Meet AAEA's 2015 Fellows

The AAEA Fellows Selection Committee has selected six outstanding members to be honored as AAEA Fellows. In this release of The Exchange, we will learn about Jim MacDonald and how he is shaping the future of the Association and the field of agricultural and applied economics as a whole.

Meet AAEA 2015 Fellow: James M. MacDonald

Jim MacDonald is chief of the Structure, Technology, and Productivity Branch at USDA's Economic Research Service. As branch chief, he builds teams and supervises ERS research on farm structure, productivity, field practices, and agricultural research and innovation, while co-managing USDA’s Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

MacDonald’s research focuses on the industrial organization of food and agriculture. It covers traditional IO concerns with competition and pricing, but extends to analyses of the causes and consequences of structural change in industries. Notable studies include analyses of the effects of railroad deregulation on grain transportation; the causes and consequences of consolidation in livestock production and meatpacking; the changing organization and structure of US agriculture; entry and exit in food processing; USDA food procurement auctions; and competition and retail food pricing. He has been an innovator in applying administrative data from Federal agencies, as well as record-level data from Federal statistical surveys, to these issues. His work has been widely cited in regulatory and policy decisions as well as in academic circles.

Jim joined ERS in 1980, recruited by AAEA Fellow John Conn. He received a PhD, in economics, from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and a Bachelor’s degree from Siena College.

In the next issue of The Exchange, you will learn about another 2015 Fellow with a brief biography of achievements in their career. You can also read about them by searching for our hashtag on Facebook and Twitter: #MeetAAEA2015Fellows.

2015 AAEA Fellows:

- C. Peter Timmer, Harvard University
- Jayson Lusk, Oklahoma State University
- Alan Olmstead, University of California, Davis
- J. Edward Taylor, University of California, Davis
- Ariel Dinar, University of California, Riverside

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The majority of the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting activities will take place at the Marriott Marquis San Francisco. Room blocks have been secured at the Marriott Marquis and are quickly being filled. Reserve a room online at https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AAEA2015.

To reserve a room by phone, please call (415) 896-1600 and make sure to mention that you are a part of the AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting. If you are reserving a room at the government rate, you will need the passcode: AAEAGOV. There are a limited number of rooms and they are all on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Marriott Marquis is located in downtown San Francisco. Right outside the hotel there is access to local shopping, restaurants, and other attractions. Inside the Marriott Marquis there is a Starbucks and The Mission Grille for breakfast, and Bin 55 Restaurant & Wine Bar as well as The View Lounge for dinner options. To find other dining or drink options that are near the hotel, click here or visit http://bitly.com/1uUQb3b.

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 Luncheon, the banquet and pre/post conference workshops are not included with the main registration fee, but can be purchased during registration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Rates</th>
<th>Early (Before May 27)</th>
<th>Advanced (May 28–July 9)</th>
<th>On-site (After July 9)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Member</td>
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<td>Graduate Student Non-Member</td>
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<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Student**</td>
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<td>$55</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Senior Member: 65+ years of age and retired

**Register undergraduate students via telephone by calling (414) 918-3190

*Note to Government Employees: There are a limited number of spaces for ticketed events. To register for a ticketed event before your organization registers you for the Joint Annual Meeting, please call (414) 918-3190 or fill out the registration form (leave the joint meeting registration portion blank) and fax the form to (414) 276-3349.
President-Elect Seeks Volunteers for AAEA Committees

Members interested in shaping the future of the AAEA can play an essential role by serving on an association committee. Committee service also offers an excellent opportunity for developing contacts and increasing professional networking.

“I invite all members to get actively involved in AAEA through serving on our committees,” says President-Elect Jill McCluskey. “By serving, you influence the direction and priorities of the AAEA, and help us to best meet the needs of agricultural and applied economists. Your work will shape our AAEA Trust, awards and special lectures, membership, leadership selection, publication, statistics infrastructure, outreach, meeting, and career development activities. For established professionals, we rely on your contributions to guide the AAEA’s work. For early career professionals, working on a committee is a great way to build your professional network and service record. Please email us (see below) with your interest in serving.”

