



NEWSLETTER

September, 2002

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As you receive this Newsletter the seasons are beginning to change and Fall will be upon us soon. I trust many of you made submissions to the Selected Paper, Organized Symposium, and Poster sections of our 2003 annual meeting in Mobile Alabama. It was good to see many of you at the AAEA meetings in Long Beach. I would like to use this column to tell you about the upcoming 2003 SAEA Meetings in Mobile February 1-5 and discuss some important changes that will occur in the next year.

2003 SAEA Meetings in Mobile

The main hotel for the meetings will be the Adams Mark, which is in the heart of the downtown business and entertainment district and overlooks beautiful Mobile Bay. We expect to have most of our sessions in the Adams Mark and the connected Mobile Convention Center. We are hoping to continue the tradition of showcasing the entertainment talent within the SAEA at our Tuesday soiree. More on that in the December newsletter.

With respect to the program, President-Elect Les Myers has finalized the Invited Papers that will be presented in the late morning on Monday and Tuesday. The four topics (and organizers) are "Teaching, Learning, and Problem Solving Through Economic Experiments" (Darren Hudson and Jayson Lusk, Mississippi State University), "Tomato Wars: A Look at the Trade, Structural Changes, and Competitiveness in the North American Produce Industry" (Tim Woods, University of Kentucky), "Rural Infrastructure in the South: Trends and Challenges" (Brad Mills, Virginia Tech), and "Water Quality and Quantity Issues in Southern Agricultural Systems: TMDLs, BMPs, and Policy Prescriptions" (Diane Hite, Auburn University). Kenneth Stokes (Texas A&M University) will put together a full slate of selected papers while Dan Rainey (University of Arkansas) and his committee are reviewing selected poster submissions.

In our continuing efforts to provide leadership and encourage attention to economic and policy issues within SAAS, Director Steve Halbbrook has again taken the initiative in organizing a SAAS Symposium that will be held on late Sunday afternoon. The topic is "Implementing Traceability in the Food Chain."

The program will also include our traditional activities for undergraduate students, the Ag Econ Quiz Bowl and the Recruitment Fair. Joey Mehlhorn (Middle Tennessee State University) will communicate with department heads and club sponsors later in the fall about plans and registration for these activities. The association will again provide financial assistance to undergraduate students for travel.

Changes to Anticipate

The most noticeable change you will see in the near future will be with respect to this newsletter, which will migrate to electronic delivery. The plan is to deliver both a hard and electronic copy in December 2002. In March 2003 only an electronic copy will be sent unless otherwise requested. Thus, it will be important when you renew your membership to make sure the SAEA has your current email address.

The digitizing and indexing of past issues of the *JAAE* is in the process of being completed. Sometime in the first half of 2003 all past issues through 2000 of the *JAAE* and *SJAE* will be accessible on the Ag Econ Search web site. We appreciate the generous contribution of \$3,412 from the AAEA Foundation towards this project.

As you know Dr. John Penson and Ms. Linda Crenwelge of Texas A&M University are serving as editor and associate editor, respectively, for the 2002-2004 issues of the *JAAE*. In addition, Dr. Lonnie Vandever and Dr. Ken Paxton of the Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at LSU are serving as Secretary-Treasurers for the next three years. These are two of the most important positions in our association and I believe we are in good shape for the next few years.

Finally, I would like to thank Past-President Bill Park for his hard work as Chair of the Nominating Committee. I believe we have an excellent slate of candidates for President-Elect — Dr. Richard Kilmer, University of Florida and Dr. Octavio Ramirez, Texas Tech University; and for Director — Dr. Albert Essel, Virginia State University and Dr. Randy Little, Mississippi State University. Please read their brief biographies and vision statements elsewhere in this newsletter and exercise your privilege to vote.

Steve Turner
President

Candidates for SAEA Officers

President-Elect

Octavio A. Ramirez, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Texas Tech University. B.S., 1986; M.S., 1987; Ph.D., 1990, University of Florida.

SAEA Service: Editorial Council of the JAAE (2000-01), Junior and Senior Adviser of Student Section (1999-2000), Invited Paper Session Organizer (2000), reviewer of numerous articles for JAAE and for SAEA selected paper sessions. **AAEA Service:** Distance Education Visioning Committee member (2000 to present), International Committee member (2002-03), reviewer of numerous articles for AJAE and for AAEA selected paper sessions. **Research:** thirty refereed journal articles, four book chapters, 40 selected paper presentations including 12 at the annual meetings of the SAAE. Approximately 4 million dollars in grants from a variety of U.S. and international sources.

Teaching/Mentoring: Teaches an average of five courses per year at the undergraduate, M.S., and Ph.D. levels. Has served as major professor for 15 M.S. and Ph.D. students, as adviser of the undergraduate and graduate agricultural economics student associations of Texas Tech University, and as coach of the undergraduate association academic quiz bowl team. **Outreach:** Consulted on research and development issues for several international agencies including the World Bank, and U.S., Swedish, and Norwegian international development/cooperation agencies.

At the end of your term, what changes/new initiatives would you like to have helped create?

