

### *OBAEA Booklet Committee*

Dr. Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore, *Chairperson*  
Dr. Christopher Davis, *Ex Officio*  
Dr. Keithly Jones  
Dr. Stephan Tubene

### *Acknowledgments*

The Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics wishes to express appreciation to the following sponsors for their support of this project: the United States Department of Agriculture – Economic Research Service and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

The Committee also thanks the following individuals for their assistance: Dr. Janet Perry, Chief of the Animal Products Branch, Economic Research Service, Dr. Keithly Jones, Chairperson of the Professional Activities Committee for COSBAE, N.C .A&T State University/School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences/ Agricultural Communications and Technology, Ms. Ramona Anderson, and Ms. Imory Jefferson.

*For additional copies of this booklet:*

AAEA Mailing Address  
415 South Duff Avenue, Suite C  
Ames, Iowa 50010-6600



**American Agricultural Economics Association**

# *2005 Honorees*

## *Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists Award*

*The American Agricultural Economics  
Association*

*Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks  
in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE)*



**American Agricultural Economics Association**

*Preface*

In 1990, the Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE), a Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association, honored 15 of our colleagues as outstanding black agricultural economists in recognition of their professional achievements and contributions to the agricultural economics profession. The 1990 honorees were featured in a booklet that was published in conjunction with COSBAE's 1890 Institutions' (historically Black Land-Grant Colleges and Universities) centennial celebration activities. The booklet was distributed to AAEA members and others throughout the agricultural economics community. The honorees were: *Joyce E. Allen-Smith, Ralph D. Christy, Ivery D. Clifton, Carlton G. Davis, Sidney H. Evans, Allie C. Felder, Jr., Tesfa G. Gebremedin, Alfred L. Parks, Richard D. Robbins, Howard F. Robinson (posthumously), Melvin E. Walker, Jr., Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., Thomas T. Williams, Handy Williamson, Jr., and Lionel Williamson.*



Due to the overwhelming need to recognize those within the profession who have made tremendous contributions over the past 15 years, COSBAE would like to recognize these individuals for their overall achievement in one or more of the following areas: general responsibilities, professionalism, service, teaching, research performance and related activities, Extension, and administrative duties. For the 2005 Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist Award, COSBAE decided to acknowledge 10 honorees and five honorable mention recipients for their superior accomplishments within the field of agricultural economics and/or agriculture-related disciplines such as agribusiness.

We applaud all nominees and honorees for their overall achievement and hope that their contributions will only serve as inspiration to junior and future members of the profession. We would also like to thank the members of the selection committee, whose task was not easy, given the wealth of contributions from all nominees. It was my pleasure to have served as Chairperson of this year's Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist Award committee.

**Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore,**  
*Chairperson,*

*2005 Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists Award Committee*



**Mark D. Wenner**

*Inter-American Development Bank  
16 years within the profession*

***Dedication***  
***Samuel Calhoun***

*U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economics Research  
Service, Rural Economy Branch  
27 years within the profession*



**Doris J. Newton**

*U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service,  
Resource Economics Division (RED), Agriculture Structure  
Branch  
26 years within the profession*



**Zacch I. Olorunnipa**

*Florida A&M University  
18 years within the profession*

**Message from the AAEA President  
and President Elect**



Unnevehr



Pinstrup-Andersen

The Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE) has been an important part of the AAEA since it was founded in 1980. COSBAE has provided our profession with three essential types of support as we have evolved over the past quarter century. First, the Committee

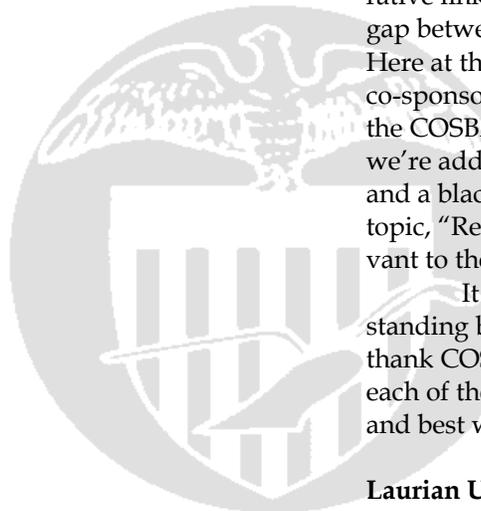
has helped us to understand diversity and barriers to diversity in the profession, through periodic conferences, meeting symposia, and publications. Second, they have provided professional development opportunities for young agricultural economists through sessions at the annual meetings. Third, they have recognized outstanding black agricultural economists, as in this brochure.

