



# AAEA Grad Student Section Update

The Official Newsletter of the Graduate Student Section

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Covering News for April, May, June 2007

## What's Inside?

Article "So You Graduated. Now What? "

Info on YPTA, Case Study Competition, and GSS Activities.

## How do I Join GSS?

**Graduate Student Section (GSS) of the American Agricultural Economics Association**

Not a member of AAEA?

Check the GSS box when applying at:  
<http://www.aaea.org>

Already a member of AAEA?

Renew or Join GSS by e-mailing:

[membership@aaea.org](mailto:membership@aaea.org)

### Benefits to Membership:

- Networking for Jobs
- Meeting New People
- Tons of Info & Tips to Help with School and the Job Search
- Opportunity to Become an Officer in the GSS
- Looks great on CV

## So You Graduated....Now What?

Your classes are almost complete; your thesis or dissertation is defended and approved; your graduation ceremony is near; and you are basking in the glow of your accomplishments. Now the "real world" (a.k.a. a job and a non-school life) looms in front of you and you are asking yourself, "What do I want to do?" Here are some suggestions for finding, applying, interviewing, and deciding on a job.

1. **Create a preference list** - Before beginning any search, create a list of jobs, locations (if any), and companies where you would prefer to work. This list will help you narrow the search and target potential employers for the application process.
2. **Conduct a general web search** - A general website search of professional organizations such as the AAEA or AERE, of government agencies such as Economic Research Service (ERS) of the USDA, and of industries can help you determine the types of jobs available and salary ranges. Since many heads are better than one, pass along the title of positions you are interested in to family, friends, and colleagues.

### 3. Network

*At conferences and job fairs* – While website searches provide a large number of opportunities, they offer little chance for you to get noticed. Job fairs or employment centers, on the other hand, provide fewer opportunities, but they offer face-to-face meetings and a chance for you to make an impression. The [Employment Center](#) at the [2007 AAEA Conference](#) in Portland, Oregon is a perfect opportunity to meet employers from universities, government agencies, and industry employers who are looking for quality candidates in the agricultural economics field and related disciplines (resource, environmental, agricultural, marketing, agribusiness, consumer, and regional economics).

*With colleagues, friends, family, and friends of the family* – There is some truth to the saying, "It is not what you know, but who you know." By letting people know the type of job that you want, you increase the number of eyes and ears open for opportunities. Also a reference from someone who knows the employer and the potential applicant can improve your chances of landing the job.

## The Executive Committee!

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### **Faculty Advisor**

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### **Faculty Advisor**

Jayson Lusk,  
Oklahoma State  
University

After finding many opportunities, you submit an application package including a cover letter, CV or resume, and any applicable forms such as reference letters. When submitting these packages, you should consider these suggestions.

1. Remember a wider net catches more fish. In other words, apply not only to the positions at the top of your wish list but those in the middle as well. When I was job searching several years back, I applied for over 60 positions in order to get 4 interviews.
2. Research the company, organization, school, or government agency to find key words regarding their goals and objectives.
3. Use the key words to tailor your cover letter and resume / CV to the specific job opening and employer.
4. Follow up with a thank you to be certain the employer received the application package.

For more information, review the presentation "[Responding to Job Postings and Preparing the Application Package](#)" by Dr. Schroeter on the GSS website.

After submitting any number of applications, you will eventually reach the next stage, the interview. The interviewing process will depend on whether the job is in academia, government, or industry, but basic preparation steps can be done for all types of jobs. One step is to review the company's goals and job description in order to be able to describe how you can fulfill the objectives of the position. Another step involves developing answers to standard questions and thinking of applicable life examples to prepare you for both one-on-one and behavioral interviews.

Finally, the job offers have started rolling in the door and you are torn over which job to accept. It is not an easy decision, so feel free to ask potential employers for several days to a week to think it over. Question you may want to consider are the following:

- What type of training will I receive?
- What are the expected results of the job?
- Will I enjoy doing most of the tasks to meet those results?
- How did I get along with the employees I met?
- Will I like the location and be able to live off the salary?
- Are there opportunities for advancement?

There are many more questions that you will need to consider because ultimately the end decision is yours. For additional information, please review the "List of Employment Websites" on the following page. Good luck in the "real world" and on behalf of GSS, congratulations on your accomplishments.

