

### Another Year: Resolve to Engage in AEM

*A message from AEM President Vincent Amanor-Boadu*

It is that time of year again, and I'm inviting you to come join us in Pittsburgh for another exciting AAEA conference. Please make sure you have the AEM section's track sessions included



in your meeting plan. Look for a follow-up e-mail with details on the sessions as we get closer to the meetings. Your attendance and participation are very important in helping the AEM keep its high number of track sessions and other program activities at AAEA meetings.

While the AEM remains the largest section in the AAEA, I want to appeal to our student members to maintain

their membership in AAEA and transform to regular section members upon graduation to ensure the AEM's leadership in the profession is maintained. I also call on advisors to continue reminding their graduating students about the professional benefits of our association and the importance of their continuous connection throughout their professional life. Finally, I want to thank our senior members for their continued support of the section. That support is reflected in a joint track session at the upcoming Pittsburgh meeting.

#### Attend a Networking Reception

This year, AAEA is organizing a Student and Young Professional Networking reception in Pittsburgh. AEM is hosting its young members from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 24. I encourage our student and young professionals as well as our not-so-young members to attend this reception, share and engage with each other but more important, provide a forum for our young members to share in the wisdom and experience of the not-so-young members.

#### Cast Your Vote

It is time again to elect your next section leadership. Please, perform your civic duty and vote in the following three positions: president elect, secretary/treasurer and at-large research. Starting on page 4, you will find each candidate's statement of interest. At this time, I would like to thank the outgoing officers for their service: Past President Allan Gray, Secretary/Treasurer Aslihan Spaulding and Previous Past Chair Aaron Johnson. They have served our section with true dedication.

#### Buy Tickets for the AEM Industry Banquet

Please plan to attend the AEM business meeting in Pittsburgh. The location and time have not yet been finalized but ensure it is on your meeting agenda because this is where you contribute to section policy making and direction. Finally, the AEM's Industry Speaker and Banquet is planned for 8:00 p.m. on Monday, July 25. We have invited Dr. Karen Grabow, senior vice president for business development services and government affairs at Land O'Lakes Inc., to speak to the group about human capital needs for food and agribusiness. Karen has a Ph.D. in industrial psychology and began her industry career as the vice president of human resources for Target Corporation before moving to Land O'Lakes. Karen works closely with the Land O'Lakes federated cooperative system to assist in developing and strengthening the individual organizations in the system. Her background and experience will provide a valuable perspective on the human capital challenges for the industry. Check the final meeting schedule for the location. Please purchase your tickets with your registration to avoid any disappointment. We sold out last year.

#### Thank You

Let me thank you all for the support I have received during my term of service. I especially thank the small group of dedicated members who organized and hosted AEM events throughout the year and supported our efforts to grow our section. Thank you all, and see you in Pittsburgh.

## Graduate Student Case Study Competition

*Preliminary Round: Sunday, July 24 • 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.*

*Final Round: Monday, July 25 • 1:30–4:00 p.m.*

Once again, AEM is a co-sponsor for the Graduate Student Case Study Competition. The preliminary round(s) will take place on Sunday, July 24, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We are now recruiting volunteer faculty members willing to serve as judges on Sunday. Please consider volunteering some of your time at the AAEEA annual meeting this year for this exciting event.

We are also accepting applications from graduate students to participate in the competition. You can find details on how to register for the competition at [www.aaea.org/sections/gss](http://www.aaea.org/sections/gss).

The final round will be on Monday, July 25, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The top three teams of the case study competition will be guests of AEM at the industry banquet on Monday evening.



## Financial and Membership Report

*As of March 31, 2011*

Membership Type	2011	2010
Regular	138	154
Family/Other	1	2
Senior	9	10
Student	175	181
Young Professional	9	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>347</b>
Members located outside the U.S.	34	

Financial Measurement	Amount
Net Assets	\$20,715.75



We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh and in the AEM track sessions. Please remember that sessions on the AAEEA program are a limited resource. To secure them, we need to show how much our AEM members need them by attending the track sessions we sponsor or co-sponsor.

