SAEA President Column, September 2008

Trust you are finalizing your paper, poster and/or symposium proposals to be submitted for our upcoming SAEA meetings to be held in Atlanta. The Executive Committee is continuing the numerous preparations for the 2009 meetings and we sincerely hope to see all of you next January 31 – February 3 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza, which will provide all of our meeting space/rooms. Note the deadline for submitting proposals for selected papers, posters, and symposia must be submitted by Friday, September 19, 2008. For detailed information and instruction, consult the June 2008 newsletter located at: http://www.saea.org/docs/2008/june08.pdf. FYI, the web link for submissions is: http://editorialexpress.com/conference/SAEA2009. General meeting and conference information can be found on the SAAS website at: http://www.saasinc.org/2009-Atlanta/09-MainPg.asp. Our SAEA meetings will also be held in the Westin Peachtree Plaza with lodging available at this hotel ($144 single or double, $164 triple or quad). Please note the hotel’s reservation deadline is Friday, January 16, 2009.

At the 2009 meetings, SAAS is initiating a “new” series of multidisciplinary sessions with the proposed title of “Spotlight or Stoplight: Alternative Energy, Bioenergy and Agriculture.” The kickoff session is scheduled for 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 1 followed by an additional 3-4 track sessions on Monday. The SAEA will be conducting one of these tracks Monday afternoon at 1:15 as an Invited Paper session. H.L. Goodwin, our Past President, has provided leadership to SAAS in organizing these efforts to promote multidisciplinary collaboration on important and timely topics. It is hoped that these sessions with foster future collaborations among the SAAS disciplines. Please join me in thanking H.L., University of Arkansas, for tackling this difficult task.

As we “enjoy” this election year, please remember that SAEA will also be electing a President-Elect and Board member to begin serving during 2009. This newsletter contains biographical information as well as election “platforms” for each of the four candidates that graciously accepted the nominating committee’s invitation to offer their names on our ballot. Please find these candidates, including voting instructions, in this newsletter and make plans to “exercise your right to vote.” My personal thanks goes to our officers and board candidates for their willingness to serve the SAEA: Michael Reed, University of Kentucky, and Michael Wetzstein, University of Georgia for President-Elect; Deacue Fields, Auburn University, and Jayson Lusk, Oklahoma State University for Directors.

Last, there is a listing of almost 60 names of our colleagues who are volunteering their time and talents to serve on the various SAEA and JAAE committees in this newsletter. Please join me in recognizing the contributions each of these dedicated members are making to accomplish SAEA goals and objectives. Thank you for your continuing support of SAEA. Hope to see all of y’all in Atlanta.

Sincerely,

C.W. “Bill” Herndon, Jr.
SAEA President
Attention Undergraduate Coordinators and Advisors! Once again, the SAEA will sponsor an Academic Quiz Bowl at the 2009 meetings in Atlanta, Georgia. Please consider bringing your students to this event! Bring one or bring 20, it does not matter; every student that you bring will be placed on a team! The Academic Quiz Bowl is an excellent opportunity for your students to participate in the annual meetings, and to network with both fellow undergraduates and faculty from throughout the southeastern U.S. We will also organize a Graduate Program Recruiting Fair for Quiz Bowl participants. Entry forms are posted on the SAEA webpage and included in this Newsletter. The tournament will begin at 8:00 am on Sunday, February 1, and continue through Monday afternoon, February 2, 2009. Contact Michael J. Best, Ph.D., College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, Tennessee Technological University, P.O. Box 5034, Cookeville, TN 38505; phone: 931-372-3154, fax: 931-372-3899, Email: mbest@tntech.edu if you have questions.

Attention Department Chairs, Heads and Graduate Program Coordinators! The organizers of the Undergraduate Academic Quiz Bowl, with the support of the SAEA Executive Committee, will host a Graduate Program Recruiting Fair in association with the 2009 Academic Quiz Bowl tournament in Atlanta, Georgia. Refreshments and a sitting area will be set up in the foyer next to the Quiz Bowl tournament room. Departments setting up displays and recruiting at this event will be charged a registration fee to support the cost of refreshments. There are typically 50 undergraduates in the Quiz Bowl and many of them are interested in attending graduate school. This will be an excellent opportunity to recruit from a captured audience – every student will be competing on Sunday and Monday, and many will be available between matches to talk to faculty about graduate programs. Contact: Michael J. Best, Ph.D., College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, Tennessee Technological University, P.O. Box 5034, Cookeville, TN 38505; phone: 931-372-3154, fax: 931-372-3899, Email: mbest@tntech.edu (backup contact only: James Sterns, University of Florida, jasterns@ufl.edu or 352-392-1826 ext. 222).

