

AAEA News

2017 AAEA Annual Meeting in Chicago: Hotel & Registration



AAEA invites you to take part in our [2017 AAEA Annual Meeting in Chicago](#), July 30 – August 1, 2017. Our meeting will take place at the [Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile](#), located in the heart of the Windy City. Surrounded by the best theatres, shopping, dining and entertainment around, this is an ideal location. This is an event you are not going to want to miss. Make sure to [register now](#) as rates will increase.

Registration Rates:

Join AAEA or renew your membership to get the discounted registration rate by visiting www.aaea.org/membership.

AAEA Room Rates:

- Single: \$195.00
- Double: \$195.00

Guest Rooms Include: Internet at \$1.00 per day, access to 9,000 sq. ft. fitness center, trendy Chicago hotel rooms featuring clean lines with chic, comfortable bedding and furnishings, spacious yet stylish hotel rooms & suites feature HD flat screen TVs and ergonomic furnishings, and experience spectacular downtown city and lake views from your Magnificent Mile accommodation.

Registration is now OPEN

Registration Type	Early (Before & on June 7)	Advanced (June 8– July 5)	On-Site (July 6 and after)
Professional Member	\$415	\$490	\$565
Professional Non-member	\$565	\$640	\$715
Senior Member	\$305	\$380	\$455
Senior Non-member	\$425	\$500	\$575
Graduate Student Member	\$105	\$140	\$180
Graduate Student Non-member	\$240	\$275	\$320
Guest Registration*	\$55 per guest	\$55 per guest	\$55 per guest

*Guests include any interested party not professionally in the fields of agricultural or applied economics, or a related discipline. Guest fees include the welcome reception, plenary sessions, and all concurrent sessions (Guests under the age of 16 are free, and don't need to register).

Cancellations of meeting registrations are subject to a \$50 processing fee. After July 6, no refunds will be given for meeting registrations or special event tickets. To cancel your Annual Meeting registration and/or special event tickets, contact the AAEA Business Office at (414) 918-3190 or info@aaea.org.

AAEA encourages attendees to make hotel room reservations early to avoid sold out rooms. Book your room at the Chicago Marriott Magnificent Mile through [online reservations](#) or by calling (877) 303-0104 and mentioning the 2017 AAEA Annual Meeting.

2017 Travel Grants: The grants defray housing and transportation costs associated with attending the 2017 AAEA Annual Meeting in Chicago, on July 30 – August 1. The amount of the travel grant awarded will depend on the number of applications received. There are Travel Grants for both International and Domestic attendees. Click below to learn more.

- [2017 Calls for Applications: Travel Grants Domestic](#)
 - [2017 Calls for Applications: Travel Grants International](#)
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Register for the 2017 Employment Center

Registration is now open for the 2017 Employment Center taking place July 30– August 1, during the [2017 AAEA Annual Meeting](#) in Chicago. The Employment Center offers a great opportunity for highly qualified candidates to connect with a number of employers during the Annual Meeting. The Employment Center features a simplified registration and posting process that is integrated into the [AAEA Job Board](#). Employer

registration is \$400 and includes unlimited job postings. Applicant registration is **FREE**, but participants must be registered for the 2017 AAEA Annual Meeting.

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 Chicago!

AARES-AAEA Young Professionals Exchange Award: 2017 HEADING NORTH AWARD

Applications are now invited for the 2017 Heading North award.

The Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) through the AAEA Trust will jointly offer this travel award to members of AARES or AAEA normally resident in Australia or New Zealand.

The objective of the award is to provide the winner with an opportunity for professional and personal development and international professional and cultural exchange. The award will have a value of US \$3,000 to be used to assist the winner to participate in the [2017 AAEA Annual Meeting](#) to be held in Chicago, from July 30 – August 1, 2017. Applicants for the award must be a member of either AARES or AAEA.

Selection Process

The 2017 Heading North selection committee will be chaired by the President-Elect of AARES Professor Suzie Kerr.

