The Economic Elevator





The Economic Elevator

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Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences *Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness*



Editor-in-chief: Ryan Ruiz

Layout and design: Ryan Ruiz

Contributor: Catherine Baltz

Contributor: Amanda Cantu

Contributor: Mercedes Gazaway

Contributor: Robby Edwards

Contributor: Whit Pruitt

Contributor: Ryan Ruiz

AEAB department head: Kelly Bryant

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Moore Wins National Impromptu Public Speaking Contest



Karli Moore, a master's degree student in AEAB, won the national Impromptu Public Speaking contest at the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences annual meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Njeim's Study-Abroad Experience

Alumna Noussayma Njeim discusses her participation in the Atlantis Program.

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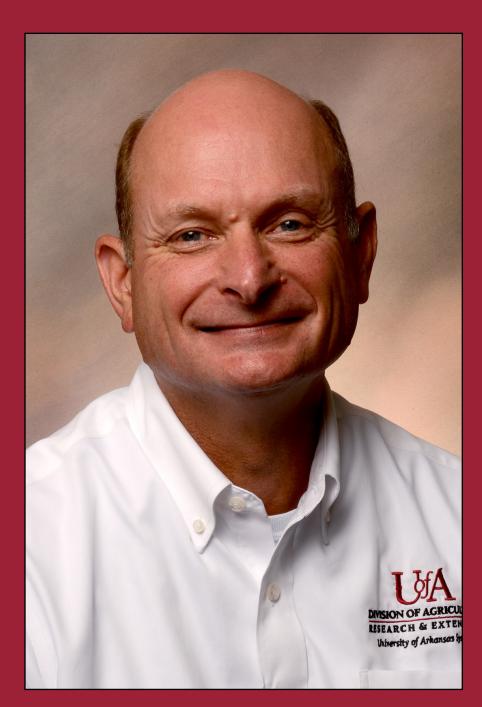
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From the AEAB Department Head

Hello, and welcome to the Fall 2018 edition of our newsletter. I am Dr. Kelly Bryant, Interim Department Head. I started this role on July 2, so I am still learning. I moved here from Monticello, Arkansas, where I worked for 15 years as the Director of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's Southeast Research and Extension Center. I simultaneously served as Dean of the UAM School of Agriculture.



Kelly BryantAEAB Department Head

I completed my B.S. degree in agribusiness from this department in 1985 and my M.S. degree in agricultural economics, also from this department, in 1987; so, I am excited and honored to be here now as a faculty member. I have known most of the faculty and staff in AEAB over the last 25 years, as we have worked together on programs and projects important to the people of Arkansas, and everyone has made me feel very welcome to be on the Fayetteville campus.

On behalf of the entire department, I want to thank Dr. Robert Bacon for serving as our Interim Department Head from January through June. I have admired his work and leadership for many years, and he performed a great service to our unit, while at the same time, continuing to lead his own department: Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences.

I had the honor of speaking at the Agricultural Business Club (ABC) banquet in April. It was a terrific event, and I enjoyed the fellowship.

In recent news, we had our annual faculty retreat in August. It was a good time for me to learn more about departmental business and needs for future direction.

Currently, a total of 303 undergraduate and 21 graduate students call our department home.

This newsletter contains updates on our activities over the last six months. I hope you find it informative and enjoyable. Please call, write or stop in to let us hear from you.

Dr. Kelly Bryant

Upcoming Events

Study Abroad Fair

Date: 9/18

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: ARKU, Fayetteville Campus

Sustainability Field Trip

Date: 9/25

Time: 8:50 a.m. – Noon Location: Fayetteville

"Keep It Local!" Workshop

Date: 10/4

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Little Rock

Insect Festival of Arkansas

Date: 10/11

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Fayetteville

Thanksgiving

Date: 11/22 Time: All-day Location: N/A

Dead Day

Date: 12/7
Time: All-day
Location: N/A

December Commencement

Date: 12/15
Time: All-day
Location: N/A

Summer 2018 Graduate Student Commencement



From Left to Right: Brooke Anderson, Blend Frangu, Willy Mulimbi Byamungu, Yefan Nian, Kerr Adams, Daniel Gilmour, Noussayma Njeim, Dr. Di Fang, Dr. Jennie Popp, Dr. Daniel Rainey and Dr. Steve Halbrook (Not pictured: Anna Travis, Lucas Head, John Turner, Elias Mahlum-Priest, Jacob "Clint" Moore and Cleeford Pavilus).

The Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department of the University of Arkansas congratulates our students who participated in Summer 2018 Commencement!

2018 Completed Thesis Defenses



Kerr Adams
Advisor: Dr. Kent Kovacs

"Irrigation Practice Adoption: Causes and Consequences in the Arkansas Delta"



Brooke Anderson

Advisor: Dr. Lanier Nalley

"Factors Driving Sugar Cane Production in the Kingdom of eSwatini"



Willy Mulimbi Byamungu

Advisors: Drs. Lanier Nalley, Bruce Dixon, Qiuqiong Huang and Heather Snell

"Factors Influencing Adoption of Conservation Agriculture in the Democratic Republic of the Congo"

2018 Completed Thesis Defenses



Blend Frangu

Advisors: Drs. Jennie Popp and Michael Thomsen

"An Impact Evaluation of the Government Grant Programs and Input Efficiency Use in the Production of Greenhouse Tomatoes and Peppers in Kosovo"



Yefan Nian

Advisors: Drs. Arya Gaduh, Rudy Nayga and Qiuqiong Huang

"Can Social Capital Boost Irrigation Capital?: Empirical Evidence from North China"



Noussayma Njeim

Advisor: Dr. Lanier Nalley

"Socioeconomic Impacts of Infrastructure Investment in eSwatini"



Moore, center with award, and the U of A contingent at the MANRRS annual meeting, including Bumpers College dean Deacue Fields III (left), and agricultural economics and agribusiness associate professor and graduate program coordinator Daniel Rainey (second from left).

Moore Wins National Impromptu Public Speaking Contest

ARLI MOORE, A MASTER'S degree student in AEAB, won the national Impromptu Public Speaking contest at the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences annual meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Moore, a Native American member of the Lumbee Tribe from Red Springs, North Carolina, is in her first year at the U of A and topped seven other finalists for the MANRRS title.

Contestants drew a topic out of a hat and had 20 minutes to use the internet or any other source to prepare a two- to four-minute speech. Each speech was followed by a three-minute Q&A with the judges. Topics could be anything related to agriculture.

Moore drew "Several medicinal-based plants have been documented to improve human health. Choose one and explain the currently understood benefits and general response to plants as medicine."

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Moore Wins

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"I freaked out when I got medicinal plants," said Moore. "I thought 'what am I going to say?' My previous topic [in regionals] was GMO labeling. We talk about that all the time in class, so I was a little more comfortable. One thing that helped was I knew how I wanted to structure my comments. Before I drew a topic, I created an outline. Having the outline helped me during the research time because I could just find information to fill the categories."

Moore's winning presentation was on the recent influenza epidemic, and she introduced elderberry as a possible medicinal plant.

"Indigenous peoples across the U.S. and around the world have always relied on medicinal plants," said Moore. "We should pay more attention to that and invest in that."

Moore qualified for finals by winning the regional competition in Oklahoma City, which included participants from Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. The U of A Chapter of MANRRS was one of the groups competing, and Moore topped eight others in the impromptu category to earn a spot at the national meeting.

"The MANRRS conference was an excellent opportunity," said Moore. "There was time for networking with professionals in industry, academia and the community. I'm planning to pursue a Ph.D. [in agricultural economics], so it was wonderful to have deans and all the major players in the industry there to talk to."



Keithen Harrell, president of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences.

Harrell's Hardwork Clinches Internship

EITHEN HARRELL, A SENIOR agribusiness and marketing major and MANRRS president from Marksville, Louisiana, earned a summer field services internship with Farm Credit of Western Arkansas.

"I'm excited to spend the summer learning from professionals in the same career field as me," said Harrell.

