

President's Column



May 2016

I am pleased to congratulate **Scott Swinton** as the incoming President-Elect of AAEA. I previously served on the Board with Scott, and I know he will be excellent in this role. I am also happy to welcome **Jeffrey Dorfman** and **Madhu Khanna**

as incoming AAEA Directors. I have had the pleasure of interacting with both Jeff and Madhu over the years and will be pleased to have their wisdom and insights as new members of the Board. I want to also thank the other superb individuals who stood for election for their dedication to the profession and willingness to serve.

I am looking forward to the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting, which will take place July 31 to August 3 in Boston, MA. The program looks exceptional, and I encourage anyone who is considering attending to make plans now. Boston is a fantastic place to visit in the summer, with a great deal of interesting and attractive things to see and do while you are not attending meeting activities; and, most importantly, the professional and intellectual climate of the meetings will be outstanding.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Priorities and Solutions strategic-visioning workshop, which took place on May 2 and 3 in Washington, D.C. The workshop was facilitated by C-FARE in partnership with AAEA and other cooperating organizations. Some outstanding

speakers opened the workshop and motivated the discussions including Rob Johansson, USDA Chief Economist; Cathy Woteki, USDA Chief Scientist; Mary Bohman, ERS Administrator; and Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA Director. Gene Nelson presented the results of the survey of AAEA membership that preceded the workshop. The second day started with provocateur presentations from Keith Coble, Jayson Lusk, Jim Vercammen, Madhu Khanna, Gopi Munisamy, and Mike Woods. The participants then split into groups to identify key challenge areas and reported back to the entire group. We received excellent input from the participants, including encouragement to consider non-traditional issues in applied economics, along with our existing focus on agricultural and natural resource economics. Gene Nelson, Caron Gala, and I will work with the steering committee to compile the results from the workshop. We invite you to attend a session at the AAEA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 2, where the results to this point will be presented and additional input requested. This session starts at 11:30 am and attendees are welcome to pick up some food from the networking lunch and bring it along to the room.

Also, if you are an employer who will potentially hire agricultural and applied economists in the coming year, please consider the AAEA Annual Meeting as a way to meet potential job candidates. Informational interviews and networking are great ways to better understand the potential pool of applicants and those who are a good fit for positions. Students who are going on the job market in the coming year should sign up with the

[AAEA Employment Center](#) and attend the Early Career Professionals Networking Reception on Saturday, July 31 at 4:30pm.

As I complete my Presidential year, I want to thank all of the AAEA volunteers and EDI and C-FARE staff, who do so much for the AAEA. We are stronger and have greater impact on our

profession, students, industry, and policy when we work together.

See you in Boston!

Jill McCluskey
AAEA President

AAEA News

Registration & Housing are Open

The majority of the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting activities will take place at the **Boston Marriott Copley Place** in Boston, MA. Room blocks have been secured and all rooms are on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline date for the AAEA group rate is **Thursday, July 7**.



The Marriott Copley AAEA room block is currently full. Other options in the area are:

[The Westin Copley Place, Boston](#) and [Sheraton Boston Hotel](#)

Registration:

Attendees will have access to concurrent sessions, plenary sessions, the Poster Reception and Welcome Reception on Sunday night, and the Closing Reception on Tuesday night. Tickets for the [luncheons, reception](#), and [Pre-and Post-conference Workshops](#) are not included with the main registration fee, but can be purchased online up until July 8, (or until the maximum registration for workshops are reached) or by contacting the AAEA Business Office at (414)918-3190.

[Register Online](#)

[Download PDF Form](#)

Registration Prices:

Type	Advanced (May 26– July 8)	On-site (After July 8)
Professional Member	\$480	\$555
Professional Non-Member	\$630	\$705
Senior Member	\$370	\$445
Senior Non-Member	\$490	\$565
Graduate Student Member	\$140	\$180
Graduate Student Non-Member	\$265	\$310

**Undergraduate registrations done via telephone, (414) 918-3190.*

Beautifully appointed and perfectly located, the Boston Marriott Copley Place inspires truly unforgettable experiences for business and leisure travelers. The hotel places you in the heart of downtown Boston's famed Copley Square, just a short distance from some of the city's most popular attractions. Sophisticated rooms and suites offer plush bedding and high-speed Internet access; some also feature Charles River views. Enjoy delicious American dining and a vibrant atmosphere at the hotel sports bar, Champions, or stop by Connexion Lounge for a glass of wine. Relax after a busy day by swimming a lap or two in the heated indoor pool. Your downtown adventure begins at the Boston Marriott Copley Place.