Applications should include:

- a paper for presentation at the [2017 AAEA Annual Meeting](#) in Chicago, for which the applicant is the sole or first author and which represents their original and unpublished work,
- a one-page biographical statement, and
- a one-page statement in support of their application, indicating what they would hope to accomplish through the award, why they would be deserving of the award, and confirming that they would be unable to attend the conference without this financial support.

Submission Deadlines and Details

Friday, March 31, 2017 (for travel in July 2017)

Electronic submissions (in PDF form) for this award must be emailed to Annie Hurst at office@aares.org.au by the due date.

2017 AAEA Fellow: Philip Garcia



Phil Garcia is the Thomas A. Hieronymus Distinguished Chair in Futures Markets in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After earning an AB from Occidental College in economics and working

three years in the Peace Corps, he received MS and PhD degrees from Cornell University in agricultural economics. Excellence in research and graduate education characterizes Phil's career. He has an exceptional record of continuous scholarly contributions, making landmark contributions to understanding agricultural commodity markets, and distinguishing himself as a graduate educator. Phil is a highly productive researcher with over 250 publications, including 117 journal articles, 21 appearing in the *AJAE*. His works have generated over 3,750 GS citations (h=37).

Phil has conducted path-breaking research on behavior and performance in commodity markets. His most lasting contributions are in two areas—rational pricing and forecast assessment, and convergence in futures markets. Phil's research has emphasized the assessment of forward-looking pricing mechanisms and price forecasting procedures in out-of-sample frameworks. Early in his career, Phil embarked on investigating rationality in pricing and forecast evaluation in agricultural futures markets. Innovative work followed on pricing efficiency of futures markets including a 1988 *AJAE* article, which refined and measured rationality in commodity markets. Phil has continued to emphasize rigorous out-of-sample evaluation when assessing hedging, rationality of option pricing and variance forecasting, and commodity price forecasting.

During 2005–2010, futures contracts expired up to 35% above cash prices in U.S. grain markets, generating the largest challenge to the use of futures markets in the last 50 years. Phil and his colleagues' non-convergence investigations culminated in a 2015 *AJAE* article that developed a

dynamic rational expectations model of commodity storage to explain non-convergence. Non-convergence was generated by disequilibrium between the storage rate for physical grain and the exchange-established storage rate paid to holders of the delivery instrument for the futures contracts. The 2015 *AJAE* article serves as a benchmark in discussions of contract design and market performance. The research led to the AAEA 2014 Quality of Communication and [2016 Quality of Research Discovery Awards](#).

Teaching and graduate education are fundamental components of Phil's portfolio. His courses in price analysis and research writing focus on problem solving and professional diagonal. With Carl Nelson, Phil developed and instructs an innovative and effective PhD course which links research and writing. The course, which is required and establishes a common framework for students, emphasizes that effective problem solving is stimulated by regular writing and defending research arguments. Phil has shared these experiences at conferences and in a 2003 *RAE* article.

Phil is a remarkable advisor and mentor. He has directed 19 MS theses and 28 PhD dissertations. Six theses were recognized by the Department as

outstanding and submitted to the AAEA competition. Koontz's 1991 PhD dissertation was awarded AAEA honorable mention. Phil also has served on 90 additional dissertation/thesis committees. Based on student research, he has co-authored 45 journal articles, and published an additional 25 articles with students on related research. Eleven of these publications, spanning 1982 to 2016, appear in the *AJAE*. As the Hieronymus Chair, Phil supports graduate education through assistantships, seminars, CME internships, and sponsoring conference participation. Since 2003, students have presented over 60 conference papers on commodity markets.

With his record, it is no surprise Phil has been recognized as an outstanding educator. Phil has received the flagship College award (Funk Award) for combined teaching, research and outreach contributions. In 2016, he also won the [AAEA Graduate Teaching Award](#). Importantly, students who Phil has advised and mentored have taken academic positions, and assumed leadership roles in government and international institutions. Others have highly successful careers in agribusiness. These scholars and leaders provide an enormous and lasting academic legacy.

