

President's Message

September 2015



I hope that everyone enjoyed the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting as much as I did! It was well attended and included a fantastic slate of invited and selected presentations.

At the meetings, the AAEA Executive Board met and discussed numerous

issues and plans. Over the past two years, the Board has worked on a strategic plan and its implementation. A key part of this plan is an increased focus on communicating-out efforts. Within these efforts, we have differentiated strategies in media and government relations.

In terms of media relations, we recognize that the ability to communicate with the media and the general public has become increasingly valuable in recent years. At the same time, the rules of the game have changed. So, as part of our media relations efforts, we have hired Jay Saunders, as our Communications Manager, located in Milwaukee and employed by EDI, our association management company. As a media/public relations professional, 50% of Jay's time will be devoted to AAEA matters. His major objective will be to communicate the work of AAEA members to the public.

In the sphere of government relations, AAEA wishes to enhance the role of its members in informing federal policy making. However, most of us do not have easy access to the policy makers in Washington, DC. Last year, the Board established a Government Relations Committee that has been charged with defining the government relations

scope of work on an on-going basis and developing measures for assessing the success of the work. The function of government relations will be performed on a contract basis by the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE), which is located in Washington, DC. AAEA values its long affiliation with C-FARE and looks forward to a productive and sustainable future relationship. The terms of the relationship will be a bit different; AAEA, through its Government Relations Committee and input from membership, will set the agenda for what services it is contracting. Of course, there will be two-way communication with the talented leadership of C-FARE and the Government Relations Committee. This move to a contractual relationship with C-FARE allows them to pursue contracts for government relations services with other professional associations.

As part of our government relations efforts going forward, we—as an association—wish to identify a short list of “Priorities and Solutions,” to discuss with policymakers. To do so, I call on you, the membership, both individual and through sections, to suggest which topics should be our focus. If you have ideas or suggestions, please sent them to me (mccluskey@wsu.edu) or Brian Mondragon Jones (bmjones@aaea.org).

Lastly, I encourage all members attending the ASSA meeting in San Francisco in January to go to AAEA sessions and show your support for your colleagues. Details about AAEA sessions can be found on [AAEA's website](http://aaea.org). Hope to see you there.

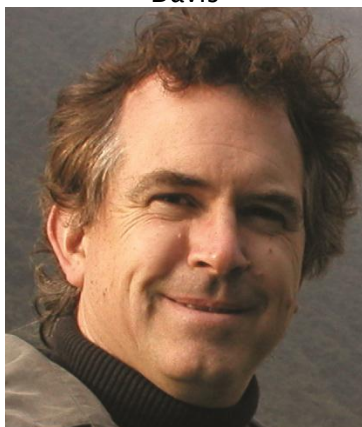
Jill McCluskey
AAEA President

2015 Fellows and Awards

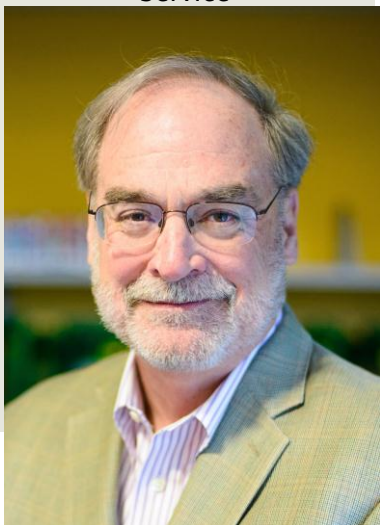
Thank you to the Awards Committee Chair, **Tim Dalton** of Kansas State University, Co-Chair, **Jaclyn Kropp** of the University of Florida, and Board Liaison, **Hayley Chouinard** of Washington State University, and all who graciously volunteered their time and efforts to serve on an AAEA Award Committee!

Fellows:

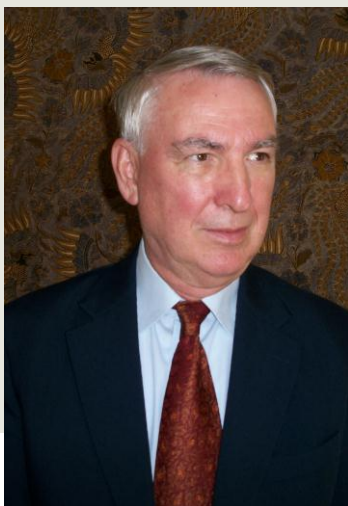
J. Edward Taylor
University of California,
Davis



