SAEA SURVEY
I received the SAEA membership survey today (September 15) that was prepared by President-Elect Kimberly Jensen (University of Tennessee). You either have received or will receive the membership survey in the near future. Please participate in the survey. Your input is essential to the current and future success of the SAEA.

A NOTE OF THANKS
Chung “Charlie” Huang (University of Georgia) was the co-editor of the JAAE from 1996 through 1998. Beginning in 1996 and continuing until the present day, Charlie maintained the JAAE web site at the University of Georgia. After 9 years of service to the SAEA, Charlie is stepping down as keeper of the web site. The web site will move to the new editor, Henry W. Kinnucan (Auburn University). Thanks, Charlie, for a job well done!

ANOTHER NOTE OF THANKS
As I stated in the June Newsletter, I appointed three Blue Ribbon Task Forces in May to consider 2 questions. First, what are the major reasons contributing to the declining SAEA membership? Second, are there specific SAEA product or service offerings that would be appealing to SAEA members and potential members and would encourage membership in the SAEA? I want to thank all members of the Task Forces for their insightful input. Their insights will be shared with the membership after the SAEA SURVEY is completed.

SAEA Director Charles Hall (University of Tennessee) chaired the Extension Task Force composed of Damona Doye (Oklahoma State University), Bill Herndon (Mississippi State University), Jim Novak (Auburn University), Joe Outlaw (Texas A&M University), Derrell Peel (Oklahoma State University), Nathan Smith (University of Georgia), Tony Windham (University of Arkansas), and Tim Woods (University of Kentucky).

SAEA Director Michele Marra (North Carolina State University) chaired the Research Task Force composed of Mark Cochran (University of Arkansas), Darren Hudson (Mississippi State University), Sherry Larkin (University of Florida), Mary Marchant (University of Kentucky), Tom Marsh (Kansas State University), Anya McGuirk (Virginia Tech University), Paul Mitchell (Texas A&M University), Andrew Mohammad (Southern University), Roland Roberts (University of Tennessee), Eduardo Segarra (Texas Tech University), Dan Tilley (Oklahoma State University), Mike Wetzstein (University of Georgia), and Hector Zapata (Louisiana State University).
SAEA Director Randall Little (Mississippi State University) chaired the Teaching Task Force composed of Barry Barnett (University of Georgia), Ernie Bazen (University of Tennessee), Lisa House (University of Florida), Eluned Jones (Texas A&M University), Robert Nelson (Auburn University), Bryan Schurle (Kansas State University), David Schwiekhardt (Michigan State University), and David Willis (Texas Tech University).

SAEA 2005 LITTLE ROCK MEETINGS

Make your plans now for attending the SAEA annual meeting to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on February 5-9, 2005. The SAEA registration and meetings will be held in The Peabody Little Rock (THE PEABODY LITTLE ROCK), Three Statehouse Plaza, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201. All associations (except Horticulture & Plant Pathology) will register and hold meetings in The Peabody and Statehouse Convention Center (which is connected to The Peabody). Rates are single or double $115, triple $120, and quadruple $120. For reservations call 1-800-PEABODY (1-800-732-2639) or fax the hotel at 501-375-4721, ask for Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, or SAAS, group rate. The deadline for hotel registration at the group rate is noon, January 14, 2005. Further information on accommodations is available at the SAAS web site http://www.saasinc.org/LittleRock2005/LittleRock_MainPg.asp. Please note that SAAS has arranged something new this year -- Several special and exciting tours/excursions of Little Rock and Arkansas. See the SAAS website for details on the following activities:

- Skeet Shooting Adventure
- Little Rock Sightseeing
- Marlsgate Plantation & Shopping
- Hot Springs National Park Adventure
- Petit Jean Mtn & Museum of Automobiles
- Pampering Mystery Tour & Massage
- Larry Connor (University of Florida) has agreed to be the Headline Speaker in the area of Teaching on Tuesday morning of the Little Rock meetings. His contemplated topic is “how to manage a teaching program with survival in mind.” Larry is the former Dean for Academic Programs at the University of Florida. His provocative style and “tell it like it is” demeanor insure that we will be treated to an insightful and thought provoking session.

We are planning a Tuesday evening event similar to those held at the last several meetings. This event has been well received and presents an opportunity for socializing with colleagues throughout the profession.

