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Fall is now upon us – an exciting time of the year with cooling temperatures, college football Saturdays, and new students on campus. It's also a time when we start to prepare in earnest for the annual meetings. The upcoming *SAEA Annual Meetings will be held February 4-7, 2017, in Mobile, Alabama*. We hope you will plan to join us this year. The meetings have something to offer for everyone – opportunities for research, teaching, extension, and industry professionals to present to colleagues and discuss agricultural economic issues; for graduate students to present and network with others; and for undergraduates to participate in the Quiz Bowl, attend presentations, and network with colleagues at other universities.

A couple of things will be new at this year's meeting. First, we plan to have a meetings app you can download on your phone that will include the meeting schedule and allow you to customize your agenda, find sessions by subject matter, see who is attending, and get updates. Second, this year we will try having two types of presented papers – one type will involve traditional 15-minute presentations and a second type will be "lighting round" presentations where presenters have 8 minutes to make quick presentations. The idea of the "lighting round" presentations will be to allow more people the opportunity to quickly discuss their research, with time at the end of the session for in-depth discussion among those with similar interests.

Please note that *September 19, 2016, is the deadline to submit proposals for selected papers, posters, and organized symposia*. The success of our meeting depends on the quality of submissions, so please submit a proposal and plan to attend the meetings. Information on how to submit proposals is on the SAEA website at www.saea.org. Mobile is a very charming city and I know Jeff Jordan is organizing a number of fun networking and social events for students, faculty, and industry partners.

Undergraduate participation at the SAEA meetings via the Quiz Bowl has been very strong in recent years, with a record number of students in 2016. We want to see that continue! Please encourage and support your students in coming to the meetings and participating. Please also consider participating in the Recruitment Fair. At just \$100, it offers a great opportunity to recruit excellent students into your graduate programs.

The deadline for award nominations is also September 19, 2016. Information on how to nominate yourself or someone else for an award can be found on the SAEA website at www.saea.org. Award categories include Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award, Distinguished Extension Program Award, Outstanding Master's Thesis Award, and Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award. These awards are meaningful for the recipients and highlight the excellent work conducted by our colleagues.

Michael Reed and Sayed Saghaian are the new editors of the *Journal of Agricultural and Economics*. Outgoing editors Andrew McKenzie and Krishna Paudel continue to handle submissions that came in prior to July 1 and Associate Editor Henry Kinnucan continues to handle review articles. Special thanks to Michael, Sayed, Andrew, Krishna, and Henry for their much appreciated and outstanding service to the *Journal*.

I want to highlight the officer candidate bios and vision statements that are included in this newsletter. We have an excellent slate of candidates for both President-Elect and Director. I want to thank all of the candidates for their willingness to serve. You will receive instructions for voting soon, so please examine these bios closely and vote! The SAEA needs continued strong leadership to help deliver the outstanding programs our members have come to expect.

I also want to remind you to renew your membership. Membership in SAEA is inexpensive and the benefits are excellent! Renewal is easy using our portal found under the "Payments" button on the membership page. I look forward to seeing all of you in Mobile!

Jeffrey M. Gillespie, SAEA President

2017 SAEA Annual Meetings

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 2017 SAEA Annual Meetings to be held in Mobile, Alabama, February 4-7, 2017

What – SAEA Annual Meeting

Where – Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, AL

When – February 4-7, 2017

Why – A chance to network and share your work with colleagues.

Registration will begin December 1, 2016. Paper, poster and organized symposia submissions will close midnight EST, Monday, September 19, 2016. Award nominations are due September 19 as well. Begin planning now to attend and share your work. Access to the SAAS website at www.saasinc.org for more information about the 2017 meetings.

HOTEL INFORMATION

**Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, and
The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa**

Room	Single Rate	Double Rate	Triple Rate	Quad Rate
Deluxe Guest Room	\$139.00	\$139.00	\$149.00	\$149.00

CUTOFF DATE Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **Friday, January 20, 2017**. Reservations made by individual attendees by calling **1-800-922-3298** and asking for the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists group room block.

- Self Parking reduced to \$6.00 per night at the Riverview Plaza only-Valet parking at both Hotels is \$17.00 per night
- Double Marriott Reward Points
- Complimentary internet in guestrooms

2017 ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL COMPETITION AT THE SAEA ANNUAL MEETING IN MOBILE, AL

Undergraduates and Student Advisors!

