

COSBAE

The Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics

Vol. 12, No. 1

Summer, 1998

Message from the Chair

Greetings, I want to thank COSBAE's membership for allowing me to serve as your Chair, over the past year. I have found this experience to be very beneficial. Through this message, I want to report that COSBAE is "alive and well." Additionally, I will briefly share some Chair's goals, progress to date, and look at some of our opportunities and challenges.

When I accepted the chair, my primary goal was to foster increased membership, participation, and team work. Our previous leaders had done an outstanding job of increasing visibility and viability of COSBAE. The American Association of Agricultural Economics (AAEA) and other professional associations recognize us and make attempts to include our members on committees and to some degree on programs. Our long term growth depends, in part, on developing an internal operating process. Strategies employed included have regular executive committee telephone conference calls, and developing a formal committee structure to include both executive committee and at-large members in program development and implementation. This process continues to evolve. We have had several productive conference calls with excellent participation. COSBAE had strong participation at the Professional Agricultural Workers' Conference at Tuskegee University, December 1997 and SAEA, February 1998. I was tremendously pleased with the large number of graduate students. To the graduate students and their advisors, keep up the good work. Based on my best information COSBAE will, be well represented on the program at our summer meeting in Utah. Please review the program and support your colleagues.

The final issue is that of determining what our presence should/must be at the 1999 AAEA annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. These meetings are being held in the South, where most of the 1890 Colleges are, and where many of the issues (welfare to work, rural and economic development, small landholders agriculture, affirmative action, etc.) are prevalent that of concern to the nation and our membership. These meeting will provide an opportunity for COSBAE to develop a program (preconference, invited sessions, etc.) to address the set of these issues. This could be a good time to collaborate with other social scientists, policy makers and government leaders to provide a national or regional forum. The challenge is having a group of members to step up and provide the leadership for getting it done. This is a small challenge, given the caliber of our members. I look forward to seeing it happen. We will start the conversation in Utah.

Lastly, thanks to Clemente McWilliams for securing funds from Eli Lilly, Elanco Animal Health to sponsor the COSBAE reception, Tuesday, August 3, 1998, and Donald McDowell and Doris Newton for the development of the newsletter.

Adell Brown, Chair

Report of the 1998 SAEA Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas

At the SAEA annual meeting in Little Rock, COSBAE's representation was evident. A review of the SAEA program shows that members of COSBAE presented 1 poster; 1 organized symposium with 2 presenters; 1 members moderated a session; 11 members presented selected papers and 1 member was on a special panel. Let's keep up the good work.

COSBAE Activities At The AAEA Meeting

Following are two organized symposium and other activities sponsored by COSBAE that will be occurring during the 1998 AAEA meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. Check your programs for these and other activities involving COSBAE members and give them your support.

Organized Symposiums:

"Building Collaborations Across Agricultural Institutions: Adjusting to a Changing Environment." Monday, August 3rd, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

"Access to Government programs: Role of Agricultural Economists," Tuesday, August 4th, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

The purpose of both sessions is to bring together students and professionals for open dialogue to address the importance of collaborative activities and assisting small farmers and business gain access to public resources.

Annual Reception:

COSBAE's annual reception will be held on Tuesday evening, 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Please check your program and hotel motel monitor for room assignment. Eli-Lilly, Elanco Animal Health Division has graciously provided funds to sponsor the reception.

Annual Meeting:

Please note that COSBAE's annual AAEA meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., in the Grand Ball Room B or the Marriott.

As a member of COSBAE, please be responsible for contacting colleagues at institutions in your respective states, and keep them informed about COSBAE's activities and encourage them to be an active member in our associations and especially in COSBAE.

Accolades

Special accolades to Donald McDowell, past chair of COSBAE for his leadership for the past

two years, 1995-1997. COSBAE increased in visibility and continued to be very active in the association. Thank you.

Spotlight on an Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist

Carlton G. Davis has compiled a record of excellence in research, teaching and professional service. His notable achievements in the study of human resource development, rural poverty, food and agricultural policy and international trade and development have been distinguished by scholarly excellence and focus on critical issues in the South. Dr. Davis, earned a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University, after earning a M.S. and B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He has served as instructor, Michigan State University, and visiting professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, The University of West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. For over 25 years, Davis has labored fervently in his chosen profession, agricultural economics. Nearly all of his professional career, 1970-present, has been spent at the University of Florida where he progressed from Assistant Professor to Distinguished Service Professor.