(Graduate Program Recruitment Fair Registration Form can be accessed on the Annual Meeting information page at www.saea.org).

Student Reception on Monday night!! – New
All graduate and undergraduate students are invited to the reception on Monday night, February 2, 2009. The reception will follow the Business Meeting and will start at 7pm in a room next door. All department representatives participating in Recruitment Fair are also invited.
The SAEA Executive Committee on behalf of SAEA members would like to thank the following volunteers who are serving on SAEA committees:

**Selected Paper Submissions Chairs:** Joey Mehlhorn, University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Lifetime Achievement Award Committee:** Gail Cramer (2009), Louisiana State University; Michael Reed (2010), University of Kentucky; and Michael Woods (2011), Oklahoma State University.

**SAEA Distinguished Extension Program Award Committee:** Larry Falconer (2009), Texas A&M University; Delton Gerloff (2010), University of Tennessee; and Deacue Fields (2011), Auburn University.

**SAEA Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award Committee:** Jaime Malaga (2009), Texas Tech; Kelly Raper (2010), Oklahoma State University; and Keith Coble (2011), Mississippi State University.

**Masters Thesis Award Committee:** Michelle Marra (2009), North Carolina State University; Marco Palma (2010), Texas A&M University; and Michael Wetzstein (2011), University of Georgia.

**Ph.D. Dissertation Award Committee:** Cesar Escalante (2009), University of Georgia; Bruce Dixon (2010), University of Arkansas; and Jayson Lusk (2011), Oklahoma State University.

**Poster Committee:** Steven Martin (2009), Mississippi State University; Michael Popp (2010), University of Arkansas; and David Anderson (2011), Texas A&M University.

**Undergraduate Committee:** James Sterns, U of Florida, Chair; Kurt Stephenson and Dixie Reaves, Virginia Tech; Bailey Norwood and Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State U; Don Williams, West Texas A&M U; Joey Mehlhorn, U of Tennessee at Martin; Ernie Bazen, U of Tennessee at Knoxville; Corey Miller, Mississippi State U; Kenrett Jefferson and Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T U; Jenny Popp and Lanier Nalley, U of Arkansas; and Justin Garner, Middle Tennessee State University.

**Nominating Committee:** Past-president, H.L. Goodwin, University of Arkansas; President, Bill Herndon, Mississippi State University; Hector Zapata, Louisiana State University; Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University; and Kim Jensen, University of Tennessee.

**Social Planner for 2009 Meetings:** Jeff Jordan, University of Georgia.

**IT/AV Committee for 2009 meetings:** Al Wysocki, University of Florida.

**JAAE Editor:** Jeffrey Gillespie, LSU and Ashok Mishra, LSU.

**JAAE Associate Editors:** Dragan Miljkovic, North Dakota State U; Oystein Myrland, U of Tromso, Norway.

**JAAE Editorial Council:** Mark Denbaly, Economic Research Service, USDA; Shenggen Fan, International Food Policy Research Institute; J. Matthew Fannin, Louisiana State U; Barry K. Goodwin, North Carolina State U; Sumeet Gulati, University of British Columbia; Mark Henry, Clemson University; M. Darren Hudson, Mississippi State U; P. Lynn Kennedy, Louisiana State U; Carl Johan Lagervist, Swedish U of Agricultural Sciences; Ephraim Leibtag, Economic Research Service, USDA; Sergio Lence, Iowa State U; Denise Mainville, Virginia Tech; Andrew M. McKenzie, U of Arkansas; Roland Roberts, U. of Tennessee; and Norbert Wilson, Auburn University.
**SAEA PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINATIONS**

**Michael Reed** is Professor of Agricultural Economics and Director of International Programs for Agriculture. Reed holds a Ph.D. in economics (with a minor in statistics) from Iowa State University (1979), a M.S. in economics from Iowa State University (1976) and a B.S. in economics from Kansas State University (1974). He has been at the University of Kentucky since 1978.