Please mark your calendars and start your plans for Mobile! Once again, the Student Section of the SAEA will be coordinating the Academic Quiz Bowl competition, and we are hoping for another record turn-out of schools and student participants. We are again planning on hosting a graduate program Recruitment Fair which provides graduate program coordinators an opportunity to meet, greet and recruit quiz bowl participants for their respective departments. Please contact Sierra Howrey, Undergraduate Committee Chair, to sign up for the competition. She is located at University of Wisconsin-River Falls, 105 Ag Sciences Building, River Falls, WI 54022, Phone 715/425-3298, Email: sierra.howry@uwrfr.edu. Travel grants are available for students participating in Quiz Bowl. Also note that the registration fees for advisors at schools who have not participated in the last three years will be waived.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. Purpose of the Award: To recognize significant and enduring contributions in scholarship or public service to southern agricultural economics. Scholarship would entail teaching and research, while public service would embrace not only extension but all other outreach activities in government and agribusiness. This award recognizes individual distinguished contributions to the profession over a career.

B. Nature of the Award: The award shall be called “Southern Agricultural Economics Association Lifetime Achievement Award.” The winners of the award shall be announced annually with the awards presented at the annual meetings of the SAEA. Each recipient will receive a framed certificate and a free membership to the Southern Agricultural Economics Association for the remainder of his or her life.

C. Eligibility Requirements: Nominees must have completed at last 25 years of professional service and must have made significant contributions to the profession. This award is in recognition of one’s contribution to southern agricultural economics throughout a professional career. The award may be given posthumously. The recipient need not live (or have lived) in the southern region, but must have been a member of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association at some time in his or her career.

II. NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations must be made by SAEA members and/or agricultural economics and related departments. Nominations will consist of the following:

1. A statement, not longer than two double-spaced pages, summarizing the contributions in scholarship (teaching and/or research) and/or public service (extension and other outreach activities including such activities in government or agribusiness) to southern agricultural economics throughout the nominee’s professional career.
2. A detailed resume of the nominee.
3. Copies of not more than three published works which exemplify research contributions of the nominee and a brief summary of other works which provide tangible evidence of the nominee’s contributions to southern agricultural economics; and/or summaries of courses taught, topics covered, formal evaluations of teaching, and not more than three tangible examples of teaching aids or other tangible examples of extension or outreach program materials exemplifying the nominee’s contributions in public service to southern agricultural economics.
4. Letters indicating contributions the nominee has made to southern agricultural economics (maximum of 3).
5. A synopsis of the candidate’s career suitable for publishing on the SAEA webpage.
6. The Selection Committee for the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Lifetime Achievement Award shall be composed of the Past-President of the SAEA and three members of the SAEA, not on the executive committee, to be appointed to staggered three-year terms by the President. The Past-President will chair the selection committee and will be the liaison between the selection committee and the SAEA executive committee.

III. SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS

**Submit nomination materials in pdf format for
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

By September 19, 2016 to:

Dr. Ron Rainey

University of Arkansas

rrainey@uaex.edu

**Submissions must be received by
Monday, September 19, 2016**

**Telephone and E-mail are for
information only**

Phone: 501/671-2175

E-mail: rrainey@uaex.edu

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION AWARDS
FOR DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. Purpose of the Awards: To recognize significant contributions of individuals to the profession of agricultural economics, to bring such contributions to the attention of the profession, and to facilitate firsthand sharing of such contributions through the annual SAEA meetings.

B. Nature of the Awards: The "Southern Agricultural Economics Association Awards for Distinguished Professional Contributions" are made annually and recipients share their award-winning contributions with the membership at SAEA annual meetings. More than one award may be made each year in each category based on the judgment of evaluation committees concerning the significance of nominated works. Committees shall not be obligated to make awards if no nominee is judged deserving. Each winner will receive a certificate of recognition.

C. Award Categories: Awards are considered for distinguished contributions to the profession in the following categories:

- ▶ **Outstanding *JAAE* Article**
- ▶ **Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award**
- ▶ **Distinguished Extension Program Award**
- ▶ **Outstanding Master's Thesis Award**
- ▶ **Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award**

D. Eligibility Requirements: Nominees must be SAEA members and actively involved in the area for which the work is nominated. The contribution nominated may be the work of a single individual or group of individuals. In the case of group awards, one-half or more of the contributing individuals must be SAEA members actively involved in the area of the nominated work. Graduate students must be student members of the SAEA.