2017 Extension Competition for Graduate Students

The Extension and Graduate Student Sections of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association announce a competition for graduate students for 2017. 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.

Purpose for the Competition

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 2016 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.

Submission Deadline

Applications must be submitted electronically no later than **5pm on May 31, 2017**.

Finalists will be selected to make a 15-minute extension/outreach presentation at the [2017 AAEA Annual Meeting](#) in Chicago, on **Sunday, July 30, 2017**, to a panel of judges. Selection of the finalists will be based on the material submitted and the criteria listed below. Finalists will be notified by June 16, 2017.

Criteria for judging the finalist and winners will include:

1. Identification of a target audience
 - a. An explanation of the issue/problem/opportunity being addressed
 - b. An explanation on how this target audience was identified
2. Development of an extension program for the target audience that includes:
 - a. An outline of the goals of the extension program
 - b. A summary and an explanation of the main elements of the thesis or dissertation results to be included in the extension program. Include a description of how the research results will address the issue/problem/opportunity and benefit the target audience
 - c. A summary of the program in an extension report, or extension PowerPoint presentation, or other appropriate extension communication media that the audience can take home. This summary should

be an explanation that would be effective in accomplishing the extension goals as identified in step 2a. above

3. An explanation of extension team development and responsibilities in terms of program development and delivery should be addressed, if appropriate
4. Plans for evaluating the effectiveness of the extension program

Each finalist must develop oral and visual presentations (15 minutes in length) for delivery at the AAEA meetings. Following the 15 minute presentation the judges will have five minutes of questions. The competition begins at 8 am on Sunday, July 30. The top three finalists are expected to make presentations during an AAEA Extension track organized symposium.

Cash awards will be given to those judged to be the top three graduate students in this competition. Award funding is provided by the AAEA Extension Section through membership dues and via support provided by the Farm Foundation, the National Crop Insurance Services Inc; the Southern Risk Management Education Center, the Western Extension Risk Management Education Center, The Center for Farm Financial Management, and FarmDoc. Awards are:

- First Place: \$1,000 and a plaque
- Second Place: \$300 and a certificate
- Third Place: \$200 and a certificate

Other finalists receive finalist certificates

The top three competitors selected will be recognized at the [2017 AAEA Annual Awards & Fellows Recognition Ceremony](#), and the winner will receive a plaque at the awards ceremony. All finalists are guests at the [Extension Luncheon](#) during the 2017 AAEA Annual Meeting. Luncheon tickets will be provided to all finalists. Submit Entries to: Dr. Maria Marshall (mimarsha@purdue.edu)



2017 AAEA Early Career Professionals Workshop Information

Who: This Workshop is for Early Career Professionals currently in a position in the academic or government fields. Topics include: teaching, service: learning when to say "NO", grant writing and project management, work-life balance, research and publishing, extension and outreach, successful communication, strategies and working with the media, navigating re-appointment, promotion and tenure, and advice on careers outside of academia.

[Schedule](#)[Register](#)[Make Reservations](#)

When:

May 31, 2017, from 7:00 am – 5:30 pm

June 1, 2017, from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Registration: \$85

- Registration to the two-day workshop
- Continental Breakfast on Wednesday and Thursday
- Lunch on Wednesday and Thursday
- Wednesday evening reception

Download the [registration form](#), fill out, and send to the AAEA Business office with payment by mail, fax (414) 276-3349 or email to info@aaea.org

- AAEA Business Office
555 E. Wells Street Ste. 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Where: [Vail Marriott Mountain Resort](#)

715 W. Lionshead Circle

Vail, CO 81657

(970) 476-4444

- Hotel Group Rate: \$129 (Guest Room must be reserved by **May 1, 2017**)

The day begins at 7:00 am each day with breakfast. It is recommended you [book your room at the Marriott](#) so you can experience the full workshop. Please visit the [2017 AAEA Early Career Workshop](#) page for more information.

