



AAEA Grad Student Section Update

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Message from AAEA-GSS Chair

Dear GSS members,

I hope you had a great holiday and a good start into the new semester! Happy New Year! Starting a New Year always brings some New Year's resolutions along. Are you are looking for something that you can add under 'extra-curricular activities' on your resume or CV? Do you feel like becoming more involved with your professional organization and meeting graduate students and faculty outside of the classroom? Well, here is your opportunity to be involved with the GSS and join our fun team of officers! As a GSS officer, you will improve your leadership experiences, organizational skills, and ability to network. Nominations will be accepted by e-mail through April 12th and elections will be held from April 14-May 1st. You can nominate yourself or be nominated by your advisor. Check out page 4 in this newsletter and our election website for more information:

<http://www.geocities.com/aacagss/about.htm>

The GSS board has been actively preparing for the AAEA meetings in Long Beach, CA. In this newsletter we will provide you with an exclusive sneak preview about what events are going to be offered especially for graduate students! In addition to our traditional events, we have been working on adding new activities at the annual meetings. Your feedback and opinion is always appreciated because it helps us adjust our program to your needs. For updates on the AAEA meeting, please check our website at <http://www.geocities.com/aacagss/activitiesevents.htm>. You will be able to find relevant information, such as information about travel grants, work opportunities to cover your registration cost, registration forms for the Case Study Competition, and information about all AAEA-GSS activities, e.g., sessions about job interviews, journal article publishing, and resume/CV writing.

Please let me know if you have any ideas, suggestions, or questions. I am looking forward to hearing from you,

Christiane Schroeter

Want to Share in the Experience?

The AAEA-GSS executive committee is planning several exciting new activities! The GSS is working in collaboration with other AAEA sections to offer you an even wider variety of activities and sessions! Do you want to share in the experience? Please check out our new website

(<http://www.geocities.com/aacagss/contactus.htm>) for detailed information about GSS activities, job information, useful links, contact information, and much more. We look forward to hearing from you!

Exposing Yourself to the Job Market & Establishing Your Career

The Graduate Student Section (GSS) has planned several activities that you should not miss! The GSS activities in Long Beach, CA, (23-26 July, 2006) start with an exciting reception and business meeting. On Sunday, July 23, from 4:30-6:30 PM, the GSS will hold its annual reception and drinks, food, games and prizes for all graduate students. Networking, getting to know the GSS, learning about opportunities related to jobs and job preparation are only a few of the components of this event! Feel free to join the AAEA-GSS reception, enjoy the refreshments and interact with other grad-students and professionals. Our organized symposiums this year focus on the topic *Exposing Yourself to Job Market and Establishing Your Career*. Below information about the organized symposiums that will follow the reception and business meeting are presented.

Case Study Competition (this year with \$\$\$ prizes)

The GSS Case Study Competition has become a tradition at the AAEA meetings. For the past three years, the AEM Section has supported the GSS and Case Study Competition by providing complimentary tickets for the three case study finalist teams to the Industry Banquet, where they are awarded plaques for their outstanding presentations. This year the first team will receive \$300, the second team will receive \$200, and the third winning team will receive \$100. The Case Study Competition is typically coordinated by two GSS faculty advisors, Aslilhan Spaulding and Mike Sykuta, who also determine the case content and arrange judges for each round. Past judges during the final round have included an executive from the company and the author of the case. Please direct any questions regarding the 2006 AAEA Case Study Competition to Aslilhan Spaulding at adspaul@ilstu.edu, phone: +1-309-438-8091 or Michael Sykuta at sykouta@missouri.edu, phone: +1-573-882-1738.

Young Professional Teaching Academy (New Session!)

The purpose of the Academy is to acquaint graduate students and young faculty member participants with a wide range of valuable teaching techniques and resources. The organized workshop will feature curriculum of two themes: Instructional Basics, and Course Specifics. Speakers tentatively scheduled include A. Barkely (Kansas State Univ.), E. Jones (Texas A&M Univ.), M. Esprey (Clemson Univ.) and R. Mittelhammer (Washington State Univ.) Each participant will receive materials containing resource articles on teaching, learning and communication in applied economics! Watch the GSS website for updates regarding the Teaching Academy, such as registration forms and travel grants. The space in the workshop is limited, so be sure to sign up early to reserve your spot! Each participant will receive a certificate from the AAEA recognizing their successful completion of the Academy-another great bonus that could be added to your CV!

