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I am encouraged to see 2021 already offering so many new beginnings. The disruptions of our past year have been beyond any of us could have imagined a year ago when we all met in person for our annual meetings in Louisville. Changes for all of us have presented both personal and professional difficulties. But I have also been extremely impressed at the resilience of our profession to respond to the bell – stepping up and adapting to meet the new needs expressed by students, our Extension communities, research communities, and public service. Food, agriculture, and natural resources have necessarily been front and center in the public discourse, both for food security, community development, and risk management for our farms and food supply chains. There has never been a stronger need for ag economists.

Our public health environment still limits us from much in-person meeting, but our SAEA membership has been resilient to keep engaged during this time of need when working together has been a critical as ever. While we are adapting with our first virtual SAEA meeting in 2021, there is good reason to hope that we will again be together in person next year.

We have a wonderful SAEA program this year. Although not being able to network and exchange as we prefer in person, we have the great advantage of having the sessions and activities much more accessible. I've noticed many professional groups engaging a much wider audience during this past year because travel costs and time were not as constraining. I invite you to step up and participate in our virtual program for 2021 and keep your engagements with the Association strong.

I would like to express my appreciation to our SAEA Board of Directors and Officers that have work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our Association thriving, including lots of planning and preparation for the upcoming meetings. I personally would like to thank Krishna Paudel for his efforts as past-President. We have a great system of Directors and Officers that depends heavily on volunteer service from those with a personal commitment to building a better Association for the benefit of all. Finally, I would like to thank Jeff Jordan. SAEA depends so heavily on his experience and administrative skills. He handles the diverse personalities of our SAEA leadership with masterful and humorous diplomacy. We owe him much as an Association.

Tim Woods, *SAEA President*

2020-21 SAEA President and Board Elections

We are pleased to announce the election of **Rodney Holcomb** from Oklahoma State University as the new in-coming President of SAEA.

We are pleased to announce the election of **Mallory Vestal** from West Texas A&M University as the new in-coming member of our Board of Directors.

Each will be introduced at the SAEA meetings in February and will begin their service during those meetings. Please welcome them each as you are able.

We greatly appreciate the willingness of Tyler Mark and Kelly Grogan for their willingness to be considered in these elections. The SAEA is truly gifted with a great community of emerging leaders.

Register for the 2021 SAEA Annual Meeting

The 2021 Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting is just around the corner. It will be held virtually by Zoom February 7-9, 2021. Please visit the annual meeting website <https://saea2021.org/> to find the schedule of sessions and registration. All times are **Central Time**. While you're on the site, please register for the conference and start building your schedule so you don't miss the sessions that interest you. The annual meeting is set up with the same format on Monday and Tuesday as previous annual meetings with concurrent selected paper and organized symposium sessions, Three Minute Thesis and Job Market Paper competitions, Lifetime Achievement Awards and Emerging Scholars presentations, SAEA business meeting, and the Presidential Address. The Quiz Bowl for our students will be held on Sunday, February 7 beginning at 9am CST. A Past-Presidents Forum has been added this year on Monday, February 8, at 8:30am CST. The individual registration fee is \$40. Join us as we recognize and share the excellent work being accomplished by our members.

2021 SAEA Academic Quiz Bowl

Undergraduates and Student Advisors!

Once again, the Student Section of the SAEA will be coordinating the Academic Quiz Bowl competition. We will be holding the 2021 Quiz Bowl as a virtual event through Zoom. Teams will be randomly assigned as in the past. There will be a central Zoom game room which will have a moderator to send teams to breakout rooms for their competitions, update the bracket, and answer questions. Click on the following for Game Procedures and Quiz Bowl Registration, <https://saea2021.org/quiz-bowl/>.

Contact Dusty Menzies, Undergraduate Committee Chair, if you have any questions. He can be reached by phone at (979) 845-7046 or email d-menzies@tamu.edu. Also, note that the registration fees for advisors at schools who have not participated in the last three years will be waived.



Calling All Followers!

The Association and the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (JAAE) are now on Twitter. Follow both to keep up with SAEA updates and new JAAE articles and issues.

Association: [@SAEA_Economics](#)

Journal: [@JAAE_Journal](#)

2022-2022 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 David Anderson at danderson@tamu.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), Mary Marchant, University of Kentucky (2023).

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.
