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

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4, No. 1

Summer 1990

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Several activities that the Committee initiated in 1989 were completed this year. Among those is the brochure "Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists" and the new edition of the "Directory of Black Agricultural Economists." A copy of each of the documents is being mailed to you. You may wish to congratulate those individuals selected as "Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists" directly either by letter or through a phone call.

Another activity that the Committee started in 1989 and will complete in 1990 is the publication of the proceedings of the Pre-Conference Program. These proceedings "Century of Service: The 1890 Colleges and Universities" are moving forward on schedule. All papers have been received and are being reviewed. Cost estimates for printing and publication are being evaluated and we anticipate dissemination by late summer.

As my tenure as chairman nears completion, I wish to thank each of you for the encouragement and support extended to me over the past two terms.

Lionel Williamson

[NOTE: Additional copies of the brochure "Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists" are available free of charge and additional copies of the "Directory" are available at \$5.00 per copy through the AAEA Business Office. Please call or send requests to:

AAEA Business Office
80 Heady Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-1070
(515) 294-8700

A LOOK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND RURAL SOCIOLOGY AT NORTH CAROLINA A & T STATE UNIVERSITY

[Editors Note: We continue our highlight of 1890 institutions with this issue].

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University was established as the "A and M College for the Colored Race" by an act of the General Assembly of North Carolina which was ratified on March 9, 1891. Fifty-one years later, during the academic year 1940-41, the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology had its auspicious beginning. In 1951, a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics was offered. Prior to that time, agricultural economics courses were taught as required courses for the B.S. and M.S. degree in General Agriculture. The M.S. degree program was initiated in 1979.

The major objective of the Department's academic program is to educate students in the understanding and application of concepts and analytical tools to solve a myriad of agricultural economics and business problems. Currently, the Department offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness and a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics with a concentration in production economics, agricultural marketing, or rural development. Enrollment in the undergraduate and graduate programs averaged 26 and 47 students, respectively, during the 1980s.

The track record for employment of graduates from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology is exceptional. Over 90 percent of the graduates have found bountiful employment in either the private or public sector. For example, recent graduates at the B.S. level are employed at Cargil, Southern Farms, Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Extension Service, and other agencies. Recent graduates of the M.S. program are employed at IBM, Coca Cola Bottling Company, and various U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies including the Foreign Agriculture Service, Economic Research Service, and the Agricultural Marketing Service. Moreover, at least 15 percent of the M.S. graduates have chosen to continue their studies by pursuing Ph.D.'s at institutions such as Michigan State University, Cornell University, University of Illinois, and Texas Tech. Reports indicate that they are well prepared for the challenge of their Ph.D. programs.

The academic program is supplemented by a research program which focuses on problems of small scale farmers and rural residents in North Carolina. Faculty members have analyzed predictors of rural poverty, small farm survival strategies, financial stress of farmers, alternative marketing opportunities, agricultural cooperative performance, computerized agricultural management systems, and the effects of technological change on natural resources in agriculture. In addition, the Department is currently under contract with the Farmers Home Administration to train small farmers in North Carolina in sound financial management practices.

The Department also devotes a significant amount of resources in international activities. Faculty members have participated in short and long term overseas development projects in Senegal, Mali, Zaire, and other countries. Moreover, many of the students in the M.S. program are foreign students or have overseas experience. Further, the Department has a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Michigan State University. The primary purpose of this MOU is to enhance the human resource base of both institutions so that they are more competitive when bidding and participating in development projects.

Six faculty members, under the leadership of Dr. Richard Robbins, Chairman of the Department, are engaged in teaching, research, and public service. They are very personable, well-rounded professionals, and hold terminal degrees from prestigious universities. They have used sabbaticals at various organizations including Resources for the Future, Agency for International Development, Economic Research Service, and Michigan State University to enrich their educational and professional experience.

The Department prides itself in being a leader in addressing the needs of North Carolina's rural residents who are economically and socially disadvantaged and in providing a high quality education to its students. Moreover, the Department takes pride in the fact that 5 of 15 persons honored in the brochure entitled "Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists" either graduated from North Carolina A & T State University or spent a sizeable proportion of their professional career as members of the agricultural economics faculty.

[Submitted by Donald R. McDowell. For additional information on the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at North Carolina A & T State University, contact: Dr. Richard Robbins, 154 Carver Hall, North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro, NC 27411, Phone: (919) 334-7901].

SIDNEY H. EVANS IS SAEA HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Sidney H. Evans was the recipient of the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association at the February 1990 meetings in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Evans earned the Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics from Ohio State University after earning the M.S. degree from Iowa State University and the B.S. degree from Virginia State College. He began his professional career in Georgia with three years at Fort Valley State College as an Assistant Professor, Agriculture Division. Since leaving Fort Valley, he has been affiliated with North Carolina A & T State University.

During his 33 years at A & T, he has provided timely leadership on ways to help people maximize their contributions to society. As a teacher, he took every opportunity to involve students in professional and community related activities designed to help them apply theory to lifelike situations. In addition to teaching, research, and outreach, Evans has served in various administrative capacities at the University including: (1) Director of Agricultural Research, (2) Chairperson, Departments of Agricultural Economics and Economics, (3) Interim Chairperson, School of Business, and (4) Director, Transportation Institute.

Evans is credited with both reactivating the Department of Agricultural Economics at the undergraduate level, and implementing the M.S. program in Agricultural Economics at A & T. Furthermore, he was Interim Director and Advisor for the first 1890 Regional Research Project. This project analyzed factors affecting rural poverty and constraints to rural development in 10 southern states. Evans was the

first Chair of the AAEA Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. He guided this committee in their landmark study on the labor market for Black Agricultural Economists. His research and publication for the elderly and handicapped was used to establish GATE (Greensboro Agency Transportation Express) project, which is a Guilford County transportation service for the handicapped and elderly.

