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The University of Georgia

Office of the Vice President for Instruction

March 13, 2007

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Ms. Alison Gibbons
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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for a Center for Urban Agricultural and Environmental Sciences will be an agenda item for the March 23, 2007, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

William K. Vencill

Dr. William K. Vencill, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Professor Jere W. Morehead

Proposal for the Establishment of

The Georgia Center for Urban Agricultural And Environmental Sciences

Table of Contents

Introduction and Background

Georgia is rapidly urbanizing. It is one of the fastest growing states in the country. The U.S. Census projects growth to continue, with the current population of 8 million reaching 12 million by 2025. This growth is not just a metro Atlanta issue. In 1990 there were seven Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). Today there are 15 located throughout the state (Figure 1). More than 70% of the population now resides in these MSA areas.

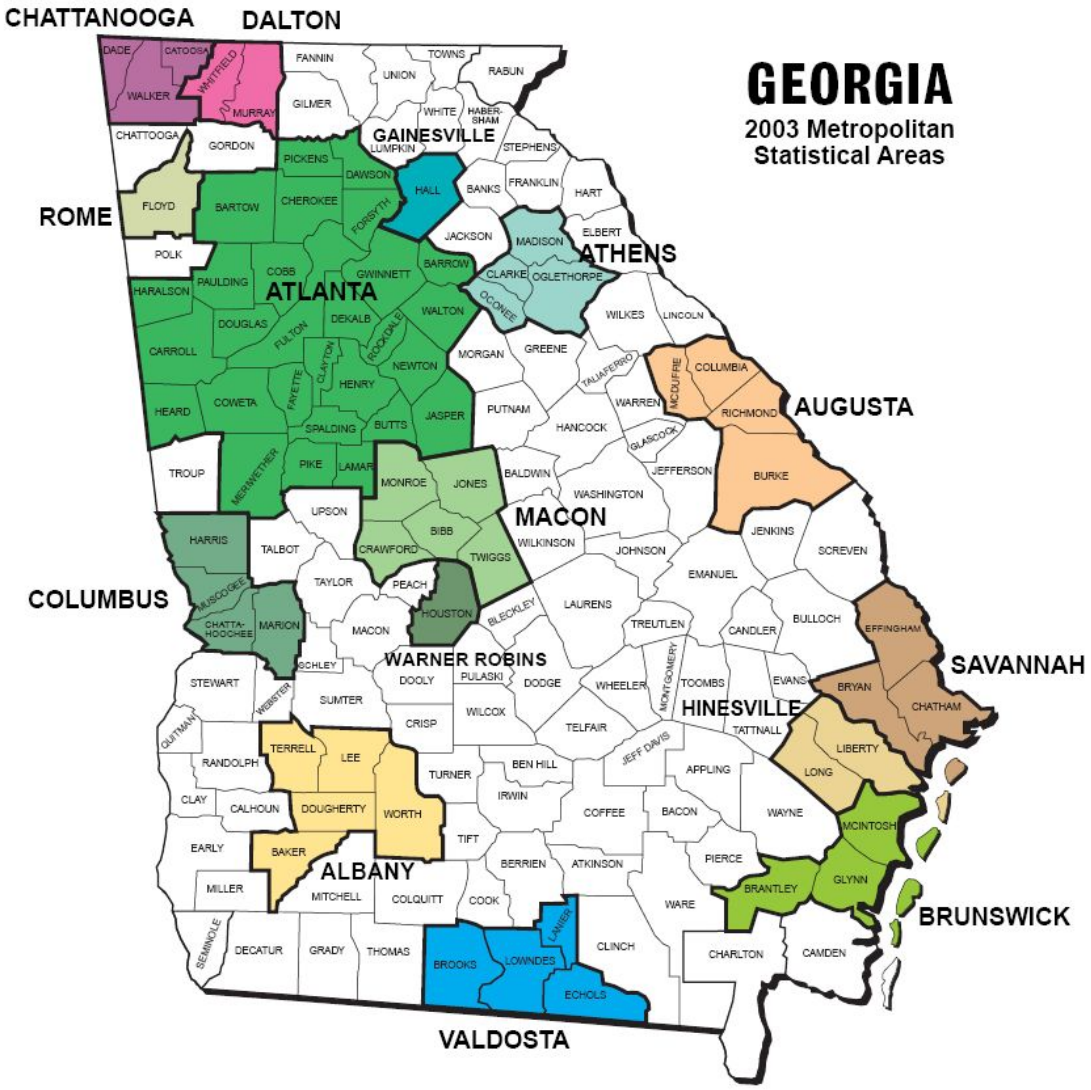
The process of urbanization creates new issues and new clientele. It demands a multidisciplinary approach to research and new outreach methods. Urban agriculture is just as relevant to small towns and rural areas as it is to cities and suburbs.

