When I considered accepting the offer to be dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources seven years ago, one of the very impressive reasons I would say yes, was the national and international reputation of the department featured in this issue – Agricultural and Resource Economics. The long-standing rankings – consistently within the top three in the world - are impressive to say the least. But I think you’ll agree, that the people and projects featured in this issue are what make this department more than worthy of those rankings.

Faculty in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics deal with the daily issues of land use, hunger, and sustainability at the local, national and international level and the inter-relationships are amazing. The inter-disciplinary work done with colleagues across campus, fellow institutions and with governmental agencies at home and abroad speak volumes to the work being done with the Chesapeake Bay and its related eco-systems as well as helping Afghan farmers as they re-build their nation.

Over the years, the department has responded to societal needs to address the integrated issues that fall under the broad scope of economics and the models used to manage our agricultural resources – financial and natural. At the undergraduate level students now have the opportunity to pursue a new minor in the area of poverty and we anticipate great accomplishment from this just as we have seen students studying the focus areas of business management, environmental and resource policy, food production and international agriculture.

Integrating the theoretical with the applied application and delivery through Extension outreach programs is a hallmark of the AREC with programs in topics ranging from farm management and business planning, to coastal hazards and community development as well as risk management and policy related to conservation and pest control. The Blue Crab Buy-Back program is but one example of the integration of teaching, research and Extension carried on by AREC faculty.

Proximity to Washington D.C. is a bonus for our AREC faculty who have served as advisors to presidents. The awards won by AREC faculty are testimony to their excellence and I hope you enjoy reading the stories that give you a glimpse into some of the behind the scenes work that happens in this department.

As always, I also invite you to celebrate the accomplishments of others throughout the college as highlighted beyond the centerfold of the magazine. I am overwhelmed by the energy and enthusiasm of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and partners to respond to opportunities to make a difference in lives here at home and around the world.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at events on campus and around the state.
Humankind has practiced agriculture for more than 10,000 years. The occupation brings with it a feeling of communing with nature, honest toiling and the satisfaction of nourishing people. While it is all of that and more, farming is also the way people earn a living and make changes to the land, creating a ripple effect that goes beyond fields and a barn.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) at the University of Maryland. The department specializes in the economics of agricultural, environmental and natural resources and is a program recognized worldwide.

AREC originated in 1918 with a four-year curriculum in “Farm Management and Agricultural Economics” in the Division of Vocational Education; a year later becoming the Department of Farm Management in the School of Agriculture. Through the early decades the focus was on improving farm organization with better record keeping and the like, as well as improving the profitability of individual farms. Later, marketing and price issues also were addressed, and in the 1960s environmental concerns about dwindling natural resources and shrinking farmland entered into the mix. Today, AREC, with its 20 faculty members, 60 graduate students and 125 undergraduates, is tackling emerging policy issues affecting not only Maryland, but also the United States and the rest of the world.

“It’s hard to imagine having a better job,” says department chair Lars Olson, whether it’s doing research on the economics of natural resource problems, overseeing faculty conducting research to alleviate poverty and hunger in developing nations or interacting with students who are “energetic, enthusiastic and constantly stimulating your thinking.”

“The heart of any department is its faculty and we have world-class faculty,” he continues. The faculty have served regularly in important policy positions, including on the President’s Council of Economic Advisers, as advisors to state and U.S. government agencies and in various roles with international organizations such as the World Bank.

The department has a renowned graduate program, widely regarded as among the top two or three in its discipline. Dr. Olson said the reputation of the department helps attract “an outstanding, well-trained and diverse group of students from all over the world.” The department is able to provide financial assistance through research and teaching assistant jobs, Dr. Olson said, and “more than 90 percent of the grad students ultimately go for their Ph.Ds.”

Part of AREC’s success is its location. “Agriculture is very important in Maryland, even though Maryland is not always considered a traditional agricultural state,” Dr. Olson said. In addition, many of the state’s policy issues have wide-ranging implications — like those associated with the Chesapeake Bay watershed. “It’s one of the unique natural assets in the world,” he said, “and the department is conducting research to help us better understand how to manage it more effectively.”

There’s also the fact that AREC is close to Washington, D.C., which means unequalled access to U.S. government and international agencies.

Looking to the future, Dr. Olson said he sees the department continuing to focus on a broad range of issues, from better food distribution in third world countries to managing our energy resources, improving agricultural policy, addressing climate change or resolving land use conflicts between rural and urban areas.

That’s quite a journey from starting out more than 90 years ago as a department mainly concerned with farm management. With its outstanding...
ing international ranking, the AREC graduate program has exceptional students working on diverse projects. Here’s a look at five of them.

**Claudia Hitaj**

To Claudia Hitaj, a Ph.D. candidate in Agricultural and Resource Economics, the wind is more than just a pleasantly cool ripple on a warm day — it’s the subject of her research. In 2010 her investigation of wind power economics earned her a STAR Fellowship for Graduate Environmental Study from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Her first-year paper, a requirement of the department, focused on the drivers of wind power development nationally and looked at renewable energy tax incentives and access to the power grid. It earned Hitaj the Rhona Lantin Scholarship for Best Paper by a First-Year Student. Currently, her focus is on wind power development on a regional level.

“I think the Ph.D. program in agricultural and resource economics effectively combines my two interests in economics and biology — my double majors in college,” said Hitaj, who received her undergraduate degrees from Yale University.

After earning her Master’s in environmental policy at the University of Cambridge, “I was certain that I wanted to focus my economics studies on the environment. I was considering enrolling in various economics departments along the East Coast, but I decided on AREC, since I knew that environmental issues were the focus here.”

**Ariel Ortiz-Bobea**

“My initial training was in life sciences and mathematics and I have been drifting slowly but surely into the social sciences ever since I started college,” said Ariel Ortiz-Bobea, a Ph.D. candidate in Agricultural and Resource Economics. “I’m not a ‘pure bred’ economist as many of my classmates are,” he added. Rather, “I have an agronomy background.”

Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Ortiz-Bobea studied for five years in France, earned an MPA at Syracuse University, then worked for two years directly with the Environment Minister in the Dominican Republic before enrolling at the University of Maryland.

Ortiz-Bobea’s current research is on the impact of climate change on U.S. agriculture. “I felt that an AREC program would provide me with more solid economic background on one hand, and more flexibility to include natural science concepts into my research as opposed to a traditional economics program.”

While the faculty does not necessarily have natural science backgrounds ... “I believe they may be more open-minded than in traditional econ programs,” Ortiz-Bobea said. “And, you can always consult natural scientists in other departments within the college, which is great.”

**Dr. Timothy C. Haab**

Dr. Timothy C. Haab’s enrollment in AREC came about because a professor “apparently saw something in me that I couldn’t see at the time,” he said. Dr. Haab was an undergraduate at UMBC, majoring in physics/engineering, then switched to economics late in his sophomore year when “I found that my math background could be applied in a different setting.

“In my senior year I took an environmental economics course from Professor Ginny McConnell and she recommended I talk to her husband, Professor Ted McConnell in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics,” Dr. Haab said.