By Chris Bouquot, West Virginia University

## *List of Employment Websites*

### **Organizations**

- AAEA
  - [Online Career Center](#)
  - [2007 Recruitment Fair](#)
- [Association of Environmental and Resource Economists \(AERE\) Job Listings](#)
- [American Economists Association \(AEA\)](#)

### **Government**

- [USA Jobs](#)
- [EPA EzHire](#)

### **Agricultural Job Listings**

- <http://www.agcareers.com/>
- <http://www.agriseek.com/jobs/e/Employment/>

### **Environmental Jobs Listings**

- <http://www.ecoemploy.com/>
- <http://www.ecojobs.com/index.php>

### **Advice on Job Searches**

- [Job Track](#)

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## See You in Portland!

If you are planning to be in Portland, Oregon for the [AAEA Annual meeting](#) from July 29 to August 1 and be sure to attend the series of Graduate Student activities planned for the meetings!

### **The 2007 Young Professionals Teaching Academy**

**Sunday, July 29th from 11:30- 4 pm , \$80**

Sponsored by the AAEA Teaching, Learning, and Communication Section and the AAEA Graduate Student Section

For the second year, the GSS and the Teaching, Learning, and Communication (TLC) Section will co-sponsor the Young Professional Teaching Academy at this year's meeting in Portland, Oregon. This highly interactive and engaging workshop allows graduate students, new faculty members, and other interested AAEA members an opportunity to improve their ability to manage classrooms and diverse student learning styles. Speakers for this year's academy tentatively include Molly Espey (Clemson University), Andrew Barkley (Kansas State University), and Mary Marchant (Virginia Tech). This year's academy will also feature plenty of informal and formal discussion time.

Persons that attended last year's academy are still benefiting as they made contacts with senior faculty who have strong interests in teaching. Contacts were also made with new faculty members who have similar passions for teaching. Come be a part of the second Young Professional Teaching Academy this year and unlock your potential as an instructor!

To register: select the YPTA Pre-Conference when [registering for AAEA Meeting](#) or if you are already registered for the meeting, contact the AAEA office (414) 918-3190 and ask to register for YPTA

By Ross Pruitt, Oklahoma State University

## **The 2007 Case Study Competition**

**Sunday, July 29th from 9:00 – 3:00 pm; Monday July 30, 2007, \$10**

Participate in the 2007 American Agricultural Economics Association Graduate Student Section Case Study Competition. Students participating in the case study competition will need to **register in 2 places** :

- **Students should register for the AAEA meetings**, mark on the form that they will be participating in the Graduate Case Study Competition, and pay a fee of \$10 (per person) through the official 2007 AAEA Meetings Registration Form which will be available online at <http://www.aaea.org> .
- **Competitors must [complete the registration form](#)** identifying their teammates and send it to Dr. Michael Sykuta at the University of Missouri no later than **June 15, 2007**.

Please direct any questions regarding the 2007 AAEA Case Study Competition to Michael Sykuta phone: 573-882-1738, or Aslihan Spaulding phone: 309-438-8091.

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## **The 2007 GSS Business Meeting and Reception**

**Sunday, July 29th from 4:30 – 5:30 pm & 5:30 – 6:30 pm; \$10 for reception**

The GSS business meeting will be held Sunday evening from 4:30-5:30 pm with the GSS and CWAE Reception following shortly after from 5:30-6:30 pm. The reception has a \$10 fee

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## **The 2007 Track Sessions**

**Monday July 30, 2007 and Tuesday July 31, 2007**

GSS is offering three sessions during the meeting...

"Creating An Outstanding Job Application Package"

Monday, 10:30 -12:00 pm, Oregon Convention Center, Meeting Room B110.

"Guidelines for Interviewing and Becoming a Successful Professional"

Monday, 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Oregon Convention Center, Meeting Room B110.

"Guidelines on Writing and Submitting Journal Articles"

Tuesday, 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Oregon Convention Center, Meeting Room B113.

Make sure to add the GSS track sessions to your COS itinerary builder !

By Michelle Mullins, University of Missouri

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## 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 website can be viewed at <http://www.geocities.com/aaeagss>. This newsletter will be available 4 times a year! 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."

**Check out the NEW GSS WEBSITE at**

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

**Background Designed by Jamie Bouquot**

**E-mail us: [aaeagss@yahoo.com](mailto:aaeagss@yahoo.com)**