He has published extensively (books, journal articles, book chapters, monographs) on special interest topics of the South. His early work focused on poverty and rural underdevelopment in the United States and he has made significant contributions to the literature in this area, including his landmark book entitled, *Rural Poverty and the Policy Crisis*. He also contributed substantially to the AAEA landmark study on *Opportunities and Status of Blacks in the Agricultural Economics Profession*. Furthermore, he has been instrumental in making COSBAE (Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics) a permanent and active committee of the Association.

Dr. Davis has been a member of the Governing Board of the AAEA Foundation and served on numerous committees including the Nominating Committee, International Committee and the SAEA Honorary Lifetime Membership Award Committee. He is a member of the editorial councils of the AAEA's *Review of Agricultural Economics and Farm and Business* - the Journal of the Caribbean Agro-economic Society.

Dr. Davis has received numerous professional honors and nation-wide recognition. He was the 1996 recipient of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Davis was also recognized and received an award for "Outstanding Contributions to the Caribbean Student Community (July 1996) and Selected to the Master Program University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in their 1996 Master's Week Program. Selection of Masters is very competitive and provides an opportunity for outstanding alumni to share experiences and serve as role models for students. He has been and continues to be an important contributor to the United States and Caribbean agriculture. Carlton, you make us proud.

COSBAE MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO AAEA COMMITTEES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Ralph Christy | - Fellows Selection Committee and Nomination Committee (C) |
| Adell Brown | - Extension Committee |
| Magid Dagher | - Employment Service Committee |
| Dewitt Jones | - NAAEA and Professional Activities |
| Donald McDowell | - Choice Advisory Board |
| Susan Offutt | - Finance Committee (C) and Employment Service Committee |
| Zacch Olorunnipa | - Resident Instruction Committee |
| Anderson Reynolds | - Industry Committee |
| Hailemariam Selassie | - Resident Instruction Committee |
| Handy Williamson | - Nominating Committee |

Lionel Williamson - Industry Committee

FACULTY AND PROFESSIONALS FOOTNOTES

Margaret Butler, formally of USDA/ERS, Accepted with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D.C.

Joyce Cacho, recent Ph.D. recipient, University of Missouri. Accepted position with Rabo-Bank, New York as Vice President of Agricultural Research.

Ralph Christy, Cornell University, Return from sabbatical with Rockefeller Foundation, New York.

Rosalind Harris, University of Kentucky, SRSA Vice President and Chair of Award Committee.

Donald McDowell, North Carolina A&T State University, elected SRSA, Program Chair-Elect. Visiting Professor, Eli Lilly, Elanco Animal Health Division, Summer 1998.

Clemente McWilliams, New Position, Senior Human Resource Associate, U.S. Affiliate H.R. Organization, Eli Lilly

Zacch Olorunnipa, Florida A&M University, Visisting Professor, Virginia Tech, Spring 1998.

Renata Penn, formally of USDA/ERS. Accepted position with U. S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C.

Rodney Smith, University of Minnesota, Taught the LEAD 21 Program in Beijing, China, Fall Quarter, 1997.

Edmund Tavernier, Rutgers University, received the Merle Adams Award for Excellence in Scholarship and promoted to Associate Professor.

Dave Weatherspoon, Position taken as Assistant Professor, Agribusiness Management, Michigan State University, June 1998.

Handy Williamson, Jr. University of Tennessee, Return from leave with the University of California, Davis, Office of the Chancellor.

T. T. Williams, Retired, Inducted into the George Washington Carver Hall of Fame at the 1997 Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, Tuskegee University.

MEMBERS PUBLICATIONS

"Food Expenditures and Socioeconomic Characteristics: Focus on Income Class." Donald McDowell, Joyce Allen-Smith and Patricia McLean-Meyinsse. AJAE, December 1997.

"An Analysis of Consumer Food Spending Behavior Using Supermarket Scanner Data: Differences by Income and Location." Eugene Jones. AJAE, December 1997.

"Income and Racial Differentials in Selected Nutrients Intakes." Adesoji Adelaja, Rodolfo Nayga, and Tara Lauderbach. AJAE. December 1997.

"Welfare Reform: Implications for Low-Income Consumers, Agriculture and the Economy." Discussant, Joyce Allen-Smith. AJAE. December 1997.

"The Effect of Suburbanization on Agriculture." Rigoberto Lopez, Adesoji Adelaja and Margaret Andrews. AJAE. May 1988.

"Determinants of Use of Government Export Promotion Programs by Agribusiness Firms." William Amponsah and Daniel Pick. Journal of Agribusiness. Spring 1998.

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

Please mark your calendar for The 56th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, December 6-8, 1997, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. Contact: Ntam Baharanyi (334) 727-8454.

Allied Social Science Association/National Economic Association Meeting. January 3-5, 1999, New York.