The mission of the Georgia Center for Urban Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is to provide leadership through research, teaching and extension to sustain urban ecosystems, enhance economic development, and improve the quality of life in urban settings. The Center will provide an organizational structure that facilitates interdisciplinary scientific cooperation among investigators and educators within and beyond the College and the University. Appendix A provides a brief description of the major programs being facilitated through the Center. Appendix B provides a list of faculty participating in Center programs and projects.

Urbanization impacts the environment in unique and complex ways which include an array of ecological and socioeconomic factors. It directly changes urban ecosystems such as forests by fragmenting or removing forest cover. Sprawl often removes highly productive agricultural farmland and systems. It impacts other ecosystems by modifying hydrology, altering nutrient cycling, introducing non-indigenous species, and changing atmospheric conditions. These physical changes are interrelated and affect land use management, water resource management, storm water management, soil erosion and sediment control, waste management, forestry resource management, urban forestry, and greenspace preservation.

Much of the research conducted in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) is as relevant to Georgia's urban population as it is to the rural population. For example, the tools and expertise needed to solve land use problems in Atlanta and on farms are similar; however, the research environments and delivery of research results are quite different.

Figure 1. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) located in Georgia. Counties within a specific MSA are identified by color. Fourteen of these MSAs surround cities located in Georgia.



Carl Vinson Institute of Government
University of Georgia

The impacts of urbanization have a critical and complex 'human' component (Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, 2002). They are impacted by competing human interests, increasing demands on natural resources, sprawling development, expanding infrastructure, growing waste disposal needs, and the challenges of soil, water, and air pollution. Many of these natural resource management issues have federal, state and local regulatory mandates. Financing these rules and regulations is usually passed on to local governments and industries. These entities struggle to balance resource and planning concerns with growth and economic development. The CAST report suggests that the agricultural system, higher education, and governments must undertake urbanization issues together. Developing sound scientific information regarding these complex issues requires multi-disciplinary teams that integrate basic science and ecological and socioeconomic considerations.

Urbanization dramatically impacts the county Extension delivery system. The sheer number of clientele can be overwhelming for Extension resources. Mass communication is the major means of information transfer. County agents must apply their scientific expertise to unique and new issues and circumstances. The clientele are heterogeneous and range from small locally-owned businesses, to national companies with millions of dollars in annual revenue, to homeowners, and to local government. Extension clientele move freely among the counties; most clientele do not recognize county lines when seeking services. They may come from different cultures with varying levels of language skills. County Agents are successfully adapting their programs and delivery methods to deal with this variability by using more regional programming.

Urbanization has resulted in a flourishing group of urban agricultural industries. Though many of these industries have deep agricultural roots, they lack the cohesiveness of traditional agricultural industries. Professional turfgrass and horticultural industries include production floriculture and florist shops; the container, field grown, and greenhouse nursery industries; landscape architecture; landscape design, installation, and maintenance businesses; retail and re-wholesale centers; turfgrass growers, golf courses, and related businesses; and recreational facilities. These commodity and service industries sustain other industries which manufacture and sell supporting products and services (chemicals, fertilizer, irrigation equipment, repair, etc.). Many of these businesses mass market their products to the public and they may compete heavily with others in the same niche or geographical area.

The impact of urban agricultural industries on the economy of Georgia is substantial. Many are service industries; therefore, direct comparisons with farm gate values of traditional agricultural industries are not appropriate. However, the latest surveys of the Professional Turfgrass and Environmental Horticulture segments (2005) report annual revenue of $8.1 billion from approximately 7,000 firms with almost 80,000 employees (Table 1).

Table 1. Size and Value of the Professional Turfgrass and Environmental Horticulture Industry in Georgia.