**Research:** Reed's principal area of research and teaching is international trade in agricultural products. His research includes the effects of macroeconomic policies and exchange rates on U.S. food exports, the dynamics of consumer demand in various countries, and the effects of competition patterns on world agricultural trade patterns. He has served as director for 23 M.S. theses and 28 Ph.D. dissertations during his tenure at U.K. He has over 50 refereed journal articles and a published textbook from Prentice-Hall entitled “International Trade in Agricultural Products.” He was the director of the Center for Agricultural Export Development at U.K. from 1988-1995. He has been principal investigator on externally funded projects totaling more than $4 million.

**Teaching:** Reed has taught the following undergraduate classes: Introduction to Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Marketing, International Agricultural Trade, Agricultural Price Analysis, and Macroeconomic Concepts in Agriculture. He has taught the following graduate classes: Advanced International Agricultural Trade, Quantitative Methods in Agricultural Economics, and Advanced Topics in Agricultural Marketing and Trade. He served as director of undergraduate programs from 1991-1993 and director of graduate studies from 1997-2002. He is currently in his second stint as director of graduate studies.


**Honors:** Doctor Honoris Causa (Honorary Ph.D). Bucharest University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (Romania). 2007. Honorary Fellow, University of Craiova (Romania), 2007 Marquis’ Who's Who in America, various years Marquis’ Who's Who in American South and Southwest, various years Marquis’ Young American Men and Women of Science, various years Outstanding Article in the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 2002

**Changes/New Initiatives:** I would like the SAEA to continue its move toward matching the association’s activities with the needs of its membership. As SAEA achieves this it will not only keep its members satisfied, but also attract new members. The major activities are the publication of the JAAE and hosting of the annual meeting. I want the JAAE to continue to improve its turnaround on manuscripts so that authors can see their work published in a timelier manner. I also support the continued improvement in the quality of manuscripts accepted, even if that means a smaller journal. The SAEA meetings should be of such high quality that our membership must attend them. I would like to see the sessions move toward demand-driven topics (what our members want), rather than be simply supply-driven (what papers our membership submits). Moving toward more themes, tracks, and other sessions that are topical would help attract professionals (especially extension professionals) to the meetings to hear the discussions and presentations. Better integration with existing regional research and extension projects would make the meetings more important and relevant. With budgets increasingly strained, I would like to see the SAEA continue to look at its cost structure so that the membership is getting the most value from their investments.

SAEA Activities: Editor of the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, 1995-1998. SJAE/JAAE journal articles, 14, and numerous SAEA selected papers. Three graduate student advisees awarded the SAEA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper. SAEA committees: Ad-hoc committee on SAEA Recruitment and SAEA Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award committee.


Research: The primary research focus centers on applied microeconomic theory with emphasis on natural resource and environmental impacts upon agricultural production systems. Objectives are to employ microeconomic theory in conjunction with biological systems to increase the understanding of natural resource and environmental impacts on optimal production input mixes. Published in AJAE, JEEM, JAE, JARE, JAAE, Economic Letters, and Energy Economics. Textbook: Microeconomic Theory: Concepts and Connections, Thomson South-Western Publisher, 2005.

Honors: SAEA Outstanding Teaching of a Course, 2008; JARE Outstanding Journal Article for 2007; AAEA Distinguished Graduate Teaching Greater than Ten Years, 1997; Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award, 1989; Agricultural Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award in Teaching, 1986; D.W. Brooks Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1983; and College of Agriculture Top Grant Recipient, 1982.

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

Integration of agricultural economics scholarship with other disciplines, provide focused value to membership, and enhance and broaden the SAEA association. This can be accomplished by delineating who are we, what are we generating, and where are we going. Who are we? The increasing integration of agriculture with other sectors (energy, health, natural resources and the environment) yields a blending of our association with members’ interest in new areas. The SAEA will respond to this bending by creating value for new faculty and establishing liaisons with private sectors. As one example, emphasis will be placed on interlocking government agencies, private industry, and academics. Such value will be the foundation for an annual SAEA recruitment program. What are we generating? The SAEA can provide membership value as a facilitator to address current and emerging issues in the southeast, nationally, and internationally. Such facilitation will take the form of annual meetings as a grant/funding clearinghouse. Similar to an employment center, the clearinghouse will provide a mechanism design at our meetings to connect grant sponsors with potential recipients. Other such SAEA mechanism designs will simultaneously broaden and enhance our association. Where are we going? The SAEA has a reputation of innovation. This reputation will continue with such initiatives as revamping the JAAE with dedicated issues on current policy trends facing the south and the nation with a possible Science Magazine format for articles. Consider holding annual meetings with other social science associations and providing a catalyst for graduate distance learning courses. This is an exciting and challenging time for agricultural and applied economics and for the association. Working together, we can have the type of association which rises to the challenge.
**SAEA DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS**