Interpretation, Information Gathering, Resume, CV & Cover Letter Writing

The purpose of this organized symposium is to provide individuals with guidelines and advice on how to create a successful job application package. Speakers tentatively scheduled include W. Tyner and O. Doering (Purdue Univ.) and J. Noel (CA Polytechnic Institute) representing academic and private sector. These three speakers will give advice on the writing of cover letters, resumes or curriculum vitae (CV's), and how to obtain additional information about position. Special focus will be placed on understanding and responding to job postings.

Interviewing and Becoming a Successful Professional

This track session provides graduate students with ideas on what they can learn to prepare themselves for the job market and professional careers. Speakers tentatively scheduled include P. Garcia, (Univ. of Illinois at U-C), S. Turner (Mississippi State Univ.) and D.J. Newton (USDA) who will offer advice grad-students on topics such as academic interviewing procedure starting and pursuing a successful career; and, for those in academia, gaining tenure.

Guidelines on Writing and Submitting Journal Articles

This organized symposium will provide graduate students or young faculty members with guidelines regarding how to write and submit journal articles. Three speakers from academia are tentatively scheduled: W. Brorsen, (Oklahoma State Univ. & Editor AJAE), J. Kinsey, (Minnesota State Univ.); and J. Loomis (Colorado State Univ.) who are experienced in writing and submitting journal articles. These three speakers have also taken part in the reviewing process, and, hence, they will provide the audience with information and strategic guidelines from their perspective.

The AAEA-GSS Goes Global!

The AAEA-GSS activities have attracted a great deal of interest from AgEcon scholars worldwide. Many graduate students from around the world visit the AAEA-GSS website and contact the GSS officers! AgEcon faculty members from around the globe also continue to provide their enthusiasm and support with active participation in AAEA-GSS activities. In response to all the warm greetings, constructive comments, and active participation in AAEA-GSS activities, the members of the executive committee would like to convey their thanks to all the members, readers, and professionals of the AgEcon community worldwide. In an effort to provide recognition and appreciation to all our members and readers, the AAEA Grad Student Section Update hosts a column that allows it to GO GLOBAL! This time the AAEA-GSS welcomes the news of the *Dept. of Food, Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Giessen, Germany, EU*. (Check out the website at http://www.uni-giessen.de/fbr09/index_en.php).

Good Governance in the Agricultural and Food Economy

“*Good Governance*” has become an important and frequently discussed topic in agricultural economics and management sciences. The term refers to an efficient regulatory system of political authority. In that sense, good governance sets the political framework to ensure social, ecological and economic progress. The *University of Giessen, Germany*, welcomes you to two events in order to contribute to the discussion:

During October 04-06, 2006, the University of Giessen will host the conference of the *German Association of Agricultural Economists (GEWISOLA)*. The GEWISOLA is dedicated to enhance teaching and research in the area of agricultural and farm economics and to exchange scientific knowledge between members and international associations. For the past 40 years, the GEWISOLA has invited students and faculty to annual meetings for the purpose of discussing current developments and future market challenges in agribusiness. The topic of this year’s conference is “*Good Governance in the Agricultural and Food Economy*”. During the conference, participants will have the opportunity to discuss how good governance influences the business environment, investment and development possibilities and the overall competitiveness of a country’s agribusiness system. International contributions to the conference are more than welcome from graduate students worldwide! Updated information about the conference and the call for papers can be viewed at <http://www.uni-giessen.de/gewisola2006/>. Furthermore, the University of Giessen organizes the “*Developing Countries Prize 2006*” at the end of October, 2006.

With this prize the university honors achievements in the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge concerning developing countries. The prize is endowed with 5,000 Euros and can be awarded to individuals as well as teams and institutions. To support the activity of young researchers a Ph.D. dissertation and two master’s theses will be honored as well. Further detailed information is available at <http://www.uni-giessen.de/preise>.

Jochen Hartl

Ph.D. Candidate in the Dept. of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University Giessen

Upcoming Events

The next AAEA Annual Meeting, “*Envisioning the Future*” will be held July, 23 - 26, 2006 in Long Beach, California. For more info about 2006 annual meeting’s activities visit the following website:

<http://www.aaea.org/SPPPOSCalls.pdf>

The call of papers of several other interesting events can be viewed at:

<http://www.aaea.org/info/upcoming/> and

http://www.eaae.org/index.php?page=en/content/seminars/upcoming_seminars.htm

Join the AAEA-GSS's Team of Officers



So, you are in Graduate School....

Are you looking for more than textbooks, exams, and journal articles?