COSBAE has been especially productive this past year. In June 2005, the Committee hosted a workshop at USDA/ERS, on "Bridging the Gap between 1890 and 1862 Land Grant Agricultural Economics Programs." Its purpose was to build alliances and collaborative linkages to bridge the institutional, funding, and operational gap between the 1890 and 1862 land grant colleges and universities. Here at these 2005 annual AAEA meetings, COSBAE and CWAE are co-sponsoring a track on "Issues in Diversity in the Workplace." At the COSBAE/CWAE luncheon today, it is especially significant that we're addressed by Dr. Clifton Wharton, Jr., a Fellow of the AAEA, and a black agricultural economist honored in 1990 by COSBAE. His topic, "Reflections on Diversity and Human Capital", is highly relevant to the profession.

It is a great pleasure to participate in this recognition of outstanding black agricultural economists. On behalf of the AAEA, we thank COSBAE for honoring their achievements. Congratulations to each of the black agricultural economists featured in this brochure and best wishes for continued professional success.

Laurian Unnevehr, AAEA President, 2004-05

Per Pinstrup-Andersen, AAEA President-elect, 2005-06



*Message from the COSBAE  
President*

It is with great enthusiasm that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of the recipients of the 2005 Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists Award. Ten deserving people will receive awards from COSBAE recognizing outstanding contributions in the areas of teaching, research, Extension, and administrative duties. These awards are great honors as they have only been presented to 15 other black agricultural economists.



While I am pleased to see successful nationally recognized programs organized by recipients of this award, great concerns flood my mind when I think of COSBAE's future, as well as the continuation of this award, and of COSBAE's legacy. What must we do to continue to produce outstanding black agricultural economists seeing that the pool of minority students pursuing degrees in agricultural economics has dwindled over the past decade? Not only is this a problem for the 1890 programs, where the bulk of minority students come from, but recruitment has become a challenge for the 1862s, as well. Some 1862 institutions have redefined their programs to help attract more students. How can we sustain or keep the Agricultural Economics/Business discipline growing?

To ensure that the legacy of COSBAE continues and Agricultural Economics programs grow, we must become strong advocates for collaboration and partnerships among the 1890 and 1862s. More collaboration is needed to improve teaching, research and Extension. Academicians and USDA employees met June 13-14, 2005 in our nation's capitol to discuss ways to build alliances and bridge the gap between 1890 and 1862 agricultural economics programs. As a result, COSBAE is in the process of establishing taskforces for research, Extension and teaching. Developing meaningful partnerships and close collaboration could result in a Pareto optimal solution – a win-win for all involved.

As COSBAE continues to encourage and provide activities to facilitate teamwork, we sincerely hope that this vision of collaboration and partnership will become one of the hallmarks for all land-grant institutions. We especially challenge the recipients of this award to join COSBAE in our efforts to establish more collaboration among 1862 and 1890 institutions.

**Christopher G. Davis**, *COSBAE Chair 2004 - 2006*



**Duncan M. Chembezi**  
*Alabama A&M University*  
*15 years within the profession*



**Patricia E. McLean-Meynsse**  
*Southern University and A&M College*  
*21 years within the profession*

## *2005 Honorable Mention*

*Duncan M. Chembezi*  
*Patricia E. McLean-Meyinsse*  
*Doris J. Newton*  
*Zacch I. Olorunnipa*  
*Mark D. Wenner*

## *Dedication*

*Samuel Calhoun*  
*(1954-2005)*



## *2005 Honorees*

*Dr. Soji Adelaja*  
*Dr. Akin Adesina*  
*Dr. William Amponsah*  
*Dr. Curtis Jolly*  
*Dr. Desmond Jolly*  
*Dr. Donald McDowell*  
*Dr. Albert Myles*  
*Dr. Edmund Tavernier*  
*Dr. Abebayehu Tegene*  
*Dr. Dave Weatherspoon*

*Dr. Soji Adelaja*

Soji Adelaja is a Professor of Agricultural Economics, Geography and Agricultural and Recreational Resource Studies at Michigan State University. He is the director of their Land Policy Program and the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy, one of Michigan State University's most prestigious chair designations.



Adelaja earned his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Mechanization from the Pennsylvania State University. Later he received his master's degree in Agricultural Economics, master's degree in Economics, and Ph.D. in Economics all at West Virginia University.

Numerous accomplishments made by Adelaja include the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Policy through Economics; the founding of various research teams, including the Land Policy Program at Michigan State; the Food Policy institute (FPI); Food Innovation Research and Extension Center (FIRE); Agricultural Policy and Research Group (APRG) at Rutgers University, and many others.

