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As I was preparing to write this column, I first read our Past President's September note from last year. Lisa was noting that she hoped everyone had stayed safe in recent hurricanes and would not face too many issues with Irma. Unfortunately, Irma left a mark for all of us that attended the 2017 meetings in Jacksonville – at a hotel still repairing from the damage. And now, as I write this column in October, many in our region once again have been affected by hurricanes Florence and Michael. Again, we hope everyone stays safe and recovers quickly and can return to enjoying cooler temperatures, college football Saturdays, and the fall semester.

Although for some of us, the focus may be on weather for now, it is also time to prepare for the annual meetings. The upcoming SAEA Annual Meetings will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, February 2 – 5, 2019. We hope you will plan to join us this year. We look forward to the opportunities for research, teaching, extension, and industry professionals and graduate students to present to colleagues and discuss agricultural economic issues; and for undergraduates to participate in the Quiz Bowl, attend presentations, and network with colleagues at other universities. In addition, this year we continue the new tradition started last year and have special activities for graduate students. There will be a networking reception for graduate students on late Sunday afternoon (so plan on arriving early Sunday) and a special organized symposium or two focusing on student issues. Reports from last year's activities were that fun was had by everyone at the reception, and that continued into the meetings as many people made new friends and colleagues that will continue for a long time.

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 each 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.

Finally, please remember 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, <https://www.saea.org/membership/>. I look forward to seeing all of you in Birmingham!

**Deacue Fields, SAEA President**

## **2019 SAEA Annual Meetings**

Make your plans now to attend the 2019 SAEA Annual Meetings to be held in Birmingham, Alabama, February 2-5, 2019.

**What – SAEA Annual Meeting**

**Where – Sheraton Birmingham Hotel,**

2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N.

Birmingham, AL 35203

**When – February 2-5, 2019**

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

Registration will begin December 1, 2018. Access the SAAS website at [www.saasinc.org](http://www.saasinc.org) for more information about the 2019 meetings. Hotel Information for reservations is below and will be posted to the <http://www.saea.org> website.

RESERVATIONS: For lodging reservations, the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel has provided the following link. If you cannot click on it, copy and paste into your web browser.

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/SAAS2019>

Also, you can call the hotel at 205.324.5000 for reservations. Be sure to ask for the SAAS (Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists) group rate.

RATES: Single/Double \$139

Triple \$149; Quad \$159

(SAAS group rates apply 3 days prior and 3 days after meeting dates, if rooms are available.)

## **2019 ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL COMPETITION AT THE SAEA ANNUAL MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM, AL**

### **Undergraduates and Student Advisors!**

Please mark your calendars and start your plans for Birmingham! 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 Dusty Menzies, Undergraduate Committee Chair, to sign up for the competition. He can be reached by phone at (979) 845-7046 or email [d-menzies@tamu.edu](mailto:d-menzies@tamu.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.

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## Nominations for President-Elect

Lanier Nalley – University of Arkansas

Tim Woods – University of Kentucky

### Lanier Nalley



Lanier Nalley is a Professor in the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department at the University of Arkansas. He received his M.S. from Mississippi State University and Ph.D. from Kansas State University in Agricultural Economics in 2004 and 2007, respectively, and his B.S. degree Agricultural Economics with minors in Eastern European History and Development Studies at the Ohio State University in 2002.

**Research** Dr. Nalley's research is internationally recognized, particularly in the field of crop economics. Specifically, Dr. Nalley has gained international recognition for modeling the effects of climate change (increased temperature, increased frequency and intensity of extreme heat events, increased salinity, decreased rainfall, etc.) on rice and wheat yields. Dr. Nalley's research provides insights for plant-breeding efforts, public policy, and agricultural decision-making related to sustainability. Dr. Nalley's work is part of a larger effort to develop sustainable rice and wheat production worldwide with the aim of meeting present and future global food security needs while reducing the environmental footprint associated with production. Furthermore, Dr. Nalley's research provides insight into achieving sustainable global rice and wheat production in the face of climate change by integrating research approaches from economic, agronomic, soil, biological, hydrologic, and other scientific disciplines. He has authored or co-authored over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles in outlets such as the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Climatic Change, Agricultural Economics, Global Change Biology, PLOS One, and the Agronomy Journal, among others. He has received combined national and state funding as a principle or co-investigator of approximately \$6 million.

