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President's Column

July 2016



In closing out my Presidential year, I am optimistic about the vibrant direction and impacts of our research as agricultural and applied economists. I am simultaneously appreciative of the foundations that were laid by those who came before me

and the innovations of those going forward. Agricultural and applied economics started as the problem-driven study of farm economics and farm management. In studying these areas, agricultural economics researchers were the first applied econometricians. Working's 1926 paper on statistical demand analysis is considered a seminal article in the field of demand and price analysis. The study of differentiated products, and specifically hedonic methods, is traced to Waugh's 1928 analysis of quality in vegetable markets. Empirical innovations remain a major thrust of our research as a profession. As Jayson Lusk will discuss in his upcoming Presidential Address, agricultural and applied economists are well-positioned to contribute research in top economics journals as published contributions become increasingly empirical, partly in response to growing data quality and availability. With increased computing power and access to big data, it is possible to conduct more granular analyses, and obtain results that attain a closer fit to the real world. Thus, the impact of such analyses can potentially be greater.

[David Zilberman notes in his blog](#) that farmers' decision making under uncertainty has long been a major topic of agricultural economics. Trying to understand some of the farmer choice outcomes leads us to the behavioral economics paradigm. Behavioral economics extends the traditional approach to economic analysis by incorporating findings from other disciplines in the behavioral sciences. In particular, while economists have historically restricted their attention to the roles of price, income, and information in driving consumer choice, behavioral economists allow for the possibility that cognitive, social, and emotional factors may be important in certain situations, especially in designing policy. On this point, David Nussbaum argues, "the goal of behaviorally informed policy is to make it easier for people to make good decisions, while preserving their ability to freely choose." It follows that we, as agricultural and applied economists, can then rigorously evaluate which policies work in order to increase their effectiveness.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston. Please join in the discussions that follow the outstanding presentations that will be given. Our group is large enough so that there is enriching diversity of topics, thinking, and approaches. As we interact across sub-fields and projects, I hope that many new insights will be gained.

References:

Nussbaum, D. (2015). "How the science of human behavior is beginning to reshape the US government," available at <https://theconversation.com/how-the-science->

of-human-behavior-is-beginning-to-reshape-the-us-government-48145

Waugh, F. 1928. "Quality Factors and Vegetable Prices." *Journal of Farm Economics* 10: 185-96.

Working, E. J. 1926. What Do Statistical Demand Curves Show? *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 41: 212-235.

AAEA Business Meeting

Monday, August 1, 8:00-8:30 am

AAEA's annual Business Meeting will be held during the annual meeting in Boston on Monday, August 1, in Salons E/F. This meeting gives members the chance to hear about the state of the association. Updates will be given by the AAEA President, the Finance Committee, and the AAEA Trust Committee. Additionally, Board Members and Editors who are completing their terms will be recognized for their service. Lastly, those in attendance will be given an opportunity to voice any questions or concerns that they may have. We hope you'll join us in Boston.

AAEA ANNUAL MEETING
BOSTON
MASSACHUSETTS ★★★★★★
2016 July 31 - August 2

AAEA is Now Mobile!

The AAEA Annual Meeting app is live! Be sure to download this years **#AAEA2016** Annual Meeting app before arriving in Boston. The app will help you manage your networking, schedules, social media, and much more at the palm of your hand.

Download it for **FREE** to your iPhone, iPad, or Android. Once installed, you'll have instant access to all of the awesome features. Logging in to the app and adding yourself to the "Attendee" list will help you get the most out of the app features.

Some other ways to have the best experience at our Annual Meeting in Boston:

- Access the Annual Meeting **schedule** and customize your agenda with personal appointments
- Quickly find a session room using the **interactive maps**
- **Find sessions** by topic code, AAEA Section Track, or by using the search tool
- Get important **updates** on the app through Push Notifications
- See who's attending and share contact information by networking with other **attendees**

Ready to get started? Click [HERE](#) from your device. If you use Apple or Android, you can also search for "AAEA" in the iTunes store or Play store. Just look for the AAEA logo!

Have questions? Let us know and we'll be happy to answer them. Just call (414)918-3190 or email Info@aaea.org.



The 2016 Class of AAEA Fellows

The AAEA Fellows Selection Committee has selected five outstanding members to be honored as the [2016 AAEA Fellows](#). All of the Fellow recipients have made exceptional contributions to the profession. They are leaders shaping the future of the Association and the field of agricultural and applied economics as a whole.



[Klaus W. Deininger](#)
[World Bank](#)



[Jikun Huang](#)
[Peking University](#)



[Madhu Khanna](#)
[University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign](#)



[John A. Miranowski](#)
[Iowa State University](#)



[Junjie Wu](#)
[Oregon State University](#)



Register for the 2016 Employment Center

Registration is now open for the **2016 Employment Center** taking place July 31–August 2, during the [2016 AAEA Annual Meeting](#) in Boston, MA. The Employment Center offers a great opportunity for highly qualified candidates to connect with a number of employers during the Joint Annual Meeting. This year's Employment Center features a simplified registration and posting process that is now integrated into the newly updated [AAEA Job Board](#). Applicant registration is **FREE**.

