

By: Ray Huffaker and Dawn Thilmany  
**September 2002**

<http://www.waeasonline.org>

## Presidential Note

Dear WAEA Colleagues:

I have been involved with the WAEA in number of capacities over the last few years. I have been impressed by the WAEA's eagerness to tackle difficult problems with innovative solutions, and to adopt policies making the association more relevant to its members. I also have been impressed by the administrative ease with which a regional professional association, such as the WAEA, can accommodate change. I am convinced that regional associations can (and should) act as tugboats pulling larger and less maneuverable national associations into more productive harbors.

The WAEA recently adopted two innovations that are expected to yield high benefits. First, the WAEA pays US\$50 for first reviews returned within 6 weeks of the initial request. The policy has been implemented for a year and preliminary results indicate that it is eliciting a higher percentage of on-time reviews. Shorter review periods benefit authors submitting to our journal. Second, the WAEA will pay a stipend to the next JARE editor. The current editor's term is finished next year, and we hope that the stipend will elicit an excellent bevy of replacement candidates. Once the stipend amount is set by the WAEA finance committee, the next editor will be aggressively recruited. Continuing JARE's editorial excellence also benefits submitting authors.

The WAEA also has adopted policies to more completely recognize professional excellence among its members. The WAEA will award annually the "Distinguished Scholar Award" to individuals demonstrating excellence in some combination of the following areas of performance: basic and applied economics research; integration of knowledge (textbook writing or synthetic reviews); service or outreach drawing on economic expertise; teaching (undergraduate and/or graduate); and administration (institution and/or WAEA). The nomination process and eligibility criteria will be located on the WAEA website.

Finally, the WAEA has introduced (on a trial basis) a new journal called the Western Economics Forum (WEF), which will accompany the newsletter in the Spring and Fall. The publication provides a forum for exchanging ideas on agricultural, resource, business, and policy issues in the West. We believe that the WEF fills a valuable information niche, especially at a time when the AAEA is changing the format and method of delivery for *CHOICES*.

The major item on my legislative agenda is to investigate adopting appellate editorial review for the JARE. This would give authors an impartial administrative remedy for challenging an adverse editorial decision. For example, the Entomological Society of America appoints an appellate board with a chair and three other members. An author files an appeal with the appellate board chair. The appeal includes a short summary of the grounds for appeal along with the written record of the original review. After reviewing the materials, board members vote on whether to affirm, reverse or modify the editor's decision. The chair then notifies the appellant author of the majority decision in writing within four weeks. The board's decision is final and incontestable.

I do not contend that we need appellate editorial review because past JARE editors have done a poor job. To the contrary, my experience is that JARE editors have been among the best in the business. Rather, I am interested in appellate review because external review of decision-making is generally good process. The potential for external appellate review would provide additional incentive for editors and reviewers to rigorously justify their decisions on defensible bases. The appellate review process itself could mitigate judgmental errors in editing and review that might stand uncorrected otherwise. Moreover, I believe that an appellate review system could operate at a reasonable cost. For example, I would not expect a landslide of appeals to be a long-term problem. Editors who are persuasive and rigorous in justifying their rejections will discourage authors from investing the time and effort required to file a weak appeal. Also, I would not expect individual appeals to be overly burdensome to adjudicate. Many appeals likely would concern relative simple procedural issues (e.g., Was the author given adequate opportunity to respond to adverse reviewer comments?). Some appeals might raise more substantive issues and require the disciplinary expertise of appellate reviewers. However, even these more difficult appeals should be manageable because appellate reviewers would rely heavily on the author's statement to identify the substantive issues, and on the written record of the original review to adjudicate them.

Please see the upcoming issue of the Review of Agricultural Economics for a debate over the merits of adopting this policy.

Best Regards,

**Ray Huffaker**

## WAEA Award Winners

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Congratulations to the following winners. Their hard work, like many others who aren't recognized here, received well-deserved recognition at the WAEA/AEA annual meetings in Long Beach. We look forward to next year's entries!