“A combination of a stagnant job market and an offer of a research assistantship led me to enroll in the Ph.D. program. It was the best decision I could have made — stumbling upon a graduate program readily recognized as one of the top in the world.”

Dr. Haab received his Ph.D. in 1995 and is currently professor and chair in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at the Ohio State University. While in his administrative leadership role, he remains dedicated to teaching and research. He is the author or co-author of more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, multiple book chapters and two books on methods for valuing environmental and natural amenities. He has been the principal or co-investigator on more than $3 million in competitive grants and has served as Ph.D. advisor to more than 15 students.

**Joseph Maher**

While it may not answer the age-old question of whether a tree falling in a forest makes a noise if there’s no one there to hear it, Joseph Maher’s research does indicate that those shopping for a house will gravitate toward those with established trees.

In a paper that was awarded the AREC Department’s Rhona Lantin Scholarship for Best First-Year Paper by a First-Year Student, Maher said his results point to buyers being partial to trees, but also that “people typically prefer tree cover from their adjacent neighbors” and are willing to pay more for a shaded property.

“These types of results have implications about the externalities of privately owned trees, which could justify local ordinances that penalize cutting down trees, or help justify budgets for tree maintenance programs,” he said. His research also suggests that the quality of neighborhoods may suffer when developers cut down existing trees and later replant new trees.

Currently, Maher is working with his advisor, Dr. Charles Towe, to “determine whether property prices go up after stream restoration projects.” Up until now benefits have been considered in terms of reducing runoff and pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, and “we are trying to determine whether increases in property values constitute a separate class of benefits from stream restoration.”

**Dr. Michelle Brock**

Dr. Michelle Brock is now a research economist in the Office of the Chief Economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, after completing her Ph.D. in 2011. Dr. Brock’s research uses controlled experiments in the laboratory and the field to examine how people’s generosity and willingness to work for others is influenced by non-monetary incentives and social preferences.

As an AREC graduate student she co-authored a paper on what motivates people to give when the outcome of their giving is uncertain. This paper, now forthcoming in the prestigious journal the American Economic Review, shows how risky outcomes and attitudes toward fairness influence giving behavior.

For her dissertation Dr. Brock looked at what motivates medical clinicians in Tanzania to provide better quality health care and how clinician effort is impacted by uncertainty about health care outcomes. Her work demonstrates how interventions to improve social information and peer scrutiny can encourage better care.

In her current job Dr. Brock is adapting her research to look at ways to improve quality among judges in Tajikistan, and whether similar interventions involving peer and quality-based reputations can increase their professionalism.
Dr. Pamela Jakiela

“Global poverty is one of the primary problems facing the world,” said Adaire Parker, Assistant Director of undergraduate studies for the department. “The 2010 UN Human Development Report estimates that 1.7 billion people in 104 developing countries live in multi-dimensional poverty, one-third of the population in these countries.”

“If society is to improve this situation it is important for people to understand the mechanisms behind poverty and how differences in social, cultural and institutional factors impact the design of poverty alleviation programs and their success. In this minor, students assess the effectiveness of both large and small-scale public policies including foreign aid, domestic policies, market reforms and other efforts. They explore how our knowledge of poverty alleviation has progressed. The overall goal of the minor is to empower students to become more globally engaged citizens,” Parker explained.

The course, which includes both lectures and discussion sessions, emphasizes the usefulness of empirical economic tools in assessing arguments presented in debates about development. “This is an undergraduate course aimed at introducing students to modern thinking about economic development and, in particular, how to use data and statistics to assess the impact of policies and programs,” Dr. Jakiela said.

Dr. Jakiela’s course is a signature course in the university’s Global Studies Minors program, unveiled just last year. The program provides opportunities for students to study how evolving global connections affect the well-being of people throughout the world, and is comprised of four minors, open to students from any discipline or major.

The newest of the global studies minors is the Global Poverty minor, introduced by AREC in the fall of 2011. Here students get a perspective on the magnitude of global poverty and discover how incentives, resources and social and political institutions influence poverty worldwide.

Tucked away in a wing of a building on the University’s 1,250-acre campus, the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics may have a small local footprint, literally, but the work done inside its walls has a far wider reach, encompassing the globe.

Symons Hall is home to the department’s 20 faculty members, many of whom are teaching about global issues and collaborating on research projects that are changing the world in which we live. They are some of the leading scholars on economic development issues as they relate to poverty, hunger and health.

One of the newest faculty members on the team is Dr. Pamela Jakiela. Her course on Global Poverty and Economic Development explores social and economic development around the world. Students explore the geography and institutional history of the developing world and assess the impacts of each on current outcomes. Then, the class studies a range of political economy topics such as democratization, political instability and civil war.

AREC – Globally engaged teaching and researching

By Krista Brick
Dr. Vivian Hoffmann offers an honors seminar within the minor on evaluating aid effectiveness. “We look at whether foreign aid works and evaluate how,” she said. She attributes increasing student interest in this topic to the impact of advances in communications. “We’re becoming more aware of the glaring inequalities in the circumstances of people living around the world. I hope my students come away from my classes with a more nuanced understanding of what it means to be poor and what kind of policy levers are available options. “The point of the study hangs on that country’s water, sanitation and hygiene. From that work, she moved to her current project that ties together women’s menstrual practices and sanitation systems.

"In both courses I emphasize two things: first, the increasing scarcity of the natural resources as caused by current patterns of economic growth; second, the increasing levels of social inequality both in the U.S. and elsewhere caused by policies implemented over the last 30 years in the U.S. and more recently in Europe and Latin America. They artificially promote economic growth benefiting mainly the elites, having at the same time deleterious effects on poverty and wealth distribution, which causes a form of economic growth that greatly exacerbates natural resource and environmental destruction,” he said.

The research grew out of previous work Dr. Hoffmann had done in Kenya on that country’s water, sanitation and hygiene. From that work, she moved to her current project that ties together women’s menstrual product usage and sanitation systems. Still in its early stages, the aim of this study is to shed light on women’s particular practices, needs and product demands to help inform sanitation planning in developing countries.

"The research is being done in Durban, South Africa, and the state of Bihar, India. Another global research project underway for Dr. Hoffmann is a look at the quality of maize (corn) in Kenya and issues surrounding toxic contamination. A common mold found in maize produces a toxin that, if eaten, can predispose someone to liver cancer and reduce immune system function, resulting in stunted growth in children. Menstrual safety is not regulated in Kenya, so people buying corn, especially in informal markets, aren’t assured of its quality — almost a third of samples collected by Dr. Hoffmann and her team were above the level considered safe. Her ongoing work seeks to find ways to help Kenyans to differentiate between good and bad maize, and to strengthen reputation effects of vendors so that better quality maize commands a higher price."

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Dr. Lopez's research outside the classroom centers on the conditions under which it can be possible to sustain economic growth while preserving the environment. His work has earned him the prestigious Humboldt Research Award for lifetime research excellence.

His passion for economic sustainability is evident in his blog (www. professorlopez.web.officeLive.com/blog.aspx), where he calls for the need for additional spending on public education and health care and a greater investment in human capital. "Economies that over invest in physical capital and under invest in human capital tend to exhibit low productivity growth and to over rely on dirty industries which cause large pressures upon the environment.

