Spring is a busy time for most of us, but I hope to get you thinking about the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting, which will take place in Boston July 31 to August 2, 2016! I made my airline reservations yesterday to get a good airfare.

We have lined up an incredible group of invited speakers, including Hilary Hoynes (UC Berkeley) for the Keynote Address, our own Jayson Lusk (Oklahoma State University) for the Presidential Address, Jo Swinnen (University of Leuven) for the Fellows Address, and Alain de Janvry (UC Berkeley) for the Galbraith Forum. In addition, Jeff Frankel (Harvard University) is the Speaker for the Applied Risk Analysis Luncheon. Frankel's talk is entitled, “How Can Commodity-Exporting Countries Cope with Price Volatility?” I am especially excited about the International Lecture and Reception with Daron Acemoglu (MIT), who will speak about, “Is Democracy an Obstacle to Economic Growth?” Finally, I want to feature the COSBAE, CWAE, and Extension Luncheon Speaker Ralph Christy (Cornell University) who will speak on, “Caught between a Discipline and a Profession: Agricultural Economics and the Well-being of Society.”

The pre- and post-conference workshops will also be outstanding. The pre-conference workshop, “Big Data in Applied Economics: Knowledge and Applications,” is garnering attention, as agricultural and applied economists are positioned to become leaders in this new era of data scientists. The experimental economics workshop will be useful for seasoned professionals who want to gain new skills and for early career professionals who are building their skill sets. Finally, the BEER Section’s brewery tour will include three Boston-based breweries. The breweries will range in size, offerings, and distribution. This tour will provide a look into the craft brewing industry in Boston with discussions at each stop on the economics of beer and brewing. The tour will be private, ensuring that the discussion at each location is pertinent to the section and the interests of the conference attendees.

The post conference workshops include a USDA Project Directors’ meeting, an Extension Tour, and a workshop on computational economics. The Extension tour includes a walking tour of Fenway Park, a tour of Allendale Farm, an example of urban farming in Massachusetts, and a tour of the University of Massachusetts Cranberry Experiment Station. The computational economics workshop will focus on practical applications of numerical methods to the formulation, solution, and analysis of stochastic dynamic models in economics and finance, with emphasis on nonlinear dynamic optimization models.

I also want to encourage applications for editorships of two AAEA publications, Applied Economic Perspectives and Policies and Choices Magazine.

See you in Boston!

Jill McCluskey
AAEA President
You won the 2015 Luther G. Tweeten Student Scholarship for your research proposal: The Causes and Consequences of Sports Betting in Uganda, East Africa, what prompted you to pursue this topic and how is your research progressing?

I first became interested in sports betting while working in Monrovia, Liberia. It was impossible to walk more than a block without seeing groups of young men discussing and debating different European football matches and placing bets with international betting companies. It was immediately clear that both the pervasiveness and intensity of sports betting throughout Liberia were huge. Sports betting occupies a large portion of these men’s weekly expenditures and I was interested to develop a better understanding of the underlying reasons for such heavy participation as well as the impact betting has on their lives. There is a very similar form of sports betting in Uganda (as well as many other countries throughout the world). Following the outbreak of Ebola and before its resolution was known, I decided to explore the possibility of conducting a study on sports betting in Kampala, Uganda. The AAEA scholarship helped me to conduct an initial pilot in Kampala and, in turn, to secure additional funding for a larger version of the project.

What led you to pursue food and agricultural economics?
I chose a degree in agricultural and resource economics in order to improve my analytical and data analysis skills. I’ve been motivated to work on topics related to international development where there is an increasing demand for rigorous methodology and policy analysis.

