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CWAE newsletter

WAITE MEMORIAL BOOK COLLECTION
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS
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March 1987

Editor: Deb Brown
Layout: Tana Taylor

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

by Mary Ahearn and Deb Brown

The AAEA Board has approved CWAE's request to transfer the maintenance of the mailing roster to the AAEA Business Office at Iowa State University. The major advantage to the transfer is clear--significant amounts of current and future CWAE members' time will be freed up for other activities. Ardelle Lundeen has made numerous contributions of time, energy, and ideas to CWAE activities over the past seven years. One of her major contributions has been to oversee the maintenance of the membership roster. We would like to recognize her superb contribution and thank her for an outstanding job.

The disadvantage of the transfer of the mailing roster is that we may be eliminating individuals from our roster who are interested in being professionally active through their CWAE involvements, but who do not wish to become AAEA members at this time. The transfer is contingent on dropping non-AAEA members from CWAE's roster. This will avoid a AAEA general membership subsidy to non-AAEA members.

If you choose not to become an AAEA member, this will be the last CWAE newsletter that will be mailed to you.

If you would like to be included in the next CWAE directory and you do not wish to become an AAEA member, you may do so by completing the Membership Directory Form at the end of this newsletter. If you will be an AAEA member in 1987 are a CWAE member, you will automatically be included in the next CWAE directory, and there is no need to complete the directory form.

It grieves us to lose any of our members and we urge you to join the AAEA.

There is no substitute for the professional contacts that are made and the exchange of ideas which occur through AAEA membership. The regular membership dues of $45 and $22.50 for students entitles members to receive the AAEA Newsletter, the AJAE, Choices, and the Membership Directory. Moreover, this year AAEA membership will be required for those individuals wishing to use the Employment Services. If you would like to become a member of AAEA you may send your membership information and dues to:

AAEA Business Office
Department of Economics
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011

Please join us.

FINDINGS ON SALARY, EMPLOYMENT, TENURE, AND PUBLICATION OF FEMALE ECONOMISTS

by Nancy Schwartz

The Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP) is the American Economics Association analog to CWAE. CSWEP has begun a research project funded by the Russell Sage Foundation to analyze five issues which underlie the hiring trends of women economists.

Preliminary findings, which compare 1985 data to 1975, are as follows. The number of women Ph.D.s increased from 10% to 15% of Ph.D.s awarded to economists. The number of years required to complete the Ph.D. after receiving a B.A. rose for both men and women: in 1985 it stood at 8.9 years for men and 8.4 years for women. Economists' salaries in 1985 in real terms were 13% below their 1975 levels. In nominal terms, men's salaries rose 74% over the decade, while women's rose only 66%. Women's salaries averaged 86% of the men's in 1985. The greatest salary gaps occurred for the 40-60 year old group. Proportionately, there are fewer economists in academia than in 1975, with a 20% decline for women compared to 6% for men.

Women are still less likely to receive tenure or attain a full professorship than men. The number of tenured women in academia has risen sharply: 78% are now tenured compared to 90% for men. However, there has been almost no change at the full professor level: 30% of women faculty are full professors compared to 50% for men.

A major issue which received CSWEP's attention during the past year concerned the referee practices of journals. An article by Linda Edwards and Marianne Ferber (CSWEP Newsletter, Fall 1986) indicated that women's chances of having an article accepted for publication were almost twice as high when the journal used double-blind reviewing procedures. (The authors studied the reviewing practices of 36 major economics journals. It should be noted that the sample size of papers by women was too small to attach statistical significance to the findings.) CSWEP has presented its finding to the AEA Board, which wants to look into the matter further. At the present time, the American Economic Review does not use double-blind reviewing. The American Journal of Agricultural Economics does.