I have attended the annual SAAE and AAEA meetings continuously since 1997. This has allowed me to periodically exchange ideas with colleagues from other southern universities about the state, needs, and future of our profession, and identify several realistic initiatives to be considered by the leadership of our association, including:

1. To initiate a survey of our membership to evaluate how the annual meetings and the JAAE could be improved to better serve our professional needs.
2. To strengthen the student section activities with the purpose of getting our best domestic students to consider pursuing more advanced (M.S. and Ph.D.) degrees.
3. To promote analysis and discussion of the future of agricultural economics education in the southern U.S., and of the role of research in southern universities to help improve the competitiveness of our states' agriculture in a global trade environment. This could be accomplished through invited paper sessions and organized symposia.
4. To establish a distance international education task force, to explore the possibility of southern universities offering joint graduate degree programs overseas.

I will finish by inviting you to continue participating in the various activities of our association, and to help us improve the association to better serve our professional needs and those of southern agriculture.

Richard L. Kilmer, Professor, Food and Resource Economics, Department, University of Florida. B.S. and M.S., Purdue University (1965 and 1967), Ph.D., Ohio State University (1975).

Specialization: International and agricultural marketing, price analysis, food safety, vertical coordination. **SAEA:** Presented and/or co-authored 11 SAEA selected papers and one invited paper; 10 *SJAE/JAAE* articles; selected papers moderator (1979, 2000, 2002); reviewed many SAEA selected papers and *SJAE/JAAE* articles. **AAEA:** Chair, Food and Agricultural Marketing Policy Section (1999-2000); Chair (1997), Doctoral Dissertation Awards Committee (1995-97); Quality of Research Discovery Awards Committee (1998-2000); Membership Committee (1985-88); Product Development Sub-Committee (2001); selected papers moderator (1984, 1986-87, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2002); reviewed many selected papers and *AJAE* articles; poster reviewer and judge (2002); presented and/or co-authored 18 selected papers and two invited papers; six *AJAE* articles.

Awards: AAEA Award for Professional Excellence for Distinguished Policy Contributions NC-117 (1980); UF-IFAS Inter-disciplinary Research and Extension Team Award (2000); UF-IFAS Academic Programs Graduate Teacher and Adviser of the Year (1994-95); Honorable mention for the UF-IFAS Academic Programs Teacher of the Year (1991-92). **Research:** 135 publications and 33 abstracts which include one co-authored book and one co-authored edited book, 34 refereed journal articles (16 with graduate student as co-author); over \$1.1 million in contracts and grants; 39 presentations as presenter and/or co-author at professional meetings and conferences. **Other Service:** chair (1989-92), vice-chair (1980-82), secretary (1987-1989), Southern Regional Dairy Marketing Research Project 166 and 217; Chair (1999-2000), vice-chair (1998-99), Southern Dairy Conference Planning Committee; vice-chair, Food and Agricultural Marketing Consortium (1995-99); UF Senate (1994-98, 2000-02); UF Strategic Planning Group for Graduate Education (1994-98); chair of UF/CALS Graduate Student Honors and Awards Committee (2000-02); Department Graduate Coordinator (1992-96).

At the end of your term, what changes/new initiatives would you like to have helped create?

I would strive to expand membership and participation in the Southern Agricultural Economics Association and the association's annual meetings. I would reach out to academics and non-academics to include agribusiness firms, non-agribusiness firms, organizations that support firms, governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. I would strive to expand undergraduate and graduate student participation in the Association in order to contribute to their educational experiences and introduce them to the association's activities. Finally, I would like to create a member directory that is accessible to all members. This would facilitate communication and interaction among the association's members.

Candidates for SAEA Officers

Director

Randy Little, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University. B.S., in Agribusiness Management from New Mexico State University, 1982; M.S., Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois, 1985; Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University, 1990. Between M.S. and Ph.D., research associate, Department of Agricultural Economics at North Dakota State University. Employed by Mississippi State University as assistant professor, 1990; associate professor, 1995, full professor, 2002. **Research:** livestock production economics and related issues. **Activities:** Faculty Senate, Spring 2002-present; College and University Committees on Courses and Curricula; College Excellence in Teaching Committee; University Instructional Improvement Committee; Academic adviser to Alpha Gamma Rho, Beta Tau Chapter, 1992-2001; Academic adviser to Ag. Econ. Club, 1991-1998; Superintendent, Mississippi FFA Farm Business Management Event, 1995-present; Participated in "Class 8" of the ESCOP/ACOP "Preparing for Leadership in the Agricultural Research and Higher Education System" Training Program, 1998-1999. **Honors:** 2001 Grand President's Award, Alpha Gamma Rho; Marquis *Who's Who In America*, 2000; 1999 "Professor of Distinction," Mortar Board, Inc., Mississippi State University; 1995 National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teaching Award of Merit. **Productivity:** Randy has published one book, more than 25 journal articles and published abstracts, and presented more than 30 papers at professional meetings. He also has numerous experiment station, extension service, and other publications. **Teaching/Mentoring:** agricultural finance, farm financial management, introduction to agricultural economics, and production economic theory; coordinator for the internship program, Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University.