E. Selection Criteria: Selection of award winners will be made by committees appointed by the SAEA President except for the Outstanding *JAAE* Article where the selection committee is composed of the *JAAE* Editors, Associate Editors, and the Editorial Council. Criteria used in the selection process include:

1. Relevance and importance of topic, problem, or issue addressed;
2. Application of appropriate economic principles, methods, and concepts;
3. Appropriate use of logic, scientific approach, method, or process;
4. Contribution of results and/or process to advancing the agricultural economics profession; and
5. Transferability of achievement to professional development of other economists.

F. Award Winner Responsibilities: Acceptance of an award carries a commitment on the part of the award winner(s) to attend and share this work, in person, with other members of the profession at the SAEA annual meeting when the award is given. Award recipients are expected to summarize and highlight their accomplishments in a poster presentation at the annual meeting. Poster session guidelines will be made available to award recipients.

G. Notification: Award winners will be notified at least 30 days before the annual meetings.

II. NOMINATION PROCESS

A. Outstanding *JAAE* Article

JAAE articles appearing in the November 2015 through August 2016 issues will routinely be considered by the selection committee composed of the *JAAE* Editor, Associate Editors, and the Editorial Council. No nominations are required.

B. Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award

1. Statements, no longer than two double-spaced pages, should be submitted by the nominator to the SAEA Past-President. These statements should summarize the contribution of nominated works with respect to the evaluation criteria listed above as they relate to the teaching of a course of instruction.
 2. A brief resume of the nominee(s) and a brief summary of course covered by nomination.
 3. A copy of formal evaluations and description of teaching aids or materials supporting
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nomination (e.g., VHS videotape sample of nominee's teaching would be helpful).

4. Letters supporting contribution of nominated work with respect to the evaluation criteria listed above (maximum of 3).

C. Outstanding Extension Program Award

1. Statements, no longer than two double-spaced pages, should be submitted by the nominator to the SAEA Past-President. These statements should summarize the contribution of nominated works with respect to the evaluation criteria listed above as they relate to the extension program nominated.

2. A brief resume of extension economist(s) nominated and a brief summary of the extension program nominated.

3. A copy of formal evaluations and extension program materials supporting nomination.

4. Letters supporting contribution of nominated work with respect to the evaluation criteria listed above (maximum of 3).

D. Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

1. A thesis must be submitted by the head or chair of the department where the thesis was presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Master's degree during the 2014-2015 academic year which started in August. The letter of nomination should include the author's name, thesis advisor(s), thesis title and institution granting the degree.

2. A department may submit one nomination for each fifteen Master's theses or fraction thereof presented to a graduate school faculty in the 2015-2016 academic year which started in August. In determining the number of eligible theses, departments must limit consideration to theses in the areas of agricultural economics, natural resource economics, rural economics, or agribusiness.

3. Selection will be made from documentation approved in final form by the student's advisory committee.

4. A cash supplement of \$200 accompanies the award.

E. Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award

1. A dissertation must be submitted by the head or chair of the department where the dissertation was presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Ph.D. during the 2015-2016 academic year which started in August. The letter of nomination should include the author's name, dissertation advisor(s), dissertation title and institution granting the degree.

2. A department may submit one nomination for each twelve doctoral dissertations or fraction thereof presented to a graduate school faculty in the 2015-2016 academic year which started in August. In determining the number of eligible nominations, departments must limit consideration to dissertations in the areas of agricultural economics, natural resource economics, rural economics, or agribusiness.

