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COSBAE

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

Vol. 11, No. 1

Summer, 1997

Message from the Chair

My tenure as Chairperson of COSBAE ends on July 29, 1997. Special thanks to those persons who were instrumental in planning Committee activities and supporting the Committee during my two year term, 1995-1997. When I accepted the chairmanship in 1995, my primary goal was to increase the visibility of COSBAE at the professional meetings. With your support and much prayer, this has been accomplished. Last year's Newsletter summarized the accomplishments in 1995-1996. Allow me to briefly highlight some of the accomplishments for 1996-97. First some background information.

During the AAEA meeting a strategy meeting was held to discuss ways of maintaining and further enhancing COSBAE's visibility. It was decided that COSBAE would focus its attention on several topical areas and submit principal papers/invited papers, organized symposium proposals and selected papers to the SAEA and AAEA annual meeting. The topical areas were Ecotourism, Quality of Life and Sustainability, Nutrition and Rural Health, Strengthening Relationships Between Institutions, Government and Private Agencies and Consumers and Food Choices. COSBAE's success in these areas will be addressed later.

Following the 1996 AAEA, meeting COSBAE's request for a Preconference during the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference at Tuskegee University as a spin off from the AAEA Preconference, was accepted. During that Preconference long-run strategies were developed to continue work in strengthening the relationships between 1890 and 1862 institutions, the federal government and private agencies. For the next three to five years, COSBAE will devote part of its energy and time to forging more student and faculty exchanges between the entities, maintain an up-to-date listing of collaborative activities, encourage more collaborative research, develop relative programs and publish related material. As such, the proceedings from the 1996 AAEA Preconference will be forthcoming while additional information is secured.

At the SAEA annual meeting in Birmingham, Alabama COSBAE's representation was evident. Most of the activities coincided with the topical areas previously discussed. A review of the SAEA program depicts that members of COSBAE presented 1 poster; 2 organized symposium with 8 presenters; 10 members moderated sessions; 5 members presented selected papers and 1 member has 2 special workshops. A review of the AAEA September/October, 1996 newsletter indicates that COSBAE is represented on 14 of the 21 AAEA Committees.

Let's keep up the good work.

Donald R. McDowell, Chair

COSBAE Activities At The AAEA Meeting

These are a few of the events that will be occurring, as sponsored by COSBAE, during the 1997 AAEA meeting in Toronto, Canada. Check your programs for other activities involving COSBAE members and give them your support.

COSBAE, along with several Universities, is sponsoring a Free Session entitled, "Over the Rainbow: Career Paths After Graduate School." The purpose is to bring together students and professionals for a panel presentation, followed by an open dialogue. The session is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29th, 10:30 -noon in Conference Room B.

Additionally, you should have received an AAEA pamphlet headlining some of the keynote speakers. On the pamphlet was a picture of Dr. Olivia Muchena, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Zimbabwe. She has been invited by COSBAE as a lecturer/speaker. Dr. Muchena's lecture is scheduled for Monday, July 28th. Please check your programs for time and location. We will also host a reception, partly in her honor. The reception will be held in the Presidential Suite, Monday, July 28th. Eli-Lilly, Cargill and AAEA have graciously provided funds to co-sponsor the reception.

Please note that COSBAE's annual AAEA meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 27th, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, Kent Room.

As a member of COSBAE, I am requesting that each of you 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.

It has been an honor serving as your chair and thank you for your support. Remember together we stand, divided we fall.

Donald R. McDowell, Chair

Accolades

Special accolades to Ralph Christy, past chair of COSBAE, SAEA, and AAEA. You make us all proud. Keep up the good work.

Spotlight on an Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist

Sidney H. Evans was the first Chairperson of COSBAE and one of its principal founders. Evans is retired as Associate Dean for Research in the School of Agriculture at North Carolina A&T State University. Before assuming this position, he was Research Director for the 1890 Evans-Allen Research Program (1982-1987), Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (1979-1982) and Chairman of the Department of Economics (1968-1979). Evans received the B.S. degree in agricultural economics from Virginia State College, the M.S. degree in agricultural and general economics from Iowa State College, and the Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics from The Ohio State University. He is well know and respected for his work in the profession. He was the recipient of the George Washington Carver Public Service Award and the Southern Agricultural Economics Association's Honorary Lifetime Membership Award, to name a few. Evans labor both domestically and internationally was par excellence. Enjoy your retirement!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University has an opening for an Associate or Full Professor of Food Industry Management. The assignment is 50% teaching; 30% research and 20% extension. Applications are due October 1, 1997 or until position is filled. Application should include curriculum vitae, three letters of reference and copies of no more than three publications. Applications, letters of nomination and inquiries should be sent to:

Dr. Larry G. Hamm, Chairperson
Department of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1039
Phone: 517/355-4567; Fax: 517/432:1800

The Department of Agricultural Economics at The Ohio State University has an opening for a Agricultural Economist. For more information, please contact:

Terri Cory
Administrativ Secretary
Dept. of Agricultural Economics
The Ohio State University
2120 Fyffe Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1067

Phone: 614/292-7912

COSBAE MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO AAEA COMMITTEES

Ralph Christy - President
Adell Brown - Member, Extension Committee
Magid Dagher - Member, Employment Service Committee
Dewitt Jones - Member, Professional Activities Committee
Eugene Jones - Chair, Selected Posters Committee
Alfred Parks - Award Committee Chair
Ivery Clifton - Chair, Finance Committee
Curtis Jolly - Member, Economic Education Committee
Donald McDowell - Member, Outstanding Master Thesis Award Committee
Zacch Olorunnipa - Resident Instruction Committee
Anderson Reynolds - Member, Industry Committee
Hailemariam Selassie - Member, Resident Instruction Committee
Rodney Smith - Outstanding Master Thesis Award Committee
Handy Williamson - Member, Nominating Committee

FACULTY AND PROFESSIONALS FOOTNOTES

Adesoji Adelaja, et al., 1997 NJAES Team Award for Excellence in Research on Status and Conditions of the New Jersey Food Industry, Rutgers University.