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For more information about the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, go to www.arec.umd.edu.
Hanson recently was awarded the Distinguished International Service Award for his contributions to the development of international programs at the University of Maryland, contributions that have ranged from working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Afghanistan and Iraq to train agricultural professionals, to teaching sustainable-agriculture practices to farmers in Bulgaria, Albania and the former Yugoslavia. Award organizers said Hanson “is widely recognized as one of a handful of experts willing to travel and work in war zones” and that “he has earned the respect and honor of his peers,” evidenced by his invitation to join a National Academies of Science, National Research Council committee on sustainable agriculture in the 21st century. Additionally, he was selected last fall as a panelist for the National Archives America East Series: Sustainable Agriculture, moderated by National Public Radio’s Linda Wertheimer.

His background also includes having served as assistant director for International Programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and as acting associate director as well as program leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources in University of Maryland Extension. Hanson received his B.S. in agronomy from the University of Maryland, his M.S. in plant breeding from the University of Minnesota and his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics back “home” in College Park.

Having a father who was a USDA agronomist in Beltsville, and a grandmother with a Minnesota dairy farm that he visited each summer as a youngster, it was perhaps a given that Hanson would pursue a career in agriculture. On top of that, “I was inspired by the green revolution” in the late 1960s and early 1970s, he said, when there was a push to develop high-yield wheat and rice, as well as improve irrigation and other farming techniques to adequately feed a growing world population.

“Feeding the world sounds a little more
disseminated for sustainable agriculture. Maryland as methods were developed and throughout the Northeast representing Hanson then spent ten years traveling to sell at their stands and stores. stores and other farmers who needed produce to sell at their stands and stores. Hanson then spent ten years traveling throughout the Northeast representing Maryland as methods were developed and disseminated for sustainable agriculture.

“A lot of the focus was on developing cropping systems,” Hanson said, something that he has incorporated into his own small farm in western Howard County. “We have horses and we practice rotational grazing” as well as “composting the manure for application to the pastures.”

His experience in dealing with small farming operations — as well as those summers on his grandmother’s farm — made his foray into international work a good fit since most farms in the more than 20 countries he has worked are small. One aspect of his overseas work is “to build agricultural extension services like we have here.” In Afghanistan, for instance, Hanson is leading an UMD Extension team to support women in establishing backyard gardens and raising poultry, similar to UME’s Grow it, Eat it program.

The work he does with international farmers is much like what is done here, but there are also unique situations, some as simple as transportation. Farmers can do all the right things to get the land to produce, but if crops don’t reach the market, neither farmers nor consumers are being well served. Another challenge is getting information out to the farmers.

But the successes outweigh any stumbling blocks.

“A recent project that I found meaningful was my work with International Orthodox Christian Charities in Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro,” Hanson said. “Our college has a memorandum of understanding with IOCC to collaborate where our skills can complement each other. In this case, we worked with several villages in each of the three countries that encompassed different faiths, language and ethnic backgrounds.”

He said each village wrote a proposal reflecting an agricultural idea that was jointly agreed upon by all, one that “would benefit the whole village and not a few individuals, and would rectify problems resulting from the recent conflicts. IOCC had raised private funds for us to distribute, about $9,000 per village.”

One project example was in a fruit growing village in eastern Montenegro, which had a building containing two pieces of equipment for fruit drying and juicing, but, due to the war, lacked a wall and electric utilities. “We were able to build the wall, install utilities, and hook up the equipment so that the local agricultural cooperative could begin to process fruit for sale,” he said. “At the end of the first year, we convened a regional agricultural conference in Montenegro, the first one of its kind among these three countries, in which the farmers from our participating villages shared their experiences.”

It’s often said that those going to other countries to help often come away with more than they’ve given. Judging by the passion Hanson uses when talking about his international work — as well as teaching and doing research — that’s certainly true.

The next time you bite into a Maryland crabcake or host a summer crab feast, you can thank a team of economists in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) for the role they played in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the crab fishery. The Chesapeake blue crab has recovered from historic low population levels, and there should be plenty of crabs for years to come thanks to a plan designed with the help of the AREC team. The fishing license buyback plan was designed to achieve harvest sustainability by voluntarily reducing the number of active fishermen to a level in harmony with the size of the crab population in Chesapeake Bay.

It was not looking good for the blue crab back in 2009. The National Marine Fisheries Service had legally declared the iconic Chesapeake fishery a disaster, making Maryland and Virginia eligible for special disaster relief funds. About $30 million was split between the two states, and both decided to use some of the funds to buyback fishing licenses from watermen to reduce long-term harvest pressure on the resource.
Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) decided to spend about $3 million to buy back the licenses, but did not know how to determine a price that would be fair to the watermen while allowing the state to achieve its goals. Tom O’Connell, head of DNR’s Fisheries Service, phoned Doug Lipton, an associate professor in AREC and program leader for University of Maryland Extension’s Sea Grant Extension Program. Dr. Lipton got his Graduate Research Assistant and Ph.D. candidate, Gereit DePiper, on the task. They looked at data on how much watermen with the specific type of license targeted for the buyback (limited crab catcher) earned in a typical year. Dr. Lipton - and DePiper found, however, that a large number of licenses either went unused or were hardly used in any given year.

The duo wrote a report for DNR showing how, without having a good price estimate to offer the watermen, DNR could waste a lot of money if they overpaid for the licenses. They recommended holding a “reverse auction” where the watermen would tell DNR the price that they would accept for their licenses. DNR would accept the lowest bids until the $3 million budget was exhausted. When the auction was held, only a small percentage (13 percent) of the license holders participated.

DePiper and Dr. Lipton determined that participation in the auction was low because the watermen also had difficulty deciding what the licenses were worth. “Let’s follow up with the watermen who bid, and find out how they developed their bids,” said DePiper. “And then let’s get some information on those who didn’t bid, and try to explain why.” DePiper wrote a research plan that would become the basis for his dissertation while in College Park to issues such as transferring them among watermen regarding their licenses, and to look at other decisions made by watermen regarding their licenses, and to look at other decisions made by watermen regarding their licenses, and to look at other decisions made by watermen regarding their licenses.

Meanwhile, Holzer and Dr. Lipton have expanded their work on buybacks to look at other decisions made by watermen regarding their licenses, such as transferring them among themselves. “There’s both a formal and informal leasing process watermen use to get around some of the regulations and it can make the fishery more profitable, but you have to be careful in how the fishery is managed or you can end up with overharvesting,” stated Holzer. Holzer and Dr. Lipton, along with AREC graduate research assistant Olivier Francois, have just completed a study on the license leasing process for both blue crab and that other great Chesapeake Bay fishery, the striped bass.

“What’s unique about this work,” says Dr. Lipton, “is that it deals with a lot of data on individual fisherman’s behavior over periods of time when they are facing different circumstances regarding the health of the fish stock and water quality in Chesapeake Bay. There is a lot you can learn from studying the fisherman’s behavior - you just have to know what questions to ask.”

