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Greetings on behalf of the SAEA Board and myself. I suppose by now we are all getting pretty tired of the statements of ‘uncertain times’ and ‘let’s set up another Zoom meeting’. I wish I could say I had the magic wand in hand to change all this, but it surely feels like we’re going to be looking at a longer distance run rather than a sprint. All of our missions are being deeply affected – research, teaching, extension ... and yes, administration. Difficult economic circumstances create further challenges for universities, government agencies, agribusinesses, and farms. Students are in an especially difficult position right now both for learning, internships and other experiential learning, and job placement.

The good news is that disruption creates demand for economists. Issues of risk, business strategy, food access and security, economic development, consumer choice, farm management, policy, and the organization of industries all have exploded with new opportunities for analysis. Economists have important perspectives and unique tools to offer and the call to rise to the emerging need is one we can’t ignore. Further, there is a unique opportunity for learning as behaviors of consumers and organizations are being played out in a context few of us have before observed. I personally have been involved in listening sessions in a national local food systems adjustment project and have been inspired to hear about the creative adaptation across these short supply chains as sectors pivot to survive.

My final point is to emphasize the importance of professional engagement during this season. Many of our in-person meetings have gone virtual, making them actually easier to attend. They are also easier for our graduate students to attend. I know the WERA-72 Agribusiness group made the creative adjustment to meet virtually and then offer a series of seminars weekly. Attendance has been way up from previous years due to the ease of access and has certainly strengthened this network. I can see some of the advantages to flexibility around time and travel. Professional engagement in person obviously has its benefits, but it seems to be the season for silk purses from sow’s ears – so to speak.

There remains at this moment considerable uncertainty with regard to our in-person SAEA meetings scheduled for Irving, TX. Indeed, the SAEA Board has been looking hard at the best options available to us as in-person options continue to be highly uncertain into early 2021. We will certainly make every effort for timely communication regarding our annual meeting. We are committed to continuing the central mission of professional development and networking at SAEA and welcome ideas for best ways to adapt in our current situation and to bring innovative opportunities to our members.

Membership and Finances

SAEA membership remains strong. At our annual executive meeting held June 10, 2020, Jeff Jordan reported that our current active membership is 585. This membership number is a slight decrease from the 647 last year. Our financial positions remain strong, with total assets of \$266,178 as of May 31, 2020 – in spite of the turbulent markets. SAEA remains highly solvent given our historic expenditure levels.

Journal of Ag and Applied Economics

The JAAE has been successfully transitioned from co-editors Mike Reed and Sayed Saghaian (University of Kentucky) over to Carlos Carpio (Texas Tech), Olga Isengildina-Massa (Virginia Tech), and Dave Willis (Clemson). We are continuing to negotiate with Cambridge University Press toward continuance of our relationship with them and are mutually committed to strengthening our communication and promotion platform to better share out the publications and research resources provided through the journal. We will be looking for your engagement continuing to submit quality manuscripts and to share out those articles you feel are making an impact. Impacts for JAAE are trending strongly higher based on the tireless efforts of our past and current editors and we're excited to see the journal becoming an even more important platform for research in the future.

What's Next

The SAEA Board will be finalizing candidates for President-elect and Director for the upcoming term. We will be providing a slate of candidates in the upcoming September newsletter for your consideration. I'm extremely appreciative to our Directors, Board Officers, and Administrative support. It's a highly talented and deeply engaged group that works a great length behind the scenes to bring us the best quality of experience for the Association possible.

This newsletter provides our annual call for award nominations and professional contributions for participation in our annual meeting scheduled for Irving, TX in February 2021. While some uncertainty still remains regarding the format of this meeting, we highly encourage your nominations and contributions as we seek to recognize and share the excellent work being accomplished by our members. This is central to the mission of our Association. We will keep everyone up to date through the SAEA website and future newsletters.

Tim Woods, SAEA President

2021 SAEA Annual Meeting

Make your plans now to attend the 2021 SAEA Annual Meeting to be held in Irving, Texas, February 6-9, 2021.

What – SAEA Annual Meeting

Where – Irving Convention Center, Irving, Texas

When – February 6-9, 2021

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

Annual Meeting Note: The in-person format for the 2021 annual meeting is uncertain at this time. However, we highly encourage award nominations, paper, poster and symposium proposals and competition submissions to recognize and share the excellent work being accomplished by our members. Updates will be shared with members through the SAEA website and future newsletters and emails.