Boston Marriott Copley Place
110 Huntington Ave,
Boston, MA 02116



To register or book your stay, please visit the [2016 AAEA Annual Meeting Site](#).

2016 AAEA Annual Meeting Travel Grants-Applications extended to May 27

The AAEA Trust is accepting applications for Travel Grants for Graduate Students and Early Career Professionals attending the meeting July 31–August 2. These grants defray housing and transportation costs. The amount of the travel grant awarded will depend on a variety of factors, including: number of applications received, financial need of the applicant, and expected active participation in the Annual

Meeting. Applications have been extended to May 27.

To learn more about the 2016 Travel Grants visit the Annual Meeting website:
<http://www.aaea.org/meetings/2016-aaea-annual-meeting/presenters/am16-travel-grants>

Renew Your AAEA Membership for 2016

You can now renew your AAEA membership for 2016 on the [AAEA website](#). Simply log in to the “My Account” section to renew. Completing your renewal online saves you time by filling out most of the information for you automatically.

The benefits of your AAEA membership only last through the spring of 2016, so be sure to renew

soon to ensure you keep receiving services from AAEA throughout the upcoming year.

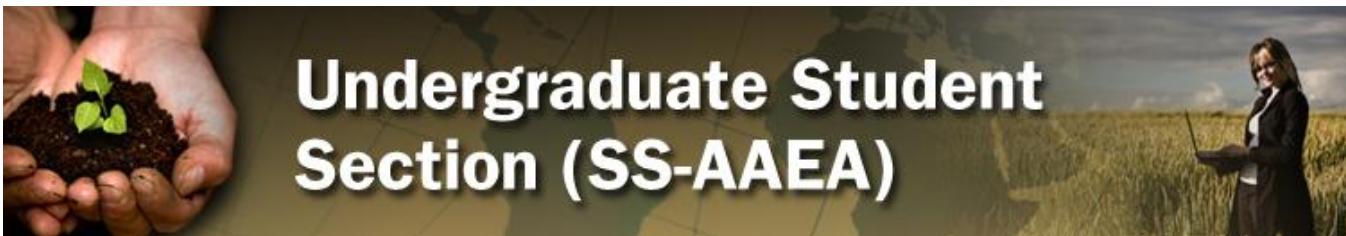


Register for the 2016 Employment Center

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](#). We hope to see you in Boston!



Undergraduate Student Section:

2016 AAEA Annual Meeting Activities

On behalf of the [Undergraduate Student Section](#) of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, we cordially invite you and your students to attend and participate in the AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston (July 31–August 2, 2016). Our section offers a wide variety of professional development opportunities for undergraduate students of agricultural and applied economics:

- Academic Bowl Competition
- Student Paper Competition
- Earl O. Heady Decision Sciences Spreadsheet Competition
- Outstanding Chapter Competition
- Creative Club Competition

In addition to the aforementioned competitions, students can interact with representatives of major graduate programs in our profession to discuss MS and PhD programs. Our reception on Sunday night (July 31, 2016) is a great opportunity for your students to meet and forge lifelong friendships with other students from over 20 domestic and several Canadian universities. On Monday night, immediately following the final round of the Academic Bowl Competition, we recognize and celebrate student accomplishments at the Awards Ceremony. Additionally on Monday night, in our section's business meeting, students have the opportunity to run for elected student leadership positions within our section.

To encourage participation, the student registration fees this year are only \$20 per student. As a further incentive to participate, there is a total of \$1,800 in prize money, various award plaques, and—

of course—bragging rights to be national champions in a given competition. All of the required registration forms, competition rules, and overview of the Undergraduate Student Section may be found at <http://www.aaea.org/membership/sections/ss-aaea/>. If you have any questions, please contact me at Tyler.Mark@uky.edu.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tyler Mark, *Assistant Professor*, University of Kentucky

Faculty Leadership:

Dr. Tyler Mark (Senior Advisor)
Dr. Timothy Meyer (Junior Advisor)
Dr. Maria Bampasidou (Sophomore Advisor)
Dr. Andrew Wright (Freshman Advisor)

Student Leadership:

Luke Benton (President)
Macy Herzog (Vice President)
Destinie Marshall (Secretary)
Andrew (Treasurer)
Hollie Koester (Public Relations)

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 in Boston, MA. 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.