McCluskey will make appointments to the following 2015–2016 committees by June 2015:

- AAEA Trust
- Awards
- Case Study Invited Paper
- Economics, Statistics & Information Resources
- Employment Services
- Fellows Selection
- Galbraith Forum and Award
- Membership
- Mentorship
- Nominating
- Selected Presentations

For information about these committees and a list of their current members, please visit http://www.aaea.org/about-aaea/aaea-committees.

Any AAEA member interested and willing to serve on a committee should contact Brian Mondragón Jones at bmjones@aaea.org or (414) 918–3190 by April 20, 2015.
Call for Applications:

**Travel Grants for Early Career Professionals and Graduate Students**

The AAEA Trust seeks applications for Early Career Professional and Graduate Student Travel Grants. These grants defray housing and transportation costs associated with attending the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA on July 26-28. Up to $400 will be awarded to each applicant, based on professional merit, financial need, and expected active participation in the Joint Annual Meeting.

A qualifying applicant must be a graduate student or comparatively new junior professional (within three years of award of your last degree) engaged at an accredited U.S. college, university, or other institution in such applied economics fields as agribusiness, agricultural, consumer, food, development, environmental, health, marketing, regional, rural, or resource economics. Reflecting the Trust’s goal of broadening participation in the Joint Annual Meeting, preference may be given to individuals working under institutional circumstances not normally conducive to AAEA meeting attendance.

Applications must be submitted through the online application form and logging into your AAEA account. You will be asked to submit the following:

1. Your name, postal address, e-mail address, and phone number
2. Your current status, including: early career professional or graduate student; department and institution at which enrolled or employed; degree program underway or recently completed; years at institution; brief summary of research area; and professional rank or anticipated graduation date
3. Description of your interest and/or planned participation in the Joint Annual Meeting
4. Proposed travel budget, including other funding sources available, such as from your institution
5. A nomination from a department, division head, or supervisor which includes written acknowledgement of the nomination and certification of your financial need, including certification that funding is unavailable from other sources.

Applications should be submitted by the individual seeking support; however, only one application from each department or division will be considered. In the event that more than one application is submitted from a specific department or division, it will be up to the department head to decide which will be considered. Applications will be accepted only from U.S. colleges, universities, and institutions. **The deadline for submission is April 9, 2015.**
**Renew Your AAEA Membership for 2015**

You can now renew your AAEA membership for 2015 on the AAEA website (http://www.aaea.org/membership/). 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.

Alternatively, if you prefer to renew using the paper form, be sure to keep an eye on your mailbox as paper forms will be sent out soon.

The benefits of your 2014 AAEA membership only last through the spring of 2015, so be sure to renew soon to ensure that you keep receiving services from AAEA throughout the upcoming year.

As a reminder, all presenters at the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting need to be a 2015 AAEA or WAEA members.

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**Call for Selected Poster Reviewers**

Improve the learning experience at the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting and volunteer to be a Poster Reviewer.

For the 2014 Annual Meeting, AAEA made efforts to increase the opportunities for poster presenters to interact with meeting attendees. These efforts included the Sunday night Poster Reception and dedicated poster sessions on Monday and Tuesday over the lunch period.

Poster presenters will have another new opportunity to receive feedback on their research at the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting. Each Selected Poster will be assigned a Poster Reviewer who will meet with the presenting author at a time during the meeting to discuss the poster. Poster Reviewers will be asked to look over the poster ahead of time in order to provide the poster author feedback. To volunteer to be a Poster Reviewer, or for more information, please contact the AAEA Business Office at info@aaea.org or (414) 918-3190.
Earl O. Heady Decision Sciences Spreadsheet Competition

The Undergraduate Student Section of the AAEA (SS-AAEA) would like to announce the new Earl O. Heady Decision Sciences Spreadsheet Competition. It will debut at the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The purpose of the new competition is to provide a forum for undergraduate students to showcase their ability to address real world problems in agricultural and applied economics using a spreadsheet, as well as celebrate their success as experiential learners.

