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## Alumnus in the Spotlight: Chris Jacobs

April 21, 2023



Chris Jacobs (FIN, 2005; MBA, 2008) began his career at a community bank while attending Georgia Southern at night to earn his MBA. Then, he moved to Milledgeville to take a position at another community bank. In banking, Chris served as an analyst, branch manager, and commercial lender. In 2013, he joined AgSouth Farm Credit and, currently, serves as a corporate credit manager, overseeing a team of analysts who work on complex loans and agribusiness loans for financial analysis, structuring, credit risk, mitigation, etc. Chris especially enjoys working with borrowers. He is quick to point out that his borrowers are the people who produce the food and fibers—peanuts, blueberries, cotton, etc.—we all use every day. They also provide employment for rural Georgia. At the same time, Chris says he “gets to work with the best people the world as about 25% of [AgSouth’s] employees are [Georgia Southern] alumni.”

He reflects that starting work on the edge of the Great Recession (2007–2009) was particularly challenging. With banks and many other companies facing uncertain and difficult times and his job was not much fun, Chris kept reminding himself that he was gaining valuable experience. He also realized he would see these types of economic conditions again in his career. Chris knows this experience made him a more valuable employee and prepared him for the future. He hopes to continue his career at Farm Credit by moving up the credit pathway and taking on additional responsibilities.

Through Farm Credit, Chris has been able to be involved to financial literacy programs for young, beginning, and small farmers such as AgAware. He is proud to be able to help facilitate training for base level knowledge of farm financials, business plans, and financial decision making. According to Chris, “this group is the future of agriculture. Ensuring they have a sound grasp on financials is key to making that future bright.”

While at Georgia Southern, Chris was very involved with Delta Chi, eventually serving as Georgia Southern’s chapter president. Through Delta Chi, he gained valuable experience in leadership, budgeting, and organization. Chris also credits his time in Parker with his success. He remembers his that all of his Parker professors were world class teachers who were engaging and offered a real-world perspective. He found them to be accessible and genuinely caring that their students understood the principles and concepts they were teaching rather than just making sure their students knew the material needed for the test. Chris comments that group work in a collaborative environment provided great practice for his real-world work environment. His favorite class, however, was markets and investments, taught by John Hatem, Ph.D., professor of finance. Chris states that Hatem’s logical approach to complex problems can be applied to nearly every situation.

Although most of his spare time is devoted to his sons, Huck (6) and Jennings (2.5), and his wife, Kelly (COE, 2008), since graduation in 2005, Chris has had season tickets to Georgia Southern football games been a member of the Eagle Fund. An outdoorsman, Chris also enjoys golfing, hunting, and fishing.

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