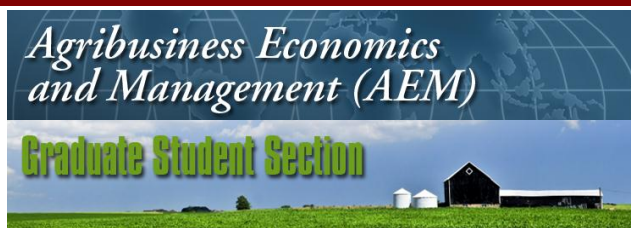
Please consider making this small time commitment; it is a great investment in the future of Applied and Agricultural Economics. Email Timothy Meyer at timothy.meyer@sdstate.edu with your availability at the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.



Call for Participation:
AEM/GSS Sections Case Study Competition

The AEM/Graduate Student Section Case Study Competition allows graduate students to test their communication skills and their ability to apply their

knowledge of agricultural economics and agribusiness subjects to practical situations. Students competing in the competition will receive a copy of the case study at least two weeks in advance of the AAEA annual meetings.



Rules

Each team should prepare an oral summary of their solution to the case that will last no more than 15 minutes. Presentations lasting longer than 15 minutes will be penalized. After the presentation, teams should be prepared to answer questions from the judges on their interpretation of the case.

Teams can be comprised of up to three graduate students. Students may either compete as a team from the same school, or may choose to be mixed with students from other schools. If there is only one student from a school that wants to participate, the student can compete on their own, or he/she can be matched with other students. In the case of teams that are matched with individuals from different universities, competitors will be notified of their teammates as soon as possible, but no later than the same day the case is announced.

Prizes

The top three teams will receive plaques and cash prizes.

- **First Place:** \$300
- **Second Place:** \$200
- **Third Place:** \$100

Specific Information

The number of rounds will be determined by the number of teams entered. The final round will be composed of the top 3 teams. In addition to plaques and cash prizes, the three finalist teams will also be recognized during the AAEA Awards Ceremony.

- **Sunday, July 31, 8:00am – 3:00pm:** First Rounds of Competition
- **Monday, August 1, 1:30pm – 4:00pm:** Final Round
- **Monday, August 1, 6:30pm – 7:30pm:** Awards Ceremony

*Students participating in the case study competition will need to be registered for the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting AND the Case Study Competition.

Students should register for the AAEA Annual Meeting through the 2016 Annual Meeting Registration Form which is available online at <http://www.aaea.org/meetings/2016-aaea-annual-meeting/registration>.

Each team must also complete the Case Study registration form identifying their teammates and send it to AAEEA no later than **June 13, 2016**. The form can be accessed online at <http://www.aaea.org/membership/sections/gss/case-study-competition>.

Please direct any questions regarding the 2016 AAEEA Case Study Competition to Dr. James Sterns (jsterns@oregonstate.edu) or GSS Section Chair, Clint Neill (clinton.neill@okstate.edu).

2016 Extension Competition for Graduate Students

AAEEA Boston, MA, July 31– August 2

The Extension and Graduate Student Sections of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association announce a competition for graduate students for 2016. This competition, sponsored jointly by the Extension Section and the Graduate Student Section, provides graduate student competitors the opportunity to develop extension and outreach programs from their research. The development of education materials and presentations suitable for a general public audience is expected. We encourage all departments with graduate students in agricultural economics, agribusiness, natural resource economics, community resource economics, applied economics or similar programs related to agriculture and/or the food system to inform their students about this important competition. [See full details for the competition here](#).

The purpose of the competition is to provide incentives to graduate students to learn to prepare and present appropriate analytical results for an extension (usually non-economist) audience. This can be based upon the graduate student's research for a thesis or dissertation. Participation in the competition is expected to enhance the professional growth of

the participating students regarding extension programs.