What advice would you offer aspiring agricultural/applied economists?
Until I’ve managed to graduate from my PhD program I’m not sure that I’m the most qualified person to offer advice to aspiring economists. I’ll just offer that there are many interesting and challenging questions that need answers. Anything that is systematically important in peoples’ lives will have an economic lens through which the main issues can be framed and (hopefully) analyzed.
Call for Applications:
Editor of Choices Magazine

The AAEA Board is seeking applications for two (2) editors of Choices magazine to help further the strategic goals of the publication as a resource for readers interested in the policy and management of agriculture, the food industry, natural resources, rural communities, and the environment. Choices magazine currently reaches over 2700 non-member subscribers, but there is room to grow.

As an online-only publication, Choices magazine is well positioned to evolve along with advances in communication channels and tools. As such, the AAEA Board is interested in considering innovative approaches to the development and distribution of content via Choices magazine.

Applications
Applications should include a narrative describing innovative approaches to the development and distribution of Choices content. Additionally, applicants should provide a statement of support from their host institution and a current CV. AAEA will provide a small honorarium and financial assistance for Choices-related travel.

Applications should be sent electronically in a single document to Brian Mondragón Jones, AAEA Executive Director, at bmjones@aaea.org by April 4, 2016. Third-party nominations of potentially interested candidates who can then be solicited for their materials are also welcome.

Choices editors are responsible for the development and coordination of all content published in the e-magazine. The editors provide leadership, coordination, and oversight of all aspects of publishing in conjunction with the Choices Editorial Council and the AAEA Business Office. Once new editors are selected, the editors will divide the editorial responsibilities as appropriate.

Terms and Membership Requirement
Editor terms will be determined at the time of appointment but will not exceed four years. Terms will be staggered in order to smooth the transition of future editors. According to AAEA policies, all editors must maintain current AAEA membership while serving as an editor.

Call for Applications:
Managing Editor of the Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy

The AAEA Executive Board invites applications for one Managing Editor for Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy (AEPP). The degree to which candidate’s expertise complements that of the continuing editors, will be considered in the selection process. AAEA is particularly interested in candidates who will bring ideas and innovations for helping AEPP to further its mission. Information about AEPP, its policies and mission is available at www.aaea.org/publications/aepp.

Managing Editor Responsibilities
The Managing Editor will work with an editorial team comprised of two additional Submitted Article Editors to manage the manuscript review process. The Managing Editor responsibilities include:

- Development and management of Featured Articles
The Exchange

- Submitted manuscript management which includes but is not limited to monitoring review timelines and distribution of submissions
- Oversight of special projects such as special issues and supplements
- Manage communications between editors
- Liaise on behalf of the journal with OUP and the AAEA Board

The *AEPP* editorial process employs electronic submission of manuscripts and interchange between editors and reviewers. An electronic system that tracks manuscripts through submission, review, and editorial decision is used by the editors for managing work flow. Authors can also query this system for email reports on the status in the editorial process of a submitted manuscript. The editors also oversee the work of Oxford University Press in preparing copy for printing and reviewing proofs.

The new editor should be prepared to begin on January 1, 2017. There may be some training and coordination work starting around November 1, 2016.

**Application Requirements**

Applications should include:
- A statement of editorial philosophy and ideas for furthering the journal's goals,
- Indication of the candidate’s principal areas of expertise to support the *AEPP*’s mission,
- Curriculum vitae
- Statement of administrative and financial support to be provided by the host institution.

AAEA will provide financial assistance to defray some portion of the editor’s time and most expenses.

Applications should be sent electronically via PDF to Brian Mondragón Jones, Executive Director, at bmjones@aaea.org by May 1, 2016. Decisions will be made by early June.

Third-party nominations of potentially interested candidates who can then be solicited for their materials are also welcome.

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**Call for Applications:**

**Editorship of the Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy**

The AAEA Executive Board invites applications for one editor for *Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy (AEPP)* to serve from 2017 through 2019.

This call for applications is for an editor to manage *Submitted Articles* which contain original research results addressing real-world problems with sound research approaches and/or have strong policy relevance within the subject matter of the journal. The degree to which candidate’s expertise complements that of the continuing editors, will be considered in the selection process. AAEA is particularly interested in candidates who will bring ideas and innovations for helping *AEPP* to further its mission.