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 plaque 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 least 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 one pdf file for “Lifetime Achievement Award” by **September 30, 2020 11:59pm CDT** to <https://www.conftool.org/saea2021/>

Chair contact Dr. Krishna Paudel: kpaudel@agcenter.lsu.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 Editor, 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
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 2019 through August 2020 issues will routinely be considered by the selection committee composed of the *JAAE* Editor, Associate Editor, 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 economist(s) nominated and a brief summary of course covered by nomination.
3. A copy of formal evaluations and description of teaching aids or materials supporting nomination (e.g., video 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 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 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.
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2. A department may submit one nomination for each twelve doctoral dissertations or fraction thereof presented to a graduate school faculty in the 2019-2020 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 for each award in one pdf file for Southern Agricultural Economics Association Distinguished Professional Contributions Awards by **September 30, 2020 11:59pm CDT** to <https://www.conftool.org/saea2021/>

Chair contact Dr. Krishna Paudel: kpaudel@agcenter.lsu.edu

CALL FOR EMERGING SCHOLARS AWARDS

The Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) is soliciting nominations for the 2021 “Emerging Scholar” awards. These awards are designed to highlight the work of high-performing early-career professionals in our profession. To be eligible, an applicant must, by May 8, 2020, be no more than 7 years from having received a terminal degree. Previous Emerging Scholar Award winners are not eligible to be nominated again. Nominations are encouraged from both within and outside the Southern region of the United States. Each institution, however, is limited to one nomination. Nominees need not be current members of the SAEA.

Those selected for this award will be expected to present during an invited symposia session at the 2021 annual meeting in Irving, Texas. Presentations may be empirical or conceptual and can address topics related to research, extension, or instruction. All presentations are expected to be of high quality and to address issues on the frontier of knowledge in a given subject matter area. Recipients of the Emerging Scholar awards will be recognized at the SAEA business meeting and will receive a \$300 honorarium.

Nominations must include a brief statement (no more than one page) regarding the nominee’s qualifications, a one-page presentation proposal, and a two-page curriculum vitae.

Submit all nomination materials in one pdf file for “Emerging Scholar Awards” by **September 30, 2020 11:59pm CDT** to <https://www.conftool.org/saea2021/>

Chair contact **Dr. David Anderson**: danderson@tamu.edu

CALL FOR 2021 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 or poster proposal, at least one author must be an SAEA member at the time of the submission deadline September 30, 2020, 11:59 pm CDT. Membership information can be found [here](#). Each presenter may only submit one paper and one poster. However, authors may be listed on multiple papers and posters.

II. Submission Guidelines: In order to submit, authors must create a user account at the conference site: <https://www.conftool.org/saea2021/>. Upon registration, authors can submit their proposals at the same site. The submission phase will close **September 30, 2020 11:59 CDT**. Acceptance decisions will be communicated to authors by October 30, 2020.

SAEA requires the authors of accepted papers to upload an electronic version of the final paper or PowerPoint presentation at the conference site <https://www.conftool.org/saea2021/>, by **January 13, 2021 11:59 pm CDT**. Failure to upload a manuscript or presentation at the conference site 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.

Please contact **Dr. Michael Vassalos**, Clemson University, by email at mvassal@clemson.edu for questions about Selected Papers or Posters.

CALL FOR ORGANIZED SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS

I. Eligibility Guidelines: The purpose of an organized symposium is to stimulate discussion of a single theme or problem related to current concerns in agricultural and environmental 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. Proposals where none of the contributors is a SAEA member will not be considered. Detailed information about how to become a member can be found by visiting www.saea.org.

II. Submission Guidelines: Organized Symposium proposals must be submitted as one pdf file for "Organized Symposium Session Proposal" by **September 30, 2020 11:59pm CDT** to <https://www.conftool.org/saea2021/>. The submitting member is responsible for the completion and accuracy of entered information.

III. Submission Procedure: Please follow the following outline when developing the session proposal:

Title: Symposium title.

Organizer: Please include address, phone number, and email address.

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? Abstract should be no more than 200 words.

Time: Specify time allocated to formal statements by presenters, discussion among presenters, and audience participation.

IV. **Selection, Presentation, and Publication:** Acceptance decisions, based on evaluations by a committee formed among the SAEA membership, will be communicated to the symposia organizers by **November 15, 2020**. 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 part of the period should include open discussion involving the audience. Abstracts of selected symposia will be published on the SAEA website. Authors are encouraged to develop a full paper and submit to *JAAE* where the paper will go through the journal's standard review process.

Chair contact **Dr. David Anderson:** danderson@tamu.edu.

CALL FOR 2021 DISSERTATION JOB MARKET PAPER COMPETITION

Eligibility Guidelines: You must be an advanced level Ph.D. student to submit the paper. Job market or job market equivalent papers addressing any aspects of agricultural, food, environmental/resource, or applied economics are welcome. A student can submit only one paper and submitting to this program does not preclude him/her from submitting a similar paper to regular selected paper/poster session. To submit you must be an SAEA member at the time of the submission deadline September 30, 2020, 11:59 pm CDT. Membership information can be found [here](#).

II. Submission Guidelines: In order to submit, authors must create a user account at the conference site: <https://www.conftool.org/saea2021/>. Upon registration, authors can submit a two-page long (single or double space) proposal divided into introduction, objectives, method, results, and conclusions sections. The paper should have no more than one coauthor and the presenting student should be the first author of the paper. The submission phase will close **September 30, 2020 11:59 pm CDT**.

