

Bio for Mary A. Marchant

Includes Career Highlights and Diversity Efforts

(Posted September 25, 2024)

Mary Marchant grew up on a family farm in the Central Valley of California and obtained her Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California at Davis, specializing in international trade. Upon graduating, she joined the University of Kentucky faculty, where she worked for 17 years. She joined Virginia Tech as Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) and has been a full-time faculty member since 2009.

Her research focuses on U.S.-China agricultural trade. In response to the escalating trade dispute, she has been interviewed and cited by Fox News, CBS Money Report, the Washington Post, WDBJ local news, and numerous agricultural media. In 2019, Marchant was awarded the Agriculture and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Quality of Communication Award for the co-edited "*U.S.-China Trade Dispute and Potential Impacts on Agriculture*" [Choices](#) theme issue:

She also received the 2021 AAEA Outstanding *Choices* article Award for the co-authored "*The 2018-2019 Trade Conflict: A One-Year Assessment and Impacts on U.S. Agricultural Exports.*"

Additional Career Highlights:

- Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Agricultural Economics (Italy).
- Agriculture and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), Distinguished Teaching Award.
- AAEA-China section, Best Paper Award.
- Faculty Advisor to two student teams that won the AAEA Academic Bowl.
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA).
- Co-editor, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*.
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), Board on Agriculture, Academic Programs Section: Leadership and Service Award.
- Gamma Sigma Delta-The Honor Society of Agriculture-Virginia Tech chapter, Research Award.
- Virginia Tech Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Featured Teacher.
- Virginia Tech Alumni Award for Excellence in International Research.
- University of Kentucky Outstanding Advisor Award.
- University of Kentucky Alumni Association's Great Teacher Award.
- Appointed USDA "Markets & Trade" Peer Review Panel Manager, National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program.

Marchant has published extensively with nearly 200 journal articles and publications—including over 80 articles in over 20 different refereed journals/publications—one sole-authored book and seven edited journal volumes and conference proceedings. Additionally, she has built a research/teaching program funded by more than \$4.5 million in grants and external funding, including highly competitive national grants—two U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (USDA-AFRI) grants and five USDA-National Research Initiative (NRI) grants.

Marchant's teaching philosophy seeks to enhance students' academic success and professional development. For undergraduates, this means incorporating classroom activities that highlight in demand workforce skills, including communication and teamwork. For graduate students, this means working with students to publish papers in academic journals and present results at scholarly conferences. She co-authored articles with 34 students on

47 peer-reviewed publications, including 31 journal articles, and over 60 presentations at professional meetings—international, national and regional, e.g., the SAEA. Over her 34+-year career, Marchant has taught 16 different courses at Virginia Tech and the University of Kentucky to nearly 3,000 students.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Research

Recognized expert on China: Conducted research on China for over 25 years.

- **2021 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Outstanding Choices Article award** (with J. Grant, S. Arita, C. Emlinger, and S. Sydow).
- **2019 AAEA Quality of Communication Award** (with H. Wang).
- **2012 AAEA-China Section best paper** (with W. Chen and B. Lohmar).
- Media interviews with CBS MoneyWatch, FOXNews, and the Washington Post.
- Editor of 3 edited volumes on China: 2018 and 2017 *Choices* theme issues, 2002 *AgBioForum*; author of 27 journal articles/refereed publications on China as part of a career total of 1 book, 7 edited journal volumes/conference proceedings and over 80 journal articles/refereed publications including 4 in the *AJAE*.
- Project Director (PD) for nearly \$1 million awarded for China research including 4 highly competitive USDA-AFRI/NRI grants with funding rates less than 20%, as part of a career total of over \$4.5 million of grants/extramural funds.
- (Co-)presenter as part of our China research team of 36 national and international presentations including at the 2018 Chinese Agricultural Outlook conference in Beijing, Nanjing Agricultural University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Wuhan, China, plus presentations at the *International Association of Agricultural Economists*—Vancouver, Milan, Australia; *International Association of Trade Research Consortium*--DC and Beijing and 16 AAEA presentations on China from a career total of approximately 180 international, national and regional presentations.