Submitted articles will meet the normal standards for scholarly publication, but should also be accessible to the broader audience of agricultural
and applied economists working outside academia. Submitted articles should emphasize one or more of the following: a) practical implications for public policy; b) clarification of research implications so as to maximize accessibility and cross-fertilization across specific areas of research; c) empirical comparison of competing theories, explanations, and approaches that can refine future research; and d) development of fruitful directions for future research. Additional information about the AEPP, its policies and mission is available at www.aaea.org/publications/aepp.

The editor will work with an editorial team comprised of another Submitted Articles Editor, and a Managing Editor to manage the manuscript review process. The Submitted Articles Editors are responsible for day-to-day issues relating to submitted articles, assisting with development of the Special Issues, and revising editorial policy. The AEPP editorial process employs electronic submission of manuscripts and interchange between editors and reviewers. An electronic system that tracks manuscripts through submission, review, and editorial decision is used by the editors for managing work flow. Authors can also query this system for e-mail reports on the status in the editorial process of a submitted manuscript. The editors also oversee the work of Oxford University Press in preparing copy for printing and reviewing proofs.

The new editor should be prepared to begin on January 1, 2017. There may be some training and coordination work starting around November 1. Applications should include a statement of editorial philosophy and ideas for furthering the journal's goals, an indication of the candidate’s principal areas of expertise to support the AEPP’s mission, a curriculum vitae, and a statement of administrative and financial support to be provided by the host institution. AAEA will provide financial assistance to defray some portion of the editor’s time and most expenses. Applications should be sent electronically via PDF to Brian Mondragón Jones, Executive Director, at bmjones@aaea.org by May 1, 2016. Decisions will be made by early June. Third-party nominations of potentially interested candidates who can then be solicited for their materials are also welcome.

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Renew Your AAEA Membership for 2016

You can now renew your AAEA membership for 2016 on the AAEA website. Simply log in to the “My Account” section to renew. Completing your renewal online saves you time by filling out most of the information for you automatically.

The benefits of your AAEA membership only last through the spring of 2016, so be sure to renew soon to ensure you keep receiving services from AAEA throughout the upcoming year.

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Call for Submissions

2017 ASSA Annual Meeting

President–Elect Jayson Lusk is soliciting proposals and suggestions for AAEA invited paper sessions at the 2017 Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, January 6–8, 2017. Preference will be given to those proposals that add to knowledge on public issues of national and international importance or expand capabilities and tools for economic research.

Objective

AAEA sessions at the ASSA Annual Meeting share new knowledge with members of other economics associations as well as with AAEA members. Sessions may be jointly sponsored with other ASSA member associations. AAEA encourages sessions that will draw widely from ASSA attendees. Therefore, preference will be given to proposals that jointly serve the interests of the AAEA and other economists more broadly.

Publication in AJAE

Papers in these Invited Paper sessions will be considered for publication in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE) in August 2017. Preference will be given to proposals that reflect a commitment to furnish a high-quality collection of papers suitable for publication. Papers will go through a review process, and it is not guaranteed that all papers in an accepted session will be published. Papers submitted for review should be in their publish-ready state because there will not be time for multiple versions and reviews.

Discussant comments will not be published. Authors will be contacted by the AJAE editors regarding style and length of manuscripts to be submitted to the editors for publication consideration.

Format

Proposed session formats with three papers and one discussant or four papers without a discussant are permitted. Proposals for sessions without a discussant must include a clear plan for ensuring and fostering participant interaction. Please note that sessions at ASSA are two hours in length.

Submitting Proposals

All submitted proposals should include:

- Proposed session title
- A brief (approximately two pages) justification of the session
- Paper titles
- One paragraph abstract describing the objective of, and new knowledge generated by, each paper
- Names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of the session organizer, moderator, paper presenters, and discussants.