AAEA at ASSA 2018

Call for Submissions:**2018 ASSA Annual Meeting**

President-Elect Scott Swinton is soliciting proposals and suggestions for AAEA invited paper sessions at the [2018 Allied Social Sciences Association \(ASSA\) Annual Meeting](#) in Philadelphia, January, 5-7, 2018.

The objective of AAEA sessions at the ASSA Annual Meeting is to share new knowledge of interest to economists. The AAEA encourages sessions that will draw widely from ASSA attendees, including sessions jointly sponsored with other ASSA member associations.

A subcommittee of the AAEA Board will review all proposals. Preference will be given to proposals that:

1. Cover issues of national and international importance,



2. Expand capabilities and tools for economic research,
3. Promise a high-quality collection of papers suitable for publication.

Papers in approved Invited Paper sessions are eligible to be peer reviewed for publication in the proceedings issue of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. Authors will be contacted by the *AJAE* editors with manuscript submission details.

Proposed formats for the two-hour sessions may include either three papers with one discussant or else four papers with no discussant. All proposals must include a plan for fostering participant interaction.

Proposals should include the session title and paper titles, as well as the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of the session organizer, moderator, paper presenters, and discussants. Proposal text should begin with a short justification of the session, followed by one

paragraph abstracts describing the objective and contributions of each paper. The organizer is responsible for ensuring that all individuals identified in the proposal are willing to participate.

All speakers and discussants must be members of AAEA, although the proposal may request a membership waiver under special circumstances. Participants must register for the ASSA meeting.

Please send proposals by **May 1, 2017**, in Word document or PDF format to Mary Annen at mannen@aaea.org.

Other News

EAAE 2017 Congress

Call for Proposals

AAEA invites you to submit session proposals for the [EAAE 2017 Congress](#) taking place August 29–September 1, 2017 in Parma, Italy.

Submitters should use [this template](#) and send completed proposals to AAEA President, Jayson Lusk Jayson.lusk@okstate.edu by **April 5, 2017**.

Call for Undergraduate Teams:

David Sparling Business Case Competition at CAES

Deadline: Midnight (PST), April 13, 2017

The Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES) is pleased to announce the new David Sparling Business Case Competition. This competition is a great opportunity to showcase the next generation of business leaders in the agri-food industry. Teams will be required to work through a complex, real-world challenge related to sustainability in the agri-food value chain, develop a creative, practical solution and present their findings and recommendations to a panel of judges made up of industry executives and academics.

The competition itself is only one aspect of the entire experience. Students will develop their ability to apply what they have learned in the classroom to find practical solutions to real-world business problems. Students will also develop their analytics, problem-solving, critical and strategic thinking,

team work, and presentation skills that employers are looking for. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with collaborating organizations, faculty and fellow students. This competition is dedicated to the memory of David Sparling. [LEARN MORE](#)

Prizes

Winning and runner-up teams will receive cash prizes of \$3,500 and \$2,000, respectively, and be recognized during the CAES awards banquet on evening of June 19, 2017.

Dates and Times

By April 13	Register for the Competition
By April 25	Register for the Conference
By April 25	Become CAES Student Member

June 18 4:30–6:30 pm	Team Check-In
June 19 3:00–6:00 pm	Case Competition
June 19 7:00–9:00 pm	CAES Awards Banquet

Eligibility and Registration

This competition is for undergraduate students (from first to final year) enrolled in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, and/or Business programs. Up to six teams will be accepted during the registration period, on a first-come first-serve basis. Student teams will be formed at their respective universities. Each team will consist of three students and have an academic coach. The coach will be responsible for the registration and will be the primary contact for communications.