REMEMBER THE AAEA DEADLINES

March 20 - Organized symposium proposals
March 20 - Invited papers sessions nominations for winter meeting
April 1 - Student paper titles
April 1 - Mini-symposia proposals
June 1 - Student papers

CWAE AT AAEA SUMMER MEETINGS
by Mary Ahearn

The meetings this year are August 2-5 in East Lansing, hosted by Michigan State University. Thanks go to Eileen van Ravenswaay of MSU for handling many of the arrangements for CWAE. CWAE will continue to sponsor a lunch on Monday. This year Sandra Batie will be our luncheon speaker on "Translating Your Economic Analysis Into Relevant Policy Information". For the third year, CWAE will be organizing a Sunday session focused on employment issues. CWAE will also be sponsoring a new event this year, a social hour on Sunday afternoon, in response to a suggestion forwarded at last year's Business Meeting. The social hour will be held from 4:30-6:00 in the McDonel Dorm Kiva. McDonel Dorm is centrally located near registration and the employment center. Although the reception follows the jobs outlook session, you need not attend that session to attend the social hour.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EFFORTS AT ERS
by Catherine Greene

Approximately 82 of the 452 economists at the Economic Research Service (ERS) are female. ERS is interested in increasing this proportion of female economists, and in providing more opportunities for female economists to advance to higher-level positions. These objectives are implemented through the Multi-Year Affirmative Action Program for Women and Minorities. Significant achievements for 1986, cited in the Affirmative Action Program Annual Update, include hiring 9 professional women, appointing 2 females to high-level management positions, funding contract awards to minority and/or woman-owned firms for $130,000, targeting women and minorities for the limited number of ERS vacancies, and using a significant proportion of the ERS budget for research on women and minorities. Current affirmative action strategies for increasing female employment and promotion opportunities at ERS include recruitment trips to minority and women's colleges, recruitment at national minority and women's conferences and professional meetings, assigning important ERS projects to women and minorities, and considering the use of a mentor program.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PLANNING
by Nancy Schwartz (Conference Coordinator)

The AAEA invites you to a conference which addresses the future job opportunities and career planning issues in agricultural economics. The conference is being co-sponsored by the Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE), the AAEA Employment Committee and the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. The conference will be held Sunday afternoon, August 2, from 1:00-4:30 in the Kiva Lounge, McDonel Dorm, Michigan State University before the AAEA meetings convene.

The program will begin with a broad overview of job opportunities and career planning issues. This will be followed by a panel consisting of representatives from the private sector, government and academia who have a wide range of experience and expertise. These professionals will discuss the relevant career issues in their sector. The conference will address such questions as where the potential growth in jobs for agricultural economists is

likely to occur and what the opportunities and most effective strategies for advancement along alternative career paths are. The program has been designed to provide ample time for questions and comments from the audience.

Registration for the conference will be free; however, space at the conference will be limited. In order to attend you must pre-register for the conference by filling out the form enclosed in the AAEA registration packet and returning it as soon as possible. Participants are encouraged to register early as spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

COMPARABLE WORTH

George Johnson and Gary Solon ("Estimating the Direct Effect of Comparable Worth Policy", December 1986 American Economic Review) found that when relevant worker and job characteristics are controlled for, a negative relationship between wages and femaleness of occupation still appears. The impact of comparable worth (CW) on male-female pay differences, however, would be limited by the policy's inapplicability to pay disparities between firms. Estimates that take account of this limitation suggest that a CW policy with partial coverage would eliminate only a small fraction of the gap between average male and female wages.

HOW CAN YOU PUBLISH?

by Nancy Schwartz

Two recent events sponsored by Washington Women Economists focused on how to publish successfully in academic journals. The first was a panel discussion on November 17 at the G.W. Marvin Center. The panel consisted of Professors James Barth (G.W.), Nancy Bockstael (U. Md.), and Anne Drabek (ed., World Development). Margaret Simms (ed., The Review of Black Political Economy) moderated, and Professor Jean Kinsey (U. Minn.) was the discussant. The second event was a talk on December 8 at ERS/USDA by Professor Richard Just (U. Md., former editor of the AJAE).

All the speakers emphasized that the most important factor in publishing was to submit a well-organized, well-written paper between 10 and 25 double-spaced pages long (depending on the journal). The article should be brief and lively and make a clear contribution to the literature. They also uniformly acknowledged that the review process is highly random, and that the key to publishing success is persistence. Depending on the reviewers, the same article may be rejected by one major journal and accepted by another. The more general the journal, however, the lower the acceptance rate tends to be. The average according to Barth was 20 to 30 percent. Submitting articles to promising new journals may also increase your chances of acceptance. Bockstael noted that the burden is on the author to convince better journals to accept the article, while smaller journals have to find reasons to reject your article.

