

## Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics—Executive Boards

### 1980-1981

Sidney Evans, Chair  
Joyce Allen  
Carlton Davis  
Leroy Davis  
Alfred Parks  
Neil Harl\*

### 1981-1982

Sidney Evans, Chair  
Joyce Allen  
Carlton Davis  
Leroy Davis  
Alfred Parks  
Neil Harl\*

### 1982-1983

Richard Robbins, Chair  
Sidney Evans, Vice Chair  
Joyce Allen  
Carlton Davis  
Dewitt Jones  
Mack Nelson  
Alfred Parks  
Neil Harl\*

### 1983-1984

Richard Robbins, Chair  
Sidney Evans, Vice Chair  
Joyce Allen  
Carlton Davis  
Wallace Huffman  
Dewitt Jones  
Mack Nelson  
Alfred Parks  
Lester Manderscheid\*

### 1984-1985

Richard Robbins, Chair  
Ralph Christy  
Ivery Clifton  
Wallace Huffman  
Dewitt Jones  
Mack Nelson  
Eddie Watson  
Lionel Williamson  
Lester Manderscheid\*

### 1985-1986

Ralph Christy, Chair  
Joyce Allen  
Ivery Clifton  
Tesfa Ghebremedhin

Wallace Huffman  
Vin Samuel  
Eddie Watson  
Lionel Williamson  
Lester Myers\*

### 1986-1987

Joyce Allen, Chair  
Ralph Christy  
Ivery Clifton  
Bernard Erven  
Tesfa Ghebremedhin  
Vin Samuel  
Eddie Watson  
Lionel Williamson  
James Houck\*

### 1987-1988

Joyce Allen, Chair  
Ralph Christy  
Richard Douglas  
Bernard Erven  
Tesfa Ghebremedhin  
Vin Samuel  
Eddie Watson  
Handy Williamson  
Lionel Williamson  
James Houck\*

### 1988-1989

Lionel Williamson, Chair  
Ralph Christy  
Richard Douglas  
Bernard Erven  
Eugene Jones  
Hezekiah Jones  
Patricia McLean-Meyinsse  
Donald McDowell  
Handy Williamson  
James Houck\*

### 1989-1990

Lionel Williamson, Chair  
Ralph Christy  
Magid Dagher  
Samuel Donald  
Richard Douglas  
Eugene Jones  
Hezekiah Jones  
Patricia McLean-Meyinsse  
Donald McDowell  
Abdulhakeen Salaam  
Winston Smart

Handy Williamson  
Lawrence Libby\*

### 1990-1992

Lionel Williamson, Chair  
Ralph Christy  
Magid Dagher  
Samuel Donald  
Richard Douglas  
Eugene Jones  
Hezekiah Jones  
Patricia McLean-Meyinsse  
Donald McDowell  
Abdulhakeen Salaam  
Winston Smart  
Handy Williamson  
Lawrence Libby\*

### 1990-1992

Handy Williamson, Chair  
Lionel Williamson  
Joyce Cacho  
Donald McDowell  
Ralph Christy  
Joyce Allen  
Adell Brown  
Doris Newton  
Ntam Baharany

### 1992-1993

Alfred Parks, Chair  
Adell Brown  
Carlton Davis  
Mack Nelson  
Doris Newton  
Evelyn Spears  
Jean Kinsey\*

### 1993-1995

Dewitt Jones, Chair  
Adesoji Adelaja  
Adell Brown  
Donald Bellamy  
Patricia Frazier  
Eugene Jones  
Mack Nelson  
Doris Newton  
Donald McDowell  
Lionel Williamson  
Jean Kinsey\*

### 1995-1997

Donald R. McDowell  
Adesoji Adelaja  
Joyce Allen-Smith  
William Amponsah  
Donald Bellamy  
Hezekiah Jones  
Patricia McLean-Meyinsse  
Rodney Smith  
Dave Weatherspoon  
Susan Offutt \*

### 1997-1998

Adell Brown, Chair  
Joyce Allen-Smith  
William Amponsah  
William Edmondson  
Hezekiah Jones  
Patricia McLean-Meyinsse  
Clemente McWilliams  
Rodney Smith  
Dave Weatherspoon  
Susan Offutt \*

### 1998-2004

Ntam Baharany, Chair  
Kim Aldridge  
Dovi Alipoe  
Handy Williamson  
Mary Mafuyai-Ekanem  
Dave D. Weatherspoon  
Donald McDowell  
Julie Caswell  
William Boggess\*

### 2004-2005

Christopher Davis, Chair  
Doris Newton, Vice Chair  
Keithly Jones, Program Chair  
Stephen Tubene,  
Secretary/Treasurer

### **Members at large**

Daniel Rainey  
Eta Takele  
Mary Mafuyai-Ekanem  
Ntam Baharany, Past Chair  
William Boggess\*