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

John Penson, Editor of the JAAE, has submitted the JAAE to ISI Web of Knowledge for possible inclusion in their Science Citation Index. We will let you know if the JAAE is accepted by ISI.

REMINDER: Beginning July 1, 2004, submissions to the JAAE should be sent to: Henry W. Kinnucan, Editor, JAAE
Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
213 Comer Hall, Simmons Drive
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849-5401
Phone: (334) 844-5614
Fax: (334) 844-5639
Email: JAAE@auburn.edu

Richard Kilmer
President
At the end of your term, what changes/new initiatives would you like to help create?

The survey currently being conducted should provide insights into member and non-member priorities. I will look to it for guidance on new initiatives for SAEA. Maintaining or increasing membership is obviously important. The challenge is to maintain a strong organization that meets the professional development needs of a diverse membership at a reasonable cost. Membership retention and recruitment depends on having meaningful activities and services. Shrinking agricultural colleges mean a smaller traditional academic population so the incentive for drawing economists outside academia has never been greater. A review of the features of professional associations in other agricultural and social science disciplines might stimulate ideas for member benefits that could lead to growth. A listening/brainstorming session at the annual meeting for members to discuss issues with the SAEA board would be a channel for gathering input regularly. As long as we continue to meet with SAAS, we need to explore better ways to collaborate in offering joint sessions with other associations. We should also look for new ways to take advantage of technology to facilitate professional communication and research dissemination through virtual workgroups, meetings or sponsored webcasts, for instance.

Our traditional offerings remain important. Professional associations play an important role in the ongoing career development of members (students, faculty and non-academic professionals). Publications and meetings provide outlets for peer review and publicize new knowledge. They also stimulate individual and team pursuit of scholarship and effective research and instruction. Undergraduate and graduate student activities provide opportunities for budding agricultural economists to become familiar with the profession. Meetings also offer opportunities for networking to build relationships for future collaboration. Newsletters and awards ceremonies recognize current and historical contributions to the profession and society. Preserving the best traditions while also being vigilant for opportunities to improve on past activities is key.

Candidates for SAEA Officers

President-Elect

**Damona Doyle**, Regents Professor and Extension Economist, Department of Agricultural Economics, Ph.D., Iowa State U (1986); M.S. (1981) and B.S. (1980), Oklahoma State University.

**SAEA Service**: 1st Vice-President (1997-98); 2nd Vice-President (1996-97); Extension Awards Committee (2002-2004).


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

I have always viewed the function of professional associations like the SAEA to be: 1) Enhance the effectiveness in our research, teaching and extension missions; 2) Promote the relevance of our discipline; 3) Recognize and encourage excellence in our activities; and 4) Professional development of its members. The size of the membership of the SAEA has become a serious concern. The time has come for the SAEA to re-evaluate the functions that it provides relative to other organizations with similar services. Better communication and coordination with other organizations may help the SAEA define its niche and how it may better serve a broader base of potential members. The SAEA should pursue initiatives which would improve its ability to provide relevant services to its members. Intellectual exchanges on the necessary adjustments to our teaching programs that account for changes in technology, teaching styles, globalization and creative partnerships across and industry should be a major goal of the Association. The SAEA should continue to build programs that share information, insights, and methodological advances on relevant research and extension topics. However, the SAEA could do more by establishing workshops and sessions that might facilitate effective grantmanship for nationally competitive funding programs that require multi-state, multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary approaches. The increasing importance of these grants and the declining role of more traditional regional projects should create opportunities for the SAEA to facilitate and coordinate for its members. The SAEA might explore how to coordinate with other associations to better provide these services. Additionally, we probably also need to re-assess how our activities are encouraging the professional development of both our members and the student population in the region. More graduate students should be attracted to participate in the SAEA. Special sessions or events for these students, if appropriately attended, could be a useful means for their professional development.
At the end of your term, what changes/new initiatives would you like to have helped create?