The seeds of the Farm Credit System were planted by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, when he appointed a Country Life Commission to address the problems facing a predominantly rural population. Now, as it was then, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas' single mission is to enrich rural life by providing high-quality lending and financial services that meet the needs of rural western Arkansas communities.





Sarah-Beth DeLay (left) and Sam Harris (right).

Razorback Classics Class of 2018

HE ARKANSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION is proud to announce the Razorback Classics Class of 2018. This year's class of winners includes two representatives from AEAB:

- Sarah-Beth DeLay (San Antonio, Texas), agricultural business.
- Sam Harris (Greenbrier, Arkansas), agricultural business, pre-law.

Each Razorback Classics class represents the top 11 male and top 11 female graduating seniors at the University of Arkansas. They were selected from the 71 Seniors of Significance recognized in the fall of 2017. A selection committee of more than 100 University of Arkansas advancement staff, former and current Arkansas Alumni Association National Board members and past award recipients scored each applicant based on academic excellence, demonstrated leadership, and campus or community involvement. •



Sam Harris (left) pictured with Chancellor Joe Steinmetz (not pictured: Raygan Sylvester, co-recipient).

Harris Awarded Alumni Association Senior Honor Citations

NIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS GRADUATING senior Sam Harris of Greenbrier was recognized with the 2018 Senior Honor Citation by the Arkansas Alumni Association.

The award was established in 1965 by the Arkansas Alumni Association to recognize a senior male and female student who each exhibits outstanding academic achievement, campus and community involvement, and leadership.

The award was announced by U of A Chancellor Joe Steinmetz at the end of the annual Cardinal and White Banquet.

Harris was among 71 students chosen by the alumni association as the Class of 2018 Seniors of Significance. From this group, 22 Razorback Classic honorees were selected, and the two Senior Honor Citations were then chosen.

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Alumni Assoc. Citations

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Harris is a 2017 Truman Scholar who finished his degree in three years. He has been a research assistant with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, a community development intern in Dangriga, Belize, with Peacework International, and participated in study abroad in Vietnam.

a Wallace-Carver Harris was USDA Fellow the Risk at Management Agency Washington, D.C. in 2016. He has also served as president of the Student Organization Outreach Involvement Experience (SOOIE); chair of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Honors Student Board; and member of the Bumpers College Dean Search Student Advisory Committee. He also served as assistant director of sponsorship for the Student Alumni Board.

"It's pinnacle the undergraduate student career," said Harris about being named a 2018 Senior Honor Citation winner, although he said he was surprised to hear his name called. Harris said that it was important to him to take advantage of every opportunity available to him on campus, and he would encourage new U of A students to do the same. After graduation, Harris will work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and make plans for graduate school.



This year's Bumpers awards reception, held at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences.

Top Students Recognized at Bumpers College Honors and Awards Reception

IFTEEN STUDENTS FROM EIGHT different majors and concentrations were recognized for outstanding academic accomplishments at the 2018 Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Honors and Awards Banquet.

Several AEAB students received accolades at the event, including Delia Barrett, Robert Hudgens, Emily King, Yefan Nian, Sydney Smith and Colson Tester. Additionally, Sara-Beth DeLay, Sam Harris and Colton Henderson were recognized as Honors Graduates.

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Delia Barrett

Stanley E. Reed Internship Award



Emily King
Presidental Scholar



Robert Hudgens

Senior Scholar



Yefan Nian

Departmental Outstanding Graduate Student



Colson Tester

First-Ranked Scholar, John W. White Outstanding Student and Departmental Outstanding Senior

2018–2019 Ag Business Club (ABC) Officers



From Left to Right: Dr. Nathan Kemper (Faculty Advisor), Taylor Pruitt (President), McKenna Cunningham (Public Relations), Madison Lindsey (Vice President), Rachel Barry (Secretary) and Lance Hewitt (Treasurer) (Not pictured: Melinda Dunlap [Staff Advisor])



Noussayma Njeim (middle) at the Buganu Festival in Swaziland, where she collected data for her thesis.