We thank Dr. Julie Caswell, the other members of the AAEA Trust Committee, and the AAEA Executive Board for their gracious support of this new experiential learning initiative through their AAEA Trust Grant program. Consequently, the award structure will be:

- 1st place – $400 to the student, a plaque, and recognition during the SS-AAEA Business Meeting
- 2nd place – $200 to the student
- 3rd place – $100 to the student

In the past, the Paper Competition was the only competition of the SS-AAEA to address undergraduate student research. With this second competition offering, we can now segment that market much better. The following highlights some major differences between the two research competitions:

The EOHDS Spreadsheet Competition

- Using sound economic principles as operationalized with a spreadsheet, students will solve a real world problem important to agricultural and applied economists.
- One student per project.
- Students submit a spreadsheet and a poster for evaluation.
- Students make a 5-minute presentation at the Joint Annual Meeting.

The Paper Competition

- Historically, students have done a literature review, collected data on an economic phenomenon, and tested hypotheses. The papers resemble a shorter version of a senior thesis.
- One student per paper.
- Students submit a paper for evaluation.
- Students make a 12-minute presentation at the Joint Annual Meeting.

Please visit http://www.aaea.org/membership/sections/ss–aaea/aaea–annual–meeting to access the new EOHDS Spreadsheet Competition Guidelines and forms. If further clarification is needed, please contact Steven Vickner at (614) 551–1916 or steven_vickner@wilmington.edu.
People Section

**University of California, Berkeley**
- Award: Andrew Stevens, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, 2015 Chester O. McCorkle Student Scholarship
- Position Taken by Recent Graduate: Phu Viet Le, PhD, Lecturer, Fulbright Economics Teaching Program

**University of California, Davis**
- New Appointments: Gabriel Lade, Assistant Professor, Iowa State University, Department of Economics; Emilia Tjernström, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison; John Einer Flatnes, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University; Kassahun Melesse, Assistant Professor, Oregon State University
- Retirement: Philip L. Martin, 37 years of service

**Cornell University**
- Award: Bradley Rickard, New York Wine & Grape Foundation, Research Award
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: Peixun Fang, MS, Co-Founder, Zhizi Tech Company, China; Xiao Hu, MS, Model Risk Management Analyst
- Retirement: Richard Boisvert, 43 years of service

**University of Florida**
- New Appointment: Spiro E. Stefanou, Professor and Chair of Food and Resource Economics

**University of Idaho**
- Position Taken by Recent Graduate: Hilary Davis, MS, USDA Iowa Farm Service Agency

**International Association of Agricultural Economics**
- New Appointment: Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel, Secretary-Treasurer
- Resignation: Walter J. Armbruster

**Kansas State University**
- New Appointments: Terry Griffin, Assistant Professor; Ben Schwab, Assistant Professor; Elizabeth Yeager, Assistant Professor
- Awards: Sandra Contreras, IFPRI, Travel Fellowship Award; Michelle Estes, Emily Mollohan, and Steven Ramsey (Case Study Team), 2014 AAEA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, First Place AAEA Student Case Study Competition; Melissa McKendree, 2014 AAEA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, First Place AAEA Graduate Student Extension Competition; Brady Brewer, Kansas State University, COA Richard Elmore Brown Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award; Claire Luensmann, Kansas State University, Agricultural Economics Outstanding MS Thesis Award; Veronica Pozo, Kansas State University, Agricultural Economics Outstanding PhD Award;
Melissa Lynes, Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel; Hannah Miller, National Society of Accountants for Coops Silver Pen Award; Jason Bergtold, Kansas State University, Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; Brian Briggeman, Kansas State University, Distinguished Faculty Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Students in Research; Brock Burnick, Mortar Board Vice–President; Hikaru Peterson, Kansas State University, College of Agriculture Faculty of the Semester; Christine Wilson, Association of Public Land–Grant Universities, Honored for Completion of the Food Systems Leadership Institutes Executive Leadership

- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: Brady Brewer, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Georgia; Veronica Pozo, PhD, Utah State University; Graciela Andrango, PhD, Agricultural Economics Unit and National Coordinator of the Agricultural Economics R&D Team, National Institute of Agricultural and Livestock Research of Ecuador (INIAP); Elizabeth Canales, PhD, Strategy Consultant, Roll Global
- Retirements: Orel Grunewald, 37 years of service; Bob Burton, 30 years of service; Joseph Arata, 18 years of service; Arlo Biere, 46 years of service
- Resignation: Kevin Dhuyvetter

University of Maryland

- Award: Erik Lichtenberg, University of Maryland, Excellence in Research Award
- Positions Taken by Recent Grads: Kota Minegishi, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Kanishka Kacker, PhD, Economist, World Bank; Ashwini Sebastian, PhD, Research Economist, FAO, Rome; Michael Taylor, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Reno; Seth Wechsler, PhD, Research Economist, USDA Economic Research Service
- Retirement: Ramon Lopez, 32 years of service
- Visitors: Majid Ahmadian, professor, University of Tehran, March 2015–September 2015; Lorenzo Carrera, graduate student, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Venice, February 2015–April 2015; Eduardo Castro, associate professor, January 2015–December 2015; Inge van den Bijgaart, graduate student, Tilburg University, the Netherlands, February 2015 to April 2015

Michigan State University

- New Appointments: Eduardo Nakasone, Assistant Professor in the departments of AFRE and Media and Information
- Awards: Joseph Herriges, World Conference of Environmental and Resource Economists, Fellow of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE); Scott Swinton, Michigan State University, W.J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: Nathalie Me–Nsope, PhD, Specialist for Global Center for Food Systems Innovation, MSU; Paige van Poppelen, MS, Account Associate, NPD Group; Uchook Duangbootsee, PhD, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, Kasetsart University in Bangkok; Tim Hodge, PhD, Statistician Analyst, Ford Motor Credit Company; Wolfgang Pejuan–Ucles, PhD, Associate Professor of Agribusiness, Zamorano University
University of Missouri

- Award: Abner Womack, Missouri State Senate, 2015 Peter Myers Distinguished Service Award
- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: Hoa Hoang, PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri; Iddisah Sulemana, PhD, Credit Risks Analyst, USAA insurance
- Honorary Position: Michael Sykuta, Privacy Fellow, George Mason University, 2014–2015
- Visitor: Dr. Dhruba Bhattachar, Director, Kathmandu Model Higher Secondary School, Visiting Researcher, February 2015–May 2015

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Awards: Dennis M. Conley, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2015 College Distinguished Teaching Award; Lilyan Fulginiti, Office of Graduate Studies, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Dean’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Education; Bradley D. Lubben, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence
- Position Taken by Recent Graduate: Tshepelayi Kabata, 2015 Mo Ibrahim Leadership Fellow, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

North Dakota State University

- New Appointments: Aaron DeLaporte, PhD, Research Assistant Professor; Prithviraj Lakkakula, PhD, Research Assistant Professor
- Awards: William Wilson, PhD, North Dakota State University, Peltier Award for Faculty Excellence; Jeremy Jackson, PhD, North Dakota State University, William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Excellence in Advising; Ryan Larsen, PhD, North Dakota State University, Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching

The Ohio State University

- Position Taken by Recent Graduate: Matt Pham, PhD, Assistant Professor, Landmark College

The Pennsylvania State University

- Resignation: Spiro E. Stefanou

Texas A&M University

- Positions Taken by Recent Graduates: Margaret Baird, Management Trainee, Bunge Limited; Yao Hu, Marketing Analyst, Zukma Energy; Jacob Luna, Grain Merchandiser Trainee, CGB Enterprises; Marcela Valdes, Cost and Budget Manager, Entre Palmas S.A.; Kassidy Kampen, Associate, MetLife Ag Investments;
Jeffery Blake Murrah, Southern Star Brewing