	Number of firms	Number of employees	Estimated revenue in 2005
			- - - - - mln $ - - - - -
Floriculture industry	...	9,540	246[a]
Nursery industry			
Container	1,287[c]	...	195[a]
Field	...	...	100[a]
Landscape installation & maint.	2,500	45,143	3,644[d]
Retail garden centers[e]	1,467	2050[f]	510
Turfgrass growers	99	891[f]	141[a]
Golf courses and related businesses[g]	680	20,804[h]	2,690[g]
Re-wholesalers	...	...	105
Landscape architects[j]	177	...	340
Florists	778	3,150	179
Total	6,888	78,988	8,160[j]

[a] 2005 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report. Univ. Of Georgia AR-06-01.
[b] Includes liner producers.
[c] Firms with sales greater than $1,000.
[d] Estimate based on Research Report No. 672, 2000 and increased by 5%.
[e] Mostly chain stores.
[f] Nine employees per company per personal contacts.
[g] An Economic Impact Study of the Golf Industry on the State of Georgia, 2003. Georgia State Univ.
[h] Full time year round and does not include part-time and seasonal employees.
[i] Number of registered landscape architects is 218.
[j] Survey does not include the revenues from basic manufacturers and sellers of chemicals, fertilizer, irrigation & maintenance equipment, nor the irrigation installation industry.

The impact of urban agriculture is far greater than Table 1 suggests. The 2002 CAST report provides a broad list of agriculture contributions to urban environments. The report also provides a glimpse into the many non-traditional program areas that reside in the CAES and beyond, including the following:

- **Restoration and Remediation:** storm water management, water remediation and waste water reclamation, waste recycling, carbon sequestration, and remediation of brown fields
- **Planning and Revitalization:** growth management, landscape and energy modification, indoor-outdoor air quality, insect and wildlife management, and revitalization of land areas
- **Business and Economic Benefits:** environmental horticulture and the green industry; nursery and greenhouse production; retail garden centers; landscape and interiorscape design, installation, and maintenance; turfgrass production and management; companion animal industry; aquaculture; and the equine industry
- **Individual Health and Well-Being:** human/animal relationships, plants and planted landscapes
- **Community Health and Well-Being:** community food systems such as entrepreneurial gardens and farms, farmers' markets, community supported agriculture, and farm-to-table programs
- **Recreation and Leisure:** gardening, golf, hiking, equestrian activities, wildlife and bird watching, public parks, arboreta, botanical gardens, and entertainment farms

Practical solutions to urban issues may require input and coordination from several departments, schools and colleges within the University of Georgia or other institutions. Urban issues often are not clearly aligned with the existing departments, extension delivery structure, or traditional research areas within the CAES. Urban issues are often complex, require a multidisciplinary approach and the coordination of many stake holders. Finally, the information must be delivered to heterogeneous groups of clients with diverse interests.

The CAES has begun the critical and necessary move into the rapidly growing and complex urban arena. The Strategic Plan for the College (2004) addressed the changing demographics of the state. It identified the need for the College to emerge as a leader in addressing urban issues through collaboration, research and outreach. It also outlined the following six action areas: funding, leadership, marketing, focus, needs assessment, and repackaging the College.

The Center has been actively involved in each of these areas. The Center has delivered financial resources to CAES through urban agriculture industry political activity, private donations, and state and federal funding agencies. The first statewide urban agriculture issue needs assessment for county agents was conducted through the Center resulting in four issue teams of faculty.

The Center has created and fostered leadership within urban agriculture industries. These leaders fully support the mission of the Center. They also see the immense potential of applying the College's expertise to urbanization issues. The Center manages the 65-acre Research and Education Garden. The Georgia Certified Landscape Professional program, a statewide professional competency program, is conducted by the Center. The major labor force in urban agriculture is Hispanic and the Center has been a leader within the College addressing training of this group. The Center has supported and funded initiatives in urban forestry and turfgrass. And finally, the Center is working hard to facilitate the development of an Urban Water Resources Initiative.

The impacts of population growth, urbanization, and the related change in land use will continue to pressure natural resources, businesses and citizens throughout Georgia. The Center is positioned to facilitate research and outreach programs reaching from the inner city to the rural - urban interface.

The designation as a University of Georgia Center will enhance both internal and external recognition and foster the mission of the Center. It will also enhance state, federal and private funding opportunities by creating a centrally recognized organizational structure. This designation will legitimize the existence of an urban agriculture initiative within the College, University, state, and the Federal Land Grant System.