Eligible applicants are:

- Graduate students currently engaged in agricultural economics, agribusiness, natural resources, and community resource economics.
- Applied or similar economics MS or PhD programs related to agriculture and/or the food system.
- Those who graduated from such programs in 2015 or later.

Note: Participants must identify and work with a mentor with experience in outreach or extension activities.

Competition Application Information

Applications should be addressed to [Maria Marshall](#) and must include:

1. Student's name, university, department, address and contact information.
2. Title of the extension program to be delivered.
3. A summary of the proposed extension program. This should include target audience, delivery plans, communication methods and activities planned for distributing the information

to the public such as with fact sheets, pamphlets, press releases, reports, web sites, streaming videos, spreadsheets, workshops, PowerPoint presentations and training activities to be conducted (4 page maximum).

4. A profile of the student applicant's background as well as the related thesis title and brief description of the research (maximum 1 page).

5. The mentor's name, address and description of the mentor's role in assisting the student with this project.

Each finalist must develop oral and visual presentations (15-minutes in length) for delivery at the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. Following the 15-minute presentation the judges will have 5-minutes of questions. The competition begins at 8am on Sunday, July 31st.

The top three finalists are expected to make presentations during an AAEA Extension track session.

Cash awards will be given to those judged to be the top three graduate students in this competition. Award funding is provided the AAEA Extension Section. Awards are:

First Place: \$1,000 and a plaque

Second Place: \$300 and a certificate

Third Place: \$200 and a certificate

Applications must be submitted electronically no later than 5:00 pm on **May 31, 2016**.

Submit Entries to:

Dr. Maria Marshall

Competition Committee Chair

Department of Agricultural Economics

Purdue University

Phone: 765-494-4268

Email: mimarsha@purdue.edu

People Section

University of California, Berkeley

- Award: **Andrew Stevens**, AAEA, 2016 Graduate Student Teaching Award

University of California, Davis

- New Appointments: **Tina Saitone**, Cooperative Extension Specialist; **Ashish Shenoy**, Assistant Professor
- Appointment Change: **Rachael Goodhue**, Department Chair, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Awards: **Eliana Zeballos**, Ph.D., 2016, AAEA Institutional and Behavioral Economics Section (IBES), Best Student Paper
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: **Jisang Yu**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Kansas State University; **Eliana Zeballos**, Behavioral Economist, USDA ERS

International Food Policy Research Institute

- New appointment: **Gashaw T. Abate**, Research Coordinator



- Awards: **Akhter Ahmed**, **Lynette Aspillera**, **Melissa Hidrobo**, and **Shalini Roy**, World Bank Group and nonprofit Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), Award for Innovations to Prevent Gender-Based Violence; **Suresh Chandra Babu**, **Jikun Huang**, **P. Venkatesh**, and **Yumei Zhang**, Highly Commended Paper in the 2016 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence

University of Idaho

- New Appointments: **Hernan Tejeda**, Assistant Professor; **Katherine Lee**, Assistant Professor; **Norman Ruhoff**, Extension Economist
- Appointment Change: **Jason Winfree**, Associate Professor with tenure
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: **Anna Brown**, MS, Analyst, Economic Modeling Systems Inc; **Hannah Hallock**, MS, Analyst, Economic Modeling Systems Inc; **Yousef Bayomy**, MS Portfolio Analyst, Fisher Investments
- Leave: **Aaron Johnson**, June – December 2016



University of Maryland

- Awards: **James C. Hanson**, UMD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dean Gordon Cairns Award; **Aaron Adalja**, University of Maryland Graduate School's Outstanding GA Award; **Casey Wichman**, AAEA, Outstanding Dissertation Award
- Retirements: **Marc Nerlove**, 23 years of service at UMD, 60 years in field