The speakers generally agreed on the need to select journals carefully, tailoring the final draft of the article to the journal's style suggestions (usually printed in each issue) and what Bockstael called the journal's "words-to-math" ratio. Drabek said that references should also reflect the

journal's audience, e.g., submissions to an international journal should have references to international and not just U.S. articles.

There was disagreement on whether or not your drafts should undergo peer review before being submitted to a journal. Kinsey suggested that you should have the article reviewed by your 2-3 toughest peers. Just, however, suggested that while you should write the paper as though the top author in your field would be your reviewer, you should not send it around for review first. He pointed out that all reviewers will make different suggestions which may not be consistent, may weaken the paper, and are not likely to be the same comments that the journal reviewer will make.

Several suggestions were made for finding a research topic. Since journal articles are usually a year or two behind current research, it is important to get on the mailing list of key authors in your field. Other suggestions included subscribing to the free NBER Reporter and looking at the conclusions of published articles for suggestions for further research.

There was some debate about whether or not it was useful to state the importance and relevance of the article in a cover letter to the editor. Drabek thought it was important; Just did not. Equally, there was some disagreement about what constitutes a letter of rejection. Barth suggests not resubmitting unless the letter is strongly encouraging. Just, among others, says that authors should resubmit corrected articles unless the letter flatly declines publication.

Authors should expect an article to come back with requests for changes. Reviewers often feel that their status vis-a-vis the editor is determined by their ability to find problems with articles. The speakers emphasized the importance of addressing directly (and without being defensive) the key criticisms raised in the editor's and reviewers' comments, making those changes that you agree with and carefully explaining why you did not make other changes. Authors should be willing to make most of the recommended revisions. They also need to be patient about the review time. The more technical the article, the longer it may take to find suitable and willing reviewers.

The speakers noted that reviewers are often chosen from the authors cited in the literature review in the articles introduction. As a result, it is usually wise to emphasize the good points of previous research.

The speakers also offered some long-term strategies for publication success. First, try to break a set of research results (such as your Ph.D. dissertation) into 2 or 3 basic points, and write an article about each point. Three short articles have a better chance of acceptance than one long article that tries to cover too much. Second, Just advised writing on narrow and well-focused topics which make a marginal advance in the literature. Large deviations have lower probabilities of acceptance. Third, Kinsey suggested that new authors should always try to keep several articles in the pipeline, i.e., 1-2 articles under review, 1-2 articles accepted, and 1-2 articles underway. She noted that the more you write, the easier it gets.

References:

Ben-Zion, U. and B. Keating. "How to Fabricate an Article: The Author's View," The American Economist, (Spring 1976):64-68.

Edwards, L. and M. Ferber. "Journal Reviewing Practices and the Progress of Women in the Economics Profession: Is There a Relationship?," CSWEP Newsletter, (October 1986):2-7.

McCloskey, D. "Economical Writing," Economic Inquiry, (April 1985):187-222.

McCloskey, D. "The Rhetoric of Economics," Journal of Economic Literature, (June 1983):481-517.

Salant, W. "Writing and Reading in Economics," Journal of Political Economy, (July/August 1969):545-548.

Vandermeulen, A. "How to Fabricate an Article," The American Economist, (Spring 1975):55-69.

NEW DATA SOURCE ON FEMALE LANDOWNERS

by Catherine Greene

The Economic Research Service has designed a Rural Land Transfers Survey to obtain national and regional data on the rate of transfer of rural land, and on the buyer and seller characteristics of transfers. The occupation and gender of the grantors and grantees will be determined, along with the rural land use (agriculture, range, forest), the type of transaction (voluntary, forced, and nonsale exchanges), and the sources of credit used. The questionnaires are scheduled to be mailed in May 1987, according to Alex Majchrowicz, coordinator of the survey.

This survey is an important new source of data on the transfer characteristics related to female ownership of farmland. Data from USDA's 1946 and 1978 land ownership surveys revealed that farm size, value, tenure, and mode of acquisition differ with gender (Geisler, Rural Sociology). The Rural Land Transfers Survey will also allow gender comparisons to be made on the sources of financing, interest rates on loans, and other details of farmland transfers.

