NAREA Winter 2021 Newsletter

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Dear NAREA members and friends,

A big thank you to all the volunteers, session chairs, and presenters who worked hard to make the June 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting a success. I would especially like to thank Kelly Hellman, Lucy Qiu, and Kyle Hoy, who devoted many hours to helping us pivot on short notice from an in-person conference to a virtual one. Attendance at the 2020 conference was an all-time high, 236, and nearly two-thirds of respondents to the post-conference survey rated the conference as excellent.

The 2021 Annual Meeting and Post-Conference Workshop will again be virtual. The 2021 Annual Meeting will be June 13-15, followed by the Post-Conference Workshop on June 15-16. I would like to thank the Program Chair, President-Elect Caroline Noblet, and the Post-Conference Workshop Organizing Committee Chair, Will Wheeler, for their leadership in organizing what promises to be an informative, engaging, and enjoyable conference. This newsletter has more information about the Annual Meeting and Post-Conference Workshop, including the calls for papers.

Looking to when in-person conferences will be possible again, we will be meeting in June 2022 in Mystic, Connecticut, and in June 2023 in Annapolis, Maryland.

NAREA’s Career Advancement and Mentoring (CAM) Program is continuing its strong track record in helping early career scholars develop and enhance professional networks and receive one-to-one mentoring. The CAM Program is currently seeking applications for mentees, and expressed interest by potential
mentors, for the 2021-2022 program cycle. More information is in this newsletter. Many thanks to Jill Caviglia-Harris (Chair) and the other members of the CAM Committee, and the mentors.

At the 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting and in the post-conference survey, members expressed an interest in engaging with each other throughout the year in small groups. In response, the NAREA Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee created an innovative Scholars’ Circle pilot program. There are five “circles” that have been meeting, and we have high hopes for their success. I would like to thank the D&I Committee and the leaders of the circles for this innovative program.

I look forward to seeing you in June at the Annual Meeting and Post-Conference Workshop!

Dave Abler, NAREA President

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**Important Dates**

Any time...
February 22, 2021

April 1, 2021
April 1, 2021

April 15, 2021

May 1, 2021
NAREA will hold its 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting from Sunday, June 13, 2021 through Tuesday, June 15, 2021. This Virtual Conference will provide opportunities to share research, network, and hopefully have a little fun along the way. This year’s keynote speakers are Kathy Baylis of the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Alba Collart of Mississippi State University.

Visit [http://www.narea.org/2021](http://www.narea.org/2021) to review the call for papers and submit an abstract!

Please note:
- Participation by all scholars is welcome
- There is no fee for the conference
- Abstracts are due February 22, 2021
• Conference participants must be NAREA members, renew your membership at [http://www.narea.org/membership/](http://www.narea.org/membership/)

Submission questions can be directed to the Program Chair, President-Elect Caroline Noblet ([caroline.noblet@maine.edu](mailto:caroline.noblet@maine.edu)).

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**2021 Post-Conference Workshop**

NAREA will hold its 2021 Virtual Post-Conference Workshop from Tuesday, June 15, 2021 through Wednesday, June 16, 2021. The theme of this year’s post-conference workshop is “Evidence-Based Policy in Resource, Environmental, Energy, and Agricultural Economics.”

The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act requires Federal agencies to develop rigorous evidence to support policymaking and decision-making; to improve access to administrative data that could be used for policy evaluation; and to increase capacity in these areas. The post-conference workshop will benefit both government economists and academic researchers by highlighting evidence-based evaluations of policies, and interesting and novel uses of administrative data. Government economists can learn more about modern methods of evidence-based research, while academic researchers will be exposed to government needs and increased data access opportunities.

The workshop will begin with a panel of agency officials (including USDA, EPA, and Census) with responsibilities under the Evidence-Based Policymaking Act, as well as representatives from academia and an NGO. The workshop will end with a keynote address by Paul Ferraro of Johns Hopkins University.

The main body of the workshop will be paper presentations on evidence-based policy analysis from academic researchers and government economists. These papers could discuss evidence-based evaluations of policy, describe newer
methodologies, and/or highlight interesting issues with administrative data (or newly available data). Submissions will be open to work at the state, local, or Federal level, and topics could include all areas of resource, environmental, energy, and agricultural economics.

Visit [http://www.narea.org/2021-workshop](http://www.narea.org/2021-workshop) to review the call for papers and submit an abstract!

Please note:
• We encourage submissions from all scholars
• There is no fee for the post-conference workshop
• Abstracts are due February 22, 2021
• Workshop participants must be NAREA members, renew your membership at [http://www.narea.org/membership/](http://www.narea.org/membership/)

For more information, please contact the NAREA Workshop Organizing Committee Chair, Will Wheeler ([willwheelernarea@gmail.com](mailto:willwheelernarea@gmail.com)).