Michigan State University

- New Appointments: **Vincenzina Caputo**, Assistant Professor; **Ayala Wineman**, Assistant Professor
- Appointment Changes: **Mark Skidmore**, Director of the North Central Region Center for Rural Development; **Mywish Maredia**, Director of the Food Security Project Innovation Lab
- Awards: **Tatevik Avetisyan**, **Andrea Leschewski**, **Kendra Levine**, **Leonard Polzin**, and advisor **Brent Ross**, 1st place at the 2015 IFAMA Graduate Student Case Competition; **Roy Black**, **Jim Hilker**, **David Schweikhardt**, and **Christopher Wolf**, 2015 Institute Team Award from MSU Extension; **Duncan Boughton** and **Eric Crawford**, MSU, Ralph H. Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs; **Saweda Liverpool-Tasie**, MSU, John K. Hudzik Emerging Leader in Advancing International Studies and Programs; **Nango Dembélé**, MSU, Joon S. Moon Distinguished International Alumni Award; **Anne Schneller**, MSU, Special Recognition Award for Promoting International Understanding.
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: **Kimberly Klaiman**, MS, Industry Economist, U.S. Department of Energy; **Leonard Polzin**, MS, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Minnesota; **Daniel Gough**, MS, Environmental Quality Analyst, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



University of Minnesota

- Awards: **Jason Kerwin**, Population Association of America, Dorothy S. Thomas Award; **Elizabeth Davis**, University of Minnesota, Distinguished Teaching Award; **Tade Okediji**, University of Minnesota, Distinguished Teaching Award
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: **Brook Krause**, PhD, Assistant Professor of Economics, College of Wooster; **Joseph Smith**, MS, Senior Quantitative Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; **Christina Peterson**, MS, Business Manager, Global Traits Licensing Syngenta; **Jaya Jha**, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Colby College
- Retirements: **Terry Roe**; **Ben Senauer**

**Mississippi State University**

- New Appointment: **Elizabeth Canalas**, Assistant Extension Professor
- Appointment Changes: **Steve Turner**, Director of the Southern Rural Development Center 9SRDC; **Keith Coble**, Interim Department Head of Agricultural Economics



MISSISSIPPI STATE
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University of Missouri

- Awards: **Chris Bossen**, CAFNR, University of Missouri, Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor; **Harvey James**, University of Missouri Campus Writing Program, 2016 Writing Intensive Excellence Award
- Position Taken by Recent Graduate: **Ye Su**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Economics, University of Nebraska at Kearney

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

- New Appointment: **Gregory J. McKee**, Professor
- Award: **Ronald J. Hanson**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University Parents' Association Recognition Award for Contributions to Students.
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: **Subir Bairagi**, PhD, Economist, International Rice Research Institute; **Federico Trindade**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Nebraska Wesleyan University
- Retirements: **Ronald J. Hanson**, 43 Years of Service
- Visitors: **Paulo de Tarso Pires**, Professor, Universidade Federal do Parana, Brazil, Jan-May, 2016

**North Dakota State University**

- Appointment Changes: **David Roberts**, Associate Professor; **Gregory McKee**, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; **Jeremy Jackson**, Associate Professor; August, 2016
- Awards: **Gregory McKee**, NDSU Agriculture Coalition; Bison Award 2016; **Cheryl J. Wachenheim**, Western Agricultural Economics Association, Undergraduate

NDSU

Teaching Award 10 years experience; **Cheryl J. Wachenheim**, NDSU Peltier Award for Innovation in Teaching, 2015; **David Englund**, North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA), Teaching Award of Merit; **William W. Wilson**, NDSU, Peltier Award for distinguished record as researcher and educator, 2016; **William W. Wilson**, NDSU, Celebration of Faculty Excellence, 2015; **William W. Wilson**, NDSU, CHS (Cenex Harvest States), chair in Risk Management and Trading, 2016; **William W. Wilson**, NCH Capital, Board of Directors, appointed 2015; **William W. Wilson**, NDSU, Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research Award, 2015

- Retirement: **Judith Moe**, 47 years

Purdue University

PURDUE

- Appointment Change: **Jacob Ricker-Gilbert**, Associate Professor
- Awards: **Joan Fulton**, **Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer**, **Jacob Ricker-Gilbert** and (the late) [Corinne Alexander](#), Purdue University, 2016 TEAM award