Additional research accomplishments include

- **Lifetime Achievement Award**, Southern Agricultural Economics Association, 2014.
- Co-editor, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (JAAE)*, 2010-13.
- **Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Agricultural Economics**, Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy, spring 1998. This nationally competitive Fulbright Distinguished Chairs program is the most prestigious of Fulbright appointments—22 Fulbright Distinguished Chairs were Awarded in 1998—only 1 in agricultural economics.
- **Panel Manager, National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Program**—“Markets and Trade” Peer Review Panel, 1999-2000. Appointed by USDA-NRI Chief Scientist. This program has historically been a primary source of competitive funds for agricultural economists and awarded \$2 million annually.

Teaching

Taught 16 different courses to nearly 3,000 students. Teaching and diversity publications include 11 journal articles, 12 peer-reviewed conference proceedings, three editorships—two conference proceedings and one college diversity task force report— as well as 26 *FAEIS Newsletters*. Awarded nearly \$2.8 million in external funding for teaching related projects. of which a majority supported a nationwide higher education database, the “Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS)” that tracks student enrollment, degrees awarded and job placement by **gender, race and major**, as well as faculty counts and salaries for colleges of agriculture and related sciences for over 200 higher education institutions.

National, university and college teaching awards:

- Virginia Tech Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (formerly the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (VT-CIDER)), Featured Teaching Tip, 2021; Featured Teacher, 2015.
- VT-CIDER, completion of year-long *Large Class Teaching Certificate* program, 2014-2015.
- **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), Board on Agriculture, Academic Programs Section: Leadership and Service Award, 2006-08 (National award).**
- As VT-CALS Associate Dean of Academic Programs, promoted the scholarship of teaching and learning by sponsoring College teaching mini-grants for faculty (\$60,000), hosted innovative teaching workshops and provided additional financial support for faculty to develop national teaching grant proposals.
- University of Kentucky (UK) Outstanding Advisor Award 2003 (University Award based on student nominations).
- Co-organizer of two national teaching conferences: "Developing a Learning Environment Where All Students Seek to Excel" **AAEA pre-conference**, Chicago, 2001. [Conference sponsored and funded by the AAEA] and "New Technologies and Innovations in Agricultural Economics Instruction" conference, endorsed by the AAEA and co-sponsored by the SAEA, Lexington, KY. 1992.
- **AAEA-Distinguished Teaching Award-Less than 10 Years' Experience**, 1999.
- UK Great Teacher Award, 1998 (University Award based on student nominations).
- **Faculty Advisor to two student teams that won the AAEA Academic Bowl**, 1996 and 1997.
- Gamma Sigma Delta, Master Teacher College Award, UK chapter, 1994.

Examples of student professional development and engagement:

- Co-authored with 34 students on 47 refereed publications, including 31 journal articles and over 60 presentations at professional meetings.
- Mentored 60 graduate students, 2 post-docs and hosted 2 international scholars as major professor/committee member/supervisor; known placement after graduation includes faculty at California State University, Chico (Hejazi and Song), University of Kentucky (Saghaian), Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (Chen), Wall Street (Basso and Kumar), private sector in U.S. and China (Adams, Cho, Munirathinam, Shi, and Xiao), USDA (Grossen, Gonzales and Murrell), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (N. Cornell) and PhD programs (Jessup, Paik, Zhang, Zhuang, Zhu).

Key Leadership Positions/Awards in the AAEA and SAEA

AAEA:

- Appointed AAEA-Teaching Academy Mentor, 2024-25.
- Elected AAEA-Senior Section Board Member, 2020-23; Nominating Committee Member, 2023.
- **2021 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Outstanding Choices Article:** "The 2018-2019 Trade Conflict: A One-Year Assessment and Impacts on U.S. Agricultural Exports" by J. Grant, S. Arita, C. Emlinger, S. Sydow and M. A. Marchant. *Choices*. 2019.
- **2019 AAEA Quality of Communication Award:** "U.S.–China Trade Dispute and Potential Impacts on Agriculture" Theme Issue, M.A. Marchant H.H. Wang, co-editors. *Choices*. 2018. [According to AAEA: 16,525 Pageviews, 2018-2023]
- Appointed AAEA-Mentorship Committee member, 2015-16. **Mentor in AAEA Year-Long Faculty Mentoring Program** (Amanda Countryman), 2013-14.
- **2012 AAEA-China Section Best Paper.** Co-recipient with VT graduate W. Chen and B. Lohmar.