Mission Statement and Objectives

The Georgia Center for Urban Agricultural and Environmental Sciences will provide leadership through research, teaching and extension to sustain urban ecosystems, enhance economic development, and improve the quality of life in urban settings. The following objectives support this mission:

- Provide an organizational structure that facilitates interdisciplinary scientific cooperation among investigators and educators within and beyond the college and university, industries, and consumers;

- Improve The University of Georgia's state, federal, and private research and education funding. The Center provides a more recognizable organizational structure which improves funding opportunities beyond those available to individual investigators or departments. The Center will become the natural catalyst for large grant proposals involving multiple investigators seeking funding for infrastructure, training, and collaboration;

- Serve as a resource for the development of white papers to guide policy decisions with sound science regarding the complex environmental and natural resource issues resulting from urbanization;

- Attract students to the CAES by fostering the development of programs that will increase the visibility and relevance of the college to urban students;

- Develop leadership in urban agriculture industries and be a resource for industry organizations.

Rules and Regulations

1) **Governance**: The proposed Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture and Environmental Sciences will report directly to the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The Center will be governed by a Director appointed by the Dean and an Advisory committee. The Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Director on the strategic direction and activities of the Center and suggest ways to maximize the benefits of these activities for the university, the state, the region, and the country. The Advisory Committee will be composed of representatives whose interests encompass the Center's concerns. Academic units and individual faculty will participate in the activities of the Center and help determine its future directions.

2) **Funding**: Space and funding for the Center are presently provided by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The current and projected operating budgets are below. Subsequent funding will be derived through the normal budget process and from newly generated gifts, grants and sponsorships.

Operating budget

Year	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
College Operating	$40,200	$40,200	$40,200	$40,200
Extramural funding	$230,000	$300,000	$400,000	$500,000
Personnel	$267,000	$280,000	$300,000	$310,000

3) **Center Faculty/Staff:**
Gil Landry, Center Coordinator
Ellen Bauske, Program Coordinator
Todd Hurt, Training Coordinator
Susan Thornhill, Administrative Associate
, IT Professional Associate (vacant position)

4) **Participating Faculty**: Participants in the Center will include faculty, extension agents and outreach personnel within and beyond the University involved in urban agriculture, related social sciences, and education.

5) **Evidence of Support**: Letters of endorsement signed by the Dean and Director of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the appropriate Associate and Assistant Deans.

6) **Additional Resources**: The Center Director and the Advisory Committee will develop means to pursue gifts, grants, and sponsored work to strengthen the resources of the Center.

References

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST). 2002. Urban and Agricultural Communities: Opportunities for Common Ground. Task Force Report No. 138. Ames, Iowa.

Strategic Planning Task Force. 2004. Looking Farther: The Vision We Share. Strategic Plan for College. The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Office of Communications

United States Census. 2000. http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html

Appendix A. Current Center Programs

The Center has worked to address the ramifications of urbanization. It assists the CAES in its mission to seek, verify and apply scientific knowledge to enhance agriculture, the environment and communities. Current programs address many of the issues previously outlined. Additional information about each program can be viewed on the Center for Urban Agriculture Website (www.gaurbanag.org).

Development and Support of Statewide Urban Agriculture Extension Issue Teams

In 2003, the Center developed a state-wide, issue-based, extension program planning process in urban agriculture. County agents realized program impact could be increased by developing a mechanism to consolidate educational resources statewide. Initially, four critical issues were identified: turfgrass management, water quality and quantity, urban forestry, and technology/information transfer. To address these issues, teams of county extension agents and specialists were created. The Center helped the teams acquire funding from external and internal sources.

Urban Forestry

The Urban Forestry Team has developed an Urban Tree Management Train-the-Trainer program. The Center helped the team fund this program in Georgia in 2004 and in the Southeastern region in 2006. To date, 14 counties in Georgia have used the training. Trained Master Gardeners have conducted more than 200 site visits, performed 650 hours of volunteer service, taught multiple classes and workshops and answered more than 1,200 phone calls on subjects related to urban trees.

