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A lot has happened since our SAEA meeting in Louisville this past February. How is that for an understatement! It's safe to say that business as usual is in the rear-view mirror. I'm writing this letter from my home office following a parade of Zoom conference calls addressing various responses to farms and communities impacted by the COVID-19 outbreaks. The news cycle is frenetic and we're all focused on keeping safe and as out in front as possible. I'm sure all of us are impacted in various ways and degrees. I truly wish you all well – with your families and as you navigate your professional responsibilities.

Bear with me as I provide a short summary regarding the recent SAEA meetings – it seems a lifetime ago. I'm extremely proud to be a part of this association and am impressed with its growth and resilience over the years. SAEA provides excellent professional support opportunities from our students to our early career professionals and on up. Out of 386 total attendees 165 were faculty and career professionals, 116 were graduate students, and 105 were undergraduate students.

A great cast contributes to the success of our program, including the Directors and other Board members. I want to thank the committee chairs and committee members that helped to develop aspects of the program and recognize outstanding achievements from across the association. Jeff Jordan once again did an excellent job coordinating the meeting logistics, including receptions, meals, facilities, and general planning. I especially enjoyed the reception at Churchill Downs. Members rolling off SAEA committees this year include Luis Ribera, Bill Herndon, Alan Hodges, Lanier Nalley, Michee Lachaud, Ryan Williams, and Daniel Solis, each of whom played an important role in the success of the meeting.

The Quiz Bowl competition was a tremendous success under the leadership of Co-Chairs Dusty Menzies and Jerrod Penn, as well as the Quiz Bowl advisors for each of the participating schools and the many volunteers who moderated, judged and/or helped with IT support for the Quiz Bowl. I'm also aware that Leigh Maynard was substantially involved in making the competition logistics run smoothly. Thanks to all of you for your service to the SAEA!

Membership in SAEA remains high at 600 members total. I have found myself in the current of this social health disruption to be leaning more than ever before on my network of colleagues – leaders in research, extension, and teaching – as we have had to scramble as a profession to respond as never before. The strength of our professional networks really shows its value. Financially as an association, we had reported our SAEA total assets at a healthy balance of \$321,990, but brace for a substantial adjustment for the next report.

Lifetime and early career achievements are one of the great things we celebrate in our association. I'm sure most of you were able to enjoy the comments of Keith Coble, our most recent SAEA Lifetime Achievement inductee. He joins a great cast of economists that have compiled numerous achievements across a great career, many of whom continue as active leaders in our profession. Clinton Neill, Virginia Tech University, Jarrod Penn, Louisiana State University, and Nathanael Thompson, Purdue University were recognized as SAEA Emerging

Scholars out of highly competitive pool. I personally enjoyed each of their presentations at the meeting and remain greatly encouraged to see these rising talents.

The Journal of Ag and Applied Economics is transitioning to a team of new editors. Mike Reed and Mehdi Saghaian (University of Kentucky) are passing the reins to the next team led by Carlos Carpio (Texas Tech University) and Olga Isengildina-Massa (Virginia Tech) and David Willis (Clemson University). Our great appreciation goes out to Mike and Mehdi for outstanding service with the JAAE. They are passing it over in great shape. The editors handled 93 new and 117 resubmitted manuscripts in 2019. The average turnaround time from submission to decision was 51 days and the acceptance rate was 38%. Articles downloaded from the JAAE totaled 52,709 last year. I would also like to express a special thanks to Jabir Ali, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (India), Rebekka Dudensing, Texas A&M University, Zhifeng Gao, University of Florida, Kim Jenson, University of Tennessee, Ani Katchova, Ohio State University, Nicole Mason, Michigan State University, David Orden, Virginia Tech, Michael Popp, University of Arkansas, Renato Villano, University of New England (Australia), and Nick Vink, Stellenbosch University (South Africa) as they roll off their service on the JAAE editorial board. The new editorial council members include Sheldon Du, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Xiaoli Etienne, West Virginia University, Pan Fanghui, Northeast Agricultural University (China), Matthew Fannin, Louisiana State University, Thomas Glaubien, University of Halle (Germany), Valentina Hartarska, Auburn University, Vardges Hovhannisyan, University of Wyoming, George Norton, Virginia Tech, and Dustin Pendell, Kansas State University.