**Teaching** Nalley currently teaches an undergraduate course in international development and a graduate-level course in quantitative economics. He also leads a service-learning study abroad program in Mozambique each summer and supervises undergraduate and graduate internships in Swaziland at the Swaziland Economic Policy, Analysis, and Research Center. Nalley has won both the top College (Jack Justus award for teaching excellence) and University (Teaching Academy Fellow) teaching honors at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Nalley has mentored NSF graduate fellows, Fulbright, Marshall, Critical Language and Truman scholars.

**Outreach** Nalley held an extension appointment his first three years at the University of Arkansas and continues to disseminate pertinent results to Arkansas producers.

**University Leadership and Service** At the College level, he serves as a steering committee member for the interdisciplinary Environmental Dynamics PhD program. In the Department, Nalley is serving as the Honors College departmental representative. For the profession, Dr. Nalley has served as an editorial member of Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy (AEPP) and has reviewed for over 25 different journals.

**Awards** Nalley has received a variety of awards for teaching and research, including being inducted as a Fellow of the Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (2018), Dale Bumpers College, Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence (2017), Fulbright Specialist,

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United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (2017-2020), Southern Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Teaching of A Course Award for AGECE 4163 (2017), Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS) “Top 10 stories in 2015” and SAEA Assistant Professor Leadership Award (2012) to name a few.

**Vision for SAEA** My first professional conference was the SAEA in Little Rock in 2004 as a graduate student. I remember being thrilled at the opportunity to disseminate my research, what I thought at the time was ground breaking, to peers in agricultural and applied economics. It was during this time that I became engrossed in bettering myself as an agricultural economist, and during the 14 years since SAEA 2004, I have passionately sought to improve my research and use my skills to (1) solve everyday problems faced by farmers and the agricultural industry both domestically and internationally, (2) build upon and extend cutting-edge research in the field of crop economics and sustainability, and (3) mentor and train younger scientists to be successful in the field. As an SAEA presidential candidate, I envision stoking the fire of current graduate students and assistant professors to be dedicated to their research and sharing it with others today and 14 years from now at SAEA. As journals and research become almost entirely digital, I view it as vital to demonstrate the value of professional conferences and associations such as SAEA to the younger academic generation. My vision is to maintain the bonds that SAEA has created for me over the years and encourage and harbor new collaborations amongst the next generation of Agricultural Economists.

## **Tim Woods**



Tim Woods is a Professor of Agricultural Economics and state extension specialist in the area of agribusiness management and marketing at the University of Kentucky for 22 years. He is the faculty director for the UK Center for Crop Diversification and has devoted his time and energy to particularly help facilitate the development of small ag-related businesses and cooperatives that have promising innovative processes and/or products. He served as the staff economist to the Kentucky Governor’s Office of Ag Policy and Ag Development Board.

### **Extension, Research, and Teaching**

His work in local food systems, CSAs, farm entrepreneurship, business planning, cooperative development, consumer market research, and facilitating value-added enterprises for farmers and local food retailers has been presented at numerous professional meetings, and state and regional extension programs. He recently developed MarketReady, a nationally recognized best marketing practices education program for farmers selling to restaurants, grocery, and wholesale. He has worked extensively with agriculture in other countries, including programs in India, Ukraine, Romania, Indonesia, Thailand, Ecuador, Kenya and France, but greatly values local food systems – wherever they may be. Tim teaches Agribusiness Management and Marketing Horticultural Products at the University of Kentucky and has been the Agribusiness Club advisor for over 20 years. He has coordinated student participation in case study competitions at FDRS and AAEA as well as led multiple education abroad courses to France and Switzerland.

### **Professional Leadership and Service**

He is Past President of the Food Distribution Research Society and has been an active participant in regional research projects WERA-72, S-1067, SERA-45, and SERA 47. He has been active with both the SAEA and AAEA and is the in-coming chair of the AEM section.

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### **Professional Honors and Awards**

Woods was recently awarded the M.D. Whitaker Award for Career Excellence in Extension and the Frank Panyko Award for Distinguished Service by the FDRS. His Extension programs have been recognized by NIFA, Farm Credit, and UK. He was awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award in the College of Agriculture in 2013 and selected to participate in UK's Sustainable Pedagogies – a cohort of multi-disciplinary faculty working to develop methods and practices for teaching sustainability.