3. Selection will be made from documentation approved in final form by the student's advisory committee.

4. A cash supplement of \$300 accompanies the award.

III. SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS

Submit all nomination materials in electronic (pdf) form only for the Southern Agricultural Economics Association **Distinguished Professional Contributions Awards** by **September 19, 2016** to:

Dr. Ron Rainey
By September 19, 2016 to:
University of Arkansas

**Telephone and E-mail are for
information only**
Phone: 501/671-2175
E-mail: rrainey@uaex.edu

CALL FOR SELECTED PAPER AND POSTER PROPOSALS

I. Eligibility Guidelines: Papers addressing any aspect of agricultural, food, environmental/resource, or applied economics are welcome. To submit a paper proposal, at least one author must be an SAEA member at the time of submission deadline, Monday, September 19, 2016, midnight EST. Membership information can be found [here](#). Selected papers will consist of two categories this year: 15 minute paper presentations and 8 minute lightning round presentations. The selected paper committee will choose the category for each paper and notify the presenter if the paper is accepted. At least one author must be an SAEA member to be considered. Each presenter may only submit one paper. However, authors may be listed on multiple papers.

II. Submission Guidelines: Proposals must be posted at <http://editorialexpress.com/conference/SAEA2017>. The submissions site will close at midnight (EST) Monday, **September 19, 2016**. SAEA requires the authors of Selected Papers to post an electronic version of the final paper on the *AgEcon Search* website by **Wednesday, January 18, 2017**. Instructions on submitting the full manuscript will be provided upon acceptance. *Failure to post a manuscript to AgEcon Search by the deadline will result in removal from the program.* No manuscript is required for Selected Posters and the poster is limited to 4 ft. by 4 ft. for display at the annual meetings. The submitting author is responsible for providing accurate and complete information. Incomplete entries will not be considered.

III. Submission procedure:

1. Go to the designated website; <http://editorialexpress.com/conference/SAEA2017>.
2. Click on "Submit an Abstract"
3. Select the Type of Submission you wish to submit (Selected Paper or Selected Poster)
4. Enter ALL required information:
 - a. Submitter User ID: Enter the User ID you used to log into the system.
 - b. Paper Title
 - c. Indicate if there are co-authors. Co-author information will be entered in a later step.
 - d. Type of Submission: Selected Paper or Selected Poster
 - e. Area: Select the most applicable topic area for your paper/poster.
 - f. Keywords: enter a minimum of 1, maximum of 5
 - g. Abstract: enter a 200-word maximum abstract describing the paper. Do not use equations, symbols, greek letters, etc.
 - h. Submitter's Comments (optional): If you are willing to serve as a moderator for a session *other than your own*, please enter the word "Moderator" here.
 - i. JEL Code(s): Enter a minimum of 1, maximum of 3. Click on the Button to browse available codes.
 - j. Enter Your Slides: **IGNORE THIS CELL. DO NOT SUBMIT ANY FILES.**
Only the text entered in the aforementioned cells will be evaluated.
 - k. Privacy Setting: Choose your preferred setting.

Acceptance decisions will be communicated to authors by November 16, 2016.

Please contact **Dr. Jody Campiche**, National Cotton Council, by email at jcampiche@cotton.org for questions about Selected Papers. Contact Kaylin Coatney, Mississippi State University, for questions about Selected Posters by email at k.coatney@msstate.edu.

CALL FOR ORGANIZED SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS

Eligibility Guidelines: The purpose of an organized symposium is to stimulate discussion of a single theme or problem related to agricultural economics. Interdisciplinary proposals are welcomed and encouraged. The emphasis on audience discussion and participation distinguishes a symposium from a selected papers session

and requires that one-half of the available time be allocated to the discussion engaging the audience. **Proposals**

in the areas of Extension/Outreach and Teaching/Learning are strongly encouraged. To submit a

proposal, at least one author must be an SAEA member at the time of submission deadline, Monday,

September 19, 2016, midnight EST. Membership information can be found [here](#).

Proposals where none of the co-authors is an SAEA member will not be considered.

Submission Guidelines: Proposals must be posted at

<http://editorialexpress.com/conference/SAEA2017>

Submissions will be accepted beginning July 15 but no later than Monday, September 15, 2015, midnight EST.

The submitting member is responsible for the completion and accuracy of entered information.