Upon examining the proposed changes and initiatives of the recently elected officers, these activities need to be continued and enhanced. An organization can spread itself thin and not do a very good job on some outstanding initiatives. The current activities need to be continued, but in the process they may need to be adjusted. Communications is critical to the survival of an organization. Not just communications among the members but also to the stakeholders. Southern agriculture is different from the agriculture in the rest of the nation. SAEA needs to be proactive in communicating the science that addresses the issues that are impacting Southern agriculture. This communication is more than just communicating among ourselves but to our stakeholders like industry personnel and policy makers. This arena is one that I want to see more fully implemented during my term if elected.

Dixie Watts Reaves is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech, where she began her career in 1993, following the completion of her Economics Ph.D. program at Duke University. Her teaching/extension position at Virginia Tech represents the attainment of a goal that she set for herself after receiving her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics at Virginia Tech (in 1986 and 1989, respectively); to some day return to her alma mater and become a part of the teaching/advising environment that she had so much enjoyed as a student. Dixie has served on the SAEA Teaching Award Committee (1999-2002) and the JAAE Editorial Council (1996-1999). Teaching: Dixie’s position at VT is heavily oriented towards teaching. Her current course load includes Economics of the Food and Fiber System; Farm, Cooperative, and Agribusiness Management; Food and Agribusiness Marketing Management; Cooperatives and their Impact on the Human Condition; Internships in Agricultural Economics; and a first-year experience course for Ag Econ majors. Extension: Dixie’s extension activities have focused in three primary areas: agribusiness youth education; market planning; and the economic impacts of changing tobacco programs. She has made hundreds of presentations in state, national, and international forums, including presentations in Great Britain, South Africa, and Spain. She works closely with the Virginia Council of Farmer Cooperatives to host its annual youth conference, and she chaired the National Institute on Cooperative Education in 2003 and 2004, hosting it on the Virginia Tech campus. Awards: Outstanding Faculty Member, Virginia Tech AgEcon/NAMA Club, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98; primary author, AgEcon Department’s winning nomination for the University Exemplary Department Award for Advising, 1997; Club award was renamed the “Dixie Watts Reaves Outstanding Faculty Award” in 2004; College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Certificate of Teaching Excellence, 2001; Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2003; Alumni Award for Excellence in Advising, 2003; Food Distribution Research Society Emerging Leader Award, 2002. Other Service: Advisor, Virginia Tech AgEcon/NAMA Club, 1994-97, 1998-present; Advisor, Sigma Alpha, 1993-present; Co-founder and Advisor, MANRRS, 1995-2002; President-elect, Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS), 2003; numerous departmental, college, and university curriculum committees.

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

Given my interest in (and emphasis on) undergraduate education, I would like to continue to grow the interest in teaching/learning sessions at the annual meeting. I would also like to work with the undergraduate contest coordinators and our member universities’ AgEcon Club advisors to increase participation of undergraduate students in SAEA’s program areas. Undergraduate students are our next generation of leaders. Therefore, whatever we can do to enhance their understanding of economics and their participation in our organization’s activities can be thought of as an investment in our future.

Stanley M. Fletcher, Professor and Director, National Center for Peanut Competitiveness, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, The University of Georgia. Ph.D., North Carolina State University, 1981; M.S., Oklahoma State University, 1975; B.S., Oklahoma State University, 1973. SAEA Service: Editorial Council and reviewer SAEA and reviewer JAAE; Invited Paper Discussant, 1992, 2005; Reviewer and Moderator for Selected Papers Sessions; Poster awards (honorable mention, 2000; and 1st place, 2003 and 2004); Moderator Invited Paper Session, 2002. AAEA Service: Reviewer AJAE; Reviewer and Moderator for Selected Papers Sessions; Principal Paper Discussant, 1999. Awards: 2004 Elected to Fellowship in the American Peanut Research and Education Society, 2004 APRES Dow AgroSciences Award for Excellence in Research, 2004 American Peanut Council’s Peanut Research and Education Award, 2002 Gamma Sigma Delta Senior Faculty Award – University of Georgia, 2000 President’s Award for Excellence in Research and Communication, Food Distribution Research Society, 1993 National Peanut Council’s Peanut Research and Education Award, 1992 Georgia Peanut Research and Education Award. Honors: 2004-05 President, Council for Agricultural Science and Technology; Participant, ESCOP’s Leadership Development Program. Service Activities: Active member in the Southern Region’s international trade research committee (S-1016), Chair, executive committee, chair of project renewal;
SAEA Balloting Instructions