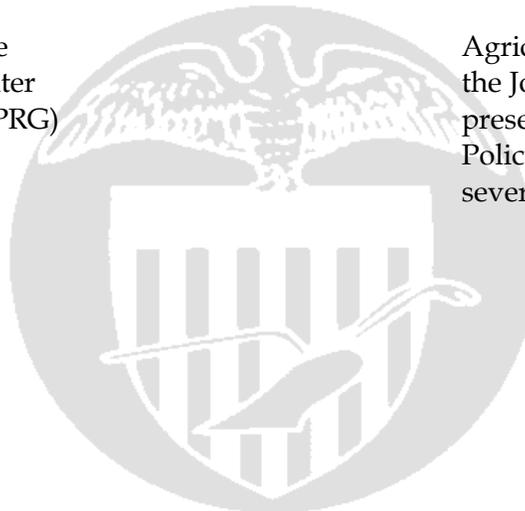
*Dr. Dave Weatherspoon*



Dave D. Weatherspoon is an Associate Professor of Agribusiness Management at Michigan State University. He directs the Agribusiness Department and its \$24 million Partnerships for Food Industry Development-Fruits and Vegetables (PFID-F&V) project, which facilitates agribusiness partnerships between retailers and processors in South Africa and industrialized countries with small holders, including the United States.

Weatherspoon earned his bachelor's degree at Michigan State University, his master's degree at Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. at the University of Florida. He received additional education in Executive Agribusiness Management Training at Harvard University.

Weatherspoon holds membership in the Agricultural Honor Society and the Editorial Council for the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He presently holds the chair for the AAEA Distinguished Policy Contribution Committee, and has served on several other AAEA committees.



### Dr. Abebayehu Tegene

Abebayehu Tegene is an Economist for the USDA/ERS and works in the area of food, demand, nutrition and health. He is also an Adjunct Professor at American University in Washington D.C.



Tegene earned his bachelor's degree at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia majoring in Statistics with a minor in Economics. He received his master's degree in Statistics and later his Ph. D. in Economics from Iowa State University.

Among the many memberships and committees Tegene serves on are the AAEA, International Association of Agricultural Economics, and COSBAE. He is also a member of the AAEA Award Committee for "Publication of Enduring Quality." Tegene has also written many notable publications including, "Information Sways Consumer Attitudes Toward Biotech Foods" – *Amber Waves*, which was awarded the "Best Finding Award" in 2003.

### Dr. Akin Adesina



Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is the Associate Director of Food Security for the Rockefeller Foundation in Nairobi, Kenya. He helped re-adjust the Rockefeller Foundation's agricultural sciences program to incorporate a major focus on market development for farmers. He now provides leadership for the foundation's work on market development for African agriculture.

Adesina received his bachelor's of Agriculture from the University of Ife in Nigeria, majoring in Agricultural Economics. He earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University.

Adesina was a member of the four-person external review panel for the World Bank's Global Rural Development Strategy (2004) and expert panel group for the World Economic Forum/GGI on Hunger. He served on the International Development Committee of the American Agricultural Economics Association and the Editorial Board of the International Association of Agricultural Economics for six years. Adesina was also elected the vice president of the African Agricultural Economics Association in 2004.



## 2005 Honorees

### *Dr. William Amponsah*

William Appiah Amponsah is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Transportation/Logistics at North Carolina A&T State University. He teaches the subjects of macroeconomics, microeconomics, international economic relations, and money, banking and finance.



Amponsah earned his bachelor's degree at Berea College in Kentucky where he majored in Agricultural Business. He received his master's degree from the University of Kentucky, majoring in Agricultural Economics and continued his education earning his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics.

Amponsah serves on the technical advisory team for the United Nation Economics Commission for Africa (UNECA) and is an executive member of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Agricultural Economists. He has served as a national panel member of the Tribal College Education Equity Grants Program and has published extensively in the areas of agribusiness, and agricultural and applied economics.

## Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists

### *Dr. Edmund Tavernier*



Edmund M. Tavernier is an Associate Professor and an Associate Extension Specialist in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics at Rutgers University. He has researched primarily in the areas of land use policy, farm labor policy and regulations, economic development of agriculture, and coalition building and conflict resolution.

Tavernier received his diploma in Agricultural Science at the Guyana School of Agriculture and his bachelor's degree in Animal and Poultry Science with a minor in Agribusiness at Tuskegee University. He went on to earn his master's degree and Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics at University of Minnesota.

Tavernier has published many refereed journal articles and been recognized by his colleagues and internationally for his research on Agriculture Trade Policy. Tavernier has written regional policy reports and edited conference proceedings that were widely requested by land-grant universities. His research has also provided new theoretical insights nationally to professional agricultural economists examining land use policy.