The understanding gained from economic studies can improve the way these important fisheries are managed to ensure they stay healthy, providing food and recreation for Marylanders for years to come.

**Crab Fishing Licenses**

**Limited Crab Catcher (LCC):** allows the license holder to fish up to 50 crab pots per day and use unlimited trotline (a long line of baited hooks).

**Unlimited Tidal Fish (TFL):** entitles the license holder to fish up to 300 crab pots per day (or up to 900 if combined with additional authorizations) and use unlimited trotline. This license also authorizes his owner to catch clams and oysters.

From their experience with the buyback and other complex fisheries management issues, DNR realized they needed help from resource economists whether it was designing a fair and efficient buyback plan or determining how much catch should be allocated between commercial and recreational fishermen. O’Connell and Dr. Lipton created a new shared position between DNR and AREC, and hired Jorge Holzer, a postdoctoral AREC student. Holzer was able to adapt his doctoral research on New England groundfish to Maryland’s fisheries problems.

One of Holzer’s first tasks was to build on the limited crab catcher license buyback so that DNR could buy back the more intensively fished unlimited tidal fish license. Holzer developed a two-tiered approach, similar to the “buy it now” or “place a bid” options on eBay. Watermen could take a lower but guaranteed payment at the initial offering or take a chance on higher payment if funds are still available after the first round of buybacks.

In total, the limited crab catcher and unlimited tidal fish buybacks allowed DNR to retire 780 licenses at a cost of $2.25 million. The expectation is that the lower number of licenses will keep the harvest pressure on the crab resource at a sustainable level.

DePiper is completing his dissertation research and now is working for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He’ll be applying the concepts he worked on while in College Park to issues such as when fishermen adjust their fishing decisions when faced with regulations that close off fishing areas to protect sensitive habitat. “Not all fishermen behave the same way when faced with the same set of circumstances, and what I’m trying to do is use information from various data sources to predict what each fisherman will do,” explained DePiper.

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HELPING PRESIDENTS MAKE POLICY DECISIONS

Making decisions is part of our daily lives. From the moment we wake up, choices confront us at every turn — what to have for breakfast, what to wear, how to get from here to there. Sometimes we make decisions that will significantly impact our life, such as where to work, where to live, or whom to live with. Regardless of how much an impact a decision will have, we try to make the best decision possible based on the information at hand.

If you’re the President of the United States, the scale and impact of your decisions are amplified. To make significant decisions, the President requires expert advice and comprehensive data. Without accurate facts and expert input, there could be dire consequences. Without accurate facts and expert input, there could be dire consequences. Regardless of how much an impact a decision will have, we try to make the best decision possible based on the information at hand.

The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), providing the economic information necessary for the President to make educated decisions. The Council of Economic Advisers, an agency within the Executive Office of the President, was established in 1946 and consists of one chairman and two members. Supporting the Council are top professional senior and staff economists in specialized areas. The Council is responsible for giving the President objective economic advice on domestic and international policy issues based on data and analyses provided by the senior and staff economists. Therefore, economists supporting the CEA must be skilled, accomplished, and highly recommended, such as University of Maryland’s AREC Department Professors Robert Chambers, Erik Lichtenberg, and Howard Leathers.

"It turned out to be a great learning experience," says Professor Robert Chambers, who works in international trade, agricultural policy, and production economics, and received his Ph.D. from University of California at Berkeley in Agricultural and Resource Economics. Typically, economists work with the CEA for one to two years. Chambers was no exception. From the spring of 1985 to the fall of 1986, he lent his expertise to the CEA, with most of his work being on the farm bill. During their time with the CEA, economists usually focus on a few key projects, but must keep abreast of current events and their potential economic impact in case the CEA requires their input. "There isn’t always a lot of time to analyze things. You have to see the big picture very quickly," says Chambers. Professor Erik Lichtenberg, who worked for the CEA from 1993 to 1994, concurs: "The job involves getting up to speed on policy issues you may not have heard about 24 hours ago. You need to know the issues’ specifics, and estimate what the Council may want to do." Lichtenberg, who also received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley, works on issues relating to natural resources and agriculture. In the early 1990s, there was a string of natural disasters in the United States, including major flooding in the Mississippi River Valley. As one of his projects with the CEA, Lichtenberg was part of a task force to review whether the government should have done more to prevent the flooding. He analyzed information on the damage done, the amount of flooding, the levies and their effectiveness, the frequency of flooding in the area, the profitability of the flood plains, what the losses were, and more. He looked at what happened, what might have happened under other circumstances, and whether alternate scenarios would have improved the outcome.

In Lichtenberg’s case, he found there was nothing more the government could have done to prevent the situation. However, providing your input to the CEA does not mean the Council or the President will choose to do what you think is best. When it comes to creating or revising policies, there are many moving parts, needs, and opinions. As Professor Chambers explains, "You can be in an intellectual argument where everything you say is right, but it goes the other way. Everyone thinks they’re right in policy meetings because everyone is bright and has their own opinion. The genius of the system is that no one interest dominates. I was impressed at how many different sides were brought to the table."

Professor Howard Leathers, who helped the CEA from the summer of 1992 to the summer of 1993, found the practical experience eye-opening. "It was exciting and illuminating to see the policy process from the inside. Economists sometimes look at policy in an idealistic way. Then you get in there and it’s different." Leathers received his Ph.D. in Economics and Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and focuses on agricultural policy, marketing and production, and world food issues. Nevertheless, one of Leathers’ projects with the CEA had nothing to do with agriculture. Early in the Clinton administration, many government agencies were involved in the new healthcare reform known as The Hillary Clinton Healthcare Plan, including the CEA. Despite the difference in topic, Leathers noted that you see economic similarities from policy to policy. "To a considerable extent," he said, "all policies and economic programs influence human behavior. We have to consider what behavior we are rewarding and what we are discouraging. We are trained to look at the incentives, consequences, and loopholes, all of which are policy outcomes. Professor Chambers points out that "There are no policies that make everyone better off. In reality there are losses. That’s just something that has to be taken into account." Providing suggestions on what policies may mitigate such losses is a task each of the three professors took on during their tenure with the CEA. By providing their expertise, the economists ensured that various facets of each scenario were analyzed and the most fortuitous scenarios were brought to the CEA’s attention. Professors Chambers, Lichtenberg, and Leathers each believe that their experience working with the CEA improved them as agricultural economists and helped them become better teachers and scholars.
AGNR Agricultural and Resource Economists Join Forces to Study Land Use Policy

By Susan J. Burlingame

It’s common knowledge, not only in Maryland but across the country, the state of Maryland is a national leader in land use policy. Programs such as “Smart Growth” and “Plan MD” are familiar terms to the citizens of the Chesapeake Bay region, and both demonstrate the State’s ongoing commitment to responsible growth while also protecting Maryland’s precious land and water resources.

The University of Maryland’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) – specifically its Agricultural and Resource Economics department – has been an important partner of the state. The department has attracted leaders in the field who continue to study land use from a wide variety of perspectives and make recommendations that directly impact citizens of Maryland. The ideas, solutions, and recommendations they generate can be easily translated to other parts of the country to solve land use issues there.