Finally, I want to provide special thanks to several people who have served our association. Deacue Fields completed his term as Past President at the February meetings. During his year as Past President, he provided leadership in the selection of the professional awards. Thank you, Deacue, for all you have done for the SAEA over the past several years. Krishna Paudel completed his term as President at the February meetings. During his year as President, he provided excellent leadership in coordinating the many activities of the SAEA, too many to list here. Thank you, Krishna, and I look forward to continuing to work with you this year in your position as Past President. Luis Ribera completed his term as Director at the February meeting. We appreciate his strong leadership in this very important role over the past three years. I am pleased to welcome David Anderson, Texas A&M, as our President-Elect, and Rebekka Dudensing, also of Texas A&M, as Director, to the SAEA leadership team. Each will serve three-year terms.

We are always looking for new ideas to raise the value for SAEA members. Social media, idea sharing, professional development, emerging topics. Let us hear from you! Contact me any time with your ideas for SAEA at tim.woods@uky.edu. Please mark your calendars now for next year's annual meeting, to be held February 6-9, 2021 in Irving, Texas. Let us make 2020-21 another successful year to remember! Thanks for your support to the SAEA and all its activities.

Tim Woods, SAEA President

Award Winners at the 2020 SAEA Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky

Emerging Scholars

Clinton Neill, Virginia Tech University
Jarrod Penn, Louisiana State University
Nathanael Thompson, Purdue University

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Keith Coble, Mississippi State University

Academic Quiz Bowl Winners

1st Chargers - Tara Hendrix, West Texas A&M University
Addie Stone, Clemson University
Tim Unruh –University of Wisconsin-River Falls
2nd Ravens - Ian Kence, University of Tennessee – Knoxville
Spencer Langford, Western Kentucky University
David Mansfield, Mississippi State University
3rd Jaguars - Timothy Griffin, Tarleton State University
Haley Marshalls, Texas A&M University - Commerce
Sarah Spradlin, Texas Tech University

Teaching of a Course Award

Ed Rister, Texas A&M University.

Extension Awards

Individual: Zhengfei Guan, University of Florida.

Team: Southern Extension Economics Committee Task Force on Surviving the Farm Economy Downturn, Ron Rainey, University of Arkansas, David P. Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (Publication Editor), Jonathan Baros, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Kenny H. Burdine, University of Kentucky, Todd D. Davis, University of Kentucky, Rebekka M. Dudensing, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Derek Farnsworth, University of Florida, Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee, Kurt M. Guidry, Louisiana State University, Danny A. Klinefelter, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Steven L. Klose, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, George M. Knappek, Agricultural and Food Policy Center, Carly E. McCord, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Scott A. Mickey, Clemson University, Kimberly L. Morgan, Virginia Tech, Joe L. Outlaw, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Marco A. Palma, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, John L. Park, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Bryon J. Parman, Mississippi State University Extension, J. Marc Raulston, Agricultural and Food Policy Center, Luis A. Ribera, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, James W. Richardson, Texas A&M University, Max W. Runge, Auburn University, Jordan M. Shockley, University of Kentucky, Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee, Nathan B. Smith, Clemson University, Samuel D. Towne, Texas A&M School of Public Health, Robert A. Tufts, Auburn University, Brian R. Williams, Mississippi State University Extension, Samuel D. Zapata, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

Outstanding Dissertation

Alexander Neal Hladvinka, Texas A&M University, “Applied Solutions to the Curse of Dimensionality in Time Series Econometrics.”

Outstanding Thesis

Ethan Sabala, Texas Tech University, “Essays in Trade Policy Analysis: Chinese Tariffs on U.S. Agricultural Markets.”

Outstanding JAAE Article

Dhakal, Chandra, Kelly Lange, Megha Parajulee, and Eduardo Segarra (2019).
“Dynamic Optimization of Nitrogen in Plateau Cotton Yield Functions with Nitrogen Carryover Considerations.” JAAE 51 (3) (August 2019): 385-401.

Poster Awards

- 1st - Mahla Zare Mehrjerdi and Tim Woods. “Local Food Purchasing Frequency by Locavores across Market Channels Comparison between National and Kentucky Food Consumers.”
- 2nd - Aditya R Khanal, Sudip Adhikari, and Fisseha Tegegne, “Why Don’t Low Income Households Purchase Fruits and Vegetables? Findings from African American Communities in Nashville, Tennessee.”
- 3rd - Krishna P Paudel, Rajan Parajuli, Doleswar Bhandari, Chandra Theegala, and Huizhen Niu. “Economic Implications of Combining Poultry Litter with Wood Chips for Bio-based Energy Production in the United States.”