Research and Education Garden

The Research and Education Garden was initiated in 1994 when the Georgia Department of Natural Resources provided funding for the first research and education project, a landscape management study. The garden encompasses 65 acres and currently hosts 14 diverse research projects. These include studies of fire ant management, plant selection, variety testing, blueberry pollination, integrated pest management in landscape ornamentals and turfgrasses, and host plant resistance to insect and plant disease pests. These projects have been supported by federal and state appropriated funds and by competitive grants and gifts obtained by faculty.

Turfgrass Environmental Research and Management

The Center and the Center for Turfgrass Environmental Research and Education at North Carolina State University joined together with industry leaders in both

states to seek federal funding for their programs. They share a common mission of developing new turfgrass management strategies that are environmentally sustainable.

In 2005 the two centers shared an EPA Star Grant that supports 10 separate faculty-lead projects at UGA. The projects supported emphasize environmental sustainability and explore a wide range of issues including the fate of pesticides applied to turf, soil erosion control methods, investigation of new turf diseases, and alternative control of turfgrass insects. Additional efforts seek to identify low-input, pest- resistant turfgrass cultivars appropriate for the southeastern US.

Collaboration with Industries and Agencies

The Center has supported all urban agriculture professional associations including the Georgia Green Industry Association, Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association, Georgia Sod Producers Association, Georgia Turfgrass Association, and Metro Atlanta Landscape and Turf Association. The Center fostered the development of a coalition which later evolved into a council, the Georgia Urban Agriculture Council (www.urbanagcouncil.com). This council, an association of associations, advocates for the diverse segments of urban agriculture and provides leadership in ethics, education, environmental stewardship, and government relations. The Center has also developed a four-day Urban Agriculture Leadership Institute to prepare future leaders in urban agriculture industries.

Georgia Certified Landscape Professional Program (GCLP)

Acknowledging that the industry needed specialized training to provide environmentally sustainable service and increase professionalism, three key organizations in Georgia partnered to create the Georgia Certified Landscape Professional Program (GCLP). An association task force has worked with the Center to create and implement this certification course. In 2005, these industry partners were responsible for having line-item state funds appropriated to provide a permanent faculty position to manage this and other training programs in the Center. The GCLP program has had widespread acceptance and the rights were purchased by the Alabama Nurserymen's Association. The rights are also being reviewed by professional associations in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Hispanic Training Programs

Three-fourths of the urban agriculture industry workforce in Georgia is Hispanic. Language and cultural barriers can hamper productivity and efficiency of these workers. In 2004-2005, an interdisciplinary team developed a Hispanic landscape worker safety training course and bilingual manual. Classes were held throughout the state to train workers and managers. This was accomplished with an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) grant. With Center support, specialists and agents are now conducting

educational programs in Spanish statewide, at the Turfgrass Field Day, the Southern Nurserymen's Association Annual conference, and the Annual Turfgrass Institute, etc.

Urban Water Resources Initiative

The Center is coordinating an effort with the departments of Biological & Agricultural Engineering and Crop & Soil Sciences, to create the Urban Water Resources Initiative. The purpose of the Initiative is to provide research, education, and outreach for water resource management in four key areas: storm water management, sediment and erosion control, onsite waste water management systems, and land use. These natural resource management issues have federal, state and local regulatory mandates. The Initiative's research activities will help guide adherence to existing rules and help formulate new rules for industries and government agencies. Research will seek to improve the technologies and practices used to manage water resources. Cutting edge research will lead to the development of new industrial opportunities. The Center will support industries' efforts to develop, market, or install water resource technologies.

Increasing Use of Sustainable Plants in Production and Landscape Design

This program, funded by Southern Sustainable Agricultural Research and Educational grant will research, develop and deliver a mutually conceived plant information and resource database. This will encourage the demand, production, and ultimately use of low-input, ornamental plants in southeastern landscapes. Abundant research has identified pest-resistant and other low-input plants. However, that information is not easily located and, therefore, not readily accessible. It is difficult for home owners, landscaper contractors and designers to locate sources of low-input and pest resistant plant material. This program engages industry professionals in a multi-state, interdisciplinary research and extension team to 1) identify optimal plant material, 2) provide a tool to facilitate the location of these plants, and 3) educate industry professionals on the feasibility and technical aspects of sustainable landscapes. The goal is to increase the use of low-input plants, thereby stimulating and expediting the production and availability of such materials.