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**Call for Volunteers**

Members will rotate off of NAREA committees this summer, so we’ll need new volunteers. This is a great way to engage with your professional community, meet colleagues, and get to know how NAREA works. Please email President Dave Abler ([dga2@psu.edu](mailto:dga2@psu.edu)) to volunteer or inquire.
Career Advancement and Mentoring (CAM) Report

Jill Caviglia-Harris (CAM Committee Chair), Keith Evans, Lucy Qui, Gal Hochman, Sarah Jacobson, Caroline Noblet, Sonja Kolstoe

NAREA is currently seeking applications for mentees, and expressed interest by potential mentors, for the 2021-2022 Career Advancement and Mentorship (CAM) Program. The CAM program is a unique opportunity for pre-tenured faculty and early career scholars to develop and enhance professional networks, receive one-to-one mentoring from an experienced NAREA member within the environmental and agricultural economics community, and to attend and organize events at the NAREA annual meeting that focus on issues of concern to early career scholars.

We expect that up to 10 mentors and mentees will participate in the one-to-one 2021-2022 mentoring cohort. This matching will be made based on mentor and mentee preferences and interests that will be communicated through a short mentee application found at [http://www.narea.org/cam/](http://www.narea.org/cam/). Mentees interested in this year long program, which will include ongoing mentoring opportunities, need to apply by April 15, 2021. Colleagues interested in serving as a mentor should contact Jill Caviglia-Harris or anyone on the CAM committee directly by April 1, 2021. We will ask for a short biography (including name and contact information) if this is not already easily accessible on the web. For more information about the program please contact Jill Caviglia-Harris ([jlcaviglia-harris@salisbury.edu](mailto:jlcaviglia-harris@salisbury.edu)).

Our fourth year-long CAM Program and 10th program year commenced at the June 2019 NAREA Annual Meeting. This cohort of CAM Scholars was impacted by the pandemic. They decided to continue with plans to host a panel at the 2020 Annual Virtual Meeting and to delay the cohort pinning ceremony. The panel session “Research and Teaching During the COVID-19 Pandemic” was well planned and well attended. Thanks to Kelly Hellman (chair), Kanae Tokunaga, Hongxing Liu, and Jill Fitzsimmons for organizing and running this session in
collaboration with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and with Sarah Jacobson (chair). The 2019 fellows also played an important role in the planning and running of the meeting. Thanks to Kyle Hoy and Kelly Hellman for joining Dave Abler and Lucy Qiu on this ad-hoc committee. Mentors and mentees have all agreed to continue to meet over the course of the second year given the benefit these groups have played during the pandemic. Our working groups are also continuing to meet; one of them every two weeks to provide support for each other during the pandemic.

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**ARER Editors’ Report**

Richard “Max” Melstrom (Managing Editor), Shana McDermott, Trey Malone

**ARER Editorial Team**
Trey Malone joined as editor on January 1, 2021 and will serve a three-year term ending December 31, 2024. Also on January 1, Max Melstrom took over from Hung-Hao Chang as managing editor. Max’s term ends December 31, 2021, at which time Shana McDermott will move into the managing editor position. The ARER editorial board updated in September 2020 with outstanding scholars from the U.S., UK, Germany, Japan, China, and Korea. Like the ARER editors, editorial board members serve three-year terms. We sincerely appreciate the editorial board’s assistance in editorial decisions and deciding the annual ARER awards.

**Submissions and Trends**
There were 90 original submissions between January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021. This is up from 83 submissions in 2019 and 61 submissions in 2018. The average number of submissions per year has been about 75 since 2010. In terms of final decisions, in 2020, 24 papers were accepted for publication and 54 were rejected, for an acceptance rate of 31%. Most published authors are based in the U.S., although in last year there were articles with corresponding authors in Germany, Norway, Canada, and France.
The time to decision at the journal is relatively fast. In 2020, excluding special issue papers, newly submitted papers that went out to reviewers reached a decision in 53 days on average. In 2019, the average time to decision was 63 days.

Overall, the editorial team is pleased with the development of the journal and the relationship with the publisher, Cambridge University Press (CUP). The contract with CUP will automatically renew for a five-year term in 2022. The editorial team has been working with CUP to get the journal into the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). The feedback from CUP indicates that inclusion in SSCI is unlikely in the near future due to a low impact factor. However, submissions are trending up and the journal breached the 50th percentile in the CiteScore rankings of Economics and Econometrics journals.

**Special Issues**
ARER published a special issue in August 2020 under the theme “Environmental Regulation and Innovation in Local Communities.” In total, there were seven articles published in this special issue, including one invited review article. The editors of the special issue are Dr. Donna Ramirez Harrington and Dr. Martin Heintzelman. Many thanks for the efforts from Donna and Martin on this special issue.