Alumna Njeim Shares Atlantis Program Study-Abroad Experience

Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences provides a robust array of studyabroad opportunities designed to develop lifelong partnerships, promote cultural awareness and provide an understanding of the global dimensions of students' majors.

One such opportunity, the Atlantis Program housed within the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness department, presents a unique chance for students to earn a double master's

degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Arkansas and a joint degree in rural development issued by a consortium of six European partner universities.

Alumna Noussayma Njeim is a recent graduate of the Atlantis Program. Originally from Beirut, Lebanon, Njeim earned her bachelor's degree in public administration and political science before enrolling in the Atlantis Program at Ghent University.

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Njeim Abroad

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Njeim, who graduated in summer 2018, reflects fondly on her Atlantis Program experience, citing the exposure to a student cohort of varying demographics and different methods of teaching (as well as the opportunity to see the world) as the most significant features.

"The the gives program opportunity travel and to international how experience people think about different topics and how they approach problems. This taught me to think in different ways and also to think outside of my traditional line of thinking."

Now graduated, Njeim plans development enhance by implementing efficient and effective projects that tackle the myriad of socioeconomic issues afflicting underprivileged Lebanese. With a career in development, she hopes to be able to evaluate project proposals and assess their direct effects on the socioeconomic status of families, become part of project funding procedures and be an active project coordinator with the capacity to monitor and evaluate project implementation.

"I highly recommend students join the Atlantis Program for several reasons. Specifically, it helps to challenge some stereotypes people might have and also allows students to see that the world doesn't revolve around one place, country or problem. The world is so big, and it has been amazing to experience it!"



Attendees of the International Conference on Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics in S. Korea.

Atlantis Program Meeting in South Korea

RS. DANIEL RAINEY AND Bruce Ahrendsen participated in the Atlantis Program management board meeting in Incheon and Seoul, South Korea, in June.

The Atlantis Program is a double degree program in agricultural economics and rural development. In addition to the University of Arkansas, meeting participants represented universities from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, South Korea, China, Ecuador, India, South Africa and Vietnam.

While in South Korea, Bruce Ahrendsen was invited to present his research on restructuring government farm loans at the Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics international conference hosted by Korea University in Seoul.



Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness master's program alumnus Matt King, above.

Alumnus Matt King Promoted at Arkansas Farm Bureau

The ATT KING HAS BEEN promoted to director of public affairs and government relations at Arkansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization. King will lead ArFB's national affairs efforts, working closely with Arkansas' Congressional delegation, federal regulatory agencies and national alliances. He will additionally support the group's lobbying efforts at the state level as well.

King has spent 12 years at Farm Bureau, most recently serving as ArFB's director of

market information and economics, where he led market research, international trade efforts and had administrative responsibility for the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board. He worked five years with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in Washington, D.C., before joining Farm Bureau.

A native of Hot Springs, King received an undergraduate degree in agricultural business from Arkansas State University. He then earned a master's degree in agricultural economics at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.



Jankovska Named Bumpers College's 2018 Outstanding Alumna

LIVERA JANKOVSKA HAS BEEN named one of two 2017–2018 outstanding alumni by the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