Jude Akhidenor, NCA&T State University graduate, was selected for the Foreign Agriculture Service.

Joyce Allen-Smith selected as Outstanding Academic Advisor by MANRRS Chapter, University of Illinois.

William Amponsah received a 1997 National Research Initiative Grant entitled, "Impact of NAFTA on the U.S., Textile and Apparel Industries: Implications for Rural Development.

Donald Bellamy resigned from position at USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service, August 1, 1997, to attend Seminary School.

Patricia McLean-Meyinsee was the 1997 recipient of the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Research Award, Southern University.

Michael Smith, NCA&T State University graduate, was selected for the Foreign Agriculture Service.

Edmund Tavernier, Adesoji Adelaja, et al., 1997 NJAES Team Award for Excellence in Outreach for their program on Coalition Building and Conflict Resolution, Rutgers University.

Alton Thompson receive tenure and was promoted to full professor at N.C. A&T State

University.

Dave Weatherspoon, Florida A&M University, spent three weeks on a research tour in Cape Town, South Africa writing a business plan to help emerging businesses into the wine industry.

Lionel Williamson received The Young Farmers' Association Award, University of Kentucky

Handy Williamson, University of Tennessee, American Council on Education (ACE) Fellowship and will take a one year fellowship leave at the University of California, Davis in the office of the Chancellor.

Anthony Yeboah was selected the 1997 Teacher of the Year, School of Agriculture, N.C. A&T State University.

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

Please mark your calendar for 11th Bi-Annual Agriculture Research Director (ARD) Symposium, October 1-4, 1997, San Antonio, Texas. Marriott River Hotel. Theme: 1890 Research: Partnership for a Sustainable Future.

The 55th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, December 1997, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. Contact: Ntam Baharanyi (334) 727-8454.

Allied Social Science Association/National Economic Association Meeting. January 3-5, 1997, Chicago, Illinois.

Southern Agricultural Economics Association Meeting. February 1-4, 1998, Little Rock, Arkansas. Deadline for submission of the Selected Papers and Organized Symposium, August 27, 1997. Poster deadline, October 10, 1997.

AAEA FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT

The Department of Agricultural Education, Economics and Rural Sociology at N. C. A&T State University received an AAEA Foundation Distinguished Visitor Program Grant. The funds was used to bring Jim Houck, Chair, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota to campus to discuss the pitfall and benefits of Centers of Excellence.

STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

The following students have summer internship positions with the following agencies: Foreign Agriculture Service, Michelle Eley (University of Illinois), Virgis Tepeaka Manning (N.C. A&T State University) Economic Research Service: Kesi Chestnut (USDA Scholar),

Yolanda Starke and Karla Martin (N.C. A&T State University). Yolanda Starke will be presenting a paper during the AAEA meetings.

Spencerson Burrows, Florida A&M University, received first place in the undergraduate research paper context during the MANRRS meeting in April.

Carlos Lampkin (Fort Valley State University) and Greg Payne (Prairie View A&M University) were awarded fellowships for graduate study in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois.

Craig Nicholas, first USDA 1890 Scholar, Prairie View A&M University, graduated with B.S. in Agricultural Economics, May 1997. Currently employed with the Grain Inspector Packer and Stockyard Administration, Memphis, Tennessee.

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:

**Donald R. McDowell
Dept. of Ag. Educ., Econ., and Rur. Soc.
NCA&T State University
C. H. Moore, A26
Greensboro, NC 27411
Phone: 910/334-7054; Fax 910/334:7674
E-Mail: mcdowedr@garfield.ncat.edu**

**or Doris Newton
USDA/ERS
1301 New York Ave., NW
Room 1120A
Washington, DC 20005-4788
Phone: 202/501-8360
E-Mail: dnewton@econ.ag.gov**

The next NEWSLETTER is scheduled to be published in the Spring 1998. The deadline for receipt of news/material for the NEWSLETTER is January 15, 1998.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAEA Deadlines: (See your July/August, 1997 AAEA newsletter for submission info.)

Call for Nominations: AAEA President and Directors, October 15, 1997

Call for Proposals-Pre/Post Conferences, October 15, 1997

Call for Proposals: Principal Paper Sessions, October 15, 1997

Call for Nominations - AAEA Fellows, October 15, 1997

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.

Center of Excellence in International Trade

During the Fall, 1996, A memorandum of Understanding was signed between the USDA's Farm Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Rural Business Cooperative Service and North Carolina A&T State University, Department of Agricultural Education, Economics, and Rural Sociology, to establish the first International Trade Center on the Campus of a HBCU.

**FORMAL DEAN OF NORTH CAROLINA A&T
STATE UNIVERSITY DIES AT AGE 74**

Burleigh C. Webb, former dean of N.C. A&T State University's School of Agriculture died Friday, July 18, 1997 of complications from emphysema. Webb served as A&T's dean for 32 years, and outstanding administrator and educator, has been called the dean of agricultural school deans among blacks land-grant schools in the country.

SPECIAL THANKS

COSBAE also thank Eli Lilly, Elanco Animal Health, Cargill and AAEEA for co-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"
- 1997** Development of COSBAE's Homepage for the Internet
- 1997** Third *Directory of Black Agricultural Economists* (Forthcoming, December, 1997)
- 1997** Publication of proceeding of 2nd AAEA Preconference and supporting documentation (Forthcoming, December, 1997)