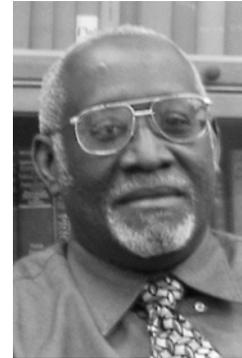
*Dr. Albert Myles*

Albert E. Myles is currently a Community Development Specialist and professor at Mississippi State University. He lectures in the areas of microeconomics, commodity marketing, and advanced agricultural marketing.



Myles received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Alcorn State University in Alcorn, Mississippi and his master's degree in Food and Resource Economics with a minor in Agricultural Marketing from University of Florida. Myles earned his Ph. D. in Agricultural Economics with a minor in General Economics from Mississippi State University.

In addition to his innumerable publications, Myles holds memberships in the National Association of Community Development Professionals (NACDEP), Southern Association of Agricultural Economics, Tri-State Planning Group, Hall of Learning 4-H Club and many more. He was selected as president-elect of the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACCAA) and recognized for outstanding support to the Attala County Economic Development Authority in 2003.

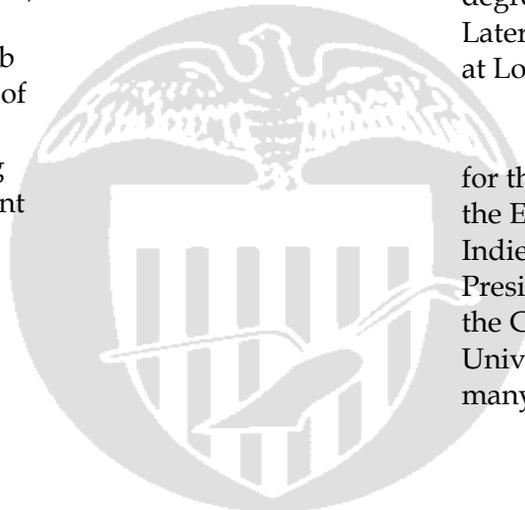
*Dr. Curtis Jolly*

Curtis M. Jolly is the Professor and Department Chair at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, for the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. He has spent the past seven years at Auburn doing major research in multiple areas, including international trade and the economics of aquaculture.

Jolly is a graduate advisor for Ph.D. and master's of Agriculture Economics and Allied Aquaculture and Fisheries students, and has advised and mentored on average 12 undergraduate students per year.

Jolly earned his associate's degree at the Jamaica School of Agriculture. He went on to complete his bachelor's degree at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama in Animal Science and his master's degree in Agricultural Economics at Auburn University. Later, he received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Louisiana State University.

Jolly is currently a United States representative for the Caribbean Agricultural Economics Society and the External Examiner for the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine. He is a member of the Presidential Strategic Planning Committee at Auburn, the Credit Union Membership Committee, and the University Promotion and Tenure Committee, among many others. Jolly has over 50 publications.



*Dr. Desmond Jolly*

Desmond A. Jolly is the Director of the University of California Statewide Small Farm Program and the Director of University of California Small Farm Center. He is also a lecturer in the university's Department of Agricultural Economics. There he has led and developed the UC Small Farm Program and Center into one of the top resources serving California's small scale farms and ranches.



Jolly earned his bachelor's degree at Utah State University in Economics, master's degree and Ph.D. in Economics at University of Oregon. He was the principal investigator for the project "Adding Value to California Agriculture through Agricultural Tourism" which was a catalyst to the state's growth and momentum shift of agritourism and ecotourism.

Along with his extensive research as an associate in the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics and an economist at the University of California, Jolly has been granted several publications in agriculture. He currently serves as the co-chair of the Roots of Change Council, which seeks to promote sustainable agriculture.

*Dr. Donald McDowell*

Donald R. McDowell is currently the Associate Dean for Academics at North Carolina A&T State University for the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES) in Greensboro, North Carolina. He actively participates with department chairs to create progressive curriculums, experiential learning for students, enrollment management, and the use of the SAES resources for the support of academic related activities.

McDowell earned his bachelor's degree at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in Agricultural Economics. He went on to complete his master's degree and later his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, both in Agricultural Economics.

During his career, McDowell has published extensively in various refereed journals. He is currently the first vice president of the Association of Social and Behavior Sciences, Inc. and a member of the National Food and Agribusiness Management Education Commission. McDowell was also recognized at North Carolina A&T State University as Teacher of the Year for the School of Agriculture and the Teaching Development Initiative Program (TDIP) Teacher of the Year Award. He has served the AAEA as the 1996-1997 Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE) president, and the 1997-2002 advisory board for *Choices* magazine.