**\*AAEA Board  
Representative**

# COSBAE'S Continuing Legacy of Achievement

## Contributions to the AAEA and the Agricultural Economics Profession

### Poster presentation

at the

## American Agricultural Economics Association Meeting

### Denver, CO August 1-4, 2004

Doris J. Newton, Christopher Davis, and Keithly Jones  
Economic Research Service—[www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)



## Introduction

Before 1980, black agricultural economists rarely presented papers at American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) meetings. The number of Black agricultural economists and where they were located was not well known in the broader agricultural economics community. Therefore, in the Fall of 1980, the AAEA Executive Board, led by President Luther Tweeten, charged a committee with "the task of determining the opportunities, role, and status of Blacks in agricultural economics." **The Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE)** was formed.

Over the past 24 years, COSBAE has prospered in its mission to "promote the welfare of Black Agricultural Economists by representing their interests within the [AAEA] and by engaging in activities which will encourage the professional advancement of Black Agricultural Economists."

COSBAE plays a vital role in research at the AAEA and other professional meetings—**Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) and the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC)**. COSBAE members have sponsored and presented papers on Agricultural Trade, Economic Development, Agricultural Programs and Policies, Agricultural Marketing, Rural Development, Cultural Diversity, and Labor Market Conditions for Agricultural Economists.

## Summary of COSBAE's Contributions

- Documented status of Blacks in agricultural economics
- Conducted and published research on critical issues affecting economically and socially disadvantaged populations (e.g., African-American farmers, rural poor)
- Promoted diversity within the agricultural economics profession and the AAEA
- Highlighted contributions of Black agricultural economists
- Emphasized contributions of 1890 Land-Grant Universities
- Increased communication among Black agricultural economists

## Pivotal Passages in the Evolution of COSBAE

**Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.**, selected as AAEA Fellow, 1988

**Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.**, Appreciation Club established, 1994 in his honor



**Ralph D. Christy**, elected as AAEA President, 1996-97

**Thomas T. Williams** (1988), **Sidney Evans** (1990), and **Carlton Davis** (1996), COSBAE members received Lifetime Achievement Award from the **Southern Agricultural Economics Association**

## Continuing the Legacy...

Between 1998 and 2004, Ntam Baharanyi was COSBAE's Chairman. In 2000-2001, he surveyed COSBAE members during and after the summer meetings in Tampa, Florida. The results were presented in the report **Strategic Planning Survey for COSBAE**, by Amadou M. Diop and Odiase Abbulimen, Tuskegee University. This report helped determine COSBAE's focus and objectives for the future. Responses to the survey encouraged COSBAE to increase member communication, networking, and publicity, and to recruit young agricultural economics professionals.

With Christopher Davis elected as Chairman in 2004, COSBAE will explore new avenues of growth and opportunities, as well as further develop and expand activities already in place.

- A Century of Service: The Past, Present and Future Roles of 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Institutions (1990)
- The Future for Agricultural Economists-Career Opportunities and Planning (1987)
- **Symposia**
- Supermarket Procurement and the Impact on Small Farmers (2002)
- Trade Developments and the Impact on Small Farmers (2001)
- Globalization and Trade (2000)
- Building Collaboration Across Agricultural Institutions: Adjusting to a Changing Environment (1998)
- Access to Government Programs: Roles of Agricultural Economists (1998)
- Cultural Diversity: The Professional Status of Women and African Americans in Agricultural Economics (1992)
- Challenges for Limited Resource Minority Farmers in the 1990s (1992)
- Causes and Consequences of Changes in Consumer Fluid Milk Prices: Outlook for the Future (1989)
- Farmer Cooperatives and the Changing Structure of Agriculture (1988)
- Earnings and Professional Advancement of Agricultural Economists (1988)
- Economic Development in Africa: Future Growth Prospects and Potential Effects in the U.S. Agricultural Economy (1987)
- Publishing in Professional Journals: Selection Criteria, Policies, and Procedures (1986)
- Problems and Issues of Black-Operated Farms (1985)
- Needs and Strategies for Improving the Status of Blacks in the Agricultural Economics Profession (1985)

## COSBAE Research Contributions

### Invited Paper Sessions

- The Globalization Process and the Poor (2001)
- Income Inequality: Implications for Food Consumption Behavior(1997)
- Employment and Poverty in Rural America (1995)
- Economic Development Strategies and African American Agriculture (1992)
- The Agricultural Economics Profession and Limited-Resource Farmers (1991)
- Human Capital, Economic Development and the Rural Poor (1990)
- Hunger and Nutrition in America (1986)
- Opportunities and Status of Blacks in the Agricultural Economics Profession (1983)