To register your team, please submit the following information to Nicoleta Uzea, McGill University (nicoleta.uzea@mcgill.ca):

- Name and email address of team coach
- Name of University affiliation
- Name of team members

Note that a coach may initially register a team without naming student members. Student names may be specified at a later date, but not later than April 13, 2017.

Accepted students and their coach need to be members of the CAES and register for the conference by no later than April 25, 2017.

Competition Rules

The team and their coach need to check-in with the competition organizer on June 18, 2017, at 4:30 pm. The business case and detailed competition rules will be provided. Teams need to prepare a PowerPoint presentation with their solution to the case. On June 19, each team will present their analysis in front of the judges for 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of Q&A.

Teams will be required to present in English.

Presentations will be judged based on criteria such as:

- Appreciation of the problem and its strategic implications
- Appropriateness and applicability of the "solution" to the problem
- Creativity and originality of solution
- Quality and professionalism of presentation
- Effectiveness of responses to judges' questions

Questions and Expressions of Interest

Please direct questions and submit expressions of interest to Nicoleta Uzea, McGill University (nicoleta.uzea@mcgill.ca)

2017 Richardson-Applebaum Scholarship Award

For Outstanding Graduate Research on Food Distribution and Marketing

The Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS) is pleased to accept applications for the 2017 Richardson-Applebaum Scholarship Award, which is awarded annually for outstanding student research in the area of food distribution and marketing. Broadly defined, this area encompasses all economic functions that occur between the farm gate and final consumer.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all graduate students with scholarly interest and career aspirations in the food distribution system who have completed the degree in 2016 or by May 2017.

Award

- Cash stipends of (1) \$1,250 for the best PhD Dissertation, (2) \$750 for the best MS Thesis, and (3) \$750 for the best MS Case Study.
- Complementary student membership to FDRS.
- Complementary conference registration fees and recognition at the 2017 FDRS Annual Conference scheduled for October 20-24, 2017 in Honolulu, HI. The recipients' domestic travel expenses will also be paid by the society.
- The PhD recipient is invited to present his/her research at the conference.

Application

To apply submit the following electronically to alba.collart@msstate.edu by **May 15, 2017**:

- Cover letter
- A copy of the dissertation/thesis/case study
- A letter of recommendation from the academic advisor
- A brief synopsis of: academic training, any food industry experience and/or research experience, and career interests, goals, and objectives
- Applicant's contact information (name, mailing address, phone number, and email)

More Information

Please visit the FDRS website at: www.fdrsinc.org or contact FDRS's Vice President for Education: Dr. Alba Collart at alba.collart@msstate.edu

2017 Food Distribution Research Society Scholarship Award***For Outstanding Undergraduate Research on Food Distribution and Marketing***

The Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS) is pleased to accept applications for the 2017 Undergraduate Student Research Paper Competition in the area of food distribution and marketing. Broadly defined, this area encompasses all economic functions that occur between the farm gate and final consumer.

Undergraduate Student

Research Paper Competition in the area of food distribution and marketing. Broadly defined, this area encompasses all economic functions that occur between the farm gate and final consumer.

Eligibility

This competition is open to all undergraduate students with scholarly interest and career aspirations in the food distribution system.

Award

- Cash stipend of \$500 for the best Undergraduate Student Research Paper
- Complementary student membership to FDRS
- Complementary conference registration fees and recognition at the 2017 FDRS Annual Conference scheduled for October 20-24, 2017 in Honolulu, HI. The recipients' domestic travel expenses will also be paid by the society

Application Steps

1. Submit the attached Statement of Intent form electronically to alba.collart@msstate.edu. This step is optional but strongly encouraged, as it will help us plan the review process
2. Write the research paper following the formatting guidelines provided below
3. Submit the following electronically to alba.collart@msstate.edu by **May 15, 2017**:

- a. Cover letter
- b. A copy of the complete research paper in Microsoft Word (*.doc, *.docx) or other compatible format
- c. A letter of recommendation from the research paper advisor
- d. A brief synopsis of: academic training, any food industry experience and/or research

experience, and career interests, goals, and objectives

- e. Applicant's contact information (name, mailing address, phone number, and email)

More Information

Please visit the FDRS website at: www.fdrsinc.org or contact FDRS's Vice President for Education: Dr. Alba Collart at alba.collart@msstate.edu.