James M. MacDonald
USDA – Economic Research
Service



C. Peter Timmer
Harvard University



Oklahoma State
University



Ariel Dinar
University of California,
Riverside



Alan L. Olmstead
University of California,
Davis



Undergraduate Student Section Awards

Academic Bowl

- First Place: Purdue University, Elizabeth Blinn, Andrew Johnson, Jason Kiao
- Second Place: University of Kentucky, Olivia Cline, Jason Simon, Nathaniel Trull

- Third Place: University of Idaho, Abby Biedenbach, Travis Chase, Brett Wilder

Outstanding Chapter Award

- Iowa State University, Advisor: Georgeanne Artz

Creative Club Award

- Iowa State University, Advisor: Georgeanne Artz

Outstanding Paper Competition

- First Place: **Neil Gerstein**, Iowa State University, “Food Security, Labor Efficiency, and Technology”
- Second Place: **Emilie Zentner**, University of Alberta, “Rice Biotechnology: Helping or Hurting Farmers in the Philippines?”
- Third Place: **Nathanial Trull**, University of Kentucky, “Public Support for Growth and Funding in Built Environments: Case of an Arboretum”

Graduate Student Section Awards

AEM/Graduate Student Case Study Competition

- First Place: Kansas State University, **Ana Claudia Sant’Anna**, **Emrah Er**, **Sandra Contreras**, Advisor: **Aleksan Shanoyan**
- Second Place: University of Minnesota, **William Secor**, **Erik Hanson**, Advisor: **Mike Boland**
- Third Place: University of Georgia, **Sarah Brown**, **Leighton Lister**, Advisor: **Josh Berning**

Graduate Student Extension Competition

- First Place: **Luis Peña–Levano**, Purdue University, Mentor: **Cesar Escalante**
- Second Place: **Molly Van Dop**, Purdue University, Mentor: **Ben Gramig**
- Third Place: **Misti Sharp**, Colorado State University, Mentor: **Dana Hoag**

AAEA Annual Awards:

Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award

- **Andrew Mollica**, University of Wisconsin–Madison, “Economic Growth and Income Inequality on American Indian Reservations”
- **Anna Scofield**, University of Wyoming, “The Impacts of Residential Development Pattern on Wildland Fire Suppression Expenditures”

- **Travis Smith**, University of Minnesota, “Distributional Analyses on Diet Quality in the United States”

Honorable Mention:

- **Patricia Yanez–Pagans**, University of Wisconsin–Madison, “Three Essays in Development and Environmental Economics”

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Awards

- **Anil Bhargava**, University of California, Davis, “Agriculture, Poverty, and Natural Resource Conservation in 21st Century India: Impact Evaluation and Analysis of Rural Development Policy”

Distinguished Teaching Awards

- Less than Ten Years’ Experience: **Nicholas Paulson**, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign
- Undergraduate Teaching (Ten or More Years’ Experience): **W. Marshall Frasier**, Colorado State University

- Graduate Teaching (Ten or More Years' Experience): **Richard Sexton**, University of California, Davis

Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Awards

- Individual (Less than Ten Years' Experience): **Shannon Ferrell**, Oklahoma State University
- Individual (Ten or More Years' Experience): **Danny Klinefelter**, Texas A&M University
- Group: DMAp (Dairy Markets & Policy), **Andrew Novakovic**, Cornell University; **Marin Bozic**, University of Minnesota; **Brian Gould**, University of Wisconsin–Madison; **John Newton**, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign; **Charles Nicholson**, The Pennsylvania State University; **Mark Stephenson**, University of Wisconsin–Madison; **Cameron Thraen**, The Ohio State University; and **Christopher Wolf**, Michigan State University

Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis

- **Bruce Babcock & Sebastian Pouliot**, Iowa State University

Quality of Communication Award

- **Geoffrey Barrows**, University of California, Berkeley; **Steven Sexton**, North Carolina State University; and **David Zilberman**, University of California, Berkeley, "Agricultural Biotechnology: The Promise and Prospects of Genetically Modified Crops"
- **J. Edward Taylor**, University of California, Davis; and **Mateusz Filipowski**, International Food Policy Research Institute, "Beyond Experiments in Development Economics: Local Economy–wide Impact Evaluation"

Honorable Mentions:

- **Colin Carter**, University of California, Davis; **Ben Santer**, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; **Maximilian Auffhammer**, University of California, Berkeley; **Alan Olmstead**, University of California, Davis; **Paul Rhode**, University of Michigan; **Richard Howitt**, University of California, Davis; **David Zilberman**, University of California, Berkeley and **Scott Kaplan**, University of California, Berkeley, "Climate Change: Challenges to California's Agriculture and Natural Resources"
- **David Zetland**, Leiden University College, "Living with Water Scarcity"

Publication of Enduring Quality Award

- **Julian Alston**, University of California, Davis; **George Norton**, Virginia Tech; and **Philip Pardey**, University of Minnesota, "Science under Scarcity: Principles and Practice for Agricultural Research Evaluation and Priority Setting"

Outstanding American Journal of Agricultural Economics Article Award

- **Nathan Hendricks**, Kansas State University; **Aaron Smith**, University of California, Davis; and **Daniel Sumner**, University of California, Davis, "Crop Supply Dynamics and the Illusion of Partial Adjustment," *AJAE*. (2014): 96 (5): 1469–1491

Honorable Mention:

- **Sathya Gopalakrishnan**, The Ohio State University; and **H. Allen Klaiber**, The Ohio State University, "Is the Shale Energy Boom a Bust for Nearby Residents? Evidence from Housing Values in Pennsylvania," *AJAE*. 96.1 (2014): 43–66

Outstanding Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy Article Award

- **Andrea Guariso**, KU Leuven; **Mara Squicciarini**, KU Leuven; and **Johan Swinnen**, KU Leuven, “Food Price Shocks and the Political Economy of Global Agricultural and Development Policy”, *AEPP*. (2014) 36 (3): 387–415

Outstanding Choices Article

- **Philip Pardey**, University of Minnesota; **Jason Beddow**, University of Minnesota; and **Steven Buccola**, Oregon State University, “Losing the Plot? Agricultural Research

Policy and the 2014 Farm Bill” *Choices* (2014) 29 (3rd Quarter)

Honorable Mentions:

- **Erik Lichtenberg**, University of Maryland, “Conservation, the Farm Bill, and U.S. Agri-Environmental Policy,” *Choices* (2014) 29 (3rd Quarter)
- **Brian Wright**, University of California, Berkeley, “Multiple Peril Crop Insurance,” *Choices* (2014) 29 (3rd Quarter)

Presidential Recognition Award for Special Service to the Association

- **Mary Ahearn**, *Choices* Editor

AAEA Trust Sponsored Awards:

Chester O. McCorkle Jr. Student Scholarship

- **Andrew Stevens**, University of California, Berkeley

Luther G. Tweeten Scholarship

- **Sylvan Herskowitz**, University of California, Berkeley

Uma Lele Mentor Fellowship

- **Mohammad Jahangir Alam**, Bangladesh Agricultural University and **Rajib Sutradhar**, Jawaharlal Nehru University

AARES-AAEA Young Professional Exchange Program

- Heading North Award: **Sayed Iftekhar**, University of Western Australia
- Heading South Award: **Kate Fuller**, Montana State University

Sylvia Lane Mentor Fellowship

- **Mousumi Das**, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

LILMI Travel Grants

- **Ahsanuzzaman Ahsanuzzaman**, North South University; **Annet Adong**, Makere University; **Kiran Patil**, University of Agricultural Sciences; **P Venkatesh**, Indian Agricultural Research Institute; **Kennedy Otieno Pambo**, University of Nairobi; **Solomie Gebrezgabher**, International Water Management Institute (IWMI); **Yemisi Lawal**, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria

Student and Early Career Professional Travel Grants

- Sandip Agarwal, Iowa State University; Dylan Bouchard, University of Maine; Shun Chonabayashi, Cornell University; Jen He, University of Maryland; Ji Yong Lee, Kansas State University; Yoo Hwan Lee, Colorado State University; Yu Na Lee, University of Minnesota; Wilson Lopez, North Dakota State University; Luis Peña-Levano, Purdue University; Yunus Sisman, Auburn University; Pratikshya Sapkota Bastola, Washington State University; Andrew Simons, Cornell University; William Thompson, University of Georgia; Seth Wiggins, West Virginia University; Jia Zhong, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

AAEA News**Call for Nominations:*****AAEA President-Elect and Directors***

The AAEA Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations from AAEA membership for AAEA President-Elect and two AAEA Directors, all for three year terms beginning July 2016.

Please submit the names and affiliations of nominees to bmjones@aaea.org. Nominations must be received by **Thursday, October 1, 2015**.

Member Profile**Jane Kolodinsky***Professor**University of Vermont***What motivated you to pursue Agricultural/Applied Economics as a profession?**

While some professionals have a clear vision of their career track at the beginning of their educational pursuits, I actually never thought I would end up where I am today. My B.S. is in nutrition. I thought I was going to be a dietitian. In the 1980's dieticians did not have the autonomy they have now. So, I pursued an MBA and thought I would

work in the food industry. Industry was not my destiny. After researching what type of PhD I would be prepared for, I found Consumer Economics. I studied Consumer Economics and Housing at Cornell with minors in Agricultural Economics and Marketing. Little did I know that almost 30 years later a perfect storm would brew. My transdisciplinary background has come of age. Food Systems is the new Agricultural/Consumer Economics and I am prepared for the future I didn't know was coming. At a time when many professionals are thinking about sun-setting their careers, I have more motivation (and projects) than ever and remain enthusiastic and energized for the next phase of my career.

Why did you join AAEA, and how has membership in the Association impacted your professional development?

I joined AAEA early in my career, as my "second" professional organization. I had early leadership

opportunities at the American Council on Consumer Interests and was fortunate to chair a joint program with AAEA. When ACCI took a different direction several years ago AAEA became my primary professional organization. AAEA has provided me with opportunities to present, publish and network. AAEA welcomed me in leadership positions. I have had the opportunity to give back as chair of Food Safety and Nutrition section and am looking forward to chairing the Food and Marketing Policy Section.

What advice would you give to an up and coming Agricultural/Applied Economist?

Embrace the transdisciplinary future while pursuing deep knowledge in an area of applied economics. The world is defined by problems, not disciplines. Teams are needed that are able to speak across disciplines, have respect for other disciplines, and are able to use the tools in our applied toolboxes to tackle the complex problems we face in agriculture, the environment, and in our communities.

Obituary

Leonidas C. Polopolus



Leonidas C. Polopolus (Leo) passed away Monday, August 17, from injuries suffered in an auto accident on July 31. He was 82 years old.

Leonidas was born in San Bernardino, California in

1933 where his parents, Constantine and Irene Gatsos Polopolus, were fruit and vegetable growers. Leonidas received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis with highest honors and his PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Polopolus was a professor at the University of Florida (UF) from 1969 – 1996, and taught at the undergraduate and graduate level on a variety of topics, including marketing, micro economic theory, labor, agribusiness, public policy and the economy of modern Greece. In addition to UF, he also was a professor at [Louisiana State University](#) (LSU) (1960 – 1965), and a visiting professor at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute in Crete, the

Athens Agricultural University, and Santa Clara University.

While at the University of Florida, Dr. Polopolus was Assistant Dean of the Graduate School (1969–1973), Chair of the Food and Resource Economics Department (1973–1983), and Co-Director of the Center for Agricultural Law (1982–1987). He was a Co-Founder of the UF Center for Greek Studies in 1980, and remained Co-Director until 2004.

A few of Dr. Polopolus' honors include: President (1983) and Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, Editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, President of the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida, and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

Dr. Polopolus testified on numerous occasions before the U.S. Senate and House committees on labor, immigration, agriculture, trade and budget policy issues. He served as consultant to the U.S. Secretary of Labor during the Kennedy administration and as consultant to the National Commission on Productivity during the Nixon

administration. He was the author of 300 publications including two books "Marketing Sugars and Other Sweeteners" and "Vegetable Markets in the Western Hemisphere," book chapters, professional journal articles, and papers.

In 1975 Leo founded the Embros Orchestra, serving as band leader. He played clarinet, alto sax, soprano sax, and flute, sang many of the vocals, and composed several original Greek songs. The band performed live at Greek community functions, weddings, and local restaurants including Sandy's Place and Satchel's, and released one cassette tape and three CDs. The most recent incarnation of the band included his daughter Eleni and son-in-law David.

Leo was an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Gainesville and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) since 1970, holding various leadership positions throughout his years of involvement. Since 1980, Leo was active with the Greek Orthodox community of Gainesville, as President, Treasurer, and Choir Director, and was instrumental in the establishment of St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker Greek Orthodox Church of Gainesville. For many years he had been

working to raise funds for the Church's fellowship hall.

With his wife Jean, Leo founded Arcadian Farms in 1986 and began farming as a hobby, eventually becoming a regular vendor at the Downtown and Haile Farmers Markets where he sold his pecans, peaches, persimmons, and other fruits, as well as a wide variety of vegetables he had grown.

Leo is survived by his wife, Jean Polopolus of High Springs, his sister Helen Tasulis of Lewiston, NY, his daughters Eleni Sheehan (Terry) and Peggy Ford (David) of Gainesville, and his grandsons Matt, Terry and Patch.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Leo's memory with a contribution to the Building Fund of St. Elizabeth Greek Orthodox Church. Arrangements are in the care of Milam Funeral and Cremation Services, 311 S. Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601. (352) 376-5361. milamfh.com – See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gainesville/obituary.aspx?n=leonidas-c-polopolus&pid=175562672&#sthash.Ez0KQAvn.dpuf>



Crop Insurance and the 2014 Farm Bill: Reports and Analyses from the Field

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January 3-5

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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Coming up in the next issue of The Exchange...

- People Section
- Government Relations Update
- Call for Nominations: President-Elect & Directors