In 1986, Evans was inducted into the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame. This national honor is awarded to the individual "whose life mirrors the public service philosophy of George Washington Carver." Evans was also a Triad Achievers recipient for 1986. He was recognized by the city of Greensboro for his community service, leadership, and unselfish dedication to others. Moreover, Evans is a member of numerous professional societies and organizations, and has conducted and directed many research projects relative to southern agriculture. He is one of the honorees featured in the brochure "Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists."

ARTHUR J. HILL APPOINTED PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION

Arthur J. Hill was nominated by President Bush to be the 10th President of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Department of Housing and Urban Development, on November 21, 1989. He was confirmed unanimously by the Senate on March 6, 1990 and sworn into office on March 12, 1990.

GNMA programs channel funds from capital markets into mortgage markets to support Federal housing programs for low and moderate income home buyers. With the full faith and credit of the United States, GNMA guarantees securities issued by private institutions which participate in the Federal Housing Administration's or the Department of Veteran's Affairs mortgage programs.

THE NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is published by the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. Ralph D. Christy and Doris Newton serve as Co-Editors of the NEWSLETTER. The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University serves as host institution. If you have any information you wish to have placed in the NEWSLETTER, please forward to:

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Washington, DC 20005-4788

The NEWSLETTER is prepared by Ms. Susan K. Duhe.

Immediately prior to his nomination as GNMA's President, Hill was Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer, and a Director of the Peoples National Bank of Commerce in Miami, Florida. Under his leadership, the financially distressed institution was totally recapitalized and returned to a profitable position.

Hill began his career at Southeast Bank, N.A. in Miami, Florida where he spearheaded the development of the bank's Money Market Department and served as Vice President of Corporate Lending. He later served as Vice President and Regional Manager for Corporate Lending at the Amerifirst Federal Savings and Loan in Miami. He is a founding member of Business Against Drugs, which is headquartered in Miami.

Hill's honors include membership in the 1989 Business Leadership Hall of Fame, sponsored by Junior Achievement of Greater Miami, and his selection as one of 24 Americans who participated in the British-American "Successor Generation" project sponsored by the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, the Royal Institute of London, and the Pew Charitable Trust. He was Florida State Chairman of Black Republicans for Bush in 1988.

Hill was born on the Fourth of July, 1948, in Jacksonville, Florida.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Economics from Florida Memorial College, and his Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Florida. He holds a Graduate Diploma from Southern Methodist University's Graduate School of Banking. Hill is the parent of an adult daughter. He maintains residences in Washington, DC and Miami, Florida.

[Press Release]

FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting

August 4 - 8, 1990 - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Contact the AAEA Business Office (phone - (515) 294-8700) for registration information. The Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics has sponsored, contributed, or organized the following activities at the annual meeting:

Invited Paper Session

Topic: "Human Capital, Economic Development, and the Rural Poor"

Moderator: Brady Deaton, University of Missouri

"Recent Trends in Rural Poverty Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities: Implications for Human Capital and Economic Development" Joyce E. Allen, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and Alton Thompson, North Carolina State University.

"The Impacts of Structural Change and Public Policy on the Economic Well Being of the Disadvantaged in Rural America" Ralph D. Christy, Louisiana State University, and Enrique Figueroa, Cornell University.

Discussant: Refugio Rochin, University of California, Davis

The session will be held on Monday, August 6 in the afternoon.

Committee Meeting

The Committee will hold a business meeting on Sunday, August 5, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 157 of the Law Building. The meeting is open to everyone who is interested in furthering the objectives of the Committee.

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting

August 8 - 11, 1990, Omni Hotel - Norfolk by the Sea - Norfolk, Virginia. Theme: Minorities in Rural Society. Contact: John A. Ballweg, Local Arrangements, Rural Sociological Society, Box 369, Blacksburg, VA 24060, phone - (703) 231-5779.

48th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference

December 2 - 4, 1990 at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. For additional information contact: Dr. Ntam Baharanyi, PAWC Program, Farm Mechanization Building - 100, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088, phone - (205) 727-8454.

The Southern Agricultural Economics Association Meetings

Fort Worth, Texas, February 2 - 6, 1991.

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences Annual Conference

April 1991, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

NOTABLES

Alex Amuah recently joined the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, DC. He is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Illinois. In addition, Alex is the co-author of an article entitled "The Demand for Canadian Fats and Oils: A Case Study of Advertising Effectiveness" which was published in the August 1989 issue of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

Ralph Christy was elected Second Vice President of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association for 1990/91.

Carlton Davis was awarded Distinguished Service Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Herbert Gilbert has taken a position as Economic Development Policy Analyst in the Office of Policy Development, Department of Finance and Administration, State of Mississippi. He was formerly an Economist with the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Eugene Jones was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

Donald McDowell received North Carolina A & T Chapter of Gamma Delta Sigma Award for Excellence in Research at the March 1990 Annual Meeting.

Patricia McLean-Meynsse was promoted to Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics (with tenure) at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Ken Robinson is on detail at the USDA, Economic Research Service in the Agriculture and Rural Economics Division, Human Resources Branch. He is involved in research examining enterprise zones as a strategy to attract jobs and business investment to rural areas. Ken is employed by the Economics Management Staff, USDA.

Dave Weatherspoon, Ph.D. Candidate for University of Florida received special recognition at the recent (April 5 - 7, 1990) Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Annual Meeting for his contributions to the formation of the organization during his undergraduate days at Michigan State University.

Mark Wenner has joined the Agricultural and Trade Analysis Division of the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mark received his Ph.D. in 1989 from the University of Wisconsin.