Obituary

Irma Adelman 1930-2017

(Written by David Zilberman)



A Leading Economist and Outstanding Berkeley Faculty Member

I was very sorry to learn that [Irma Adelman passed away February 24, 2017](#). A brilliant woman whose life story and achievements were truly awe-inspiring, Irma lived through some of the most important events of the 20th century and her research tools and ideas have impacted the lives of countless people. We were privileged to know and work with her for most of her very productive career. Irma was recently profiled in the Annual Review of Resource Economics "*Conversation*" series where they feature leading economists such as Arnold Harberger and Douglass North. However in this post, I want to offer a more personal perspective on Irma's life and work.

Irma was a fighter and survivor her entire life. She was born to a well-to-do family in Romania, but her close family had to escape persecution and leave Romania for Palestine during the turmoil leading to World War II. Her family members who didn't leave were lost forever. After graduating from high school, Irma fought in the Israeli Independence War of 1948, and after the War left for Berkeley. She completed her undergraduate studies at the business school, then earned a PhD in Economics, and got married. After graduation, she faced gender discrimination on the job market as a young tenure-track academic and despite her brilliant publications, she served as a lecturer and instructor for several years until she received her first assistant professorship at Stanford. From Stanford, she moved to Johns Hopkins, then to University of Maryland, and finally back to Berkeley, returning to her *alma mater* where she would remain for the rest of her career. I have always appreciated Irma's courage and resilience. She continued to be productive until her last days (preparing a book on the Korean Economic Miracle in which she played a prominent supporting role) despite dealing with diabetes and grieving the loss of her only son, Alex. She was blessed to have her son-in-law, Robert Ubilius Adelman, who supported her lovingly until her last days.

I hosted Irma for several weeks in her transition back to Berkeley, and in our many conversations I learned to appreciate her keen sense of humor, love of art, and her incredible ability in Checkers, Backgammon, and other table games. She could talk endlessly and eloquently about economics and

politics, her feelings of guilt for leaving Israel, and worried for their long-term survival amidst the havoc of the Middle East. She established a graduate student fund to support Israeli students to study in our department. She genuinely cherished the freedom and opportunities of America, was understandably very suspicious of the Communist Block, (including recently Putin) and the political regression of Russia. But most of all, she had incredible empathy for oppressed people everywhere, and being a development economist, fighting for equality and progress was natural for her. She also spoke frequently about the difficulties and uncertainties that she encountered as a young female economist, and I appreciated the incredible dedication she had during her early years when she wrote highly technical papers while teaching many classes at Stanford and Mills College, raising a child with minimal help. In those early days, she felt especially frustrated because, while many expressed goodwill and conviction to strive for equality for women, barriers were tough to break down. She realized that having affirmative-action legislation that codified women's rights was essential and must be expanded and maintained. Irma also believed that female perspectives expanded the conceptual scope and social relevance of economics as a discipline, meaning the exclusion of women made economics worse off than it would have been otherwise. Her career is a testament to this belief.

As an economist, Irma was ahead of her time, and I believe that her contributions have not been fully appreciated (she was considered for the Nobel Prize, and was very deserving). First, she was a true multi-disciplinarian. She realized that the standard economic framework was blind to many fundamental behavioral drivers of life—social status, household work, and striving for livelihood. With these limitations in mind, she introduced several frameworks that borrowed quantitative models from other social sciences to develop better understanding of quality of life and how policy can affect it. I recall that she recommended to one of her students, Effi Gutkind, who was looking for a dissertation topic, to go to different parts of Oakland, in laundromats and retail stores and ask different people, “if you were desperate and needed \$100, what would you do to get it?” Many people answered that they would borrow, or find a short-term job or work overtime, but many men suggested they would steal and women that they would enter prostitution. This illustrates that Irma was interested in all aspects of life, and real situations, and believed that the discipline of economics should have the capacity to capture these.