The SAEA is offering an electronic voting option this year to encourage more participation by the members. Instructions for completing the electronic ballot are as follows: an electronic mail ballot will be sent to all members having email addresses on file with the SAEA. The electronic mail ballot should be completed and returned to President Kilmer’s secretary to maintain confidentiality <BRandrianasolo@ifas.ufl.edu>. All ballots will be checked to ensure that each member only votes once and that only current members participate in the process. President Kilmer will appoint a tellers committee composed of two SAEA members from Florida. All ballots will be given to the tellers committee in such a manner to ensure the confidentiality of the voting process. The tellers committee will give the results of the election to President Kilmer who will verify the counts as per the SAEA constitution.

Voting by the traditional mail ballot remains an option. To exercise this option, please print this page and return the ballot to the address shown.

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OFFICIAL BALLOT
2005-2006 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
Mark Cochran _________
Damona Doye _________

Director
Stanley Fletcher _________
Dixie Reeves _________

BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
November 5, 2004 TO BE COUNTED

Mail completed ballots to: Bodo Randrianasolo
University of Florida
Food & Res. Econ. Dept.
P.O. Box 110240
Gainesville, FL 32611-0240

Suggestion for future officers

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Southern Agricultural Economics Association
2005 Membership Renewal/Application

________________ New Member __________________ Update My Address

Membership is based on January through December calendar year. Journal subscriptions begin with the next issue after payment is received, and continue one calendar year.

NAME:___________________________________________________________________________

(Last)     (First)    (Initial)

Agency/Company/University:___________________________________________________

Department:_________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address:_____________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________________   State/Province:____________________

Zip: _____________________________  Country: __________________________________

Email: _________________________________________  Phone: _____________________

SAEA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (check one):

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (Based on age on or before January 1 of year applying): Full benefits and voting rights open to those who are at least 55 years old.

? 60-65 $225  ? 70+ $150

NORTH AMERICA (U.S. Canada, Mexico, and Caribbean)

? $30 Regular member   ? $10 Student member

Students Please Note: Department Chair must sign this form to certify student status.

INTERNATIONAL (all other countries)

? $35

This is to certify that the above named is a graduate student in the department.

Department Chair

Please make checks payable to: SAEA
and mail to the address below:

Lonnie Vandeveer, Sec/Treas, SAEA
Dept. Agr. Econ. & Agribusiness
101 Ag. Admin. Bldg.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Phone (225) 578-2266 FAX (225) 578-2716
Email: lvandeveer@agcenter.lsu.edu
Website: www.saea.org
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

TITLE OF POSITION:  Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics (Agribusiness)

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:  This is a twelve month, tenure track research and teaching position involving decision science applications, in particular to the problems facing small and medium enterprises (SME’s) in the global food and fiber industry. Research may be pertinent on a variety of topics including (but not limited to) those faced by Kentucky firms: strategic marketing and management, contracts, risk management, entrepreneurship, principal agent issues, as well as problems faced by exporting food and fiber products, issues involved in food and fiber processing and adding value to raw agricultural commodities, issues of importance to the input supply industry, and government regulations.

CONTACT:  Lynn W. Robbins, Professor and Chair  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40546-0276  
Phone: (859) 257-5762  
FAX: (859) 323-1913  
e-mail: lrobbins@uky.edu

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The co-hosted annual meetings of the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA) and the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA) will be held at the Key Bridge Marriot Hotel, Arlington, Virginia on April 7-9, 2005. The program committee welcomes papers on a wide range of topics including all aspects of regional modeling, international trade, resource utilization, environmental quality, transportation systems, tourism and recreation, economic impact analysis, urban and rural economic development, location of economic activity, land use planning and regulation, regional migration, labor markets, regional development issues and policy, and public finance and investment analysis. If you are interested in organizing a session or panel, please contact Cynthia Rogers, 2005 Program Chair at crogers@ou.edu. The deadline for submitting abstracts is December 17, 2004. Both the SRSA and MCRSA sponsor student paper competitions in conjunction with the meetings. For additional information please visit the SRSA’s website (http://www.regionalscience.org/srsa/) and the MCRSA’s website (http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/mcrsa/).

Southern Agricultural Economics Association  
Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803