

Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

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April Birthdays

- German Rodriguez 4/1
- Daniel Rainey 4/23
- Gina Vickery 4/27

The *AEAB Newsletter* is a monthly publication of the University of Arkansas's Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Contributions from faculty, staff, students and alumni are most welcomed and should be submitted to Melinda Dunlap (AGRI 217) by the end of the month preceding the month of publication.
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Notes from the Department Head

A 21st Century Profession

Most of our public discourse about agriculture is grounded in the Jeffersonian vision of a rural countryside populated by small owner-operated farms. This vision has been articulated by scores of political and academic thinkers of the late 19th and early 20th century and has been reinforced by policies such as the Homestead Act and many others.

Next year the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) will celebrate its centennial. Our profession grew from the need for more systematic analysis of farms and a food system in the midst of the transition from animal to mechanical power and exploding productivity. In the intervening decades, our profession explored the economic impacts of modern plant breeding, petroleum based fertilizers and plant protection chemicals, trade, structural changes in markets, and basic business management.

Some elements of our profession, such as financial analysis, have remained vibrant areas of exploration for decades. Other subjects have been more cyclical in their interest. Others have almost disappeared from our professional radar.

From the early 20th century through the 1960s, many agricultural economists devoted careers studying land tenure issues. Much of this work was built on the basic assumption that agriculture and rural America are better off when farmers own their own land. Do we believe this assumption today? Some do, others don't. But this basic assumption still colors much of our public discourse about agricultural policy.

Is it time to revisit land tenure? Would it be professionally profitable to revisit some of these issues taking into consideration what we have learned in the past generation about natural resource economics and contingent valuation? It might be interesting to explore some of the old assumptions to see if they are valid today. Maybe this work could provide us with a professional foundation for a new and more diverse vision for agriculture, the food system and rural America.

Steve Halbrook

MANRRS Conference

Dr. Daniel Rainey accompanied four students to the 24th annual MANRRS Career Fair and Training Conference in Indianapolis, IN March 26 – 29, 2009.

Brittany Haywood, a MS student in AEAB, presented a paper titled: "Evaluating Production Budgets to Determine Best Management Practices for Out-of-Season High Tunnel Organic Blackberry Production." Brittany won first place in the Graduate Oral Research Contest for Education, Social Sciences, and Business.

Dorothy Effa, a PhD student in PUBP, presented a paper titled: "Measuring Success at the County Level." Dorothy placed third in the Graduate Oral Research Contest for Education, Social Sciences, and Business.

Dr. Jennie Popp, AEAB, served as the research advisor for both Ms. Haywood and Mrs. Effa.

Lauraé Hatley, a MS student in AEAB, attended the meeting and campaigned to become the National Graduate Student Parliamentarian. She will be notified in the coming weeks as to her selection into this position.

Celise Weems, a MS student in AEAB and President of the UA-MANRRS chapter, attended the conference and represented the chapter as a voting delegate in the business meeting.

Melvin Landry Jr. (MS AEAB 01) was at the conference representing ConAgra Foods at the Career Fair. Mr. Landry also served as a judge for the Chapter of the Year contest.



Brittany Haywood, Dorothy Effa, and Lauraé Hatley



Dr. Daniel Rainey, Dorothy Effa, Dr. Weatherspoon (contest organizer), Brittany Haywood



Dorothy Effa and Brittany Haywood with their Oral Research Participation Certificates

TRAVEL

- **Bruce Ahrendsen** participated in the annual meeting of regional project SCC-76 Economics and Management of Risk in Agriculture and Natural Resources. The meeting was held March 19-21 in Galveston, Texas.
- **Eric Wailes** traveled to Fukuoka, Japan March 5-16. He gave a short course to graduate students in the agricultural policy laboratory of Kyushu University on U.S. domestic and international trade policies on March 9-11. On March 12, he participated in a symposium "Prospects for Rice and Fish—Global Scope and Asian Potential" where he presented the international rice baseline projections of the Arkansas Global Rice Model, 2008-2018.
- **Rudy Nayga** traveled to Madrid, Spain March 7-14 to collaborate with a couple of colleagues at the University of Santiago de Compostela and gave seminar and lectures at Technical University of Madrid.
- **Lanier Nalley** traveled to Phoenix, AZ March 16-17 to attend the Sustainability Consortium.
- **Lanier Nalley and Eric Wailes** traveled to San Antonio, TX March 18-20 for the S-1043 Regional Resource Meetings.
- **Steve Halbbrook** traveled to Washington, DC March 18-20 for the 21st Century Agricultural Revolution.
- **Harold Goodwin and Jennie Popp** traveled to Reno, NV March 29 through April 1 for the National Risk Management Education Conference.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Nalley, Lawton Lanier, Andrew P. Barkley, John M. Crespi and Ken D. Sayre.** 2009. "The Global Impact of the CIMMYT Wheat Breeding Program." *Journal of International Agricultural Trade and Development* 5,1:2-22.
- **Tan, Andrew K. G., Steven T. Yen and Rodolfo M. Nayga, Jr.** 2009 "Role of Education in Cigarette Smoking: An Analysis of Malaysian Household Survey Data." *Asian Economic Journal* 23,1:1-17.