### **Statement of Interest and Vision for SAEA**

I have spent my career working with the Land Grant schools across the South. I have greatly benefitted from numerous collaborations with these colleagues through regional research projects and special initiatives directed at the southern states from USDA and partner agencies. The SAEA is in a unique position to provide needed leadership on a wide range of agricultural and community development issues. I share a conviction that SAEA has a responsibility to take up some of the challenging issues uniquely facing southern agriculture and to play a key role in helping farmers, agribusinesses, government, and consumer groups work toward better dialogue and understanding of the economic dimensions to these challenges.

I also see the SAEA playing a major role building capacity and opportunities for our graduate and undergraduate students. I think there are numerous opportunities to be developed along the lines of faculty-graduate student mentoring, better engaging agribusiness, agency, and government professionals in early career development, and coordinated skill building through distance learning innovations. I will continue to seek opportunities to innovate through collaboration through the SAEA with a view toward making the Association a valued resource for all of its members.

### **SAEA Nominations for Director**

Chris Boyer  
Zhifeng Gao

#### **Chris Boyer**



Chris Boyer is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee. He currently holds an 80% research and 20% teaching appointment. Chris earned a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State in Agricultural Economics in 2011, and a M.S. and B.S. from Texas A&M University in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness in 2008 and 2006, respectively.

#### **Research**

His research focuses on profitability and risk management tools for crop and livestock producers. Topics have ranged from profitable and sustainable nutrient management, irrigation investment, and planting date decisions for a variety of crops such as cotton, corn, soybeans, and hay production as well as important farm management decisions for livestock producers such as retained ownership and calving seasons.

#### **Teaching**

He teaches the undergraduate Farm Business Management, Executive Seminar Series, and Agricultural Production and Technology Management and the M.S. level econometrics. He has

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also guessed lectured numerous times in Plant Science and Animal Science courses. He advises undergraduate and graduate students within the department and serves on the department's undergraduate program committee.

### **Outreach**

He does not have a formal Extension appointment but has published several Extension publications and makes regular presentations to producers, ag lender and Extension agents.

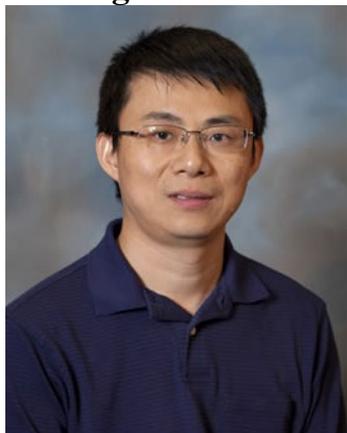
### **Professional Service**

Chris has served as abstract reviewer, moderator, and graduate student case competition judge for the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) annual meeting. He served on the Outstanding Master Thesis Award committee for the AAEA and currently serves on the Outstanding Master Thesis Award committee for the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA). He has moderated sessions at SAEA.

### **Vision for SAEA**

SAEA has made a tremendous impact on my career. The 2008 annual meeting was the first professional conference I presented research. As a student, the SAEA annual meetings provided me opportunities to network with other students and faculty, which were instrumental in me pursuing a Ph.D. and a career in education. As director, I would work to continue this culture of supporting our students and young professionals by attracting them to participate at the annual meeting. I will also focus on increasing the visibility of the SAEA member's research, teaching, and outreach programs to stakeholders through social media and popular press outlets.

## **Zhifeng Gao**



Zhifeng Gao is an Associate Professor in Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics (2007) from Kansas State University, a M.S. in Forestry Economics and Management (2002) from Beijing Forestry University, China and a B.S. in Engineering (1998) from Harbin Engineering University, China.

### **Research**

Gao research program aims to enhance understanding of the factors that affect individual behavior related to food choice and agriculture technology. He tries to answer the questions such as “what are consumer attitudes and preferences for selected food quality attributes”; “what factors affect consumer preferences and choices of food products”; “what are growers’ attitude and adoption of the new production technologies and farming practices”; and “what are the barriers to growers’ adoption of new technologies and practices.” He has published more than 50 articles in the journal such as Food Policy, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Ecological Economics, Agricultural Economics, Appetite, Food Quality and Preference, Public Opinion Quarterly, Journal of Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics, Applied Economics Policy and Perspectives, Agribusiness: International Journal. In the past ten years, Gao has acquired more than 1.5 million in grant (as PI or Co-P) to support his research program and the Department.

### **Teaching**

At UF Gao teaches three courses at graduate levels, including MS level Econometrics, Ph.D. level Microeconomics, and Ph.D. level course on the market and nonmarket valuation method. Gao is actively involved in advising undergraduate and graduate students. He has been on the committee

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of 57 graduate students, including chairing 13 Ph.D. students 11 M.S. students. His students have won numerous award at college and university levels.