### Books

- **"Blacks in Rural America," Special Issue of *The Review of Black Political Economy* (Spring 1994, Vol. 22, No. 4)**
- *Achieving Diversity: The Status and Progress of Women and African Americans in the Agricultural Economics Profession* (1994)
- *A Century of Service: Land-Grant Colleges and Universities 1890-1990* (1992)

### Pre-conferences

- *Workplace Relations: An Intricate Balance for the Bottom Line* (1999)
- *Strengthening the Relationships Between the 1890 Land Grant Colleges and Universities and Other Agricultural Institutions: Focus on Agricultural Economics Programs* (1996)

## COSBAE "Firsts"

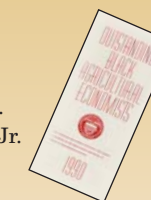
- **Fall 1980:** COSBAE is formed as Ad Hoc Committee of AAEA.
- **1983: Invited paper session**, "Opportunities and Status of Blacks in the Agricultural Economics Profession" reported the results of a survey of black agricultural economics professionals.
- **1987: COSBAE Newsletter** first published and distributed throughout the AAEA and agricultural economics community.
- **1987: Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE), AAEA Employment Services Committee and COSBAE joint pre-conference**, "The Future for Agricultural Economists-Career Opportunities and Planning," at AAEA summer meetings, Michigan State University.
- **1987: Directory of Black Agricultural Economists**—this compendium of information for the AAEA and agricultural economics community on 96 Black agricultural economists lists who they are, where they were located, and areas of expertise. A 1989 revision contained 175 contacts.
- **1988:** COSBAE becomes a Standing Committee of AAEA.
- **1989: Pre-conference, "A Century of Service: The Past, Present, and Future Roles of 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Institutions."** For AAEA annual meetings at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this pre-conference honored the centennial year founding of the 1890 Land-Grant System.
- **1990: The Book—A Century of Service: The Past, Present and Future Roles of 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Institutions.** Edited by Ralph Christy and Lionel Williamson with articles contributed by nine COSBAE members. The product of COSBAE's first AAEA pre-con-



ference meeting, this book highlighted historical development and contemporary views of 1890 institutions, their strengths and traditions, and explored alternative institutional designs to enhance the status and opportunities for African-American scientists.

- **1990: Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists**, In recognition of the centennial anniversary of 1890 institutions, this brochure featured pictures and biographies of 15 Black agricultural economists selected by their peers:

Joyce E. Allen-Smith	Richard D. Robbins
Ralph D. Christy	Howard F. Robinson
Ivery D. Clifton	Melvin E. Walker, Jr.
Carlton G. Davis	Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
Sidney H. Evans	Thomas T. Williams
Allie C. Felder, Jr.	Lionel Williamson
Tesfa Gebremedhin	Handy Williamson, Jr.
Alfred L. Parks	



- **List Server:** e-mail communication link currently serves 125 members: [cosbae-members@yahoo.com](mailto:cosbae-members@yahoo.com).

- **1994: COSBAE** produced a Special Issue of *The Review of Black Political Economy*, titled "Blacks in Rural America." Fifteen COSBAE members contributed articles.

- **1997: COSBAE Website** was developed and is currently being redesigned to better serve members and the agricultural economics community.

- **2002: COSBAE** becomes a Section of AAEA.

## References

McDowell, Donald R. and Joyce E. Allen-Smith. *Contributions of COSBAE to AAEA and the Agricultural Economics Profession* (Presentation at the organized symposium "COSBAE Celebrates A Legacy of Achievement," American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, July 29, 2002.)

Parks, Alfred. *COSBAE, The Early Years: A Founding Member Perspective*. (Presentation at the organized symposium "COSBAE Celebrates A Legacy of Achievement," American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, July 29, 2002.)

Polopolus, Leo. *COSBAE, The Early Years: Perspective Of A Past AAEA President*. (Presentation at the organized symposium "COSBAE Celebrates A Legacy of Achievement," American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, July 29, 2002.)

Diop, Amadou M. and Odiase Abbulimen. "Evaluation Report: Strategic Planning Survey for The Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics," COSBAE Presentation, AAEA meetings, Tampa, Florida, July 30-August 2, 2000.

## Acknowledgments

COSBAE thanks the following for their many contributions over the years: AAEA past presidents, Leo Polopolus, Neil Harl, Luther Tweeten, AAEA Executive and Foundation Board members, Richard Douglas, Sun Diamond Growers, the Farm Foundation, CIBA, Eli Lilly Company-Elanco Animal Health Corporation, and the Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Thanks go to Anne Effland, Tom McDonald, Charlene Price, Sheila Sankaran, Janet Perry, Susan Offutt, Administrator, all of ERS, Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University, Donald McDowell, North Carolina A&T State University, Alfred Parks, Prairie View State University, and Maarja Kolberg, AAEA office for their contributions and reviews of this project. Special appreciation goes to Anne E. Pearl (ERS) for poster and handout layout design.