**USDA - Economic Research Service**

- New Appointments: Bryce Cooke, Outlook Economist; Seanicca Edwards, Economist; Tani Lee, Economist; Elina Tselepidakis, PhD, Agricultural Economist
- Awards: Bo Beaulieu, Judi Bartfeld, Alex Majchrowicz, USDA–Economic Research Service, Award for External Partnership (The RIDGE Program); Frederick Gale, Sun Ling Wang, James Hansen (ERS China Team), USDA Economists Group, John E. Lee Award
- Resignations: Elizabeth Beaulieu; Lindsay Kuberka
- Retirements: Mathew Share, 31 years of service; John Wainio, 30 years of service; Sophia Huang, 35 years of service
- Visitor: Anne Effland, APMB/MTED/ERS, USDA’s Office of the Chief Economist, February 2015–April 2015

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**Other News**

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**The Fourth International Agricultural Risk, Finance, and Insurance Conference**

The Waterloo Research Institute in Insurance, Securities and Quantitative Finance (WatRISQ), University of Waterloo, is pleased to invite you to the 4th International Agricultural Risk, Finance, and Insurance Conference (IARFIC), June 7-9, 2015, in Washington, DC. IARFIC is a non-profit international conference that brings together academia, government, private sector, producer groups, NGOs, and other stakeholders, to discuss critical issues, global perspectives, best practices, and innovations within the field. The past three conferences were a tremendous success, held in 2012-Beijing, China, 2013-Vancouver, Canada, and 2014-Zurich, Switzerland, with select best papers published in special issues of *Agricultural Finance Review* by Emerald Group Publishing.

Please join us for a unique reception at the House Committee on Agriculture, Longworth House Office Building. All other conference activities will be hosted at the Park Hyatt Washington, including the keynote addresses,

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IARFIC is co-hosted by the China Institute for Actuarial Science, China, the Central University of Finance and Economics, China, the Warren Centre for Actuarial Studies at the University of Manitoba, Canada, and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, USA.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

- **Joe Glauber**, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and former Chief Economist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), USA
- **Brandon Willis**, Administrator, Risk Management Agency (RMA) in the
The Exchange

USDA’s Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, USA

- **Mary Frances Miller**, FCAS, MAAA, FCA, Hon FIA, CPCU, AIM, Founder and Senior Consulting Actuary, Select Actuarial Services, USA
- **Bruce Sherrick**, Professor and Director, TIAA-CREF Centre for Farmland Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- **Joshua Woodard**, Assistant Professor and Zaitz Family Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow in Agricultural Finance and Business, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, USA

**PLENARY SESSION TOPICS**

1. **Big Data: technical and policy challenges.** Moderated by: **Barry Barnett**, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University, USA.

2. **Improving agricultural insurance ratemaking: underlying assumptions regarding market volatility, price/yield relationships, etc.** Moderated by: **Calum Turvey**, WI Myers Professor of Agricultural Finance, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, USA.

3. **China: update and innovations.** Moderated by: **Qiao Zhang**, Professor, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China.

4. **Agricultural insurance and the way forward: long-term sustainability of agricultural insurance programs, including a discussion on program design, role of government, and subsidy.** Moderated by: **G. Cornelis van Kooten**, Professor of Economics and Canada Research Chair in Environmental Studies, University of Victoria, Canada.

**PROGRAMME**

Sunday, June 7, 2015: Registration (4-6PM), and Reception (7-9PM)

Monday, June 8, 2015: Conference (7AM-9PM), and Gala Dinner (6:30-10PM)

Tuesday, June 9, 2015: Conference (7AM-5PM)

**REGISTRATION** ([www.iarfic.org](http://www.iarfic.org))

Regular registration fee: $895 USD*
Academic and student registration fee: $395 USD*

*Note: Add $100 USD to registration fee after April 1, 2015. Registration fee will be charged in CAD using an approximate exchange rate of 1.20.

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**Consumer Behavior in a Changing World:**
**FOOD, CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

**NAPLES, ITALY | March 25-27, 2015**
Job Openings

Be sure to visit the AAEA Job Board! Our new platform allows employers to post open positions on the site and browse the resumes of qualified candidates. Applicants can apply for these positions online and upload their resumes anonymously, protecting their personal information.

Social Media

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