Job Market Paper Competition Winners

- 1st – Wenying Li and Chen Zhen, University of Georgia
- 2nd – Florence Lwiza and Andrew Barkley, Kansas State University
- 3rd – Dependra Bhatta, Louisiana State University

3MT Competition Winners

- 1st – Ran Li, Louisiana State University
- 2nd – Barrett Moore, Oklahoma State University
- 3rd – Ana Lucia Gutierrez, Louisiana State University

2020-2021 SAEA COMMITTEES

Much of the important work the SAEA performs is done by the committees listed below. The SAEA Executive Committee on behalf of SAEA members would like to thank everyone serving on these committees. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees, please contact Tim Woods at tim.woods@uky.edu.

Selected Papers Committee: Michael Vassalos, Clemson University (2021); Chris Boyer, University of Tennessee (2022), Rebekka Dudensing, Texas A&M University (2023).

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee: Kim Jenson, University of Tennessee (2021); Stephen Devadoss, Texas Tech University (2022).

SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award Committee: Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee (2021), Michael Deliberto, Louisiana State University (2022), Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky (2023).

SAEA Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award Committee: Mathew Interis, Mississippi State University (2021); Ram Acharya, New Mexico State University (2022), Roger Brown University of Kentucky (2023).

Master's Thesis Award Committee: Naveen Adusumilli, Louisiana State University (2021); Jeff Luckstead, University of Arkansas. (2022), Jeff Vitale, Oklahoma State University (2023).

Ph.D. Dissertation Award Committee: Denis Nadolnyak, Auburn University (2021); Ashok Mishra, Arizona State University (2022), Tyler Mark, University of Kentucky (2023).

Poster Committee: Ariun Ishdorj, Texas A&M University (2021); Aditya Khanal, Tennessee State University (2022), Seong Yun, Mississippi State University (2023).

Undergraduate Committee: Dusty Menzies, Texas A&M University; Jerrod Penn, Louisiana State University; Aaron Shew, Arkansas State University.

3MT Thesis Committee: Jim Larson, University of Tennessee (Chair); Kalyn Coatney, Mississippi State University; Yangxuan Liu, University of Georgia; Xuqi Chen, University of Tennessee.

Ph.D. Job Market Paper Competition Committee: (*Ad Hoc* chair, President, SAEA); Darrel Bosch, Virginia Tech; Ruiqing Miao, Auburn University; Zhifeng Gao, University of Florida.

Industry Committee: Basanta Dhungana, Agilent Technology (Chair); Irfan Tareen, Center; Laxmi Paudel, Fannie Mae

JAAE Editorial Team: Editors Michael Reed and Sayed Saghaian, University of Kentucky.

JAAE Editorial Council: Bustanul Arifin, University of Lampung, Indonesia; Christopher Boyer, University of Tennessee; Wade Brorsen, Oklahoma State University; Danny Campbell, University of Stirling, Scotland; Bo Chen, Huazhong Agricultural University, China; Sheldon Du, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Mariah Ehmke, University of Wyoming; Xiaoli Etienne, West Virginia University; Pan Fanghui, Northeast Agricultural University (China); Matthew Fannin, Louisiana State University; Thomas Glauben, University of Halle (Germany); Valentina Hartarska, Auburn University; Jill Hobbs, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Vardges Hovhannisyan, University of Wyoming; Wuyang Hu, Ohio State University; George Norton, Virginia Tech; Gokhan Ozertan, Bogazici University, Turkey; Dustin Pendell, Kansas State University; Jeffrey Reimer, Oregon State University; Ric Scarpa, Durham University, United Kingdom; Jill Stowe, University of Kentucky; Chen Zen, University of Georgia.

Nominating Committee: Past-President Krishna Paudel, Louisiana State University; President Tim Woods, University of Kentucky; President-Elect David Anderson, Texas A&M University.

Social Planner for 2021 Meetings: Jeff Jordan, University of Georgia; Marco Palma, Texas A&M University.

IT/AV Committee for 2021 Meetings: Chris Boyer, University of Tennessee, Rebekka Dudensing, Texas A&M University.

2021 SAEA Annual Meeting

Make your plans now to attend the 2021 SAEA Annual Meeting to be held in Irving, Texas, February 6-9, 2021.

What – SAEA Annual Meeting

Where – Irving Convention Center, Irving, TX

When – February 6-9, 2021

Why – A chance to network and share your work with colleagues.