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### **Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher** Less than 10 years experience

LYNN HAMILTON, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo

### **Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher** More than 10 years experience

RONALD J. HANSON, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

### **Outstanding Extension Career in Agricultural Economics**

BARRY L. FLINCHBAUGH, Kansas State University, Public Policy Education

### **Outstanding Extension Program in Agricultural Economics**

DAVID BARTON, MICHAEL BOLAND, and DAVID COLTRAIN, Kansas State University

### **Outstanding Published Research**

GIANCARLO MOSCHINI, Iowa State University  
"Production Risk and the Estimation of Ex-Ante Cost Functions," *J. of Econometrics* 100 (2001):357-380.  
JULIAN M. ALSTON, University of California-Davis,  
JOHN W. FREEBAIRN, University of Melbourne,  
and JENNIFER S. JAMES, Penn State University  
"Beggar-Thy-Neighbor Advertising: Theory and Application to Generic Commodity Promotion Programs," *Amer. J. of Agric. Econ.* 83(2001):888-902.

### **JARE Published Research Award**

TERRANCE M. HURLEY, BRUCE A. BABCOCK, and RICHARD L. HELMICH, Iowa State University  
"Bt Corn and Insect Resistance: An Economic Assessment of Refuges," *JARE* 26:1, July 2001, pp. 176-194.

### **Outstanding Master's Thesis**

DOMINIC PARKER, Montana State University  
"The Effects of Contracting Costs, Bureaucratic Costs, and Constituencies on State Wildlife Agency Budgets"

### **Outstanding Master's Thesis - Honorable Mention**

LI CHEN, Oregon State University  
"An Econometric Analysis of Changes in Exclusive Farm Use Regulations for Homesteads in Oregon: A Case Study in Yamhill County"  
PATIENCE SIBONGILE MOYO, Univ. of Alberta  
"Discrete Choice Analysis of the Feed Technology Decisions of Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Zimbabwe"

### **Outstanding Seniors**

JODY NARTZ, Oregon State University  
LAURA NELSON, Oregon State University  
DAVID TEMPLE, Oregon State University  
JENNIFER MARTIN, University of Arizona  
KAREN HOLTBY, University of Saskatchewan  
JOSEPH KOVANDA, Colorado State University  
LACEE KEJR, Colorado State University  
ROY JESSUP, Kansas State University  
SARA GRANT, Kansas State University  
JENNIFER SCHEER, University of Wyoming  
JUSTINA A. CAVIGLIA, University of Nevada-Reno  
AMY C. AUTON, University of Nevada-Reno  
LINDY ANN HILL, Oregon State University  
JEFF SUNDHEIMER, University of Arizona  
KAREN BETH ALLEN, University of Arizona  
JUSTIN C. CAMBRA, University of California-Davis  
SHANE ELLIS, Utah State University  
CASEY BECK, Utah State University

## WAEA Awards for 2003

Materials for WAEA awards will not be due until the spring of 2003. But, this fall is a good time to decide to apply and to begin preparing materials. See the WAEA website (<http://www.waeaonline.org>) for criteria and an outline of material needed.

## NEWSNOTES

### New Officers and Executive Committee

The following individuals were elected or selected to serve the association as new members of the Executive Committee:

**President-Elect**

E. Bruce Godfrey, Utah State University

**Vice President**

Gary W. Brester, Montana State University

**Directors**

Larry Van Tassell, University of Idaho  
Tom Marsh, Kansas State University

Continuing members of the Executive Committee include:

**President**

Ray Huffaker, Washington State University

**Past President**

Steve Blank, UC Davis

**Directors**

James Mintert, Kansas State University  
Jill McClusky, Washington State University

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University

**Editor**

Gary Thompson, University of Arizona

We express our appreciation to all those who stood for the election and look forward to working with the new members of the Executive Committee.

### Membership and Dues

Membership in WAEA comes with many benefits, including an exceptional journal, new newsletter format with timely articles, and joint and independent meetings with great content and networking opportunities. Still, we have been able to retain low dues given past financial management successes and a solid membership base. Dues for 2003 will remain as follows:

	<u>Domestic</u>	<u>International</u>
Regular	\$25	\$30
Student	\$5	\$10
Senior	\$12	\$17
Family	\$30	

Please promote our association to your colleagues and graduate students. It is a great value. A membership form for 2003 is on the back page.