Dr. Lori Lynch, professor of agricultural economics as well as director of AGNR’s Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Policy, has been a faculty member at Maryland’s land-grant institution for more than 16 years. She holds a partial University of Maryland Extension appointment and spends a lot of time talking to policymakers in the state. Her research centers on farmland preservation and conservation practices.

"Maryland consistently has some of the top counties in the entire nation in terms of number of farmland acres preserved," says Dr. Lynch. "It has always been a leader in terms of trying new programs to see what works best in allowing us to preserve high quality farms and a high number of acres. According to Dr. Lynch, Maryland does everything it can to get the policies right. "Maryland legislators at the county and state level are very forward-thinking, and they really listen to recommendations made by those of us who conduct research related to land use issues.”

One can approach the land use issue from the perspective of conservation, preservation, or development, explains Dr. Lynch, but no matter what, the issues require multidisciplinary thinking. "The beauty of our department is that though we approach our research from different vantage points, we exchange research data and ideas all the time. The scholars here complement each other, which stimulates a lot of creativity."

While Dr. Lynch’s work focuses for the most part on farmland preservation, or “retaining land,” one of her colleagues, Dr. Charles Towe, assistant professor of agricultural economics, studies land conversion.

Towe’s assertion that interdisciplinary collaboration is critical to solving land use issues. Dr. Newburn continues. "Our role is to find out what is happening and to create sustainable solutions. My work in Baltimore County could help us make recommendations to encourage or discourage development activity or to create policy. The social science side of the work helps natural scientists understand the complexities in any recommendations they might make."

The project is very much in its infancy as different teams of researchers gather data, Dr. Towe says. "This type of study could actually demonstrate we can collaborate across disciplines and produce findings that synthesize the natural science and behavioral science worlds. It’s an attempt to have us speak to each other throughout the entire research process and to offer a realistic output at the end of the day.”

The newest faculty member in the Agricultural and Resource Economics department, assistant professor Dr. David Newburn, is part of the land use economics team associated with the NSF grant. Though Dr. Newburn joined the UMD faculty only in early January of this year, he has long been familiar with the work of Dr. Lynch and Dr. Towe. He came to the University of Maryland because of its reputation as a leader in the agricultural and resource economics field. He is also well-versed in Maryland’s Smart Growth policies and on the state’s proactive approach to land use policy-making.

"Like Lori and Charles, I have been studying land use issues in a very similar way, starting in California, for many years," Dr. Newburn explains. "We use similar research techniques and parcel-level data sets to analyze issues as well as the economic and ecological impact of land use.” Dr. Newburn echoes Dr. Towe’s assertion that interdisciplinary collaboration is critical to solving land use issues. Dr. Newburn’s doctorate is in agricultural economics, but his undergraduate background is in physics and ecology, which helps him understand the work being done by the physical scientists in the study related to pollution, water quality, and much more – and its importance in terms of any policy recommendations that might result.

One data set he is collecting involves surveying residential land owners. “We are asking typical questions on how they decide where to live. The usual considerations exist such as length of commute, quality of school systems, proximity to shopping, crime rate, etc., but we are also asking them how close they are to environmental or open space amenities such as parks, streambeds, or lakes – and whether they are willing to pay to preserve or even improve these amenities.”

We are doing this research in four counties of Maryland. Dr. Newburn continues. “Our role is to find out what is happening and to create sustainable solutions. My work in Baltimore County could help us make recommendations related to managing urban systems to reduce the impact of development on the watershed and the land.”

“Our ultimate goal,” Dr. Newburn says, “is to solve Maryland’s and the region’s land use problems. It’s our responsibility as the state’s land-grant institution to look at the issue from every possible perspective and to be partners in promoting the health of the environment and the thriving of the residents of the region.”
By introducing farmers to alternative crops, the Small and Part-Time Farmers’ Program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore helps increase productivity while reducing costs.

Land-grant universities are shaped by the people and the times. Through a threefold effort of academic instruction, research through the Agricultural Experiment Station, and outreach through Extension, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland at College Park and its 1890 counterpart, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, pursue the land-grant mission. The following Federal statutes are the foundations upon which the nation’s land-grant institutions were built:

1862 – The Morrill Land-Grant College Act created a college in each state to educate citizens in agriculture, home economics, mechanical arts, and other practical professions.

1887 – The Hatch Act linked land-grant colleges and USDA, providing research funds for state agricultural experiment stations.

1890 – The second Morrill Act expanded the system of land-grant colleges to include historically black institutions, known as 1890 institutions.

1914 – The Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service, a partnership between land-grant institutions, local governments, and USDA that provides practical, research-based information to the citizens of each state.

From harvest to table, land-grant teaching, research, and outreach enhance Maryland’s number one industry – Agriculture.

The Rossborough Inn was the first Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

Keep Us Growing...

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is proud of its Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, which is consistently ranked as one of the top in the world. As you have read in this issue of Momentum, this department makes our College and University a world leader in environmental economics, agricultural policy and international agriculture economics.

Each year, the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics presents awards created in honor of two former department leaders. The Bessie H. DeVault Award, named for the wife of Dr. Samuel H. DeVault, chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics from 1922 to 1951, is presented to the author of the best paper by a second-year student. This year, the DeVault Award went to Ian Page.

The writer of the best dissertation is honored by receiving The Dr. and Mrs. Bill V. Lessley Dissertation Excellence Award. Dr. Billy Lessley was an esteemed member of the department from 1965 to 1991. Dr. Lessley’s daughter, Martha Evers, and her son, pictured with Dr. Lars Olson, were on hand to make this year’s presentations to Stephen Kasperski and Judith Michelle Brock.

These two awards, designed to reward our best and brightest students, have helped the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics maintain its high academic standards and lead the world in quality research and education. To support these endowments, or create one of your own, please contact Brian Magness at (301) 405-7733 or bmagness@umd.edu.

Thank you for your support of our College.

Brian

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NEW FACULTY INTRODUCED

Dr. Evelyn Cooper has joined Academic Programs as assistant dean for undergraduate programs. She will work closely with faculty, departmental coordinators, and directors for academic programs. Dr. Cooper has more than 10 years of experience in academic advising, mentoring, and teaching undergraduate students. Before coming to AGNR, she served as assistant director in Letters and Sciences where she oversaw Dean’s Exceptions to Policy and the Transitional Advising Program for juniors and seniors. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise regarding University of Maryland policies and processes involving undergraduate students to the position.

She earned a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Maryland, and both MS and BS degrees in Geography from North Carolina Central University.

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics is pleased to welcome Pamela Jakiela. Dr. Jakiela, who received her doctorate in 2008 from the University of California, Berkeley, joins the AREC faculty as an assistant professor and director of the Experimental Economics Laboratory. Dr. Jakiela’s research explores the intersection between economic development and psychology, focusing on social and risk preferences, sharing norms and cultural values. She is an expert on the use experimental economic tools in the developing world and has conducted extensive field work in rural villages in western Kenya. For example, a recent project with co-author Owen Ozier of the World Bank measured Kenya villagers’ willingness to pay to keep positive income shocks hidden from one’s social network.

