

American Agricultural Economics Association Student Section

Fall Newsletter

November 2007

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Highlights

- Comments from SS-AAEA President and Senior Faculty Advisor
- New tie-breaker rule for Quiz Bowl
- New SS-AAEA *Journal of Agricultural Economics*
- New paper competition rules
- Changes to SS-AAEA business meeting.

Important Dates

- SAEA Annual Meeting February 2-6, 2008
- Statement of Intent for SS-AAEA Undergraduate Paper Competition, Academic Bowl Competition Registration, Outstanding Chapter Application, and Creative Club Award Application due May 15, 2008.
- AAEA Annual Meeting July 27-29, 2008

From the President . . .



Hello everyone! I hope each of you are having a successful, safe fall semester.

My name is Alicia Taylor and I am excited to be serving my second term as your student section President. I am a senior Food and Resource Economics major at the University of Florida, and this summer will mark my fourth year of participation at an AAEA conference.

For those of you who joined us in Portland, congratulations! I trust you will all agree that the competitions and the meetings were a great success. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Ernie Bazen, Bailey Norwood, Patrick Berends, and Philip Hamilton for an excellent job of running the paper

competition and quiz bowl. A kind welcome is extended to our new freshman faculty advisor, Joey Mehlhorn. The success of these events in the last few years is owed to contributions made through their efforts.

I personally challenge each chapter to attend the annual meeting in Orlando next summer and compete in both the quiz bowl tournament and the undergraduate student paper contest. Both events will see changes this year, as your executive committee has been hard at work in an attempt to improve both events. We look forward to witnessing their effects this year and will actively be collecting feedback from students following the contests. Please read Dr. Norwood's message in this newsletter for detailed information.

I am excited about the opportunity to welcome you to my home state of Florida. Orlando is a fast-paced destination popular with all genres of visitors. The Orlando Convention Center is situated in the heart of activity- in close proximity to the major theme parks, countless restaurants and some of the best nightlife in the state. I believe Orlando is a wonderful venue for the AAEA and one the student section in particular will appreciate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the executive officers. It is our pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,
Alicia L. Taylor, President
SS-AAEA

From the Senior Advisor . . .



Greetings on behalf of your faculty advisors! We hope your fall semester has provided you with enough free time to practice with your quiz bowl team and begin writing your papers for the undergraduate paper contest. A congratulations is extended to the new SS-AAEA officers, and we welcome our new faculty advisor, Joey Mehlhorn. While it would be hard to improve upon last year's meeting, we will try our best. There are a number of changes to this year's SS-AAEA meeting activities listed below, so please read carefully and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

1. Tie-Breaker Rule in Final Round of Bowl Competition

In the past, the bowl competition was not a true double-elimination tournament, as the team from the winning bracket could lose the game in the final round and, in the process, lose the whole competition. To rectify this, a tie-breaker will be held in the final round if the team from the winning bracket loses the final round. If the team from the losing bracket loses in the final round, no tie-breaker will be held because that team suffered two losses. The rules of the tie-breaker will be the same as a tie-breaker in normal rounds.

2. SS-AAEA Journal of Agricultural Economics

Papers in the undergraduate paper competition are of exceptional quality, many paralleling papers written by faculty. Unfortunately, in the past, only the winning paper gets any significant recognition. That changes this year. I created a new, online journal where all paper entries of high quality will be published. Available at <http://asp.okstate.edu/baileynorwood/Misc2/SSAAEAJournal.htm>, all papers are posted on this site and authors may list the paper as an official scientific publication on their resume.

3. Undergraduate Paper Presentations

In the past, paper presentations were held at the same time as the bowl competition, which creates confusion and makes running both competitions difficult. Thus, this year paper presentations will be given Tuesday morning instead of Monday morning. Moreover, given the high quality of the papers, I thought the students should give their presentations at the same time and place as faculty presentations.

4. Changes to Undergraduate Paper Format

Students entering the 2008 paper competition should pay close attention to the new submission rules posted at the *SS-AAEA Journal of Agricultural Economics* listed above. The major change regards the use of appropriate statistical tools. In the past, students frequently used statistical models well beyond those taught at the undergraduate level, and many times the student did not understand much about the model, but their advisors prodded them to use the advanced model in hopes of impressing the judges. Starting this year, only statistical tools taught at the undergraduate level may be used (no probit or logit models admissible, use regression instead). For clarification of this rule, please feel free to contact me.

5. Changes to the SS-AAEA Business Meeting

A number of students and faculty members have expressed a desire to have an additional SS-AAEA activity that is not a competition, and are concerned that the SS-AAEA business meeting is unproductive and disruptive. For these reasons we are trying something new this year. The SS-AAEA Section will have a section meeting on Tuesday afternoon. The section will contain something both entertaining and fun. We do not know exactly what the session will entail, but it will certainly be something more active and fun than a speaker. The business meeting will be held concurrent with this section. The social gathering will be held Tuesday evening as well, after the awards ceremony.

If you have any questions or comments about these changes, I would love to hear from you. Feel free to call (405-744-9820) or email (bailey.norwood@okstate.edu) me anytime!

Sincerely,
Bailey Norwood
Senior SS-AAEA Faculty Advisor

Texas A&M Wins Second Consecutive Quiz Bowl Title

The 2007 Academic Quiz Bowl Tournament took place July 30 and 31 in Portland, Oregon. A total of 25 teams from 17 of universities partook in the competition, which concluded preliminary rounds on Monday. Tuesday evening's title round featured the University of Florida challenging the defending national champion Texas A&M in front of the general AAEA membership. In a close match, the Aggies successfully defended their title with a 5 point win over the Gators. The match was decided by the final 5 point quantitative question. Members of the winning team were

Emily Seawright, Shauna Yow, and Eric Manthei. Congratulations to Texas A&M! We would like to thank all of the volunteer moderators, score keepers and judges for their time, as this event would not be possible without you. Good luck to all teams as they practice throughout the year. If you would like to download recent and past quiz bowl questions, or the quiz bowl software, please use the following link: <http://asp.okstate.edu/baileynorwood/Misc2/AboutSSAAEA.htm>.

University of Alberta Student Wins Paper Competition

This year's undergraduate paper competition attracted 10 excellent entries. Contestants submitted high quality papers and presented their research at the AAEA annual meetings. Several AAEA members were asked to judge the papers and presentations, with the results being announced at Tuesday evening's AAEA awards program. The third place finisher was Jesse Cole from the University of Alberta. Jenna Smith of Purdue University earned second place honors. First place was taken by Becky McCorkle of the University of Alberta for her paper on the influence of demographics on willingness to pay for cold tolerance technology. Congratulations to all three winners. Beginning

this year, all entries deemed to be of high quality are published in the new *SS-AAEA Journal of Agricultural Economics*. The website for the journal, where users can download all 2007 undergraduate contest papers, is available at <http://asp.okstate.edu/baileynorwood/Misc2/SSAAEAJournal.htm>. Students can now cite their paper as an official scientific publication on their resume, and their work will be included in search engines such as google and google scholar.