Irma was also the major force behind the development and use of social accounting matrices and computable general equilibrium (CGE) models. These frameworks try to understand and predict how resources are allocated and circulate within the economy, and have become one of the most important practical tools for large scale policy planning. While economic forecasting has its critics, governments and policy institutions around the world continue to rely on the models and methods that Irma pioneered. These tools are still in their early stages of institutionalization. With ever expanding data and computational resources, Irma's legacy will surely continue to grow. Using CGE models, Irma helped the Korean government develop the economic plans that masterminded its growth and launched Korea to become a major global economic power, attaining living standards beyond the imagining of their ancestors. Indeed, the Korean government recognized Irma with a medal for her contributions, and the head of the Korean development agency visited Irma to reaffirm their appreciation of her only last year. More recently, when California was planning its climate change statewide policy (AB32), Irma's student David Roland-Holst provided the long-term projections supporting the policy. Those CGE results were the only empirical evidence cited in the Governor's Executive Order establishing the Global Warming Solutions Act.

One of Irma's less recognized contributions was the seed of the economic idea that became known as hedonic pricing – how to measure the value of product attributes (e.g. value of a nutrient in food, value of a view from a house or mountain top). She told me that as a woman, she realized before anyone else that products vary by their qualitative characteristics, these values are reflected in prices, and therefore one should be able to estimate the value of individual characteristics from data on prices and different product attributes. As a young researcher, she approached Zvi Griliches with the idea and they collaborated and wrote a classic paper on [Index of Quality Change](#). This paper influenced many, including her friend Kelvin Lancaster, who presented a more expansive framework to model product quality that led to the formal notion of hedonic pricing.

Most of all, Irma loved Berkeley and the University. She appreciated the education she received and many of the great life experiences she had here, and coming back was a dream come true. Her ideas and guidance affected many of us, her colleagues, students, and the profession at large. She served on the university's most prestigious and demanding Academic Senate committee, the Budget Committee, and received the Berkeley Citation in recognition of her contribution to our campus. Irma always emphasized that while there are many prestigious, private universities, public universities, especially Berkeley, are essential because they are a proven channel for [social mobility and change](#). Irma always emphasized that America and California gained strength from providing talented people, who had been oppressed elsewhere, the means to reach their potential, noting that both she and a Nobel Laureate, Kenneth Arrow (who also passed recently), shared Romanian roots and flourished here. Indeed Irma, Arrow and many others were the products of public institutions. Irma's work has made economic analysis fuller, more inclusive, and provides a tool for social transformation. Her life was the very embodiment of social mobility and equal opportunity, and an example we can all aspire to.

Member in the News:

Do you know an AAEA Member who has made statewide, national, or international news?

Send a link of the article to info@aaea.org or ascheetz@aaea.org

[View other Members in the News HERE](#)

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Submissions to The Exchange:

AAEA Business Office
555 E. Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 918–3190
Fax: (414) 276–3349
email: info@aaea.org

www.aaea.org



Job Opportunities:

- [Assistant/Associate Professor](#)
University of Georgia
03/22/2017
- [Assistant Professor Position in Agri–Food Trade and Policy](#)
Dept. of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Guelph
03/21/2017
- [Assistant Professor Agriculture](#)
Alfred State SUNY College of Technology
03/20/2017
- [Lecturer](#)
University of Florida/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department
03/15/2017

These current positions and more can be found on the [AAEA Job Board](#). Sign up for listserv emails regarding new positions [HERE](#).

Working with the Media:

What research and topics are you working on? Want to be an expert source for journalists working on a story? We want to hear from you. Contact Jay Saunders via email, jasaunders@aaea.org.