Texas A&M University



- Awards: **David Bessler**, Texas A&M University, 2016 Distinguished Achievement Award for Research; **Stan Bevers**, Texoma Ranch and Farm Expo, 2016 Friend of Agriculture Award; **Jorge A. Bermudez**, Texas A&M University, 2016 Outstanding Alumnus Award
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: **Christopher Markey**, MS, Market Research Officer, Consult-Mayanmar; **Kyle Binder**, PhD, Senior Quantitative Specialist, Federal Reserve Bank Chicago; **Alonso Villaran Raffo**, MS, Field Operations Manager, Rio Fresh, Inc

Other News

2016-2 GTAP 101 Course

“Introduction to Computable General Equilibrium Modeling”

September 12 – October 28, 2016

The 2016–2 GTAP 101 Course is being organized by the [Center for Global Trade Analysis](#) and will be delivered fully online, led by [Dr. Mary Burfisher](#).

Objective

The objective of the GTAP 101 course is to engage participants in an active, team-based

process of learning about the GTAP

computable general equilibrium (CGE) model and its use in applied economic policy analysis. The curriculum emphasizes an intuitive and graphical treatment of economic theory in the CGE model, and provides structured



experiences in manipulating and running the standard GTAP Model within the RunGTAP software environment. RunGTAP is an intuitive, menu-driven CGE model that minimizes technological hurdles and allows students to quickly begin to focus on their economic thinking and experimentation. The curriculum is geared to advanced undergraduates, graduates, and professionals. At the end of the course, participants will be entry-level modelers and more informed consumers of CGE-based analyses. The course also serves as an entry point for developing the technical skills required for the [GTAP Short Course](#).

During the online course, participants will:

- Review core economic theories from macro, micro, trade and public finance and observe how they are operationalized in an applied general equilibrium model;
- Learn to recognize, control and interpret the theoretically consistent behavior of consumers and producers in the model;
- Observe the aggregated, macroeconomic impacts of microeconomic behaviors;
- Define model experiments that represent real-world issues and problems; and
- Learn to interpret general equilibrium model results by calling on and integrating their knowledge of multiple fields of economic study.

Structure

The course is fully delivered online, and is supported by the textbook, [Introduction to Computable General Equilibrium Models](#) (Burfisher, 2011), which will be provided to all participants. Additional learning resources include audio lectures, guided video

simulations, and assessments. Much of the learning will take place through active discussions among the participants and instructor, which are carried out as asynchronous, threaded conversations on the classroom bulletin board. Topics covered in this course include: Database, Demand, Supply, Factor Markets, Trade and Taxes. The course culminates in a group research project which provides participants with a hands-on opportunity to carry out a model experiment and analyze its economy-wide effects.

Application

Individuals interested in taking this course must apply on the GTAP website **April 1–June 26, 2016**. Applications will be reviewed after the deadline and those individuals accepted will receive an email detailing how to register and submit payment in August. Please note that application does not guarantee acceptance.

Cost

The registration fees for this course are detailed below and include the course textbook as well as instruction during the online course.

- \$1,400 (*Standard Rate: Developed Country Professionals*)
- \$600 (*Discounted Rate: All Current Students and Developing Country Professionals*)
- \$100 (*Scholarship Rate: A limited number of scholarships are available to applicants residing in a [developing country](#).*)

For further information or to apply, please visit the course homepage on the GTAP website at: <http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/GTAP101/2016-2/>.

The Richardson-Applebaum Award

For outstanding graduate research

The Food Distribution Research Society is pleased to accept applications for the 2016 Richardson-Applebaum Award, which is awarded annually for outstanding graduate research in food distribution and marketing. The competition is open to all graduate students with scholarly interest and career aspirations in the food distribution system who have completed their degree in 2015 or by May, 2016. Application packages will be accepted until June 5, 2016. The scholarship award includes:

- Cash stipends of (1) \$1,250 for best PhD Dissertation, (2) \$750 for best MS Thesis, and (3) \$750 for best MS Case Study
- Complementary FDRS student membership
- Complementary conference registration fees and recognition at the 2016 FDRS Annual Conference, which will take place September 30–October 4, 2016 in New Orleans, LA. The recipient's domestic travel expenses will be paid by the society.
- PhD recipient will be invited to present his/her research at the conference.

For application steps and more information, please visit our website www.fdrsinc.org. Or feel free to contact Dr. Alba Collart (alba.collart@msstate.edu), VP of Education.