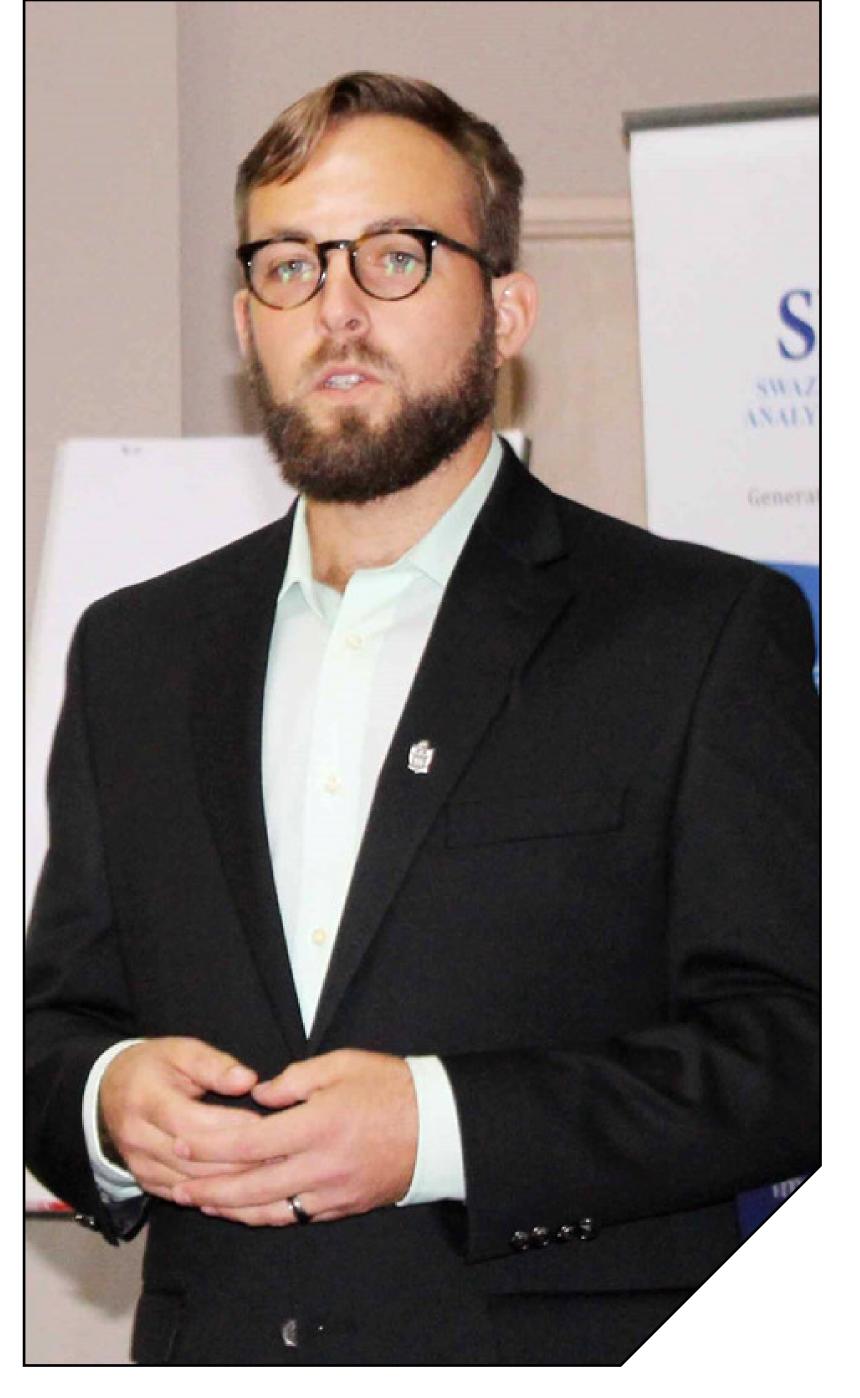
Jankovska serves the world's largest humanitarian organization for children as a UNICEF Global Citizenship Fellow, using community engagement to encourage transformational change in the lives of children around the world. She works with faith-based organizations, academic communities, independent volunteers, political appointees and other advocates in providing education and resources on topics such as public health, immunizations and child-equality. She encourages local communities to take action for children, all in support of worldwide efforts for child empowerment.

In addition to being named a UNICEF Global Citizenship Fellow, Jankovska received the UNICEF 2017 President's Volunteer Service Award, a national award recognizing outstanding volunteer service, for her contributions above and beyond contractual commitments and expectations. She earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural business in 2009.

"Bumpers College is proud to acknowledge [co-recipient] Corrin [Troutman] and Olivera as our distinguished alumnae for 2018," said Interim Dean Lona Robertson. "Corrin and Olivera have both been very successful in a short period of time. Both of them are very involved in their communities and very accomplished in their careers, and it's exciting to see how they are using their Bumpers College education to grow professionally. We are proud of both of them."