It is the responsibility of the organizer to ensure that all individuals identified in the proposal are willing to participate.
All presenters/speakers/discussants must be members of AAEA. A membership waiver request can be included in the proposal in the case of extenuating circumstances. In addition, participants must register for the ASSA meeting. AAEA cannot grant registration waivers for the meeting.

Submission Deadline
Please send proposals by May 1, 2016, in Word or PDF format to AAEA Senior Meetings Manager, Mary Annen at mannen@aaea.org.

Selection Process
Proposals will be reviewed and selected by a subcommittee of the AAEA Board. Notifications of acceptance will be distributed in June.

Obituary

Donald Gregory Stitts
May 30, 1930 – June 2, 2015

Donald Gregory Stitts, 85, of Mansfield Center, CT, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on June 2, 2015. He was born May 30, 1930, in Washington, D.C. to parents Ruth (Sexton) and Thomas Stitts, of Hastings, MN. Don graduated from the University of Maine, Orono in 1952, served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, worked for H.P. Hood, Ice Cream Division and for Marigold Dairy in Rochester, MN as an Ice Cream Production Manager. In 1962 he returned to school to the University of Minnesota where he earned an M.S. and a PhD in Agricultural Economics. In 1967 he joined the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Connecticut (UCONN) as an Assistant Professor. He served as President of the Northeast Agricultural Economics Society, spent over a year as an extension Public Policy Specialist in the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. He retired in 1992 as Professor Emeritus.

Don was active in the St. Thomas Aquinas parish where he was on the parish council for four years; three years as Chairman, and served as a lay distributor for many years. He was a member of The Knights of Columbus, served on the Mansfield Board of Tax Review for 14 years, 12 years as Chairman; 10 years as Financial Officer for the Mansfield Senior Center. He extended his love of teaching by instructing over one hundred classes for AARP safe driving, and many other projects throughout the years.

Don was known and loved for his sense of humor, and was quick to tell the latest jokes. Don was an avid UCONN Women’s Basketball fan, having traveled with Barbara to four Final Fours. He enjoyed watching Sunday football and adding his own personal commentary. Goodspeed was also a favorite. Don was active as a member of a bridge club, wine tasting group, a charter member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Knights of Columbus, and Round Table, among others. Don held a lifelong affinity for completing jigsaw puzzles and sharing everything he knew about sports and history.
Don is predeceased by his parents, and his brother, Rev. Thomas Stitts, of New Brighton, MN.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 57 years, Barbara (Gilmore); their three very dear children; son Donald Gregory Stitts, Jr., and wife, Linda, of Plano, TX; daughter, Kathleen Lagasse and husband, Larry, of Ellington, CT; daughter, Anne Marie Seccareccio and husband, Michael, of South Boston, MA. He also leaves behind 7 precious grandchildren: Sarah Stitts, twins, Ryan and David Stitts, of Plano, TX; Lauren Lagasse and triplets, Connor, Avery and Braeden Lagasse, of Ellington, CT.

Other News

5th AAAE Conference

The African Association of Agricultural Economists invites you to participate during its 5th International Conference in Addis Ababa. The theme of the conference is “Transforming smallholder agriculture in Africa: The role of policy and governance.” The meeting will take place at the United Nations Conference Centre – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from September 23–26, 2016.

Lying in the heart of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, also known as the capital city of Africa, the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC-AA) combines architectural elegance with the very latest technology and sheer practicality to offer the ideal venue for all your meetings and conferences.