All of us need a break from the stress and demands of graduate school, whether you are in a masters or doctorate degree program. One organization was established to provide leadership opportunities, fellowship with other graduate students and faculty, and to enhance graduate education for students studying Agricultural Economics... ***The Graduate Student Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association GSS-AAEA!***

You may be involved as a member of the section, or better yet, as a **member of the executive committee!** As an officer in the organization, you will be part of a great team of graduate students from all over the world! You will be able to plan graduate activities for the AAEA annual meetings, facilitate interaction between graduate students and faculty, and provide new opportunities for graduate students to expand their professional horizons.

Nominations for GSS leadership positions are accepted from interested individuals **who are AAEA and GSS members by April 15.** You could also nominate a qualified individual. **Nominations will be accepted by email through April 12th and elections will be held from April 14- May 1st.**

Do you like to be in charge of things and would like to gain some outstanding leadership experiences? Become a chair elect! You will propose the GSS activities for the Annual Meeting to the AAEA foundation, plan the budget, and finalize the activities for the meeting.

Do you enjoy keeping records, working with numbers, and exchanging information to others? Become a secretary/treasurer! You will take minutes at the GSS meetings, keep track of the budget and write the Student corner articles for the AAEA newsletter "The Exchange".

Are you a computer whiz that enjoys communication and website design? - Become a member at large of communication! You will be able to use your creativity during the preparation of the GSS newsletter and on the GSS Website design!

Do you love consumer research and marketing? – Become a member at large of publicity and membership recruitment! You will be responsible for keeping our members up-to-date by sending updates and newsletters. At the annual meeting, you will publicize our events and recruit new members.

Do you enjoy parties and planning events? Become a member at large of activities! You will help to organize the activities at the Annual meeting, such as the reception, seminars, and aid with the case study competition.

Contact either Christiane Schroeter (cschroe@purdue.edu) or Leigh Love (leigh.love@gmail.com) or check out our website <http://www.geocities.com/aaegss/> to find out more!

Welcome & Congratulations!!!



The AAEA-GSS welcomes all the graduate students worldwide for becoming members of AAEA-GSS for the academic year 2006. Congratulations to all grad students for their enthusiasm and support in AAEA-GSS activities!!!

The GSS Board conveys its special congrats to **Jason Franken**, grad-student at the Dept. of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who is the randomly-selected winner (among all the grad students registered as members of AAEA-GSS in 2006) of the online Amazon gift certificate!

Many congrats to Jason from the AAEA-GSS community!!!

Meet the Members of AAEA-GSS Committee

Mike Gunderson is GSS member-at-large. Mike has been at Purdue working on a Ph.D. in the Department of Agricultural Economics since June 2003. He earned his M.Sc. degree in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University, and earned his B.S. degree in Agribusiness, Farm, and Financial Management from the University of Illinois in 2001. At Purdue he has been actively involved with the Center for Food and Agribusiness and their programs. He also has served as a teaching assistant for classes in the MS-MBA in Food and Agribusiness. Mike's M.Sc. thesis focused on the profitability of agricultural borrowers. This line of research will be continued in the dissertation as he considers the evolving demands agricultural producers place on suppliers for inputs and services. A native of Illinois, Mike is involved with his brothers' dairy farm in Freeport, Illinois and enjoys following Big Ten sports. He also completed the Chicago Marathon in October 2004. Mike's work in GSS is primarily related to publicity. That's why you receive multiple emails from him (sometimes even multiples of the same email!). According to Mike, "Graduate students should get involved in the GSS to improve the professional environment for future generations of graduate students. Members of the board work year around to improve the opportunities for graduate students' efforts to be highlighted. That is the reason for the development of the track sessions and the competitions held at the Annual Meeting."

Nikos Kalogeras is another member-at-large for 2005-06. Nikos is originally from Greece and earned his B.Sc. in Economics from Patras University, Greece, EU, in 1996. During the same year he was awarded a full scholarship by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM, Paris, EU) which enabled him to earn his M.Sc. degree in Economics and Management Sciences in 1998. During the academic years 1998-2001 he continued his post-graduate studies in the M.Eng. Program at the Technical University of Crete and he earned his second post-graduate title in Production Engineering & Management in 2001. Nikos has been involved in a Ph.D. program co-financed by Wageningen University (The Netherlands) and University of Illinois since 2002. He is currently working on several articles related to his Ph.D. research on the behavioral dimensions of market participants' (e.g., producers', consumers') decision making. Nikos is the member of the GSS Board who edits the quarterly Newsletter and updates the GSS website. According to Nikos "One of the greatest things about the GSS is having the opportunity to interact with graduate students and agecon scholars on a year-round basis. I have been aware of so many research-job opportunities and upcoming events not only in US but worldwide through this communication mode! Working with other GSS officers has been also great fun!"