Jankovska was inspired to serve UNICEF after benefitting from the organization as a child. Her father earned \$3 a day in the years immediately following Macedonia's independence, and UNICEF provided school supplies to underprivileged children. By the age of seven, Jankovska was bailing hay, plowing fields, milking goats, weaving wool and selling milk. Those experiences turned into her passion to help others. Years later, a Peace Corps volunteer guided her toward scholarship opportunities, which led to her professional career of service and allowed her to put her younger brother and sister through college.

Jankovska serves UNICEF and is also a nonresident scholar at Rice University where she contributes analysis on electricity and gas markets at the Baker Institute for Public Policy - Center for Energy Studies. She is also a manager at Essentia Advisory Partners, conducting research and serving as a consultant on questions regarding energy policy, environmental regulations, and international trade and development. Jankovska is proficient in seven languages and is an avid traveler. She has more than 10 years of nonprofit experience, and her volunteer work extends to several cultural, educational and business organizations. She has been named to the United Macedonian's Diaspora "40 under 40" list, is active in the Houston Arkansas Alumni Chapter, participates in "Helping Like a Hog" community service events and earned a master's degree in agricultural and applied economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



AEAB Alumnus Named Inaugural Endowed Agriculture Chair at Arkansas State

Damphousse has named University of Arkansas alumnus Aaron Shew the inaugural holder of the R.E. Lee Wilson Chair of Agricultural Business. It is the first endowed academic position within Arkansas State's College of Agriculture.

"To have such an energetic and distinguished faculty member like Dr. Shew join our College of Agriculture is outstanding," said Arkansas State's agriculture dean Tim Burcham. "I am excited about the impact Dr. Shew's broad-based agricultural background and dynamic leadership bring to our college's graduate and undergraduate agricultural business programs. His first-hand knowledge of global agricultural markets will better prepare our graduates to lead and serve in a growing world."

Shew, a former Distinguished Doctoral Fellow, completed a doctorate in environmental dynamics at the University of Arkansas in spring 2018. He holds a master of science in agricultural economics and a master of arts in geography from the University of Arkansas. He was advised by Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences professor Lawton Lanier Nalley and J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences professor Tom Paradise while a graduate student in Fayetteville.

He completed his undergraduate education at Middle Tennessee State University, where he earned a bachelor of science in international relations and a bachelor of arts in global studies.

Shew's appointment begins in January 2019. He is currently a postdoctoral research scholar at Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, working in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and the University of Arkansas Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies.

AEAB Scholarship Donation

Donations from businesses and alumni are of tremendous benefit to the programs and facilities we provide. Donated funds go directly to the scholarships that we offer our students. All contributions, large and small, allow us to present an opportunity to scholars who have the intellectual but not the financial means. Please consider making a gift to our program today. •





Dr. Alvaro Durand-Morat (left) accepts an award for "Outstanding Journal Article" from Jeff Jordan of the University of Georgia.

AEAB Well-Represented at the 50th **Annual SAEA Meeting**

VEVERAL AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND Agribusiness students and faculty were recognized during the 50th annual Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

Two particular faculty groups received especially high acclaim. First, AEAB faculty Drs. Nathan Kemper, Jennie Popp and Rudy Nayga were awarded first place poster for their work titled "A Query Theory Account of a Discrete Choice Experiment Under Oath." One highly documented limitation of stated-preference methods is the formation of hypothetical bias (a discrepancy between what a person states he/ she would pay during the survey or interview and what a person would actually pay) in the estimation of consumers' willingness-to-pay for

a good or service. Kemper, Popp and Nayga's study used Query Theory (which suggests that preferences are constructed, rather than prestored and immediately retrievable) to examine the mechanism behind the effectiveness of the honesty oath in reducing hypothetical bias in a discrete choice experiment.

Regarding the significance of this method, Kemper says, "The honesty oath is a simple approach and very easy for researchers to implement. The interesting thing is that when subjects commit to telling the truth when responding to survey questions or making choices in an experiment like ours, they become essentially more thoughtful subjects."

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AEAB at SAEA

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"In experiments like ours where we ask someone how much they would pay for a product, it is very common for people to state that they will pay very high amounts. But if you ask them to actually spend real money on the product, then all of a sudden they are much more price sensitive. We were able to use the honesty oath to influence subjects to provide more realistic responses to valuation questions."