Questions

regarding submission format for organized symposia should be addressed to **Dr. Lisa House**, University of Florida, phone: 352/294-7653, email: lahouse@ufl.edu

Submission procedure:

1. Go to the designated website; <http://editorialexpress.com/conference/SAEA2017>
2. Click on "Submit an Abstract "
3. Select Organized Symposium as the Type of Submission
4. Enter ALL required information:
 - a. Submitter User ID: Enter the User ID you used to log into the system.
 - b. Paper Title: Title of Organized Symposium
 - c. Indicate if there are co-authors. Co-author information will be entered in a later step.
 - d. Type of Submission: Organized Symposium
 - e. Area: Select the most applicable topic area for your Symposium.
 - f. Keywords: enter a minimum of 1, maximum of 5
 - g. Abstract: enter a 200-word maximum abstract describing the symposia as outlined below. Do not use equations, symbols, greek letters, etc.
 - h. Submitter's Comments (optional): If you are willing to serve as a moderator for a session *other than your own*, please enter the word "Moderator" here.
 - i. JEL Code(s): Enter a minimum of 1, maximum of 3. Click on the Button to browse available codes.
 - j. Enter Your Slides: **IGNORE THIS CELL. DO NOT SUBMIT ANY FILES.**
Only the text entered in the aforementioned cells will be evaluated.
 - k. Privacy Setting: Choose your preferred setting.

Selection, Presentation, and Publication: Acceptance decisions, based on evaluations by a committee from among the SAEA membership, will be communicated to the symposia organizers. All proposed participants must agree to be at the meetings, **prior** to submitting symposia proposals. The time allotted to selected symposia is identical to time of Selected Paper sessions and at least one-half of the period should include open discussion involving the audience. Abstracts of selected symposia will be published on the SAEA website.

Abstract Submission Format:

- Organizer:** (please include address, phone number, and E-mail address).
- Title:** Symposium title.
- Moderator and Participants:** Names, affiliations and viewpoints to be represented, for all participants.
- Justification and Description:** Why is this topic timely and appropriate? What is the purpose to be served? What are the unique dimensions offered by the proposal?
- Time:** Specify time allocated to formal statements by presenters, discussion among presenters, and audience participation. **Submissions must be posted by Monday, September 19, 2016.**

2016-2017 SAEA COMMITTEES

Much of the important work the SAEA performs is done by the committees listed below. The SAEA Executive Committee on behalf of SAEA members would like to thank everyone serving on these committees. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees in the future, please contact Jeffrey M. Gillespie at Jeffrey.Gillespie@ers.usda.gov.

Selected Papers Committee: Jody Campiche, National Cotton Council (2017); Carlos Carpio, Texas Tech University (2018); Susana Ferreira, University of Georgia (2019).

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee: Jeffrey Jordan, University of Georgia (2017); Mike Woods, Oklahoma State University (2018); Curtis Jolly, Auburn University (2019).

SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award Committee: Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University (2017); Steve Klose, Texas A&M University (2018); John Westra, Louisiana State University (2019).

SAEA Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award Committee: Joshua Detre, MedComp Sciences (2017); Lurleen Walters, Mississippi State University (2018); Mikael Sandberg, University of Florida (2019).

Masters Thesis Award Committee: Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University (2017); Esendugue Greg Fonsah, University of Georgia (2018); Chris Boyer, University of Tennessee (2019).

Ph.D. Dissertation Award Committee: Lanier Nalley, University of Arkansas (2017); David Willis, Clemson University (2018); Tracy Boyer, Oklahoma State University (2019).

Poster Committee: Kalyn Coatney, Mississippi State University (2017); Nathan Smith, Clemson University (2018); Tyler Mark, University of Kentucky (2019).

Undergraduate Committee: Sierra Howrey, University of Wisconsin–River Falls; Maria Bampassidou, Louisiana State University

JAAE Editorial Team: Editors Michael Reed and Sayed Saghaian, University of Kentucky. Associate Editor Henry Kinnucan, Auburn University.

JAAE Editorial Council: Michael Adjemian, USDA-ERS; Stephen Devadoss, Texas Tech University; Sandra Hoffman, USDA-ERS; Kaliappa Kalirajan, Australian National University; Subal Kumbhakar, SUNY Binghamton; Craig Landry, University of Georgia; Ashok Mishra, Arizona State University; Rudy Nayga, University of Arkansas; Fabien Prieur, LAMETA – Université Montpellier 1 and INRA; Marc Ribaudou, USDA-ERS; James Richardson, Texas A&M University; Alexander Sarris, University of Athens; Jesse Tack, Mississippi State University; Loren Tauer, Cornell University; Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University; Yuqing Zheng, University of Kentucky.