**Deacue Fields, III**, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (DAERS) at Auburn University. He continues to serve as business manager for his family’s farm, which raises show steers, replacement heifers, and American Quarter Horses. His background includes: Ph.D., Louisiana State University (2002); M.S., University of Missouri – Columbia (1995); and B.S., Southern University (1993). Internship Coordinator, DAERS, 2003-2008; Member, DAERS Curriculum Committee, 2004-2008. Subject matter interest: consumer product research, agribusiness management, horticultural economics and marketing, agricultural entrepreneurship.

**SAEA Service:** Member, Distinguished Extension Program Award Committee, 2008; Member, Selected Paper Committee, 2007; Reviewer for *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 2004 - present; Developer, moderator, and presenter for organized symposia, selected and invited papers sessions, various years, 2002 – 2008. Selected Paper and Poster Session Reviewer, 2005-2007.

**AAEA Service:** Reviewer for *Choices*, 2005 - 2007; Developer, moderator and discussant for organized symposia and selected paper sessions, various years, 2002 - 2008; Chair, Committee On the Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE), 2007; Member, Extension track, 2004-2008. Poster Session Reviewer, 2006.


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

A new initiative that I would like to promote relates to creating an environment that promotes and encourages quality integrated multistate collaboration. In the presence of shrinking budgets and increased competition for limited extramural funds, it is important that we (members of the association) strategically position ourselves to acquire a substantial share of the competitive resources available. The majority of the main funding sources for our discipline now expect proposals to be interdisciplinary, integrated (teaching, research and extension), and multistate. Often when we see this requirement, we scramble to identify participants from other states and disciplines to “buy-in” on a project without truly developing a quality collaborative relationship. In many cases we develop proposals similar to counterparts in neighboring states and compete against each other. Many times neither project gets funded, and a collaborative effort would have resulted in a more competitive project.

I would like to see an award established for outstanding integrated, multistate projects. The award would recognize projects that form quality collaborative relationships that result in significant impacts. Members of the association would be more aware of the components of a sound collaborative effort. The resulting projects would provide prominent impacts for our public and private constituents within the region. This type of valuable collaboration should lead to increased student and professional involvement in the association.
SAEA DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS (CONTINUED)

Jayson Lusk is Professor and Willard Sparks Endowed Chair in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University (2000) and a B.S. in Food Technology from Texas Tech University (1997) and has previously served on the faculties of Purdue University and Mississippi State University. Lusk conducts research primarily related to consumer behavior and decision making, food marketing and policy, and non-market valuation. Since 2001, Lusk has published more than 70 articles in peer reviewed journals. Lusk recently authored a book on experimental auctions published by Cambridge University Press, which has received acclaim from a recent Nobel Prize winner in Economics. Lusk is also a co-author of an undergraduate textbook on agricultural marketing and price analysis published by Prentice-Hall.

SAEA Service: Reviewer for JAAE, 2001-2008; Organizer, moderator, and discussant for organized symposia, selected and invited papers sessions at annual SAEA meetings, various years, 2000-2008.

AAEA Service: Chair, Food & Agricultural Marketing Policy Section, 2006; Faculty advisor, Graduate Student Section, 2004-2007; Member, Communications and Publications Committee, 2003-2006; Member, Task Force on AAEA Publications, 2005; Member, Nominating Committee, 2006-present; Member, Task Force on Association Outreach, 2007; Associate Editor, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 2006-present.