Second, Drs. Kent Kovacs and Alvaro Durand-Morat received the Outstanding Journal Article award for 2018 by the Journal Agricultural and Applied Economics for their article titled "The Influence of On- and Off-Farm Surface Water Investment on Groundwater Extraction from an Agricultural Landscape." The Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, published on behalf of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, serves as a forum for creative and scholarly work in agricultural economics and related areas and is a flagship journal for the industry. The duo's winning article shows that the use of surface water does not necessarily lead to groundwater conservation. Crop patterns change with the availability of surface water toward more irrigation-intensive crops, and the aquifer volume only rises if the surface water price is low enough to generate a significant shift away from groundwater.

Kovacs states, "Cheap surface water helps the farm economy but not necessarily groundwater conservation."



From left, Drs. Jennie Popp, Nathan Kemper and Brink Kerr.

Kemper Earns Distinguished Dissertation Award

athan Kemper, Clinical Assistant professor and undergraduate program chair in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, has earned the 2017 Public Policy William Miller Distinguished Dissertation Award for his dissertation titled, "Query Theory Applications: Choice Experiments Under Oath, Attendance to Attributes, and Genetically Modified Food Labeling Policy."

This award, named in honor of Dr. William Miller, the founding director of the Public Policy Ph.D. Program, recognizes the public policy student who develops a dissertation which excels in methodological and substantive quality as well as scholarly significance.

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Kemper Dissertation Award

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Kemper's work uses a social psychological theory called Query Theory to better understand how people make decisions and form preferences in three experiments. The first study examines a highly documented limitation of stated-preference methods: the formation of hypothetical bias. The results of the study document the mechanism behind the effectiveness of the honesty oath in reducing hypothetical bias. The second study proposes a new method for adjusting econometric models based on the attributes receiving attention and those being ignored by individuals in an experiment. The third study establishes a relationship between a person's cultural worldview and their preferences for GM labeling policy and how individuals with opposing worldviews process information differently.

"By using Query Theory, we were able to look at how individuals form preferences for products and make decisions in choice experiments from a new perspective. This has shed light on three areas of research important in the field of agricultural and applied economics," Kemper states.

Kemper hopes that his dissertation can help researchers better understand their data. "My dissertation research was a huge part of my life over the past few years and required me to be away from my family for long periods of time. I'm very proud of the end product and that all that hard work and time paid off."