For more information please visit the online [Employment Center](#). If you have any questions please feel free to contact [Sarah Kenner](#) (414) 918–3190. We hope to see you in Boston!

Employers currently registered include:

- Virginia Tech
- Auburn University
- University of Saskatchewan, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- International Initiative for Impact Evaluation
- USDA–Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services
- USDA–Economic Research Service
- University of Wisconsin – River Falls
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln
- Landcare Research New Zealand
- Colorado State University
- Michigan State University
- University of Florida
- University of Minnesota
- South Dakota State University
- University of Arizona

Call for Judges:

SS-AAEA Academic Bowl

The Student Section seeks judges for the 2016 SS-AAEA Academic Bowl. The Academic Bowl is held during the AAEA annual meeting; this year's event runs from July 31–August 2 at the Boston Marriott Copley. The actual competition will run from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Monday, August 1. The highest demand for judges takes place early in the day when we are operating in three rooms for the competition. Depending on the number of teams competing, we should require just two rooms from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Please email timothy.meyer@sdstate.edu if you are able to judge and list your time preferences/availability in the following time slots:

- 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
- 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

If your university is bringing a registered team or two to compete, please let me know how many students you intend to bring. Finally, if you cannot judge, but know someone who can who is not a recipient of this email, please pass on the information.

Please consider making this small time commitment; it is a great investment in the future of Applied and Agricultural Economics. Email Timothy Meyer at timothy.meyer@sdstate.edu with your availability at the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston.

Other News

Call for Participation:

2016 FDRS Student Marketing Case Competition

The 2016 Student Marketing Case Competition will be held on October 1st and 2nd during the Annual Conference of the Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS). The Conference will be held from September 30th – October 4th at the Downtown Marriott at the Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

During this live case study competition, students role play as consultants and have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of food distribution, marketing, management, economics and merchandising, as they compete to give a presentation for a mystery company over the two day event. Teams in the final round make their bid presentation directly to the company's executive team. Details about the company are withheld from all teams until

the morning of the contest, except for minimal topic guidance provided two weeks prior to the competition.

Teams may consist of 3–5 undergraduate and masters-level students, with undergraduate students comprising the majority. Registration fees are \$350 per team, and teams need to be registered for the competition by **August 31, 2016**. Registration includes attendance to all FDRS case events. The top three teams will split \$1000 in prize money.

Additional information is available at <https://www.fdrsinc.org/2016-fdrs-annual-conference-in-new-orleans/>. Please direct any inquiries about the competition to Dr. Lurleen Walters (lurleen.walters@msstate.edu), FDRS VP of Student Programs.

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program provides opportunities for college and university faculty, scientists, practicing professionals, and independent scholars to conduct research and teach in over 125 countries during the 2017–2018 academic year.

Below is a highlighted list of awards across the [sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics](#) that further demonstrate the breadth of interest in scholarship and teaching around the world:

- **Cameroon:** [All Disciplines](#)
- **Czech Republic:** [Fulbright-Czech Technical University Distinguished Chair in Electrical Engineering](#)
- **India:** [Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Fellows](#)
- **Mexico:** [Science and Technology](#)
- **Philippines:** [Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization](#)
- **Tunisia:** [Engineering](#)

This list is by no means comprehensive – the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program offers more than 160 awards across the STEM fields. Further, All Disciplines awards may also be of interest if discipline-specific opportunities do not match your expertise. All Disciplines opportunities are offered in nearly every country, including: [Azerbaijan](#), [Brazil](#), [Cameroon](#), [Kyrgyz Republic](#), [Malaysia](#), and [Sri Lanka](#).

Please visit our [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics webpage](#) for more awards, examples of successful projects, and scholar testimonials highlighting the outcomes and benefits associated with completing a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant.

For eligibility factors, detailed application guidelines and review criteria, please follow this link: <http://cies.org/program/core-fulbright-us-scholar-program>.

You may wish to view one of our [webinars](#) (such as [STEM opportunities](#) and [How to Craft a Project Statement](#)) and join [My Fulbright](#), a resource center for applicants interested in the program. **Applicants must be U.S. citizens** and the current competition will close on **August 1, 2016**.

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Submit all items to:

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Job Opportunities

- [Postdoctoral Research Associate in Agricultural Economics](#)
University of Florida (Posted: 07/15/2016)
- [Post-Doctoral Researcher in Agribusiness](#)
The Ohio State University
(Posted: 07/15/2016)
- [Assistant or Associate Professor](#)
Texas A&M University-Kingsville
(Posted: 07/14/2016)
- [Senior Researcher in Natural Resource Economics](#)
University of Idaho Policy Analysis Group (Posted: 07/14/2016)

*These current positions and more can
be found on the [AAEA Job Board](#)*