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

ELECTIONS - YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED

Each year CWAE elects a new vice chair and board members. The vice presidential candidate traditionally runs unopposed and becomes the chairperson for the year following her term as vice chair. Board members are actively involved in decision-making and organization work for CWAE; they serve as board members for two years. There are two board positions to be filled. Please vote for two of the four board candidates. Below are the candidates presented by the CWAE Elections Subcommittee.

The Candidates

The nomination subcommittee of CWAE is pleased to announce an excellent slate for the CWAE Board. Please choose one candidate for vice-chair and one candidate for member, and return as soon as possible.

Vice Chair Nominee

Helen Jensen has served on the CWAE board for the past two years. She has been an active member of the CWAE Professional Activities Committee, Research Subcommittee, and Student Subcommittee, and she also serves on the AAEA Professional Activities Committee. She is currently a faculty member at Iowa State University where she is a member for the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Food and Nutrition Policy. Her research is in the area of demand analysis. She was previously on the faculty at the University of Maryland (1980-1985) and received her degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1980.

Board Nominees - (Choose two)

Fran Antonovitz is currently serving on the CWAE Research Subcommittee. She also serves as an organizer for AAEA Selected Paper Sessions in the area of risk. Her areas of research are in agricultural marketing, risk and uncertainty, and value of information. She won the AAEA outstanding Ph.D. thesis award in 1983. She is currently on the faculty at the University of California-Davis. Her Ph.D. was received in 1982.

Deb Brown has served as newsletter co-editor for CWAE for the past four years. Her tour of duty is ending in this post but she would like to remain active in CWAE. She is an Associate Professor at Purdue University and works in the area of price analysis, risk and uncertainty. She received her Ph.D. from Purdue in 1979.

Vicki McCracken is co-chair of the CWAE Employment Subcommittee and Advisor to the Student Subcommittee. She is also on the Economic Education committee of the AAEA and serves as a council member for the Western Agricultural Economics Association. She is an Assistant Professor at Washington State University working in marketing and price analysis. Her Ph.D. was received in 1984 from Purdue University.

Nancy Schwartz is the chair of the Professional Activities Subcommittee for CWAE; in this capacity she is organizing a preconference half-day session for CWAE on "Career Opportunities and Planning" for this summer's AAEA meetings. Her committee is also developing a survey of women in the profession in cooperation with AAEA. She is currently at USDA-ERS in the International Economic Division (Western Hemisphere Branch). Her research interests are in international trade and finance. Her degree was received in 1983 from Cornell.

Choose one for vice-chair:
Helen Jensen
Other _____

Choose two for board:
Fran Antonovitz
Deb Brown
Vicki McCracken
Other _____

Please return your ballots ASAP or by May 1, 1987 to:

CWAE
c/o Edna Loehman
Department of Agricultural Economics
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907

BOOKS OF INTEREST

The Economic Emergence of Women by Barbara R. Bergmann (Basic Books) examines the irreversible forces behind the changes in traditional sex roles, the resistance to easing the sexual division of labor, case studies that show how discrimination works, the "live-in job" of the housewife, how two-earner couples are dealing with housework and child care, men's retreat from the economic support of the children they beget.

In A Feminist Dictionary, compiled by Paula A. Treichler and Cheris Kramarae (Methuen, 1986) you will find Rebecca West's definition of feminism:

> "I myself have never been able to find precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."

IF
YOU DO NOT INTEND TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AAEA BEFORE MAY 1987
BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE LISTED IN THE NEXT CWAE DIRECTORY

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN TO:

Helen Jensen
Department of Economics
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name: _____ Position: _____
(Last) (First)

Name of office, firm, or school: _____

Office address: _____

Office telephone: _____

Mailing address, if different from above: _____

Areas of interest: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Last school attended: _____ Highest degree and year: _____

Are you a graduate student? __ Yes __ No If yes, __ Ph.D. or __ M.S.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Sandra Batie is President-Elect of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

Drs. Barbara Cooper and Jan Henderson of the Department of Agricultural Education at Ohio State University are conducting a survey-based research project titled "Women Scientists in Colleges of Agriculture at U.S. Land Grant Universities". The two researchers plan to present the findings of their surveys and on-campus interviews at several professional meetings. The results will certainly be quite interesting.