Other Service: Associate editor, Journal of Agricultural and Food Industrialization Organization, 2005-Present; Editorial Board member, Agricultural and Resource Economic Review, 2008-present; Director, Western Agricultural Economics Association, 2006-Present

Awards: James A. Whatley Award of Merit for Excellence in Agricultural Research, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma State University, 2007; Hall of Fame Horizon Award (Outstanding Alumni), Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Texas Tech University, 2007; Outstanding Published Research Award, Western Agricultural Economics Association, 2007; Outstanding Journal Article, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2005; Honorable Mention Outstanding Journal Article, Review of Agricultural Economics, 2005; Lusk’s scientific works have been cited more than 300 times since 2001 according to the Social Science Citation Index; Lusk was listed as one of the top 10 most productive researchers in agricultural economics graduating from 1987 to 2000 in a recent issue of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

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

Virtually all professional associations in agricultural economics are dealing with difficult challenges of declining membership, and the increasingly competitive market for academic journals. The SAEA must strike a difficult balance between maintaining and increasing the quality of its annual meetings and journal, while remaining committed to serving the needs of current and future members by providing networking and professional development opportunities. It is my hope to help the SAEA work with other professional associations in those areas where economies of scale and scope exist, and to encourage the SAEA to provide value to its members through its journal and annual meetings.
VOTING PROCEDURES FOR SAEA 2009 OFFICER ELECTIONS

Submit your vote electronically to saeaelect@mail.ag.utk.edu. All ballots must be RECEIVED by November 3, 2008 to be counted. Your name and contact information will be removed from the ballot before it is forwarded to third-party tellers for counting.

The 2008 SAEA officer election ballot you submit as a vote must contain no more than one name of the candidate in each office: President-elect and Director.

If you have problems casting your vote electronically, contact saeaelect@mail.ag.utk.edu.
Subject header: SAEA Elections-Vote casting problem.

Do you have suggestions for future officers? Please submit them electronically or contact an Executive Committee member.

(For your vote to count you must be a member in good standing as of September 30, 2008.)

WELCOME from SAAS

The 2009 SAAS Convention will be held in the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia, January 31 - February 3, 2009.

The Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia, will be our site for registration and meetings.

HOTEL INFORMATION
The Westin Peachtree Plaza
210 Peachtree Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
Hotel Phone: 404-659-1400
Group Reservations: 1-800-937-8461

The Westin Peachtree Plaza – SAEA Registration and the sessions are held in this hotel. (Location map may be found at www.mapquest.com).
Group Rates: Single and Double Rooms - $144/night; Triple and Quad Rooms - $164/night.
To Register: Call 1-800-937-8461 and request group rate for the "Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists." Group rates are available for January 27 through February 6, 2009. Check in is 3:00 pm; check out is noon. Deadline for group rate is 5:00 pm (Eastern time), January 16, 2009.

Access the SAAS website at www.saasinc.org.
RECRUITMENT FAIR REGISTRATION FORM

SAEA ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL RECRUITMENT FAIR
Sunday and Monday, February 1st and 2nd, 8am to 4pm

School/Agency/Business: ___________________________________________________________

College/Department/Division: _______________________________________________________

Contact Person: __________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________   Fax Number: _____________________________

E-mail ________________________________

Department Head/Chair: ___________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________   Fax Number: _____________________________

E-Mail: _______________________________

Graduate Program Coordinator or HR Director (if different from Contact Person):

______________________________________ Phone Number: _____________________________

Fax Number: ________________________   E-Mail: ___________________________________

Fee for registering & participating in the Recruiting Fair is $100.00

Please make checks payable to: SAEA or go to www.saea.org and pay by credit card. If paying by card, please also send this form by mail.

Mail to the address listed below.

Note: The registration fee will be used to help defer the costs of providing refreshments during the recruitment fair. Our intention is to place all refreshments at the back of the room, forcing students to walk past your displays in order to access them.

Please Return this form and payment by January 16, 2009 to:

Jeffrey Jordan, Treasurer, SAEA
Dept. of Agric. & Applied Economics
1109 Experiment Street, University of Georgia
Griffin, GA 30223-1797
Tel: (770) 228-7231 x.106   FAX: (770) 228-7208   E-mail: jjordan@uga.edu
Southern Agricultural Economics Association
2008 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 end with the calendar year. No purchase orders or phone orders accepted.

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.

_____   55-59 - $275 ______   65-69 - $195
_____   60-65 - $225 ______   70+ - $150

UNITED STATES

______ $30                          ______   $10 - Special Student Rate

INTERNATIONAL (all other countries)

_____ $35

Tax deductible donation to support SAEA student activities $___________

Payment may be made online using Discover, MasterCard or Visa at www.saea.org then click on ‘payment’ and follow instructions (if paid online, do not send this form by mail)

OR

Make check payable in $US to Southern Agricultural Economics Association and mail with this form to the address below

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