Southern Agricultural Economics Association Meeting. January 30 - February 3, 1999, Memphis, Tennessee. Deadline for submission of the Selected Papers and Organized Symposium, August 26, 1998. Poster deadline, October 9, 1998. The sign-up deadline for the Quiz Bowl and Graduate Fair for Undergraduate Students is November 16, 1998.

Nomination for SAEA, Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions, and Lifetime Achievement Award, deadline is September 30, 1998.

Southern Rural Sociological Association Annual Meeting, January 30 - February 3, 1999, Memphis, Tennessee. To present a paper submit 150 words abstract to Jack Thigpen, Program Chair North Carolina Sea Grant, P. O. Box 699, Manteo, NC 27954, Phone: (252) 441-3663 by October 15, 1998.

STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

Students and employees whose services in support of student interns was deemed outstanding were honored at the Department's 1998 Annual Student Intern Program Ceremony. The ceremony was held in the USDA's main auditorium on July 13, 1998. The Program was well attended by approximately 300 students plus executives and other employees. Speeches were presented by a representative from the Secretary's office, The Honorable Miley Gonzalez (Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics), and a former USDA/1890 scholar, David Johnson (Delaware State). Awards were presented to recipients by Sam Thornton, Director, National Office of Outreach. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, The Honorable Reba Pittman Evans served as ceremony leader. Secretary Glickman was on hand for photos with students during the reception.

Seven students who have or are currently studying at 1890 land-grant institutions are interning at USDA's Economic Research Service this summer. They are Kesi C. Chestnut, Michelle Eley, Teriyaki Garner, Roy Hawkins, Carlos Lampkin, Grey Payne, and Daniel B. Whitley. Following are brief descriptions of the students academic backgrounds and their duties at ERS. Also included in this article are highlights from the Annual Student Intern Program Ceremony conducted by the USDA.

Kesi C. Chestnut

Education: Junior, North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro; a 1890 Scholar. **Staff Supported:** Kathryn Zeimet, Assistant Director for Management, Resource Economics Division. **Job Description:** Kesi is working on issues that have addressed Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), soil and water conservation, mineral and chemical usage and run-off in the Neuse River Basin (NC), and policy and laws.

Michelle Eley

Education: B.S., North Carolina A&T State University, May 1996; M.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 1998. **Staff Supported:** Mary Bowen, Barry Krissoff, and David Kelch in the Market and Trade Economics Division. **Job Description:** Michelle is assisting in preparing a trade and labeling workshop that will be held in the division in August. She has composed a literature review to explore the economics of labeling, particularly in the context of internationally traded goods. She is also exploring and reviewing current issues for U.S. agriculture in field crops in the area of biotechnology. Michelle is designing a briefing room about biotechnology in the ERS homepage website.

Teriyaki Garner

Education: B.S., North Carolina A&T State University, May 1996; M.S. Candidate, North Carolina A&T State University. **Staff Supported:** Phil Kaufman in the Food and Rural

Economics Division. Job Description: Teriyaki is working on a project entitled, "Financial Performance of Leading Food Retailers." Her responsibility at ERS is to obtain information from the 25 leading food retailers to access how different mergers and acquisitions have affected food retailing.

Roy Hawkins

Education: Senior, Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA

Staff Supported: William Coye and Nicole Ballenger in the Market and Trade Economics Division. **Job Description:** Roy is working on a transportation technology project where he is examining the effects of ocean shipping innovation on the expansion of trading perishable agricultural commodities in the last 15 years. He is assisting to prepare an overview of the shipping industry and companies who are involved with exporting perishables from the United States to the Eastern Hemisphere.

Carlos Lampkin

Education: B.S., Fort Valley State University in Georgia, June 1997; M.S. Candidate, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. **Staff Support:** Robert Dismukes and Linwood Hoffman in the Market and Trade Economics Division. **Job Description:** Carlos is working on a project entitled, "Characteristics and Risk Management Needs of Limited Resource and Socially Disadvantage Farmers." For the project, he is constructing data files to produce visual graphics in the form of tables, charts, and graphs. On another project, Carlos has constructed data files to produce tables and graphs that illustrate important trends in rice futures contracts.

Greg Payne

Education: B.S., B.B.A in Human Resource Management, August 1992, M.B.A., Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX, August 1994; M.S., Prairie View A&M State College, August 1997; Ph.D. student at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. **Staff Supported:** Janet Perry and Jim Johnson in the Resource Economics Division. **Job Description:** Greg is working on a publication entitled, "Making Management Decisions--Responding to the Risks of Farming." He is assigned the task to provide Congress with the gross sales of farmers by state and the percentage of sales to small farms who earn less than \$250,000 annually in the United States.