We will accept the top 10 abstracts for presentation consideration. The authors of accepted abstracts must submit their full paper to "Dissertation Job Market Paper Competition" on the [conftool site](#) by **December 1st**. Authors of the accepted papers will give a 15-minute long presentation at the meeting. Papers will be evaluated based on the quality as well as whether authors are successful in conveying the major ideas at the presentation. The three top competitors will receive monetary awards (1st-\$300, 2nd-\$200, and 3rd-\$100) and certificates from the association.

Chair contact **Dr. Krishna Paudel:** KPaudel@agcenter.lsu.edu

CALL FOR 2021 3MT COMPETITION

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is an academic research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland, Australia. The competition challenges M.S. students to present a compelling talk in three minutes using a single static PowerPoint slide that excites their audience about their thesis research. Examples presentations are at threeminutethesis.org.

I. Eligibility Guidelines: You must be a current M.S. student to be considered for this category of submission. Thesis topics addressing any aspects of agricultural, food, environmental/resource, or applied economics are welcome. To submit, you must be an SAEA member at the time of the submission deadline September 30, 2020, 11:59 pm CDT. Membership information can be found [here](#).

II. Submission Guidelines: Prospective presenters must create a user account at the conference site: <https://www.conftool.org/saea2021/>. Upon registration, presenters can submit their thesis title at the same site to “Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition”. The submission phase will close **September 30, 2020 11:59 CDT**.

All submissions from qualified presenters will be accepted. Presentations using a single static PowerPoint slide are limited to 3-minute maximum. The single slide must be submitted by **January 13, 2021 11:59 pm CDT**. The other rules for the competition are found at <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources/competition-rules>. The three top competitors will receive monetary awards (1st–\$200, 2nd–\$150, and 3rd–\$100) and certificates from the association.

Chair contact Dr. James Larson: jl Larson2@utk.edu

2020-2021 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 Tim Woods at tim.woods@uky.edu.

Selected Papers Committee: Michael Vassalos, Clemson University (2021); Chris Boyer, University of Tennessee (2022), Rebekka Dudensing, Texas A&M University (2023).

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee: Kim Jenson, University of Tennessee (2021); Stephen Devadoss, Texas Tech University (2022).

SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award Committee: Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee (2021), Michael Deliberto, Louisiana State University (2022), Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky (2023).

SAEA Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award Committee: Mathew Interis, Mississippi State University (2021); Ram Acharya, New Mexico State University (2022), Roger Brown University of Kentucky (2023).

Master’s Thesis Award Committee: Naveen Adusumilli, Louisiana State University (2021); Jeff Luckstead, University of Arkansas. (2022), Jeff Vitale, Oklahoma State University (2023).

Ph.D. Dissertation Award Committee: Denis Nadolnyak, Auburn University (2021); Ashok Mishra, Arizona State University (2022), Tyler Mark, University of Kentucky (2023).

Poster Committee: Ariun Ishdorj, Texas A&M University (2021); Aditya Khanal, Tennessee State University (2022), Seong Yun, Mississippi State University (2023).

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

3MT Thesis Committee: Jim Larson, University of Tennessee (Chair); Kalyn Coatney, Mississippi State University; Yangxuan Liu, University of Georgia; Xuqi Chen, University of Tennessee.

Ph.D. Job Market Paper Competition Committee: (*Ad Hoc* chair, President, SAEA); Darrel Bosch, Virginia Tech; Ruiqing Miao, Auburn University; Zhifeng Gao, University of Florida.

Industry Committee: Basanta Dhungana, Agilent Technology (Chair); Irfan Tareen, Center; Laxmi Paudel, Fannie Mae

JAAE Editorial Team: Editors Carlos Carpio (Texas Tech), Olga Isengildina-Massa (Virginia Tech), and Dave Willis (Clemson).

JAAE Editorial Council: Bustanul Arifin, University of Lampung, Indonesia; Christopher Boyer, University of Tennessee; Wade Brorsen, Oklahoma State University; Danny Campbell, University of Stirling, Scotland; Bo Chen, Huazhong Agricultural University, China; Sheldon Du, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Mariah Ehmke, University of Wyoming; Xiaoli Etienne, West Virginia University; Pan Fanghui, Northeast Agricultural University (China); Matthew Fannin, Louisiana State University; Thomas Glauben, University of Halle (Germany); Valentina Hartarska, Auburn University; Jill Hobbs, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Vardges Hovhannisyan, University of Wyoming; Wuyang Hu, Ohio State University; George Norton, Virginia Tech; Gokhan Ozertan, Bogazici University, Turkey; Dustin Pendell, Kansas State University; Jeffrey Reimer, Oregon State University; Ric Scarpa, Durham University, United Kingdom; Jill Stowe, University of Kentucky; Chen Zen, University of Georgia.

Nominating Committee: Past-President Krishna Paudel, Louisiana State University; President Tim Woods, University of Kentucky; President-Elect David Anderson, Texas A&M University.

Social Planner for 2021 Meetings: Jeff Jordan, University of Georgia; Marco Palma, Texas A&M University.

IT/AV Committee for 2021 Meetings: Chris Boyer, University of Tennessee, Rebekka Dudensing, Texas A&M University.

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