



FAEIS Newsletter

January 14, 2010

In This Issue:

[Associated Press Article Features FAEIS Data](#)
[Meet New NIFA Partners of the FAEIS Team](#)
[Report from the 2009 FAEIS Peer Panel Meeting](#)
[2009 Surveys are Open](#)

Happy New Year!

Greetings from the FAEIS team at Virginia Tech. If you are not familiar with this important project from USDA/CSREES, [click here](#) to read about FAEIS and why it is important to you.

Associated Press Article Features FAEIS Data

David Mercer, a writer for the Associated Press, recently contacted the FAEIS office in search of information that would help him write an article concerning job prospects in agricultural fields and how those prospects are impacting student enrollment in agriculture programs of study. The article, titled, "***Job prospects yield large crop of students in ag schools,***" [can be read in full here.](#)

Meet New NIFA Partners of the FAEIS Team

NIFA Welcomes Jermelina Tupas as New Higher Education Director

Jermelina Tupas joined [NIFA](#) (USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture) as the Director of Higher Education Programs on October 13, 2009. Tupas brings to NIFA her science administrative experiences from working at two other federal agencies as well as her research and teaching experiences as a faculty member at a land-grant institution.

Tupas was a program director in the Division of Minority Opportunities in Research, at the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of General Medical Sciences, where she managed a portfolio of student training and development programs whose overall goal is to increase the number of underrepresented groups in the sciences who will eventually obtain Ph.D. degrees in biomedical sciences. She also developed and managed a program that helps keep baccalaureate graduates in the science education pipeline. Before working at NIH, she was a program director at the National Science Foundation's Biological Sciences Directorate, Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, where she managed research projects in the area of signal transduction. She was also involved in the efforts of this directorate in broadening participation of underrepresented groups in the biological sciences. Prior to that, she was a professor of molecular endocrinology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she also carried out her research on transcriptional regulation and signal transduction of the human relaxin hormones. Her 22 publications include peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and abstracts in conference proceedings. She was also the program director for the Minority Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic and Research (MARC U*STAR) at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.

Tupas earned a bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's degree in microbiology from

the University of the Philippines, Diliman, and a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Tokyo, Japan.

Jermilina can be reached at jtupas@nifa.usda.gov or phone at (202) 720-2324).

NIFA Welcomes Shane Ball as New Data Analyst

NIFA's Science and Education Resources Development ([SERD](#)) Unit welcomes Shane T. Ball who is now responsible for the Food and Agricultural Education Information System project. An Iowa native, Ball spent most of his life doing what he loves best – working in the areas of statistics, genetics, plant breeding, biophysics, precision farming, and remote sensing. He also enjoyed teaching science and mathematics at all educational levels. His career includes working in private industry as an information specialist and research/marketing data analyst. In academia, he served as an agronomy specialist, agricultural extension and research director, and cotton program director at New Mexico State University, Rutgers University, and the University of California–Davis, respectively.

Ball received his Ph.D. in breeding/genetics and statistics from Washington State University, a master's in breeding/genetics and statistics from North Carolina State University, and bachelor's degree in biology and mathematics from Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX. He has written many refereed and Cooperative Extension Service publications and contributed to magazine, newspaper, and newsletter articles, and served as an expert for radio and TV news and educational videos. He can be reached at sball@nifa.usda.gov or phone at (202) 720-6346 and is located in Waterfront Centre Room 3277.

Report from the 2009 FAEIS Peer Panel Meeting

The FAEIS Peer Panel met in November at the conclusion of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) meeting in Washington D.C. We wish to thank these Peer Panel members for their participation: Dr. Rob Kinucan (American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources), Dr. Virginia Moxley (Council of Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences), Dr. Stephen Jorgensen (Board on Human Sciences), Dr. Donald McDowell (Deans of Agriculture, 1890 Land-grant Colleges and Universities), Mr. Terry Clark (Society of American Foresters), Dr. Donald Viands (APLU Academic Programs Section), and Mr. Greg Smith, (USDA-NIFA).

We had a productive meeting. Here are a few of the 2010 action items that resulted from the meeting:

- Increase the participation in FAEIS of 1994 Tribal Land-grant, Non-Land-grant and Hispanic-serving institutions
- Continue marketing FAEIS data resources to existing and potential FAEIS users
- Continue to enhance the FAEIS International Programs database
- Initiate a student competition to promote the use of FAEIS data in peer-reviewed journal articles

For a more complete review of all [action items](#), the agenda, presentations and minutes of the 2009 FAEIS Peer Panel meeting, [go to this webpage](#).

FAEIS 2009 Surveys Are Open

The 2009 FAEIS Surveys are open for data entry, with the following components:

- Student Enrollments by Discipline - Fall, 2009
- Degrees Awarded - 2008/2009
- Placement of Graduates - 2008/2009
- Annual Faculty Survey
- International Programs

The early deadline for the 2009 FAEIS Surveys is February 1, 2010. The FAEIS Help Desk will send survey Excel spreadsheets if you prefer that approach for your data entry. We are willing to work with you to facilitate your data entry.

[Click here to see the status of your 2009 student surveys](#)



[Food and Agricultural Education Information System](#)

Virginia Tech, Mail Code: 0198
400 Turner Street #102
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Help Desk: (540) 231-4941

faeis@vt.edu, <http://faeis.usda.gov/>



[National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)

Technology resources provided by [Agriculture, Human and Natural Resources Information Technology](#),
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech