



# AAEA Grad Student Section Update

The Official Newsletter of the Graduate Student Section

Volume 1, Issue 1

Covering News for July, August, and September

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### **Kami's Top 5 reasons to join GSS:**

1. It's Cheap-Only \$5!
2. Resources at your fingertips
3. Meet other graduate students, professors and professionals
4. Make employment connections
5. Resume / CV Builder

## Message from the Chair

Greetings Ag Econ Students, Professors, and Professionals!

You are reading the very first edition of "The GSS Newsletter!" I would like to tell you about a few exciting changes that we have made this year, mainly in line with your requests and responses. Most graduate students have said that GSS needs more publicity, and in response to that we have developed some new ways to get the word out. We have committed to writing a quarterly newsletter available in July, October, January, and March. In addition, the website has undergone a major overhaul with respect to its navigation features. More information is posted now than ever before, and you should be able to find things much easier. Be sure to visit <http://www.geocities.com/aaeagss>. We have also been writing articles for the Students' Corner section of the AAEA Newsletter *The Exchange* and have been expanding our email updates as a way to inform graduate students of upcoming events and deadlines.

With the approved changes to our bylaws, each of the three GSS Members-At-Large will lead one of the following committees; Activities, Membership, and Publicity. These newly elected executive committee members will focus on their respective areas. We have added a CV and Resume writing workshop to our list of track sessions. This serves as a great complement to the existing sessions on Writing Journal Articles and Interviewing when preparing for employment and internship searches.

It has been great serving as your chair for the past year and I hope that GSS continues to be the premier place for graduate students to network, make employment connections, and build relationships across the nation.

Kamina Johnson

## Meet the New Executive Committee!

**Chair** – Christiane Schroeter, Purdue University

**Vice Chair** – Leigh Ann Love, University of Florida

**Secretary** – Whitney Oliver Peake, Purdue University

**Member at Large** – Michael Gunderson, Purdue University

**Member at Large** – Michelle Mullins, University of Missouri

**Member at Large** – Nikolaos E. Kalogeras, Illinois University

**Faculty Advisor** – Aslihan Spaulding, Illinois State University

**Faculty Advisor** – Mike Sykuta, University of Missouri

**Faculty Advisor** – Jayson Lusk, Oklahoma State University

## Dock your Schooner in Providence!

Ahoy Mates! If you are planning to be in Providence, be sure to attend the series of Graduate Student activities planned for the annual meetings!

### **Business Meeting & Reception**

**Sunday from 3:30-5:30pm in Convention Center, 550A-B and 553A-B**

This year's theme is "Treasure Island" and the afternoon will be filled with grub, grog, pirate booty, games and activities. This is an excellent opportunity to meet, greet, and network with graduate students and faculty, as well as get to know the incoming GSS Executive Committee. Cash prizes will be awarded to the graduate students with the most poker chips and a \$25 Amazon gift certificate to the winner of the membership recruitment questionnaire drawing. (Don't forget to complete your questionnaire by July 15<sup>th</sup> to enter the drawing!)

### **Track Sessions**

If you are interested in professional development, be sure to attend the GSS Track Sessions! This year, the track includes a new session, **Guidelines for Writing a Curriculum Vitae or Résumé**. Also be sure to mark your calendar for the popular track sessions on **Writing and Submitting a Journal Article**, scheduled for Monday from 1:30-3:00pm, and **Interviewing and Becoming a Successful Academic Professional** scheduled for Tuesday from 10:30am-12:00pm. All three sessions will feature a panel of speakers representing academia, government and the private sector who will provide guidelines and advice related to the featured topic.

Hope to see you at Treasure Island!

Cutthroat Charity a.k.a. Leigh Ann Love, 2004 – 2005 GSS Member-at-Large

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## What is GSS?

GSS stands for the Graduate Student Section, of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA). The AAEA-GSS was developed to provide a medium for graduate students in the AAEA to come together to foster the professional development of graduate students through various activities. The specific objectives of the AAEA-GSS are:

- To promote the professional development of graduate students in agricultural economics and related graduate programs,
- To increase participation and involvement of students with both academic and non-academic career goals in the American Agricultural Economics Association, and
- To provide more opportunities for graduate student involvement at the Annual Meetings and any other related activities of the American Agricultural Economics Association.

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## History of GSS

The GSS stemmed from the original graduate student breakfasts organized by Claudia Parliament and Vern Eidman and was expanded into a full section through the work of Blake Bennet, Lisa House, and Darren Hudson. The GSS was a product of an idea by Blake Bennett, who believed that graduate students were not receiving ample opportunities at the national level to network, develop skills, and participate in meetings. The concern was discussed with Ralph Christy, then AAEA President, who encouraged the students to write a proposal to the AAEA. Donna Dunn also encouraged the group to write a section proposal.