Nominating Committee: Past-President Ron Rainey, University of Arkansas; President Jeffrey Gillespie, Louisiana State University; President-Elect Lisa House, University of Florida.

Social Planner for 2017 Meetings: Jeff Jordan, University of Georgia; Marco Palma, Texas A&M University.

IT/AV Committee for 2017 Meetings: Carlos Carpio, Texas Tech University; Susana Ferreria, University of Georgia.

Outreach and Engagement Committee: Margarita Velandia, University of Tennessee (2017); John Michael Riley, Oklahoma State University (2018); Mohammad Ibrahim, Fort Valley State University (2019); and Joshua Maples, Oklahoma State University.

SAEA President-Elect Nominations

Michael Best is a professor in the School of Agriculture and director of crop sciences research for the Oakley Sustainable Agriculture Center at Tennessee Tech University. Before coming to TTU he was an extension specialist at the University of Georgia and had held teaching positions at several schools prior. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics in 1995 from the University of Kentucky, his M.S. in agricultural economics in 1990 from the University of Tennessee, and his B.S. in agricultural business from Berea College in 1988.

Teaching: At Tennessee Tech, Best has developed new coursework over the past twelve years including a course that meets the social science requirement for the university on world food issues. He has taught courses on small farms, specialty crops and entrepreneurship, direct marketing, and honors courses related to agriculture, while also teaching the more traditional courses in agricultural economics and business.

Leadership and Service: Best currently serves on the university's strategic planning committee and has served Tennessee Tech University on numerous committees at the college and school level. His service to the discipline includes editorial review board for FDRS, reviewer for the Small Business Innovation Research program, editor of the agriculture section of the Encyclopedia of Appalachia, moderator - SAEA, chair - SAEA undergraduate Committee (2009-2011, 2014-15). Best also has received the SAEA distinguished professional contribution award in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Research: As Director of Research at the Oakley Sustainable Agriculture Center, Best works with faculty in geosciences, civil engineering, biology, mechanical engineering and agriculture. Best's research focuses primarily on sustainable fruit and vegetable economics with a current emphasis on the development of improved varieties for higher yields and improved marketability. He has successfully collaborated with colleagues on interdisciplinary projects over the years and has participated as principal or co-investigator in extramural funded projects that have exceeded \$1.2 million.

Outreach: Best has held an outreach appointment with programmatic efforts focusing on production and marketing in the fruit and vegetable crops sector as well as emphasis in cooperative development and value-added production. Best has worked with agricultural cooperatives in Kentucky, Georgia and Tennessee over the past 18 years providing technical assistance and leadership. He has worked directly with farmers and producer groups on food processing facilities for value added production and marketing. During the past 12 years, he has either authored or co-authored over 50 feasibility studies and dozens of business plans in Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. These studies and business plans have helped agricultural and rural businesses receive over \$40 million in grants and loans from the USDA.

Vision for SAEA: As president of the SAEA, I would work to continue fostering the inviting atmosphere of this organization because I see it as one of its major strengths. I also believe that the association has found a niche where teaching, research and extension are all three equally important to the membership. With the JAAE now having completed its successful transition to the Cambridge University Press and a new committee to develop a social media presence for the organization, I feel like we have positioned ourselves to grow the organization. It would be my hope to have us work to involve more industry stakeholders in our annual meetings and membership. If we can continue to engage both the young people that are joining the academic profession and those that are going to industry, I feel we can ensure that our stakeholders will continue to understand what we bring to the table as agricultural economists.

Deacue Fields, III, is Chair/Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (DAERS) at Auburn University. His educational background includes: Ph.D., Louisiana State University (2002); M.S., University of Missouri – Columbia (1995); and B.S., Southern University (1993).

Administration: Fields' primary responsibility is providing a vision and leadership for a department with 17 faculty members, 4 Region Extension Agents, 5 staff members, 196 undergraduate students, and 47 graduate students. He has been successful at initiating new programs to enhance scholarship, increase visibility through extension/outreach, and grow student numbers by 44% in three years. He has also been successful at replacing 4 faculty positions vacated by retirements.

Extension/Outreach: Fields' extension and outreach efforts focus on agribusiness management and marketing. He works directly with producer groups on food marketing strategies and evaluating consumer preferences and has provided over 150 presentations to stakeholders over his career.