### **Service to the profession**

Gao has been on the editorial board of the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics since 2017 and the editorial board of the Journal of Integrative Agriculture since 2015. Every year he reviews a large number of journal articles and papers/abstracts for professional conferences such as AAEA. He has also been the reviewer for grant proposals for USDA and NSF. He has served as the judge of Quiz bowl and graduate student case study competition at AAEA. He has served in the AAEA employment center committee from 2013, which he chaired in 2015. He currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Food and Agricultural Marketing Policy Section of AAEA.

### **Vision for SAEA**

I would like to work with SAEA committees to increase the visibility and influence of SAEA by targeting students and professionals at all levels. SAEA would be more attractive to young professionals if more senior faculty actively participate in the association's activities. I would also like to help SAEA to raise its brand image by promoting high-quality research and research that focus on both regional and national level issues (including continuing the process to get the JAAE indexed). I would like to continue to working with the association to increase its impact by recruiting high impact publications in the journal. This will, in turn, help improve the reputation of SAEA.

### **Voting Procedures for SAEA 2018 Officer Elections**

All members in good standing (current dues paid) will receive an email message with voting instructions. All ballots must be completed between October 22 and November 26, 2018 to be counted. Submit suggestions for future officers to an Executive Committee member.

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## 2018-2019 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, please contact Deacue Fields at [dcfields@uark.edu](mailto:dcfields@uark.edu).

**Selected Papers Committee:** Susana Ferreira, University of Georgia (2019); Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University (2020); Michael Vassalos, Clemson University (2021).

**Lifetime Achievement Award Committee:** Eduardo Segarra (2019) Bill Herndon, Mississippi State University (2020); Kim Jenson, University of Tennessee (2021).

**SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award Committee:** John Westra, Louisiana State University (2019), Alan Hodges, University of Florida (2020); Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee (2021).

**SAEA Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award Committee:** Mikael Sandberg, University of Florida (2019); Dr. Lanier Nalley, University of Arkansas (2020); Mathew Interis, Mississippi State University (2021).

**Masters Thesis Award Committee:** Chris Boyer, University of Tennessee (2019); Michee Lachaud, Florida A&M University (2020); Naveen Adusumilli, Louisiana State University (2021).

**Ph.D. Dissertation Award Committee:** Tracy Boyer, Oklahoma State University (2019); Ryan Williams, Texas Tech University (2020); Denis Nadolnyak, Auburn University (2021).

**Poster Committee:** Tyler Mark, University of Kentucky (2019); Daniel Solis, Florida A&M University (2020); Ariun Ishdorj, Texas A&M University (2021).

**Undergraduate Committee:** Dusty Menzies, Texas A&M University; Jerrod Penn Louisiana State University.

**JAAE Editorial Team:** Editors Michael Reed and Sayed Saghaian, University of Kentucky.

**JAAE Editorial Council:** Jabir Ali, Institute of Cooperative and Corporate Management, India; Wade Brorsen, Oklahoma State University; Danny Campbell, University of Stirling, Scotland; Stephen Devadoss, Texas Tech University; Rebekka Dudensing, Texas A&M University; Zhifeng Gao, University of Florida; Jill Hobbs, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Wuyang Hu, Ohio State University; Kim Jenson, University of Tennessee; Ani Katchova, Ohio State University; Nicole Mason, Michigan State University; David Orden, Virginia Tech University; Michael Popp, University of Arkansas; Marc Ribaud, USDA-ERS; Ric Scarpa, Durham University, United Kingdom; Jesse Tack, Kansas State University; Renato Villano, University of New England, Australia; Nick Vink, Stellenbosch University; Chen Zen, University of Georgia; Yuqing Zheng, University of Kentucky.

**Nominating Committee:** Past-President Lisa House, University of Florida; President Deacue Fields, University of Arkansas; President-Elect Krishna Paudel, Louisiana State University.

**Social Planner for 2019 Meetings:** Jeff Jordan, University of Georgia; Marco Palma, Texas A&M University.

**IT/AV Committee for 2019 Meetings:** Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University; Michael Vassalos, Clemson University.

**Outreach and Engagement Committee:** Mohammad Ibrahim, Fort Valley State University (2019); and Joshua Maples, Oklahoma State University (2020).

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