The Food Distribution Research Society Award

For outstanding undergraduate research

Applications are also open for the new 2016 Food Distribution Research Society Award, being awarded for outstanding undergraduate research in food distribution and marketing. Application packages will be accepted until June 5th, 2016. The scholarship award includes:

- Complementary conference registration fees and recognition at the 2016 FDRS Annual Conference. The recipient's domestic travel expenses will be paid by the society.
- Cash stipend of \$500 for best Undergraduate Student Research Paper
 - Complementary FDRS student membership

For application steps and more information, please visit our website www.fdrsinc.org. Or feel free to contact Dr. Alba Collart (alba.collart@msstate.edu), VP of Education.

Government Relations Update

2016 Agricultural Food and Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational Program

We are pleased to announce the release of the [2016 Agricultural Food and Research Initiative \(AFRI\) Foundational Program](#) request for applications. The Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities program area (AERC) has several grant opportunities you or your colleagues may be interested in. Some new features to this year's offering include:

- A new joint ERS/NIFA program on behavioral economics and agr-environmental policy design
- A new proposal review procedure for the Economics, Markets and Trade program.

Within Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment (BNRE) there is a new program titled Socioeconomic Implications and Public Policy Challenges of Bioenergy and Bioproducts Market Development and Expansion.

We will provide a brief overview of the AERC and BNRE programs and new features in a webinar. We invite you to participate in the webinar:

- [AFRI Request for Applications Webinar](#)
- Date: **June 7 from 1:00 to 3:00PM EST**
- Link: <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/afri-aerc-2016/>
- Audio conference line: **888-844-9904/ access code 9649398**

The session will be interactive and we will be able to address your questions online. We will also record the session for those unable to attend.

[Courtesy of Robbin Shoemaker, USDA NIFA](#)

NIFA Seeks Research Topics from Commodity Boards for FY 2017 AFRI Program: *Agency Builds on Positive First-Year Implementation of New Farm Bill Initiative*

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is reaching out to eligible national and state commodity boards, and marketing orders to propose topics for research under its FY2017 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program.

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), established by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill, is the nation's premier peer reviewed competitive grants program for fundamental and applied agricultural sciences. AFRI-funded

science is vital to meeting food, fiber, and fuel demands as the world's population races toward a projected nine billion by 2050, diminishing land and water resources, and increasingly variable climatic conditions. In addition, AFRI programs help develop new technologies and a workforce that will advance our national security, our energy self-sufficiency, and the health of Americans.

This is the second year NIFA has implemented the 2014 Farm Bill commodity board provision,

which is enhancing collaboration between the Agency and commodity groups as well as leveraging additional funds for critical research in areas of common interest. Proposed topics may be chosen for inclusion under a specific priority area of an AFRI RFA (Request for Applications).

In FY 2016, the first year of collaboration with commodity boards, seven topics from five commodity boards were integrated into two AFRI RFAs: the [Foundational](#) Program RFA and the [Food Security Challenge Area RFA](#). The five boards included the Kansas Wheat Commission, the National Pork Board, the Iowa Corn Promotion Board, the Washington State Potato Commission and the National Peanut Board. Collectively, these five commodity boards have offered \$1.7 million for research projects to be funded on topics proposed by the boards: novel pre-breeding applications for quality enhancement in hard red winter wheat; breeding for genetic resistance to wheat viruses; evaluation of various compounds as alternatives to antibiotics to treat and prevent disease in pork production; environmental influence on phenomics in crop improvement and production; understanding soil ecology to manage potato soil health; drought tolerance and efficient use of water resources in peanuts; and improved peanut and food allergy diagnostic methods. Applicants interested in these topics are encouraged to learn more about these grant opportunities at [AFRI Request for Applications](#) and contact the respective board to discuss their applications.

FY17 Federal Register Notice "[Solicitation of Commodity Board Topics and Contribution of Funding Under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program](#)," published May 18, invites topic

submissions from eligible commodity boards and marketing orders, outlines the process NIFA will use to evaluate the appropriateness of these topics for inclusion in [AFRI Request for Applications](#), and describes the commitment commodity boards will be required to make in order for NIFA to jointly fund AFRI applications competitively selected for award within a topic area submitted by the commodity boards.