Appendix B. College faculty participating in Center programs and projects

Dr. Kris Braman, Entomology
Dr. James Buck, Plant Pathology
Dr. Dave Buntin, Entomology
Dr. Robert Carrow, Crop & Soil Science
Dr. Kim Coder, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources
Dr. Mark Czarnota, Horticulture
Dr. W.F. Florkowski, Agricultural & Applied Economics
Mr. Marco Fonseca, Horticulture
Dr. Wayne Gardner, Horticulture
Dr. William G. Hubbard, Southern Regional Extension Forester, UGA
Dr. Yen Con Hung, Food Science
Dr. Marc Van Iersel, Horticulture
Dr. David Kissel, Agricultural & Environmental Services Lab
Dr. Orville Lindstrom, Horticulture
Dr. Alfredo Martinez, Plant Pathology
Dr. John McKissick, Agricultural & Applied Economics
Dr. Tim Murphy, Crop and Soil Science
Dr. Bodie Pennisi, Horticulture
Dr. Paul Raymer, Crop and Soil Science
Dr. Mark Risse, Biological & Agricultural Engineering
Dr. Carol Robacker, Horticulture
Dr. Rose Mary Seymour, Biological & Agricultural Engineering
Dr. Dan Suiter, Entomology
Dr. Paul Thomas, Horticulture
Dr. Gary L. Wade, Horticulture
Dr. Clint Waltz, Crop and Soil Science
Mr. Robert Westerfield, Horticulture
Ms. Maria Abreu, Gwinnett Co.
Mr. Lynwood Blackmon, Fulton Co.
Mr. Steve Brady, Cobb Co
Mr. Robert Brannen, Gwinnett Co.
Mr. Willie Chance, Houston Co.
Mr. Jennifer Davidson, Muscogee Co.
Mr. Winston Eason, Clayton Co.
Mr. Keith Fielder, Putnam Co.
Ms. Kathy Floyd, Bartow Co.
Mr. Marco Fonseca, Master Gardener Coordinator
Dr. Donald Gardner, Glynn Co.
Dr. Stephen Garton, Superintendent/County Extension Agent, *Chatham County - Bamboo Station and Coastal Gardens*
Mr. Sheldon Hammond, Northwest District Program Development Coordinator
Mr. Frank Henning, Clark Co.
Mr. Wade Hutcheson, Spalding Co.

Appendix B. College faculty participating in Center programs and projects continued

Mr. Tony Johnson, Horticulturist, UGA Research and Education Garden
Mr. Raymond Joyce, Laurens Co.
Mr. Keith Lassiter, Lamar Co.
Mr. David Linvill, Chatham Co.
Ms. Julie-Lynne Macie, Rockdale Co.
Ms. Joan Marsh, Northwest District Director
Ms. Nicole Martini, Dekalb Co.
Mr. Keith Mickler, Floyd Co.
Mr. Charlie Monroe, Dekalb Co.
Mr. James Morgan, Dougherty Co.
Mr. Don Morris, Coweta Co.
Mr. Sid Mullis, Richmond Co.
Mr. John Parks, District Extension Director
Mr. Gary Peiffer, Dekalb Co.
Mr. Charles Phillips, Columbia Co.
Mr. Jacob Price, Lowndes Co
Mr. Paul Pugliese, Cherokee Co.
Mr. Stephanie Ray, Coweta Co.
Mr. James Reaves, Fulton Co.
Ms. Mary Carol Sheffield, Paulding Co.
Mr. Billy Skaggs, Hall Co.
Ms. Krissy Slagle, Master Gardener Program Assistant
Mr. William Tyson, Effingham Co.
Mr. Frank Watson, Jones Co.
Mr. Jeff Webb, Area Extension Agent - Commercial Horticulture *Chatham County - Bamboo Station and Coastal Gardens*
Ms. Allison Wilder, Henry Co.
Mr. Bobby Wilson, Fulton Co.

The University of Georgia

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November 21, 2006

J. Scott Angle, Dean and Director
The University of Georgia
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
101 Conner Hall
Athens, GA 30602-7501

Dear Dean Angle:

This letter is in support of establishing the Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture as an official University Center.

Increased population growth, changing demographics and technological advances have, and will continue to place enormous pressure on the natural resources, environment and agriculture in the broadest sense for Research, Teaching and Extension programs. The Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture will help to coordinate, focus and facilitate those needed programs.

