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# Mary A. Marchant

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Mary Marchant is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech. She grew up on a farm in the Central Valley of California. Dr. Marchant received an A.A. degree from Modesto Junior College and the remainder of her advanced degrees from the University of California, Davis: a B.S. in urban planning, a M.A. in economics, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics in 1989.

Dr. Marchant joined the University of Kentucky faculty as an assistant professor and advanced to the rank of professor before becoming associate dean and director of academic programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. At Virginia Tech, she is currently a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. In 1998, she held the Fulbright Distinguished Chair at the Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Italy. Throughout her career, she has published in over 20 different refereed professional journals, ranging from disciplinary journals (including the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, *China Agricultural Economics*, and *Journal of Economic Development*) to popular journals including *AgBioForum* and *AgroWashington*. Complementing her scholarly articles are numerous book chapters and invited presentations. Capping this scholarship is her acclaimed book on economic analysis of U.S. and European Union dairy policies (For full citations, see homepage at [www.aaec.vt.edu/aaec/PeopleFacultyMarchant.html](http://www.aaec.vt.edu/aaec/PeopleFacultyMarchant.html)).

Dr. Marchant's scholarship has led to her appointment in key leadership positions in agriculture. Of particular note is her service as the associate dean and director in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. In this role she was responsible for all aspects of the College's academic programs, which first and foremost provided services for



students (current, prospective, and alums). She was instrumental in promoting the scholarship of teaching and learning by sponsoring college teaching grants, hosting innovative teaching workshops, and providing support for faculty to develop national teaching grant proposals. With her leadership, the College promoted and celebrated student academic excellence and fostered a welcoming environment for all students.

In regard to research career highlights, Dr. Marchant served as coeditor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* (JAAE), sole-authored one book and one conference proceedings, coedited two additional conference proceedings and one special issue of *AgBioForum*, focusing on agrobiotechnology in China; and sole or coauthored over 60 journal articles and refereed publications, including four articles in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. She has presented over 120 invited and selected scientific presentations at international, national, and regional agricultural economics meetings including presentations at the International Association of Agricultural Economists' triennial meetings. In regard to extramural funding, awards total over

\$3 million, including one U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural and Food Research Initiative and five National Research Initiative competitive grants with a funding rate of less than 25%.

For teaching excellence, Dr. Marchant has received numerous awards for outstanding teaching including the University of Kentucky Great Teacher award and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Distinguished Teaching Award for less than 10 years' experience. Throughout her career, Dr. Marchant has taught 12 unique courses multiple times to nearly 2000 students. These courses range from microeconomic principles to graduate-level econometrics and international economics with career development and both undergraduate and graduate agricultural marketing courses.

Her teaching scholarship has encompassed being the major professor for 14 graduate students, serving on numerous M.S. and Ph.D. student committees, and advising countless undergraduates. Dr. Marchant has bestowed her talent and excitement for research on her students. Following her example, students have fostered achievement of Dr. Marchant's goal to enhance their professional development by publishing papers in academic journals and presenting research at professional meetings. Results include over 30 student-coauthored referred publications and over 50 student-coauthored presentations at professional meetings.

Dr. Marchant's research accomplishments have resulted in the Best Paper award by the China section of the AAEA, the Virginia Tech Alumni award for Excellence in International

Research, and the Wethington award for prestigious grants. All of her research efforts are fertilized by a continuous stream of external funding. It is this synergy of research and funding that makes Dr. Marchant's scholarship stand out.

The hallmark of Dr. Marchant's contribution to scholarly service in southern agricultural economics is her commitment toward promoting scholarship among southeastern professionals. This commitment started with her election to Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) offices, including president in 1999, and continues as the recent outgoing coeditor of the *JAAE*. She is the former chair of the S-256 International Trade Regional Research Project and serves as a member of S-1062 International Trade Multi-State Research Project. Her effectiveness in southern agricultural economics service led to successful elections as the U.S. board member of the International Association of Agricultural Economists and the AAEA Foundation Board. Dr. Marchant has served as chair on numerous committees including the AAEA Teaching, Learning, and Communications committee, Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics, and Employment Services committee.

Dr. Marchant has made substantial and enduring contributions to the profession in the form of teaching and mentoring both undergraduate and graduate students, leading-edge research in the areas of international trade, and involvement and support of varied SAEA activities. This is truly the mark of a lifetime of achievement and dedication to scholarship.