Dr. Jakiela comes to Maryland from Washington University in St. Louis where she has been the Director of the Missouri Social Science Experimental Laboratory since 2010 and assistant professor since 2008. In addition to her Ph.D., Dr. Jakiela has a BA in Sustainable Development from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a master’s degree from the London School of Economics. She will be teaching Global Poverty and Economic Development, which is a signature course for the new Global Poverty minor.

Dr. David Newburn joins the faculty as an assistant professor with the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. His primary research interests focus on the economics of land use and water resources, relying heavily on the application of geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial econometrics.

The University of Maryland’s well-established research programs and centers studying the challenges of protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed were part of the reason Dr. Newburn chose to come to Maryland. He will be co-teaching AREC 200, The Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem: Interaction of Science, Economics, and Policy. He is currently collaborating with AREC Assistant Professor Dr. Charles Towe and UMD AREC alumna Dr. Elena Irwin at Ohio State University on a project studying residential development and the impact on water systems, which is funded by the National Science Foundation.

Prior to his appointment, he was assistant professor at Texas A&M University. Dr. Newburn received his Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy and Management in 2002, followed by a two-year position as a Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellow in Natural Resource Economics at the University of California, Berkeley. He is returning to his alma mater, having received his Bachelor of Science degree with high honors in Physics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

HANSON SERVES AS PANELIST

Jim Hanson, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, was a panelist for a National Archives special event on sustainable agriculture. The November event discussed the ecological, economic and social issues surrounding the practice of sustainable agriculture, and the implications of changing production practices to preserve natural resources. Moderated by NPR’s Linda Wertheimer, other panelists were Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary, USDA; José Andrés, Chief Culinary Adviser for What’s Cooking, Uncle Sam?; Ann Harvey Yonkers, Co-Director, FRESHFARM Markets; and Bob Young, Chief Economist, American Farm Bureau Federation.

Dr. Robert Jackson is the new acting chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science (NFSC). Dr. Jackson earned his Ph.D. in International Nutrition from Cornell University. He joined the University of Maryland faculty as an associate professor of Nutrition and Food Science in 1989. He has been instrumental in curriculum development and has established a reputation as a great professor with several awards for his excellence in teaching.

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The focus of Dr. Jackson’s research is on nutritional anemia, particularly that due to micronutrient deficiencies, program evaluation, chronic disease epidemiology and nutritional epidemiology. He has been involved in research work in Mexico, Lebanon, Senegal, Liberia and Tanzania. He has consulted with USAID and the World Health Organization in Egypt and Kuwait and has been a visiting professor and Senior Fulbright Research Fellow in Kuwait.
Buchanan receives USDA-NIFA grant
Dr. Robert Buchanan, director of Food Safety and Security Systems, AGNR, recently received a three-year $5.4 million grant with a 100 percent industry match from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Institute of Food and Agriculture. He is the PI for the project aimed at developing scientifically-based consensus food safety metrics for leafy greens and tomatoes. The University of Maryland-College Park is the lead institution and others participating include the University of Florida, University of California-Davis, The Ohio State University, Rutgers University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, University of Delaware, USDA-ARS and FDA.

Myers teaches Extension abroad
R. David Myers, Extension educator in Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties, was part of team from UC Davis, Purdue University, Iowa State University and the University of Maryland who conducted a four-day “Workshop to Strengthen Extension Skills of Young Professionals in Afghanistan and Pakistan” as part of the Af-Pak Trilateral activity.

In November 2011, Myers’ presentation focused on assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the Afghanistan vegetable industry in order to develop effective Extension programs. He also shared vegetable production technology and Extension methods. Pest management was also included in the workshop.

The vegetable focus group formed two teams to develop an Extension program on cold storage and cucumber production. The teams also went to the field research plots for pest management and production training. The project is supported by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, and was hosted by Nangarhar University in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

On a personal note, while Myers was training Extension professionals to work with farmers, his son, Sgt. Andy Myers, was serving about 500 miles away from the agricultural efforts with the U.S. Marine Corps Recon unit holding down an outpost in the Sangin Valley in Helman Province.

Fac-Toids
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Best Professors honored
The 2012 Readers’ Choice Awards were recently published in the Diamondback student newspaper and congratulations go to Dr. Bruce James of the Environmental Science and Policy program and Dr. David Myers of the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture for being voted Best Professors. Only two professors were selected and they are both from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources!
Five years ago, Yuandong Qi was a high school student in a rural farming village in China. Living in a mountainous area, the scenery is breathtaking, but the land is not productive and there are few opportunities outside of farming.

In February 2012, Yuandong attended the USDA’s 2012 Agricultural Outlook Forum as one of a handful of students selected to attend the government and industry conference. The forum provides producers, policymakers, businesses, government and industry leaders with a unique opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and discuss timely issues at the forefront of America’s agriculture. Yuandong visited the Agicultural Research Service (ARS) and U.S. Department of Agriculture headquarters and heard keynote speaker U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

Yuandong Qi is from a long line of farmers, but in search for more income to support their families, his father and uncles left the village to find factory jobs in the city. “In order to obtain enough income to support family’s needs, most people there work as migrant workers in factories in the east coastal cities of China. They assemble export products like garments, shoes or the iPhone. Farming productivity is low and inefficient. My father and almost all my relatives are migrant workers,” he said.

Even though his life has had its challenges, Yuandong was a top student and was admitted into a competitive program at China Agricultural University. He arrived at UMD in August 2010 as part of the 2+2 program in which CAU students transfer to UMD in August 2010 as part of the 2+2 program with China Agricultural University and started their AGNR careers after two years of university work in China.

Yuandong is committed to helping his community. “My studies in the U.S. will not only equip me with the skills to do advanced research in the field of agriculture. Yuandong visited the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and U.S. Department of Agriculture headquarters and heard keynote speaker U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

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HANSON GIVEN PRESTIGIOUS HONOR

Dr. Wallace Loh, left, president of the University of Maryland joins, Cheng-i Wei, center, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in congratulating Dr. Jim Hanson on being the 2011 recipient of the campus Distinguished International Service Award in November. The award recognizes significant contributions in the development of international programs at the University of Maryland.

Hanson ’72 Agronomy and ’83 PhD Agricultural and Resource Economics, has worked in over 20 countries and is widely recognized as one of a handful of experts willing to travel and work in war zones, such as Iraq and Afghanistan. He was the team leader for a 2010 project to rehabilitate 14 research and agricultural education centers in Afghanistan, develop a national leadership framework for these centers and provide advance training for 50 agricultural professionals. He served on the National Academies of Science, National Research Council’s Committee on Sustainable Agricultural Systems in the 21st Century and co-authored the report that examined increasing global food demand and improving sustainability.

Previous AGNR recipients of this prestigious award are Dr. John R. Moore, emeritus professor, Agricultural and Resources Economics, and Dr. Raymond J. Miller, director International Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources (IPAN).

ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE

A showcase of the newly launched campus-based 4-H Adventures in Science program was held in early February, featuring the hard work of campus professors who worked with nearly 30 youth from communities near to campus over six weeks. The program made connections between the 4-H program and university through Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) interactive activities. The campus program followed a template used in Montgomery County for nearly 30 years, initiated by retired NASA scientist Dr. Ralph Nash. University of Maryland Extension - Prince George’s County Educator Shante’ Stokes took the lead on the initiative in bringing local youth to campus for their 4-H Adventures in Science. Collegiate 4-H members were also involved in facilitating the activities.

The goals of the program are to stimulate the natural curiosity about science and math in youth, to teach basic science principles, demonstrate that science is all around us, in addition to showing that science is fun and exciting. Topics ranged from entomology, agriculture, animal, environmental, health and plant sciences. Simple laboratory experiments were conducted by professors and students from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The culminating showcase provided the opportunity for the new 4-H'ers to describe what they learned from the program and what careers they would like to pursue.

The success of the inaugural series has led to developing plans for a 4-H Adventures in Engineering on campus as well as 4-H Adventures in Science again in the fall of 2012.
On January 23, 2012, an Agreement of Cooperation was signed between the University of Maryland/JIFSAN (Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition) and Bangladesh Shrimp and Seafood Foundation (BSSF). This agreement is a "subsidiary" of the original signed in March 2010. Under this subsidiary agreement, an international standard Aquaculture and Aquatic Food Safety Centre will be established in Bangladesh under private/public management with food safety training support from JIFSAN. In addition, there will be regulatory and governmental endorsement along with support and guidance from the Fishery Products Business Promotion Council and the government of Bangladesh.

The signing ceremony took place at JIFSAN’s College Park office. Dr. Cheng-i Wei, dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr. Syed Mahmudul Huq, chairman, Bangladesh Shrimp and Seafood Foundation and Dr. Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder, coordinator, FP-PBC, were the subsidiary agreement signatories.

Great Ending to a Great FTC Season

Congratulations to Garrett County’s FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams sponsored by GEARS and 4-H who won the Maryland FTC State Championship. Both teams worked several months, learning engineering design, fabrication and testing concepts.

First-year G-FORCE FTC robotic team member Alex Miske is a sophomore at Southern High School in the engineering pathway. Alex stated, “I would say joining this team has been one of my best and favorite decisions. During the season, I learned so many things from design work to running power machines to teamwork and communication skills.”

Coach Arlene Lantz noted that Alex did not let her being the only girl on the team slow her down. She made the commitment to the team by attending all the practices and was actively involved in designing, fabrication, testing and driving. Alex noted, “A highlight for the season was having the chance to be on the drive team. We went undefeated at our first qualifier and then I also got to drive at the Maryland State FTC Championship. Being a part of this team has really changed my life and has set me on the path to an engineering career.”

U.S. Congressman Roscoe G. Bartlett was on hand during the competition and during the opening ceremony he commented that he had heard that the Garrett County teams were favored to win. He encouraged all the students to pursue their dreams in the careers of science, technology, engineering and math.

The Techno-FORCE alliance worked together with the Robo Foxes to win the number one robot performance Winning Alliance Award. G-FORCE was also awarded the Inspire Award, for a team that embodied the ‘challenge’ of the FTC program. The team that receives this award is chosen by the judges as having best represented a role model FIRST Tech Challenge Team. The Techno Clovers were awarded the FTC Design Award. It recognizes design elements of the robot that are both functional and aesthetic.

Team members in front from left, are, Justin Maust, Kendrick Bender, Eric Beitzel, Derrick Maust, Jeffery Bender and Melody White. In second row from left, are, Cindy Maust, Kevin Maust, A.J. Savopolas, Scott Breymenst, Tim and Ken Gotch, Max Peterson, Stephen Lilly and Rich Bender. In back row from left, are, Andrew Haueter, Jeff Frick, Levi Lantz, Alex Muske, Aaron Lantz, Zach Frick, Willie Lantz, Kevin Phil Malone, Robbin Browning, Josh Frick, Levi Lantz, Alex Muske, Aaron Lantz, Zach Frick, Willie Lantz, Kevin Phil Malone, Robbin Browning, Josh Frick, Levi Lantz, Alex Muske, Aaron Lantz, Zach Frick, Willie Lantz, Kevin Phil Malone, Robbin Browning, Josh Frick.
Wayne Evans ’67, left, and Walter Montross ’75, right, Institute of Applied Agriculture Alumni, were recognized by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAAGCS) president Scott Wunder for their involvement in their local association over the past 30 years.

Mary Beck ’76 MS and ’80 PhD Poultry Science, has been selected as head of the Department of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University. Beck has served as a professor at Clemson University’s College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences since 2007. While there, she held various leadership positions including chair of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. Prior to her position at Clemson, Beck worked as a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She earned her bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Richmond. A native of Maryland, she serves as the executive secretary of the Southern Poultry Science Association and is a section editor of the journal Poultry Science.

Martin L. “Chip” Dooradan ’67 MS Agricultural Resource Economics, has retired from the Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) as CEO, having spent nearly 30 years with the company. He started his career with AAMC in 1972 with a hospital administration residency. He also serves as a trustee at AAMC, Inc., as well as on several committees of the Maryland Hospital Association. Other leadership roles have been with the Anne Arundel Trade Council, Leadership Anne Arundel, United Way for Anne Arundel County, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce, and Hospice of the Chesapeake. From 1968 to 1970 he served in the Armed Forces. He is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Congratulations to James Adkins ’99 and Mike Amoss ’11 who represented Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers at events in early 2012. Adkins and his wife, Michele, of Wicomico County were Maryland’s Excellence in Agriculture Award winners and competed at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Hawaii. December 2011 graduate, Amoss of Harford County, represented the state in the Collegiate Discussion Meet during the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference held in Michigan.

Maryland’s representatives in the Young Farmer competitions at the AFBF Convention enjoyed an evening on the beach. From left, are, MFB Young Farmer Chair Hannah Amoss, Michele and James Adkins, Excellence in Ag winners; Casey Rice with Jason Scott, Achievement Award winner; Becky Burrier, Discussion Meet winner; and YF Board member Mike Amoss.

Victoria Lake ’11 has been named program management specialist for Academic Programs in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences. Lake will support both undergraduate and graduate programs, taking over as the scheduling officer and the textbook coordinator for the department. She will assume administrative duties previously performed by the graduate office, as well as operation of the undergraduate office. Lake was a very active student as an undergraduate in AGNR.

Jay Nalls ’00, golf course management graduate from the Institute of Applied Agriculture, is the Class A superintendent at Norbeck Country Club in Rockville. He recently received the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America’s Excellence in Government Relations Award. Nalls spearheaded a group effort in Maryland to help state lawmakers draft policy to clean and protect the Chesapeake Bay. He received the award in February in Las Vegas during the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference.

Kevin Hedge ’04, right, Natural Resource Management, and Ted Gattino of BlueWing Environmental Solutions and Technologies received The Daily Record’s 2011 Innovator of the Year Award in October 2011. The Daily Record began the awards in 2002 to recognize Marylanders and Maryland-based companies for their innovative spirit – for creating new products, programs, services or processes that have helped their companies, industries or communities. The team was recognized for their two-acre floating island project in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor with great support from the business community. BlueWing was founded in 2006 by managing partners Gattino and Hedge to develop, market and distribute new and innovative water quality treatment technologies. The company has expanded its footprint beyond the Chesapeake Bay area to the Great Lakes region and internationally.
CONNIE SANDUSKY '82 MS and PhD '93 food science, has joined Aurora Agro's research and development team, responsible for developing new nutritional, pharmacological, aquacultural and renewable-energy products. Sandusky has served as head of the R&D team in the B2B food ingredient businesses. Prior to that, she spent 10 years in sales and marketing leadership roles at Kellogg, a producer of nutritional, color, flavor, antioxidants and nutritional ingredients for the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries.

BRIAN STEELE '84 Horticulture, has been appointed plant systems manager for the landscape division of OneSource Landscape and Golf Services based in Tallahassee, FL. Steele has spent 22 years of his career in the green industry. His experience includes working for large, national landscape services firms, including OneSource previously, from Florida to California. As regional operations manager, he oversaw a well over $150 million dollar national landscape division portfolio.

TERESA RICE STEVENS '87 Agricultural and Extension Education, was named Outstanding Agriculture Teacher in Maryland for 2011 by the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association. A graduate of the Linganore High School in Frederick County and has logged over 25 years in the classroom. The Association is the professional organization of Agricultural Educators who are at the pinnacle of their profession and are among the highest paid agricultural education programs. It recognizes leadership in civic, community, agriculture/fire and business and is an active member of the University of Maryland Foundation.

CHARLES ASTLE '59 LCol Retired, US Air Force, of Barbourville, WV, died January 23, 2012. He was 95. Born Joseph Allee 1919, in 1938, he was accepted into the University of Maryland and enrolled in the Army Air Corps in 1943, where he received a commission as a B-29 pilot and was active in the Air Force Reserve until he retired in 1970. He was the manager of the southwestern District Services Division in Huntington from 1948 to 1976 and was past president of the West Virginia and Huntington Chapters of the Reserve Officer Association and of the Barboursville Lion’s Club. Charles served on the Barboursville City Council and Housing Authority and was a charter member of the Volunteer Fire Department. He was a member of the Barboursville First United Methodist Church and served as a temporary insurance advisor, the school’s agriculture program. She teaches horticulture, small animal pre-vet and large animal pre-vet. She is a member of the board of directors of the College Park Community Agricultural Resources Alumni Chapter and reporter for the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association. She graduated from the University High School agriculture program, Stevens is married to Doug Stevens of Frederick. Their children, Jonathan and Ashley Stevens, were active in FFA and 4-H, became Frederick County’s first brother-sister 4-H royalty in 2009 and are currently students at the University of Maryland.

DON BALDRESON, a well-known orchardist of Colmaria, died January 10, 2012, at his home there. He was 93. In Colmaria, he graduated from West Nottingham Academy and received a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from University of Maryland, College Park in the 1940s. Don farmed with his cousin, Lloyd Balderston, from Farm from him in 1968. Don and his son, Steve, worked closely together to develop and expand the farm from North Fork fresh fruit market now known as Corola Orchards. Don was a member of West Nottingham Presbyterian Church. In 1971, Don and his wife were invited to visit Russia and Europe on the People-to-People Eisenhower Goodwill Mission to address agricultural issues affected by the Iron Curtain.

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CHARLES HARMON ‘68, a former University of Maryland Extension educator, died December 20, 2011, in Richardson, TX, after living with Alzheimer’s disease for seven years. She earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of Arkansas. Early in her career, she worked as an elementary school teacher in Arkansas and taught English and geography. She became the founder and Director of Catholic Doctors of the United States, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to address the spiritual, moral and social challenges facing society today. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association or a pet rescue organization of the donor’s choice, in care of the Rowland-Lemaster Funeral Home, 2200 Riverdale Road, Richardon, TX, 75080.

CHARLES THOMAS SHORTALL, a retired veterinarian whose career spanned more than 40 years, died January 20 of cancer at Gilchrist Hospice Care in Towson. The longtime Cumberland residence was 76. Dr. Shortall began his practice on a farm in Queen Anne’s County, raised in Cordova and graduated from Easton High School in 1953. He earned a bachelor’s degree in 1957 from Goldey-Beacom College in Wilmington, DE, and enrolled in the Army and served in Vietnam. After being discharged in 1959, he enrolled at the University of Maryland, where he majored in animal husbandry. Shortly after he graduated he transitioned to participate in the veterinary school program at the University of Georgia in Athens, and graduated in 1965.

Mr. Wells joined the Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service. As a sociopolitical statistician, he has been responsible for the preparation and publication of official government estimates of cash receipts from tobacco, wheat, and soybeans.

His wife of 51 years, the former Bar- bara Dorset, died in 1998. Surviving are two sons, John B. and James C. Carr; four daughters, Martha Appleby of Middletown, Deborah Nolan of Bowie, Pa., Sally E. Dorsey of Westminster and Karen Flanagan of Clarksville; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Frackville, PA, 17226. Memorial donations may be made to the Mechanicville Rescue Squad/Fire Department, American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society or a charity of one’s choice.

MEMORABLE MARYLANDERS

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He began his career working for a Chestertown veterinary practice that handled large animals. He transitioned to a small animal practice and enjoyed hav- ing contact with high school alumni. He joined Belknap Animal Hospital in Towson in 1966, and within a short time, was made a partner. A kind soul and a co-worker and mentor. He retired shortly before his death.

Mr. Ritchie is survived by his wife, Eleanor N. Bauergt Ritchie whom he mar- ried on June 17, 1961, his three children, Douglas E. Ritchie, III (Linda) of Toronto, Canada, he will oversee the Valley Road and Phoenix, AZ, and Christine Suzanne Ritchie of Yarmouth, ME and four grandchildren, Alex- ander Nicholas 11, Alexandra 9, Kip 5 and Ryan 3. He is also survived by two aunts and many cousins. His contributions may be made to the Mechanicville Rescue Squad/Fire Department, American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society or a charity of one’s choice.

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AGNR goes to the Maryland State Fair for the 11 Best Days of Summer August 24 – September 3, 2012

October 6, 2012

AGNR Open House at CMREC - This is a great opportunity for the general public to learn about the College of Ag & Natural Resources, its academic programs, research programs across the state, and how University of Maryland Extension strives to meet the needs of our citizens.

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Central MD Res. & Ed. Ctr., Clarksville Facility, 4240 Folly Quarter Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042

AGNR Dairy Cattle on exhibit in the Cow Palace
AGNR students assisting with Birthing Center
U-Learn Farm in the Cow Palace
(U-Learn Farm is next to the Birthing Center and across from AGNR Dairy Exhibit)
AGNR, Maryland 4-H Foundation, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation and MD State Fair collaborative activity center for young and old
AGNR joins Maryland Department of Agriculture in the Farm & Garden Building near York Road
Showcase for 4-H Youth Development Programs and Projects in the 4-H Exhibit Building, Cow Palace, Livestock Pavilion and Animal World
Dean’s Awards for Excellence in 4-H Showmanship – for all species on exhibit