Research: Although Fields' has never had a formal research appointment, he has published 14 refereed journal articles, a number of refereed bulletins and abstracts, a book chapter, and numerous research publications, abstracts, and research papers for professional meetings. He has been PI or Co-PI on \$3.6 million total research and outreach grants.

Teaching: Fields continues to teach Agricultural Business Management and Agricultural Economics Internships. He has directed 2 PhD dissertations, 7 MS theses, and served on 28 graduate student committees. He presently directs a PhD and an MS student.

Professional Leadership and Service: SAEA – Director (2013-2016); Selected Paper Committee Chair (2015); Distinguished Extension Program Award Committee Chair (2010), Selected Paper Section Organizer, (2007, 2011); Food Distribution Research Society – *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, Proceedings Editor (2009-2012), Vice President for Education (2012-13); AAEA - COSBAE, Chair (2007-2009), Outreach Committee (2011 - 2013), Membership Committee (2012), Mentoring Task Force (2011 - 2013); First South Farm Credit Board of Directors (2013 – present); Southern Region Risk Management Education Center, Advisory Board (2010-); Alabama Council of Cooperatives, Board of Directors (2011 -); Alabama Agribusiness Council (2003 -).

University Leadership and Service: College of Agriculture - Strategic Planning Committee (2012), Diversity Committee (2010 - 2012), Agriculture Student Council, Advisor (2008 - 2011), Ag. Ambassadors, Senior Faculty Advisor (2006-2008); DAERS Curriculum Committee (2004 - 2012); Auburn University Academic Program Review Committee (2010-2012); Auburn University Federal Credit, Vice Chairman Union Board of Directors (2012 -), Nominating Committee, Chair (2007-2012) , Investment Committee (2004-2012); Student Insurance Committee (2006-2009).

Awards: Louisiana State University, Outstanding Academic Alumnus Award (2014); National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Achievement Award (2013); LEAD21 Class IX (2013) Auburn University Agricultural Council, Excellent Advising Award, (2009); Top Ten Most Read Journal Article of 2008, *HortTechnology* (2009); Faculty Honoree, Auburn University Camp War Eagle (2006); Auburn University Student Government Association, College of Agriculture Outstanding Faculty Member Award (2005); Outstanding Intensive Entrepreneurship Trainee, Marion Ewing Kaufman Foundation (2004).

Vision for SAEA

In 2015 Purdue University published a study that indicated that over the next five years there will be approximately 57,900 new job opportunities in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, while only about 35,400 new graduates are trained in these areas annually. About 46% of these new jobs are expected to be in areas of business and management. This signals a significant challenge for our profession to expand the pipeline of students being prepared in agricultural business and economics. I would like to see the association create a baseline to document quantity and diversity of students and young professionals in the pipeline, and initiate additional programs to help expand pipeline. Although SAEA provides opportunities for students to be involved, there are still opportunities to integrate research, teaching and extension into efforts used to recruit the next generation of professionals. As a department chair, who has had to replace several new faculty, I am keenly aware of how few individuals there are currently in the pipeline for faculty positions.

SAEA Director Nominations

Luis A. Ribera is an Associate Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. He also serves as the Director of the Center for North American Studies and Director of International Programs for the Agricultural and Policy Center. He holds a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Arkansas (1998 & 2000) and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University (2005).

Extension

Dr. Ribera has a 75% Extension appointment and conducts applied research in the area of International Trade and Transportation. From 2007 to 2010, Dr. Ribera coordinated workshops for the North America Agrifood Market Integration Consortium and the CAFTA-DR Agrifood Market Integration Consortium. The objective of these workshops was to foster agricultural market integration and minimize friction among trading partners through harmonization of policies, programs, and regulations. Since then, Dr. Ribera has been working extensively in the area on international agricultural trade mainly on specialty crops. Dr. Ribera has been part of 44 grants totaling \$20.63 million of which \$2.55 million are to directly support his applied research and extension work. Dr. Ribera has authored or co-authored 17 Extension publications and 243 presentations in conferences, workshops and seminars.