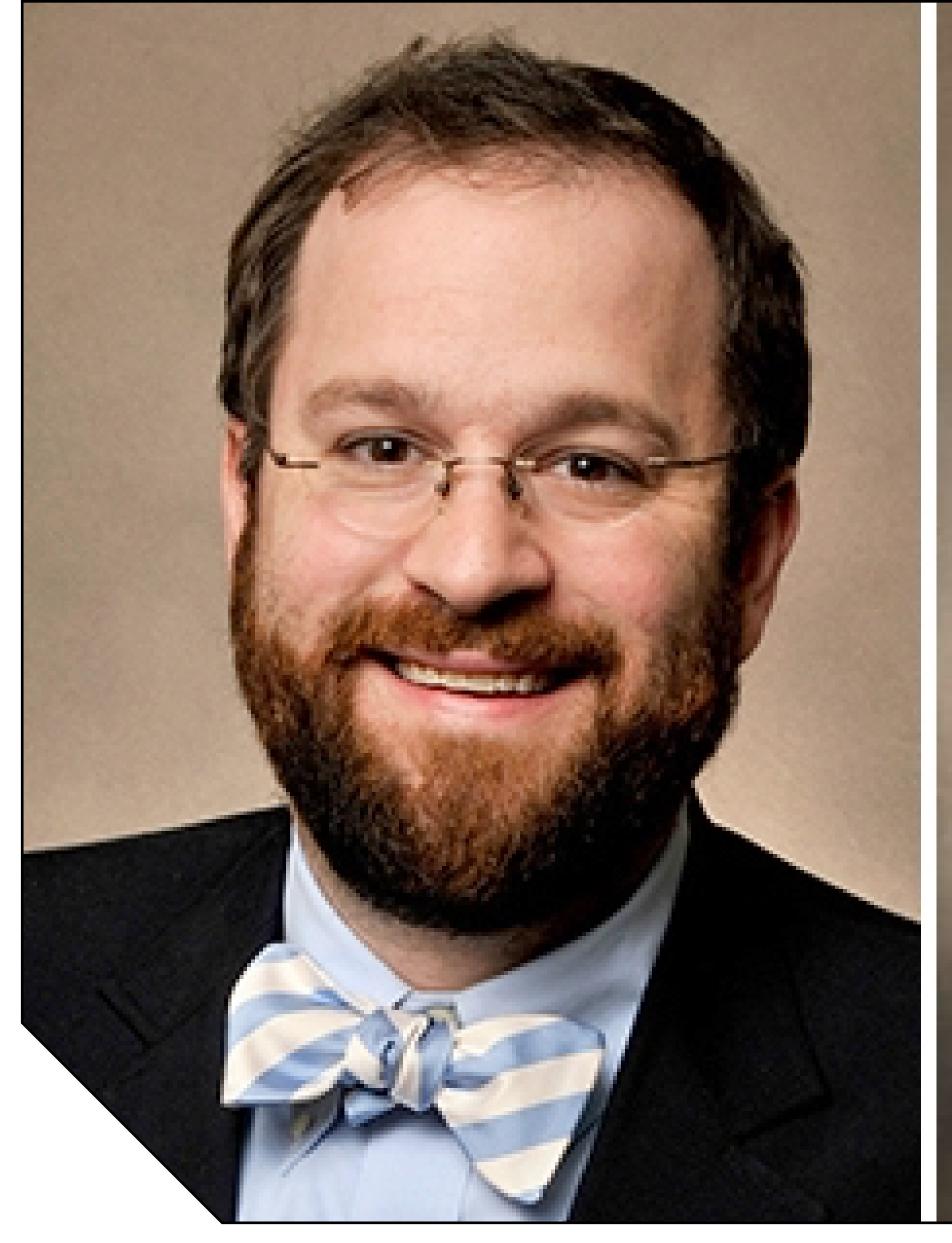
H.L. Goodwin (front, center-right) surrounded by Bumpers colleagues and family.

H.L. Goodwin Retires

ACULTY AND MEMBER OF the dean's office staff H.L. Goodwin retired following 22 years of service with Bumpers College.

Goodwin, who has held several positions and roles at the college, earned his bachelors in agricultural education (1975), and his masters (1978) and doctorate (1982) in agricultural economics, all from Oklahoma State University. He was on the faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University from 1982 to 1995, where he also served as associate director of the Texas Agriculture Market Research Center from 1989 to 1995.

Thank you for your years of service, commitment and service to our students and industry partners! •





Nalley (left) and Popp have been named ARER Fellows for their sustained excellence in research and commitment to the association's journal.

Nalley and Popp Named Agricultural and Resource Economics Review Fellows

ACULTY MEMBERS LANIER NALLEY and Michael Popp in the U of A's Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Science's Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness have been named Fellows by Agricultural and Resource Economics Review.

Popp and Nalley were chosen for their "sustained excellence in research and commitment to the association's journal." They were recognized at this year's annual meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association in Philadelphia in June.

Nalley's current research emphasis is on Popp and Nalley are the second and third rice production, international agricultural policy, the economics of plant genetics and international development. Popp has research interests in the areas of farm and agribusiness

management with an emphasis on alternative production practices and related implications for returns, risk and environment.

The National Agricultural and Resource Economics Association was founded in 1981 and seeks to stimulate and promote education and research on economic and social problems related to the production, marketing and consumption of agricultural products; natural resource use; the environment and rural economic development; and the interrelation of the agricultural and rural sectors with the rest of the economy.

current Bumpers College professors to earn Fellow status, joining Rudy Nayga, holder of the Tyson Chair in Food Policy Economics.