At the end of your term, what changes/new initiatives would you like to have helped create?

The SAEA provides a great vehicle for us to communicate with each other about pedagogy and curriculum development. While the SAEA meetings already have opportunities on the program for this interaction, I would like to see us continue to integrate ideas from agricultural education as well as other fields such as educational psychology, where appropriate.

My second goal is to continue to explore methods of increasing the relevance and attractiveness of the annual meetings to non-academic professionals. These individuals can provide a wealth of ideas and experience. We need to find ways to attract them to the meetings so that resource can be tapped.

Finally, I am a firm believer in interdisciplinary research. Our association SAAS provides a unique opportunity to connect with other disciplines to form joint sessions that are of benefit to other disciplines as well as our members. I would hope that, in the future, more of our program is devoted to these joint sessions.

Albert E. Essel, Assistant Administrator, Programs, Virginia Cooperative Extension, at Virginia State University (VSU). B.S., University of Science and Technology, Ghana, 1973, Ph.D. Iowa State University, 1980. Responsible for planning, implementing, evaluating, and reporting all Cooperative Extension Programs offered through the University. Professor and extension specialist, agricultural economics, with statewide responsibilities in farm management and marketing with Virginia Cooperative Extension 1992-2001, Director of the University's Small Farmer Outreach, Training and Technical Assistance Program (2501 Program), 1993 to present. The 2501 program offers management training and technical assistance to small and limited resource farmers and landowners with the goal of improving their financial well-being and their overall quality of life. Provided leadership for a multi-state, multi-institution, public-private partnership project in agricultural risk management education funded by grants from the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and the Risk Management Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture since 1998. Three 1890 Land-Grant Universities have partnered with the National Crop Insurance Services (a private partner) to develop educational materials and conduct agricultural risk management education, for under served and hard to reach farmers and landowners in Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia. Professor of Agricultural Business, State University of New York, College of Agriculture and Technology, 1989-92. Head and associate professor, Department of Business and Economics, Fort Valley State College, 1985-88; assistant professor of economics, Fort Valley State College, 1980-85. **Activities**, active in a variety of capacities in professional associations, including member of the board, AAEA Extension Section. Authored more than 40 publications and presented numerous papers at professional meetings. **Teaching/Mentoring**, production economics, farm management, agricultural finance, agricultural policy, agricultural marketing, quantitative methods, principles and intermediate micro and macro economics; **Research**, determining the economic rate of returns of federal investments in 1890 land-grant programs, the economic and social impacts of biotechnology on tobacco producers, consumers and other stakeholders, and how small, limited resource and socially disadvantaged producers deal with farm level risk.

At the end of your term, what changes/new initiatives would you like to have helped create?

Our profession, like the agriculture industry, is facing many challenges. Structural changes in the agricultural sector, global competition, increase in rural poverty, continuous changes in technology, threats of agro-terrorism, declining student enrollments in agricultural economics programs, burgeoning budget deficits at the federal, state, and even local levels, apathy in professional organizations and others are challenging the resolve of our profession in responding to change. Our association must make every effort to induce all available intellectual expertise and resources in the southern region into SAEA to help stimulate an exchange of ideas. We cannot afford to leave any agricultural economist in the south behind. Diversity is our comparative advantage; therefore, as director, I will focus on ways to increase the diversity of our membership. I will begin by working with the association to increase the involvement of agricultural economists in the 1890 institutions in the activities of SAEA. Sixteen of the 18 historically black 1890 land grant colleges and universities are located in the southern region.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Call for SRSA Papers: The Southern Regional Science Association invites you to attend its 42nd annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, April 10-12, 2003. Papers are welcome on any topic of broad interest to regional science, including: Regional Modeling ? Rural Economic Development ? Economic Impact Analysis Environmental Quality ? Regional Development Issues ? Regional Labor Markets ? International Trade ? Public Finance and Investment Analysis ? Resource Utilization ? Transportation Systems ? Tourism and Recreation ? Migration and Human Capital

Please email a 100-200 word abstract of your paper to Stephen Smith, 2003 Program Chair, at smsmith@psu.edu by December 15, 2002.

You can also contact Steve by mail or telephone:
Tel. 814-863-8245

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**OFFICIAL BALLOT
2003-2004 SAEA OFFICER ELECTION**

**VOTE FOR ONE CANDIDATE IN EACH OFFICE BY MARKING
AN "X" IN THE SPACE BESIDE THE NAME OF YOUR CHOICE:**

President-Elect

Octavio A. Ramirez _____
Richard L. Kilmer _____

Director

Randy Little _____
Albert E. Essel _____

**BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
DECEMBER 5, 2002 TO BE COUNTED**

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Suggestion for future officers

PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND

**SAEA ANNUAL MEETING
MOBILE, ALABAMA
February 1-5, 2003**

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IS
IMPORTANT**

The officers of the SAEA welcome your comments and suggestions for improving the SAEA. We are interested in knowing what you think will add value to your membership in the association. How can the association better serve your needs as a professional agricultural economist? Please let us hear from you. You may contact any officer of the association at the address listed, or you may contact us via the web at: www.saea.org

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