Catherine Flynn, Public Finance Specialist at the University of Massachusetts, presented an invited paper on local government finance typologies at the symposium "Rural People and Places: A Symposium on Typologies" sponsored by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development. Jill Findeis at The Pennsylvania State University presented an invited paper titled "Rural Industrialization: Issues and the Role of Development Typologies" and Beth Walter Honadle, National Program Leader for Economic Development, USDA, participated in the symposium as a member of a panel titled "Similarities and Differences in Typology Construction: Issues of Basic and Applied Research".

Jill Findeis also presented a paper titled "Modeling the Short Run Impacts of Simultaneous Changes in Output, Exogenous Prices, and Final Demand" at the UNIDO-sponsored Eighth International Input-Output Conference held in Sapporo.

Damona Doye received her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Iowa State University.

Katie Junge (along with Roger Ginder) published "Effects of Federal Taxes on Member Cash Flows from Patronage Refunds" in the Journal of Agricultural Cooperation.

Barbara Chattin, USDA/ERS, has been promoted to section leader of the Agricultural Policy Research Section, Food and Agricultural Policy Branch.

Rosanna Mentzer Morrison and Tanya Roberts, both of ERS, received USDA's Certificate of Merit Award for outstanding achievement for their food irradiation research.

Laura Blanaforti has been appointed economist, Office of Productivity and Technology, Division of Foreign Labor Statistics, BLS, U.S. Department of Labor. Susan Capalbo has been appointed assistant professor, Montana State University. Nancy Bockstael, University of Maryland, is a visiting scholar at the University of California-Davis.

EMPLOYMENT

Michigan State University wants: (1) Assistant Professor in Resource Economics, 70% research, 30% teaching. Teach graduate and/or undergraduate courses in resource economics. Available September 1, 1987. Requires Ph.D. in agricultural economics or economics with strong background in economic theory, resource economics, and quantitative methods; (2) Assistant Professor

in Farm Management, 70% research, 30% teaching. Research on managerial processes, management information systems, and adjustments of farm firms to changing technology, institutions, and economic conditions. Teach farm management at graduate and undergraduate levels. Available July 1, 1988. Ph.D. in agricultural economics with strong background in farm management, production economics, and quantitative methods. Knowledge of U.S. agriculture essential; (3) Assistant Professor in Agricultural Finance, 80% research, 20% teaching. Teach a senior-level course in agricultural finance and supervise graduate student research. Available December 1, 1986. Ph.D. in agricultural economics or related field with a strong background in economics, quantitative methods, and finance. Knowledge of U.S. agriculture is essential; (4) Assistant Professor in Resource Economics/Public Policy, 55% extension, 25% research, 20% teaching. Teach undergraduate and/or graduate courses in public policy and resource economics. Available September 1, 1987. Ph.D. in agricultural economics or economics with strong background in resource economics and public policy. Knowledge of U.S. resource issues and institutions essential. For all, send resume, transcripts, and names of three references to Dr. Larry J. Connor, Chairperson, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039.

University of Florida, Food and Resource Economics Department, wants an Assistant Professor for a research/teaching position in agricultural and agribusiness finance. Requires Ph.D. in agricultural economics or related field. Refer to Position #912380. Apply to: Dr. John Reynolds, Acting Chairman, Food and Resource Economics Department, 1157 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

University of Florida, Food and Resource Economics Department also wants an assistant in food and resource economics to support the development of computerized models of the Florida beef cattle industry and serve as a liaison among faculty and graduate students in Animal Science, Agronomy, Food and Resource Economics, and other departments in the use and development of software related to the Florida beef cattle industry for use on both large frame and mini/micro computers. Requires M.S. in agricultural economics or closely related field. Formal training in computer programming, economics, mathematics, statistics, econometrics, and operations research highly desirable. Familiarity with beef cattle production and marketing desired, but not required. Refer to Position #934810. Apply to Dr. Thomas H. Spreen, Chairman, Search and Screen Committee, Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (904)392-2394.

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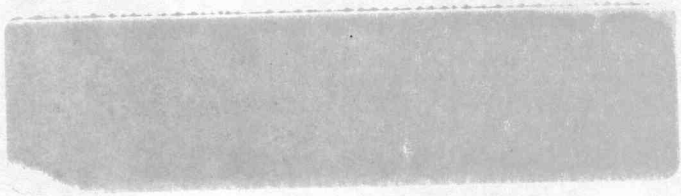
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