Wastewater, stormwater, erosion control, water quality and worker safety are typical of the needed programs. The Center faculty have a demonstrable record of expertise in these and other related program areas of importance to a changing and continually urbanizing Georgia. To cities and counties throughout the state, these evolving issues need timely, unbiased, science-based information and training that the Center can and will provide. The issues that the Center can and will address are some of the most pressing issues facing Georgia's economic development and quality of life. I am convinced that this Center will provide the intellectual leadership needed to address some of the most difficult contemporary issues facing Georgia's citizens and communities. Center programs will attract significant state and federal extramural funds. It will also help provide needed counsel and guidance in development plans and policies needed to help policy makers, businesses, regulators, etc.

The Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture has strong industry and commodity support, and the faculty of the Center have a proven record of successfully working with state and federal organizations. They will build on this experience to address the important issues of Urban Agriculture in the future.

Sincerely,

Gerald F. Arkin
Assistant Dean

GFA:pb

The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension

Associate Dean for Extension
111 Conner Hall
Athens, GA 30602

706.542.3824
Fax 706.542.2115
caesext@uga.edu

October 12, 2006

Dean J. Scott Angle
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dean Angle:

I write this letter to document my support of the formal establishment of the Georgia Center for Urban Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The Urban Agriculture Center currently provides an organizational structure that facilitates interdisciplinary cooperation among University of Georgia researchers, Extension specialists, county agents and industry partners involved in sustaining urban ecosystems, economic development and the quality of-life in urban settings. Examples of Center activities include the following:

- Facilitating interdisciplinary programs among 28 faculties from five departments;
- Working regularly with 31 county agents working on urban issues throughout the state and is a resource to all extension offices in Georgia;
- Developing the first statewide urban agriculture issue needs assessment for county agents which resulted in four issue teams of faculty;
- Facilitating numerous grants, the largest of which is an EPA Star Grant that supports 10 separate faculty-led research projects;
- Developing the Urban Water Resource Initiative which involves soil erosion and sediment control, storm water management, on-site waste management and other water quality/quantity issues.

Becoming an "official" Center at The University of Georgia should enhance both internal and external recognition of the Urban Ag Center and will potentially enhance state, federal and private funding opportunities. In addition, the designation as a Center will support the existence of an urban agriculture initiative within the College, University, state, and the Federal Land Grant System.

Sincerely,

Beverly Sparks
Interim Associate Dean for Extension
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

CC: Dr. Gil Landry

The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations

Office of the Associate Dean for Research

109 Conner Hall
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November 13, 2006

Dean J. Scott Angle
College of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences
101 Conner Hall
CAMPUS

Dear Dean Angle:

I concur with Dr. Broder in support of establishing the "Georgia Center for Urban Agricultural and Environmental Sciences" as an official University center as described in Academic Affairs Policy Statement No. 7. The Center provides the organizational structure to facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation in teaching, research and extension within our College, across our Campuses and the University. The mission, activities and structure of the proposed Center are well-developed and meet the critical research and education needs related to urban agriculture and environments.

The Center provides a common portal for Georgia's urban residents, businesses and governments to access educational, certification, research and extension programs that will be essential for maximizing economic development and quality of life. It has already established excellent relationships with business and community leaders and has provided needed services to the fastest growing segment of the state.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Shulstad
Interim Associate Dean for Research

c: Dr. Jerry Arkin
Dr. Gil Landry

The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

November 10, 2006

Dean J. Scott Angle
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
101 Conner Hall
CAMPUS 30602

Dear Dean Angle:

I am writing in support of establishing the "Georgia Center for Urban Agricultural and Environmental Sciences" as an official University center as described in Academic Affairs Policy Statement No. 7. The Center provides the organizational structure to facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation in teaching, research and Extension within our College, across our Campuses and the University. The mission, activities and structure of the proposed Center are well-developed and meet the critical research and education needs related to urban agriculture and environments. The sections of governance, funding and participating faculty and staff have been revised and address my earlier concerns.

This proposal to formalize the Center for Urban Agriculture was initiated during my tenure as Interim Dean and Director. The Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost directed us to review secondary units in our College and advance qualified units to Center status. The College recommended that the Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture develop a formal request for Center status and the Provost concurred.

Thanks for your consideration. Please contact me if you should need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Broder
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

enclosures

cy: Gil Landry
Jerry Arkin

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