### Call for Selected Paper Proposals

The Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) seeks Selected paper proposals for the joint meetings held between the Western Economics Association International and WAEA in Denver, Colorado, July 11-15, 2003. Proposals for selected papers are limited to two pages in length and should include title, objectives, background, data and methods, results/expected results, and discussion. Detailed information regarding submission guidelines will be posted on the WAEA web page this fall and must be submitted by December 1, 2002.

Graduate students are encouraged to submit Selected Paper proposals as program participation is a primary factor in determining graduate travel awards.

**Name of the Award:** Distinguished Scholar of the Western Agricultural Economics Association

**Criteria.** The highest recognition by the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) for individuals making an enduring contribution over their career to agricultural, resource, and/or environmental economics in the Western states/provinces and the WAEA, demonstrating excellence in some combination of the following areas of performance:

- Basic and applied economics research
- Integration of knowledge (textbook writing or synthetic reviews)
- Service or outreach drawing on economic expertise
- Teaching (undergraduate and/or graduate)
- Administration (institution and/or WAEA).

**Nomination process.** Any member of the association may nominate any living member for the honor of election as Distinguished Scholar by submitting the name to the President of the association no later than the announced date. Documentation shall include a brief vitae (not to exceed six pages, double spaced) along with a nomination letter on why the person is worthy of the honor. The total nomination package will be limited to a maximum of eight typed, double spaced pages. A nominee must be a current member of the association, having been a member for a total of at least 20 years.

**Nomination Pool.** The Distinguished Scholars Selection Committee is responsible to augment the pool of nominees obtained from the general membership with economists who they feel should be considered for this recognition.

**Candidates.** The Distinguished Scholars Selection Committee shall select candidates from the nominees (approximately twice the maximum number to be elected) and present the list of candidates to the Executive Committee of the association together with supporting biographical data for each.

**Distinguished Scholars Selection Committee.** The Distinguished Scholars Selection Committee shall operate with a chairperson revolving annually and shall be composed of four Scholars and the Past President of the association. In the first four years of operation the Executive Committee of the association will serve as the selection committee. Thereafter, the Scholars on the Distinguished Scholars Selection Committee shall be selected as follows:

- (a) Each year the President-Elect of the association shall appoint a member from among the Scholars for a four-year term to replace the member whose term expires.
- (b) The Past President of the association shall not be the chair.
- (c) The President shall appoint members to fill unexpired terms if vacancies occur during an incumbency and in so doing shall designate the unexpired portion of the term for which each appointment is made.
- (d) Each year the President shall appoint among members of the committee the chair of the committee.
- (e) The President may appoint a secretary for the Distinguished Scholars Selection Committee who need not be a member of the Distinguished Scholars Selection Committee or a Scholar of the association.

**Election.** The Executive Committee shall select the award winners, normally not to exceed three in any one year, from the nominees submitted by the Distinguished Scholars Selection Committee.

**Announcement of Election.** The names of the newly elected Scholars shall be announced at the annual meeting of the association by the President of the association or his/her appointed representative, who shall read a statement regarding the achievements of each Scholar and shall present a plaque of recognition to each person so honored. The statements regarding achievements and photographs of the winners shall be published in the December issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.



### Membership Application and Dues Notice for 2003

includes a subscription to the  
*Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*  
 increasing to 3 issues in the 2003, Volume 28

Name and Mailing Address (if employed by a government agency or university, office address is preferred.)

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E-Mail Address:

***Do you want to receive WAEA newsletter via (circle appropriate): electronic, paper, both***

(Please check appropriate category)

Type of Membership	U.S., Canada, & Mexico	International
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$25.00	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (requires departmental certification)**	\$5.00	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (persons who have retired)	\$12.00	\$17.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (two memberships, one copy of Journal sent)	\$30.00	\$40.00
Lifetime Dues	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 55-59 \$240	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 60-64 \$190
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 65-69 \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 70+ \$80

***\*\*I certify that the person named above is eligible for student membership.***

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*Department Head or Staff Member*

Make check or money order (U.S. dollars) payable to:

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Members are not guaranteed shipment of any journals or newsletters published prior to their membership date.

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Send payments to:

Dawn Thilmany, Secretary-treasurer, WAEA

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