Eligible commodity boards and marketing orders must address an agricultural commodity that:

- Includes a combination of promotion, research, industry information, or consumer information activities;
- Is funded by mandatory assessments on producers or processors; and
- Is designed to maintain or expand markets and uses for the commodity (as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture).

Boards can propose topics with contributed funding amounts that vary depending on AFRI priority areas, up to \$2.5 million; no more than \$10 million can be contributed from any one board. Boards are encouraged to visit the [NIFA Commodity Boards web page](#) for more information on these areas and details on the topic submission process.

An informational webinar is planned for June 1, 2–3:30 p.m. (EST). To participate, visit: http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/commodity_board_webinar/

Call in number: 1 888 844 9904

Participant access code: 1658110#

For more information about the 2014 Farm Bill: Implementation of Commodity Boards Provision and about NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program

(AFRI), visit [NIFA Commodity Boards web page](#) or email commodityboards@nifa.usda.gov. Wide dissemination of this notice is encouraged.

Priorities and Solutions Project:

Provocateur Webinars

As part of the agricultural and applied economic priorities and solutions project, we are going to host webinars to encourage greater engagement in the ideas presented at the workshop. Please consider attending to hear more about these innovative and forward-thinking ideas!

All webinars will be recorded and made available on the C-FARE YouTube Channel.

Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at 12 noon ET

Agricultural production and policy

Keith Coble, A W.L. Giles Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University

Keith Coble will discuss his vision for how our profession can contribute to solving important problems relating to agricultural production and policy questions associated with those problems. He will suggest that long-standing risks such as market volatility and weather and climate change will continue to pose new challenges while environmental and resource constraints will grow. However, the data used to answer important empirical questions appears to be changing dramatically and big data is opening many new doors for research. Ultimately policy makers will still value quality scientific research from objective sources. The challenge is for our profession to provide it.

Agribusiness and food marketing systems

James Vercammen, Professor of Food and Resource Economics, University of British Columbia

Academic work in agricultural economics is increasingly driven by the availability of high-quality data sets. While this is good in that important policy questions can be answered more carefully, it does mean, however, that subject areas such as agribusiness and food supply chains that are not well endowed with data are not receiving the research attention they deserve. Graduate students must be shown the value of strong conceptual frameworks, case studies and structural econometric methods of empirical analysis to ensure that they are well equipped to effectively tackle a broad array of topics in their professional careers.

Friday, May 27, 2016, at 12 noon ET

Consumer economics

Jayson Lusk, Regents Professor and Willard Sparks Endowed Chair, Oklahoma State University

The presentation will discuss emerging issues and priority areas related to food policy and consumer concerns about food.

Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 12 noon ET

Natural resources and environmental policy

Madhu Khanna, Professor of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Sustainably growing the food needed to feed 9 billion people by mid-century in the face of climate change and growing policy interest in bioenergy is a grand societal challenge. Integrated approaches that link natural systems with human decisions and that improve our understanding of the effects of climate change on human and natural systems and the potential for adaptation are critical to finding innovative solutions. The potential to use big data to improve private and societal decision-making, the challenges of designing effective policies to address the multiple ecosystem services affected by agricultural systems and the importance of understanding the multi-dimensional spillover effects of agricultural, energy and environmental policies will be discussed.

Friday, June 3, 2016, at 12 noon ET

Rural community development

Mike Woods, Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University

The talk will briefly assess contributions made by agricultural economists to enhance the well-being of rural residents through research and outreach. Many models and approaches have been utilized to address issues of economic growth, wealth creation, poverty, and many quality of life factors. Emerging needs related to technology, health care and education will be reviewed. Agricultural economists have much to offer through applied research, extension programming and classroom instruction.

International economics

TBA

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Submit all items to:

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Job Opportunities

- [Department Head, Agricultural and Resource Economics](#)
(Posted: May 20)
North Carolina State University
- [Asst./Assoc. Professor of Agricultural & Applied Eco](#)
(Posted: May 20)
Michigan State University
- [Asst./Assoc. Professor of Production Eco & Farm Mgmt](#) (Posted: May 20)
Michigan State University
- [Extension Educator/Assistant Professor – Urban Agriculture \(Omaha\)](#) (Posted: May 17)
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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