In fall 2020, we announced the special issue “Social Justice in Agricultural and Environmental Economics.” The guest editors are Dr. Angelino Viceisza and Dr. Miesha Williams. The editors have planned for 8-10 articles in the issue, including several invited papers. The anticipated publication date is December 2021. We are very excited to be working with the guest editors on this issue, which we believe will increase the diversity of authors and articles published by ARER as well as raise the profile of the journal.
Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee Report

Sarah Jacobson (chair), Neha Khanna, Yusuke Kuwayama, Leah Palm-Forster

ARER Special Issue

ARER is working on a special issue on “Social Justice in Agricultural and Environmental Economics,” guest edited by Dr. Angelino Viceisza and Dr. Miesha Williams (please see the ARER Editors’ Report in this newsletter). The idea for the special issue was crystallized around a wish to do practical things in response to our society’s current racial justice moment. The D&I Committee helped identify guest editors and connect them to the ARER editors, and the D&I Committee is
also working with the ARER editors to obtain funding to cover article processing charges for this special issue.

**C-FARE Panel on 1890 Schools**
In September 2020, the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) held a panel titled “Cultivating Talent — Agriculture and Applied Economics at the Nation’s 1890 Universities.” NAREA was invited to participate, and we did, represented by Sarah Jacobson. The panel consisted of several faculty and administrators from 1890 institutions and several other representatives of AAEA and its regional associations, and the goal was to consider how these different types of entities could collaborate. We shared NAREA’s perspective on the urgency of work on diversity and inclusion, and extended our willingness to collaborate with these institutions in any way they find fruitful.

**Scholars’ Circles**
At the 2020 NAREA virtual annual meeting and in the post-conference survey of attendees, members expressed an interest in engaging with each other throughout the year in small groups. In response, we created the Scholars’ Circle pilot program. We invited interest and received 54 submissions, including seven people who were willing to lead groups. We created five circles (groups):

1. Climate and energy (led by Gal Hochman)
2. Environmental (led by Will Wheeler and Donna Ramirez Harrington)
3. Experimental (led by Sarah Jacobson)
4. Food and agriculture (large supergroup holding some meetings as a single group, some separate; led by Kathleen Liang and Brad Rickard)
5. Resources and Land (led by Jill Caviglia-Harris)

The groups have been meeting and we have high hopes for their success! The pilot program will be evaluated in summer 2021, with next steps to follow after that.

In organizing the groups, we identified several members who were located in low-income countries and recommended NAREA provide them a discounted membership fee. At its fall 2020 meeting, the NAREA Board voted in favor of a
bringing a Bylaws change proposal to the membership in summer 2021 to institutionalize discounted membership rates for people from low- and middle-income countries, using the same list of qualified countries that the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) uses for discounted memberships.

**DEI Service Award**
The D&I Committee is working on a proposal for a NAREA Award for the Promotion of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The proposal would give a $1,000 award to the recipient of this prize, to make the award’s recognition rise to the level of NAREA’s public service award. The NAREA Board has reviewed a draft of this proposal, and the D&I Committee is planning to bring the proposal back to the Board for a vote in 2021.

**Ombudsperson**
At the summer 2020 board meeting, NAREA Board asked the D&I Committee to draft a Bylaws change that would create the role of Ombudsperson, and a draft has been completed. The current plan is to bring the Bylaws change proposal to the membership in summer 2021.

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**Current NAREA Officials and Committee Members**

See current NAREA leadership and committee members here: [http://www.narea.org/board](http://www.narea.org/board)
NAREA/C-FARE Aquaculture Webinar
February 1st

NAREA and the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) will host a free webinar at 12 pm EST Monday, February 1st, to discuss aquaculture in the Northeast. Aquaculture provides an opportunity to pursue economic and environmental benefits simultaneously. Current practices can promote both technical effectiveness and commercial viability while maintaining environmental compatibility. In New England and the Mid-Atlantic, aquaculture now represents the third most valuable fishery practice in terms of revenue (surpassed only by scallops and lobsters).

The panel of speakers consists of five leaders in aquaculture and will be moderated by Gal Hochman, Past-President of NAREA and C-FARE’s Board Chair. For more information and to register for the webinar, please go to https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2395880229933163280

Those who register but cannot attend the webinar can view a recording of it later at C-FARE’s YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpZtC_NAFDo&feature=youtu.be).

Donate to the Douglas E. Morris Memorial Fund

At the summer 2017 business meeting, NAREA members voted to rename the Presidents’ Fund as the Douglas E. Morris Memorial Fund. The mission of the fund is to support graduate student and early-career professional members’ involvement in the Association. As such it primarily supports the CAM (Career Advancement...
and Mentoring) program. Past Presidents of the Association are especially encouraged to give to this fund, but we encourage everyone with an interest in mentoring and advancement of early career scholars to give.

You can send your tax-deductible donation as a check made out to NAREA (directing it to the Douglas E. Morris Memorial Fund) to:

Farhed Shah
NAREA Treasurer
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