Research

As a compliment to his Extension programming as International Trade and Transportation Specialist, Dr. Ribera has undertaken applied research in farm management, risk analysis, biofuel production, climate change and transportation issues along the U.S.-Mexico border. Most of the research work that Dr. Ribera has been involved is feasibility studies of biofuel production, water use efficiency, and food safety. In his research appointment with Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Dr. Ribera has been working on adding stochastic capabilities to models developed by TTI, as well as congestions at the U.S.-Mexico border. Dr. Ribera has authored or co-authored 22 refereed journal articles, 24 peer reviewed selected papers, 5 book chapters and 44 TAMU publications. His work has appeared in such journals as: AJAE, JAAE, Choices, ASFMRA, and Agronomy Journal, among others.

SAEA Service

2009-2012 Distinguished Extension Program Award Committee.

2015-2017 Distinguished Master Thesis Award Committee.

SAEA Vision

I've been a member of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association since 2006 and it is by far the association that has helped me the most in my profession. The culture that exists in the SAEA is to support students and young faculty to thrive in our profession. I would like to help carry on with the same culture by increasing the visibility and output of our association. I believe that we need to continue our support to students to participate and get them more involved in our meetings. We need to encourage participation of our young faculty not only as moderators and/or authors of papers, but as leaders in our association. I would like to work as the link between students, young faculty and full professors to build on the success of the SAEA.

Andrew P. Griffith is an assistant professor and livestock economist in extension in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee. He earned his PhD in agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University in 2012, M.S. in agricultural economics at the University of Tennessee in 2009, and his B.S. in agricultural business at Tennessee Technological University in 2007. He has been a faculty member at the University of Tennessee since 2012. He is also actively engaged in production agriculture as he produces soybeans, hay, and cattle on his farm in Tennessee.

Research: Griffith's research focuses on livestock and forage production, management, marketing and risk management. His research has related to risk and returns of spring and fall calving beef cattle, impact of pre-partum supplemental feeding programs on retained ownership of cattle, the cost of feeding bred dairy heifers, managing warm season grasses in a dual-purpose system, warm season grasses impact on profitability in beef operations, and

several other projects. He has authored or coauthored 11 refereed journal articles and one book chapter as well as being principal investigator or co-principal investigator for nearly \$2.78 million. Griffith is currently leading a project evaluating a Tennessee branded beef program from the producer and consumer perspective.

Teaching: Griffith does not have a formal teaching appointment. However, he has guest lectured classes in animal science, plant science, agriculture leadership, education and communication, and in agricultural and resource economics at the University of Tennessee. He has also guest lectured at Virginia Tech University.

Outreach: Griffith has authored or coauthored 16 peer reviewed extension publications related to feedstuffs, land leasing, price risk management, beef cattle, dairy, small ruminant, and equine. He leads the Tri-State beef conference which is a cooperative effort between North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. He is currently leading the development of a small ruminant conference that is a cooperative effort between Alabama Extension and the University of Tennessee Extension. Additionally, he conducts numerous meetings each year for livestock production groups across Tennessee and the Southeastern United States as well as writing popular press articles for several publications each month.

Leadership, Service, and Awards: Griffith has served as secretary, vice president and most recently president of the Southern Extension Economics committee. He has served a three year term on the M.S. thesis award committee for SAEA. Griffith serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Livestock Marketing Information Center. He has served in numerous departmental roles at the University of Tennessee. He has received a first and second place poster award at the SAEA annual meeting and was awarded the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists early career award in 2014.

Vision for SAEA: I figure everyone has a vision or direction in which they think SAEA should be guided. A vision is similar to the beginning of a research project. It has a problem statement, an objective, methods to achieve those objectives, and anticipated outcomes. In recent years, SAEA leadership and its members have focused on bringing more attention to the JAAE, growing student participation, increasing membership, and helping young faculty get a foothold in the profession. There has been tremendous success in all aspects mentioned. However, as the profession evolves so must the association. The goal I have is to spur small changes consistently throughout my tenure to ensure the association moves toward being a leader in the discipline. One way of doing that is to increase involvement of industry and agricultural producers. I guess this is my Extension appointment showing itself. How can an association be relevant if they are not fully engaged with those for whom they are working? This is one reason I am actively involved in farming.

Voting Procedures for SAEA 2017 Officer Elections

All members in good standing (current dues paid) will receive an email message with voting instructions by the end of September. All ballots must be completed between October 1 and October 31, 2016 to be counted. Submit suggestions for future officers to an Executive Committee member.

