studying abroad is a great opportunity to travel and see the world. While studying abroad you are immersed in other cultures and languages, and you learn from experiences that will stay with you for a lifetime.

UGA students can use their federal and state financial aid, including HOPE, and many different scholarships are awarded specifically for those interested in studying abroad. One of the number one regrets

from most college graduates is that they didn't take the chance to study abroad when they could have, so don't be one of them. Take the initiative; learn more about study abroad in general at <http://www.uga.edu/oie/studyabroad.htm>.

For study abroad programs specifically for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/academics/studyabroad>.

Interested? See insert in this issue

and contact the Study Abroad Recruitment Coordinator for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences:

Carolina Robinson
317 Hoke Smith Building
Athens, GA 30602
Phone: 706.542.5276
Fax: 706.542.7905
Email: carolir@uga.edu

By: *Shani Crider*

THE GREAT SOUTHLAND STAMPEDE RODEO TO CELEBRATE 35TH ANNIVERSARY

The Great Southland Stampede Rodeo is celebrating its 35th anniversary this April and is currently looking for sponsors in order to make this event a reality. Hosted by the UGA Block and Bridle Club, the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo is the only Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) rodeo operated entirely by a student organization. The UGA Block and Bridle Club is a group of students with an interest in promoting agriculture in the state of Georgia through events such as livestock shows, fundraisers, and its most proud accomplishment, the rodeo. The rodeo will be held at the UGA Livestock Instructional Arena on South Milledge, for the second year in a row, Thursday, April 16th through Saturday, April 18th. A percentage of the profits will go to benefit charities, such as the Boys and Girls Club of Athens, the Deanna Farve HOPE Foundation, and Tough Enough to Wear Pink, a PRCA campaign supporting breast cancer research.

The rodeo would not be possible without sponsors! Please contact Austin Callaway either by phone:

678-643-1329 or email: austinb@uga.edu for more information on how to become a sponsor as soon as possible!

Available every night at the rodeo are a concession stand, food vendors, apparel vendors, pony rides and a petting zoo!

Gates open and 6 p.m. and performances start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children in advance, or \$15 for adults and \$12 for children at the gate. For UGA students, tickets are \$10 with a UGA ID card.

By: *Andrea Gonzalez*

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Gold Buckle Sponsor: \$5,000

Silver Spur Sponsor: \$3,500

Star Sponsor: \$2,500

Corral Sponsor: \$1,000

Boot Strap Sponsor: \$500

Stompin' Grounds Sponsor: \$250

RODEO EVENTS

- Thursday, April 16th, 9:30 a.m.: Special Events Rodeo! Hundreds of children from around the Athens area will come and watch a free performance and learn all about livestock and how rodeos are managed. This is a great community out-reach project which attempts to spread the knowledge of agriculture and the sport of rodeo.
- Thursday Night, April 16th, 6 p.m.: Student Night! All UGA students should come out and support the Rodeo while enjoying a night of bulls and broncos with a special student discount!
- Friday, April 17th, 6 p.m.: Tough Enough to Wear Pink Night! One dollar is donated to the HOPE Foundation for every spectator that comes dressed in pink. Money is also donated if a contestant wearing pink wins his/her event for the night.
- Saturday, April 18th, 6 p.m.: The most crowded night of rodeo fun!

Ag Hill Topper Made Possible by the Eterna Fund

In 1973, a visionary group of CAES alumni created a unique support fund initiative that would provide financial assistance to the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) Alumni Association. The Eterna Fund is an endowed fund in which all contributions are carefully invested and only the income from the fund is spent. In 2008, the Eterna Fund awarded a \$400 grant to the UGA chapter of the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow to assist with the publishing costs of a bi-monthly newsletter for all of South Campus, *The Ag Hill Topper*.

We would like to thank the Eterna Fund for this gracious donation. Without the foresight and vision of alumni and donors to CAES, the *Ag Hill Topper* Newsletter would not be possible. Once an alumnus, please consider donating to the Eterna Fund. For more information, please contact Juli Fields at jfields@uga.edu.