# Agribusiness Economics and Management

## *Officer Nominations*

### **President Elect**



**Aslihan Spaulding**  
*Associate Professor of Agribusiness*  
*Illinois State University*

I have been an active member of AAEA since my graduate school years. I am currently completing my three-year term as secretary/treasurer of AEM. If elected, I will continue to bring valuable programs, presentation sessions and webinars to the AEM members. I would also like to bring the members' voices into the decision process by identifying the needs of our members through surveys and designing sessions around those needs. I will encourage more communication among the members via e-mails and Web-based meetings throughout the year. I also would like to establish mentor-mentee relationships based on members' research and teaching interests. I want to make sure the new and younger members feel welcome and connected, especially at the annual meetings. I am honored to be nominated for the chair-elect position. I am looking forward to serving the AEM section and its members. Thank you.

### **President Elect**



**Fabio Chaddad**  
*Assistant Professor of*  
*Agricultural Economics*  
*University of Missouri*

It is an honor and a pleasure to accept your nomination to run for the chair-elect position of the AEM section of AAEA. As chair-elect, I would provide leadership in continuing some of the activities valued by our members, including the organization of track sessions in the annual meeting, drafting AAEA Foundation proposals on behalf of our section, and assisting the chair in planning special events and initiatives. Additionally, I would like to provide opportunities for agribusiness faculty and doctoral student development and interaction, such as webinars, facilitated communication on the listserv, online forum or workshops, and especially to foster collaborative engagement between senior and junior faculty and doctoral students. I would also seek to coordinate efforts and leverage resources and opportunities for collaboration with related agribusiness professional organizations and committees such as IAMA, WERA, and FDRS. My ultimate goal is to contribute to the development of a vibrant agribusiness scholarly community with increased impact in the profession and on outside stakeholders.

## Secretary-Treasurer



**Ashley Lovell**  
*Professor of Agricultural Economics  
and Extension Education  
Tarleton State University*

My career has been dedicated to service to others through teaching and research. The service is through hands-on experience primarily in the Texas A&M system, but continues to include considerable service and bottom-line experience in entrepreneurship and small business development. As a former academic department head and program director in a research center, my commitment is to the vision and mission of the organization/institution and accomplishment of goals in support of the mission. The secretary-treasurer duties are explicit and consistent with my experience and interests. Specifically, I have substantial experience performing most of the duties, but more limited experience in website maintenance. It would be an honor and pleasure to contribute to AEM and the association if you choose to support my candidacy as secretary-treasurer for the AEM section.

## Secretary-Treasurer



**Michelle Mulliness-Santiago**  
*Assistant Professor  
Sam Houston State University*

In order for members to join the AEM section, they must feel the section provides them value. In order for those members to actively participate, they must feel their ideas are valued and their voices can be heard. I believe this can most easily occur through the building of relationships between the section's leadership, core members and new members. I also believe transparency of the officers' goals for the section is vital to keeping members involved and encouraging new member contribution. As secretary/treasurer it would be my foremost goal to link our members and promote that transparency through effective communication methods. Communicating at the member level is important and in addition to the website, newsletter and e-mail, I would love to see our section use social media to both connect with more faculty and graduate students and to connect them to each other. If elected, it would be an honor to serve our members!



## At-Large-Research



**Tony Diggs**  
*Graduate Assistant*  
*Cleveland State University*

On behalf of the Applied and Agricultural Economic Association Membership at the behest of my AEM colleagues, I, Tony R. Diggs, wish to confirm my acceptance of the nomination to run for the AEM at-large research position and look forward to representing the membership of AEM and providing guidance to the leadership team on all matters related to scholarship in agribusiness and participating in conference calls at the request of the section executive committee.

## At-Large-Research



**Josh Detre**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Louisiana State University*

As someone who teaches undergraduate agribusiness and finance management courses and conducts research in these areas, I realize how important AEM is to not only my career, but to all of my colleagues. I would enjoy the opportunity to serve as the research at-large member of the AEM leadership board. I believe the strongest aspect of AEM lies with its members who are dedicated to promoting the importance of agribusiness research. If elected, I would focus on transforming the section into a clearinghouse for agribusiness research ideas and for developing collaborative efforts among agribusiness faculty across universities and colleges. I would also seek to increase participation of AEM members in the IFAMR journal by motivating members to publish their research on the key and timely topics identified through the Agribusiness Research Forum (ARF), an activity sponsored by AEM that generates a national agribusiness research agenda. While we currently share this information through track sessions at the national meetings, publishing it in IFAMR will make the journal a key outlet for scholarly agribusiness work, well respected by our peers, and sought out by industry for solutions to their problems. Thank you in advance for your vote!