Important Dates

- Submissions deadline for all contributions: April 11, 2016
- Early Bird Registration Opens: April 4, 2016
- Notification of Acceptance of Papers: June 6, 2016
- Early Bird Registration Deadline: June 20, 2016
- Presenting Authors Registration Deadline: July 18, 2016
- Deadline for Revised Papers Submissions: July 22, 2016

Preliminary Information

1. Full papers in English and French should be submitted electronically to conference@aaae-africa.org
2. The manuscript should include an abstract at the beginning of not more than 250 words.
3. The text should be presented in Times New Roman 12 pt., 1.15 Line spacing in Microsoft Word with 2.54 cm margins on A4 paper size.
4. The title page should include the title, the name(s) of the author(s) and their affiliation(s).
5. Articles should not be longer than 7,500 words

Contacts

The Local Organizing Committee 5th AAAE Conference, c/o EDRI Box 2479, Addis Ababa Tel: 091–140–6500 (0) 91–140–2976 Email: conference@aaae-africa.org Web: aae2016.org
The 2016-2 GTAP 101 Course
“Introduction to Computable General Equilibrium Modeling”

September 12 – October 28, 2016

The 2016-2 GTAP 101 Course is being organized by the Center for Global Trade Analysis and will be delivered fully online, led by Dr. Mary Burfisher.

What GTAP 101 "Graduates" Are Saying...
- "I attended several CGE courses before and this GTAP 101 course is one of the best courses available. Mary has done a good job. This course is well organized and extremely informative. I would like to recommend anyone who is interested in CGE modelling to take this course."
- "Thank you for opening a new world of modelling."
- "The text book is very clear, detailed and the teacher excellent!"
- "It has been very nice experience to learn GTAP models with such an interactive way. I appreciate many advises for my questions. Thank you very much."
- "I really enjoyed the course and the class interactions. Mary and the entire GTAP 101 team were very helpful and professional."

Objective
The objective of the GTAP 101 course is to engage participants in an active, team-based process of learning about the GTAP computable general equilibrium (CGE) model and its use in applied economic policy analysis. The curriculum emphasizes an intuitive and graphical treatment of economic theory in the CGE model, and provides structured experiences in manipulating and running the standard GTAP Model within the RunGTAP software environment. RunGTAP is an intuitive, menu-driven CGE model that minimizes technological hurdles and allows students to quickly begin to focus on their economic thinking and experimentation. The curriculum is geared to advanced undergraduates, graduates and professionals. At the end of the course, participants will be entry-level modelers and more informed consumers of CGE-based analyses. The course also serves as an entry point for developing the technical skills required for the GTAP Short Course.

During the online course, participants will:
- Review core economic theories from macro, micro, trade and public finance and observe how they are operationalized in an applied general equilibrium model;
- Learn to recognize, control and interpret the theoretically consistent behavior of consumers and producers in the model;
- Observe the aggregated, macroeconomic impacts of microeconomic behaviors;
- Define model experiments that represent real-world issues and problems; and
- Learn to interpret general equilibrium model results by calling on and integrating their knowledge of multiple fields of economic study.

Structure
The course is fully delivered online, and is supported by the textbook, Introduction to Computable
General Equilibrium Models (Burfisher, 2011), which will be provided to all participants. Additional learning resources include audio lectures, guided video simulations, and assessments. Much of the learning will take place through active discussions among the participants and instructor, which are carried out as asynchronous, threaded conversations on the classroom bulletin board. Topics covered in this course include: Database, Demand, Supply, Factor Markets, Trade and Taxes. The course culminates in a group research project which provides participants with a hands-on opportunity to carry out a model experiment and analyze its economy-wide effects.

Application
Individuals interested in taking this course must apply on the GTAP website April 1-June 26, 2016. Applications will be reviewed after the deadline and those individuals accepted will receive an email detailing how to register and submit payment in August. Please note that application does not guarantee acceptance.

Cost
The registration fees for this course are detailed below and include the course textbook as well as instruction during the online course.

- $1,400 (Standard Rate: Developed Country Professionals)
- $600 (Discounted Rate: All Current Students and Developing Country Professionals)
- $100 (Scholarship Rate: A limited number of scholarships are available to applicants residing in a developing country.)

For further information or to apply, please visit the course homepage on the GTAP website at: http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/GTAP101/2016-2/.