Daniel B. Whitley

Education: B.S., Southern University, 1996; M.S. Candidate, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. **Staff Supported:** Paul Gibson, John Wainio, Pete Liapis, and Fred Nelson in the Market and Trade Economics Division. **Job Description:** Daniel is examining the applied tariff rates of countries in the World Trade Organization. The database information will be used in preparation for the next round of negotiations for the WTO. Daniel is also working on domestic support information. He is examining domestic support that countries have in a category known as "Green Box". He has compiled data on the subject and will prepare a paper on the research findings.

Tori Lea, (North Carolina A&T State University) and Charlie Folson, (University of

Tennessee) accepted an internship position at Eli Lilly, Animal Health Division, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Augusta Powell and Bryce Taylor (North Carolina A&T State University) accepted internship positions with American Cyanamide.

PUBLICATION OF NEXT NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published by the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. If you have any information you wish to have placed in the next NEWSLETTER, please forward to:

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The next NEWSLETTER is scheduled to be published in the Spring 1999. The deadline for receipt of news/material for the NEWSLETTER is January 15, 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAEA Deadlines: (See your July/August, 1998 AAEA newsletter for submission info.)

Call for Nominations: AAEA President and Directors, October 15, 1998

Call for Proposals-Pre/Post Conferences, October 15, 1998

Call for Proposals: Principal Paper Sessions, October 15, 1998

Call for Nominations - AAEA Fellows, October 15, 1998

COSBAE Developing A Homepage

COSBAE is in the process of developing a homepage on the internet. The homepage is in its early stage of development, we need your assistance and input to make it an important reference point for COSBAE's information. Call the chairperson of COSBAE for more information and volunteer to use your talents.

SPECIAL THANKS

COSBAE also thank Eli Lilly, Elanco Animal Health Division for sponsoring this year's

activities of COSBAE.

Your continued support has once again helped turn a Good Year into a GREAT Year!
THANKS.

A THOUGHT FOR THE SUMMER

Part time faith, as a part time job, will not fully support you.
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF COSBAE

- 1980 COSBAE was founded
- 1986 Published Occasional Paper, "Opportunities and Status of Blacks in the Agricultural Economics Profession"
- 1987 Published first *Directory of Black Agricultural Economist*
- 1987 COSBAE's Newsletter Initiated
- 1988 COSBAE became a permanent Standing Committee of AAEA
- 1989 Published 2nd *Directory of Black Agricultural Economists*
- 1990 First Preconference, A Century of Service: The Past, Present and Future Roles of 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Institutions," held at AAEA annual meeting
- 1990 Published "Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists," which depicted pictures and bios of 15 outstanding Black agricultural economists
- 1992 Proceeding of the first Preconference was published in a book entitled, "A Century of Service: Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, 1890-1990," Ralph Christy and Lionel Williamson, Editors. Nine COSBAE members contributed articles.
- 1994 Produced a Special Issue of the Journal, *The Review of Black Political Economy*, entitled, "Blacks in Rural America." Fifteen COSBAE members contributed articles.
- 1996 Second AAEA Preconference, entitled, "Strengthening Relationships Between the 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and other Agricultural Institutions: Focus on Agricultural Economics Programs"
- 1998 Development of COSBAE's Homepage for the Internet (Fall 1998)
- 1998 Third *Directory of Black Agricultural Economists* (Forthcoming, Fall 1998)

1998 Publication of proceeding of 2nd AAEA Preconference and supporting documentation (Forthcoming, Fall 1998)

PAST CHAIRS OF COSBAE

1980-82	Sidney Evans
1982-85	Richard Robbins
1985-86	Ralph Christy
1986-88	Joyce Allen
1988-90	Lionel Williamson
1990-92	Handy Williamson
1992-93	Alfred Parks
1993-95	Dewitt Jones
1995-97	Donald McDowell
1997-98	Adell Brown

COSBAE COMMITTEES

Executive Committee (Three Year Terms)

Adell Brown (Chair, 1997-1998)
Joyce Allen-Smith (1995)
William Amponsah (1996)
William Edmondson (1997)
Hezekiah Jones (1996)
Patricia McLean-Meynesse (1995)
Clemente McWilliams (1997)
Rodney Smith (1996)
Dave Weatherspoon (1995)
Susan Offutt (Board Rep. 1995)

Election Committee

Eugene Jones, Chair
Joyce Allen-Smith
William Amponsah
Ntamulyango Baharanyi

Directory Committee

Joyce Allen-Smith
Donald R. McDowell

Alton Thompson

Newsletter Committee

Donald McDowell

Doris Newton

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Dave Weatherspoon (1995)
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