Opportunity

- Are you still searching for an internship this summer? You may still be in luck! Kraft Foods is currently recruiting college students for internship opportunities during summer 2009 (sophomore status and above). If you are interested in working in Kraft's Manufacturing or Research Development & Quality organization, please contact Jill DeJong at jdejong@ffa.org for more information and how to apply!



On March 26, Mohammad brought cake in honor of his new son, Zawwadul Alam! Mohammad Jahangir Alam & Dr. Ismat Ara Begum became proud parents on March 17. Congratulations!!!



Congratulations!

-Congratulations to AEAB Undergraduate student, **Amanda Simpson**. Amanda has been selected to receive the Greg Weidemann Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Alumni Society Scholarship for 2009. She will be recognized during the annual Honors and Awards Banquet on April 16.

-Congratulations to AEAB Undergraduate student, **Ashley Jones**. Ashley has been selected as one of two students to receive the John W. White Outstanding Student Award for 2009. The award will be presented to her during the annual Honors and Awards Banquet on April 16.

-Congratulations to AEAB Graduate student, **Mampionona Amboaraso**. Mampionona has been accepted into the Intensive Program in Biorenewables at Iowa State University June 3-15, 2009. It is an intensive (2 week) program about Biorenewables, sponsored by Cargill. The focus is on innovative ideas and technologies that are an inherent component of biofuels and biobased products produced in sustainable ways. The research poster abstract Mampionona posted is "Assessing the Feasibility of Biorenewables for Alleviation of Food Insecurity in Rural Areas of Madagascar."

-**Mampionona Amboaraso** has been selected for the *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* for 2009! Mampionona is one of our Fulbright scholarship grantees from Madagascar, and is a masters student in the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness program. We are all very proud of his accomplishments. Mampionona is also a 2009 recipient of the *Weston Award*, granted through the Institute of International Education/Fulbright program. Mampionona is one of only 16 students to receive this award in 2009. The award was created and is funded by Josh Weston, a U.S. Fulbright alumnus to New Zealand, and his scholarship program assists students from Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Agribusiness Club

Hello fellow Agribusiness students! The spring semester is coming to an end and so are our club activities. At the March meeting we elected a completely new officer team, consisting of: Josh Cagle, President; Ryan Wegerer, Vice President; Kayla Boling, Secretary; and Bailey Bodenhamer, Treasurer. Congratulations to our new officers!

April is an exciting month for both the Agribusiness Club and the department, as we will be holding our annual end of the year banquet. The banquet will be held at AQ Chicken on Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m. We invite all club members to come out and join us as we celebrate the club's accomplishments this year. Members of the club can attend free of charge, while guests, faculty, or students are invited to attend for a \$5 fee. A sign up sheet will be left at Melinda's desk in AGRI 217 starting the third week of April so please be watching to sign up so that we can have a final count as we near the banquet date.

Finally, I would like to thank every club member, as well as the students and faculty in our department, for your hard work and dedication this year. Your efforts resulted in another wonderful year for the Agribusiness Club. Myself, as well as the officers truly appreciate your contributions.

The officers wish everyone a great end to the spring semester and we look forward to seeing everyone at the banquet!

Ashley Jones

Reminders

- April 30: Last day to **officially withdraw from all full semester courses (no individual drops, no fee adjustment)**
- April 30 : Last day of Spring 2009 classes
- May 1: Dead Day
- May 2 - May 8: **Final Examination period**
- May 9: Commencement

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Scott Clawson

Where are you from? Town, state, country, ag connection? Give some details about that area.

Grew up in El Reno, OK on a family farm in Canadian County, raised cattle and wheat.

Family-parents, siblings, spouse, children?

Wife Tiffany, 10 month old son named Landon. Parents are Larry and Rhonda Bowers, 2 older brothers (Steve, Brandon)

Some background information-where BS obtained, when, etc.

Earned AS in Agriculture at Connors State College in 02, BS in Animal Science with a business emphasis from Oklahoma State University-Stillwater in 04.

How/Why did you choose UA for a Master's degree?

I chose UA for a MS degree because of the versatility of the program. I could tailor my course plan to what I wanted to do in my career. Also, there is a great reputation for instructor/student relationships.

Are you thesis/nonthesis? Year in program?

Non Thesis-First year

What do you wish to do with your degree?

I really enjoy finance and banking. I hope to start in ag lending and take it from there.

What areas of your MS program interest you the most?

The most interesting topics from my MS program are finance and simulation.

What outside activities have you been involved in?

I really enjoy spending time working with Habitat for Humanity.

How do you spend your free time? Hobbies, travel, other interests?

I spend most of my free time with my son Landon. I really enjoy spending time at our church in Stilwell, OK. I am an avid college sports fanatic, love to cook, and like spending my time outdoors working or at sporting events.

What do you miss from "back home?"

I miss spending time with my brothers and parents. We are a pretty close family and everyone still lives where we grew up except for me.

What do you like best about the program, being a grad student?

The best part about being a grad student in this program is the faculty attention and dedication to teaching. There is a definite emphasis placed on classroom success for the students and the kind of open door approach that makes it easy to have success in the program.

What do you like best about UA/Fayetteville?

The university is really set up to accommodate the students. There is a lot going on around campus and tons of student involvement. There is a real family atmosphere.

Any work experience? Previous jobs?

After graduating from Oklahoma State, I took a position at Connors State College as an instructor and live-stock judging coach. I spent four years there before returning for my graduate degree.