***Come and Support  
the students  
competing in the  
Case Study  
Competition!***

**Louisiana State  
Mississippi State  
Oklahoma State  
Purdue University  
Texas A&M  
Univ. of Arkansas  
University of Alberta  
University of Florida  
University of Missouri**

The GSS  
Executive  
Committee is  
listening!

The questionnaire is accessible on our website for anyone else who wants to participate. All questions, comments, and submissions are appreciated.

## Case Study Competition

The AAEA Graduate Student Case Study Competition allows graduate students to test their communication skills and their ability to apply their knowledge of agricultural economics and agribusiness subjects to practical situations. Every year, the members of the final three groups of the competition attend the Industrial Banquet where they are awarded plaques as a reward.

### Case Study Competition Preliminary Rounds

- Sunday, July 24, 9 AM – 3 PM
- Convention Center, 550A, 550B, 553A, 553B

### Case Study Competition Finals

- Monday, July 25, 5 PM - 6:15 PM
- Convention Center, 551 A



All graduate student members of the AAEA were emailed a questionnaire to fill out. Everyone who filled out a questionnaire and returned it by July 15<sup>th</sup> was entered into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon Gift Certificate to be held at the GSS Business Meeting and Reception. This questionnaire was

designed to find out what graduate students know about GSS, how they use GSS's services, and how they would like to receive information about GSS. Visit <http://www.geocities.com/survey.htm>.

## AAEA Employment Center & GSS Job Portal

The **Employment Center** allows employers and job seekers to conduct interviews on-site at the AAEA Annual Meetings. Applicants at the Employment Center are at the Master's and Ph.D. level or individuals who are already in the workforce. Employers include universities, government agencies, and industry employers who are looking for quality candidates in the agricultural economics field. *If you are interested, be sure to register on-site at the meetings.*

This year's Employment Center will be at the AAEA Annual Meeting, July 24-27, 2005, in Providence, Rhode Island. The Center opens on Sunday, July 24, 1 pm and stays open until 6 pm. It is open during the day on Monday and Tuesday from 8 am to 6 pm. The Employment Center will be open on Wednesday, July 27 from 8 to 11 am. A brief orientation to the Employment Center for applicants and employers will be Sunday at noon.

New to the GSS Website is the "**Job Portal**" <http://www.geocities.com/aaeagss/jobportal>. This new section of the website was created to provide graduate students employment information for jobs in agricultural economics within government, industry, and academia. Be sure to take advantage of this new tool, and provide suggestions on additional materials or website links that should be added to the website.

## How do I Join GSS?

*Myth: If I am a graduate student and sign up for membership of the AAEA, I become automatically a member of the GSS.*

***Truth: You need to sign up for the GSS membership in addition to your AAEA Membership!***

There is a list of sections with their associated membership fees on the AAEA Membership form, so be sure to check the box next to GSS when you join the AAEA or each time when renew your AAEA membership. GSS memberships must be renewed every year, just like the AAEA membership.

*Myth: Membership in the GSS is expensive.*

***Truth: Membership in the GSS Section is only \$5.00!***

In relative terms this is only about 7% of your AAEA Membership fees. In addition, the fees for 8 out of 12 AAEA sections are \$10 or more.

*Myth: There is no information available about the GSS, so I don't understand what they do.*

***Truth: There is more information available about the GSS than ever before!***

Our improved website can be viewed at <http://www.geocities.com/aaeagss>. This newsletter will be available 4 times a year! In addition, *The Exchange*, the AAEA Newsletter, publishes the "Students' Corner" section, which is written by the GSS Executive Committee. Our officers frequently send emails with important announcements and updates. If you are interested in receiving email updates about our events, activities, and opportunities please send an email to [aaeagss@yahoo.com](mailto:aaeagss@yahoo.com) with the subject being "Add me to the GSS List."

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## Future and Vision of GSS

The Graduate Student Section (GSS) of the AAEA has undergone many changes in the past two years to position itself as a premier organization for graduate students studying agricultural economics. In 2004, the executive team adopted the idea of having a theme for the GSS Business Meeting and Reception (pictures and overview of this event are available on our website at <http://www.geocities.com/aaeagss/meeting2004.htm>). Hopefully this new tradition will continue, reflecting the geographical setting for the annual AAEA meetings in future years. We are also excited that two new competitions for graduate students will be presented at the 2005 GSS Business Meeting and Reception; one focused on writing a research paper followed by a presentation, and the other through the Extension section. If approved, information about both of these opportunities will be publicized and available on the GSS website. Lastly, we will continue to distribute our questionnaire to collect feedback that will contribute to the success of the Graduate Student Section and our members.

**<http://www.geocities.com/aaeagss>**

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