- Reviewed “**A Centennial History of the AAEA**” by Paul Barkley, 2010. [257 pages; review recognized in the
- Preface.]
- 2007 AAEA Certificate for Presenting at the **AAEA Young Professional Teaching Academy**, invited presentation as a **faculty mentor**. Portland, OR, July 29, 2007.
- Appointed **AAEA Awards Chair**, 2004-06 overseeing all AAEA award committees and Master of Ceremonies at the 2005 (Providence, RI) and 2006 (Long Beach, CA) AAEA Awards Recognition Ceremonies.
- **1999-2002-AAEA Leadership and Service Award** for service on AAEA Foundation Board. Elected **Foundation Board-Vice President**, 2001-02; member 1999-2002.
- Co-Chair with Nicole Ballenger, **AAEA Foundation Board-Alex McCalla Appreciation Club**, 2001-02; raised \$25,000 for scholarships.
- 2001 AAEA Certificate for Presenting at the **AAEA Young Professionals Conference**, invited presentation as a **faculty mentor**. Keystone, CO. June 12-14, 2001.
- Appointed **Co-Chair, AAEA-Teaching, Learning and Communications Committee**, 2000-01; member 1998-2000.
- **1999 AAEA Distinguished Teaching Award** for Less than 10 Years’ Experience.
- **Elected Chair, AAEA-Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE)**, 1996-97; **elected Board member**, 1992-1999.
- **1996 and 1997 AAEA-Student Section, Academic Bowl Winner**. Faculty Advisor, University of Kentucky Academic Teams.
- **Appointed Chair, AAEA Employment Services Committee**, 1992-94; member 1990-97.
- Regular contributor the **CWAE Sylvia Lane Mentorship Fund**.

SAEA:

- Appointed 2022-23 **Chair, SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award Selection Committee**; member since 2020.
- Awarded **SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award, 2014**.
- Co-editor (with Darrell Bosch), ***Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics***, 2010-2013.
- **Elected 1999 SAEA President**; served as 2000 Past-President and 1998 President-Elect.
- Elected 1997 First Vice President, coordinating SAEA invited papers.
- Elected 1996 Second Vice President, coordinating SAEA selected papers.

Diversity Enhancement and Mentoring

As VT-CALS Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs:

- Working with Academic Programs staff, **enhanced College diversity efforts and STEM projects** (e.g., ExxonMobil Astronaut Bernard Harris Math/Science Summer Camp--PD for \$80,000 grant; recruitment of high school students from SEED Schools of Washington, DC and Maryland; facilitated re-start of MANNRS—Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences club).
- Coordinated workshops for new faculty orientation to enhance success of ALL faculty.
- Panel member of USDA-Multicultural Scholars national grant program, 2007.

As AAEA-CWAE Chair (1996-97) and Board Member (1992-1999):

- During my time as CWAE chair, there were only two female AAEA fellows-- Sandra Batie (1994) and Sylvia Lane (1984). As chair, one of my main goals was to nominate deserving females. As such, we successfully nominated Irma Adelman (1998) and Uma Lele (1999). I am delighted that CWAE includes this process as a regular activity.

As a Faculty Member and Project Director of the Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS), Mentor of Junior Faculty, Undergraduate and Graduate Students:

- Appointed AAEA-Teaching Academy Mentor, 2024-25.
- Appointed AAEC Department Ph.D. Students' *Professional Development Program*, Job Market Packet Reviewer, 2024.
- Supervised a total of 50 undergraduate and graduate student workers at Virginia Tech: 29 teaching assistants (TAs), 19 FAEIS student workers and two students' international trade research experience for undergraduates (REU).
- Mentored 27 students through a REU via the "USDA Scholars-Innovations in Undergraduate Research" course; project funded by USDA-NIFA Higher Education Challenge Grants Program, 2008-10.
- Served on AAEA Mentorship **Program Committee**; mentor for junior AAEA faculty; invited faculty mentor speaker at the **AAEA 2007 "Young Professional Teaching Academy"** and **AAEA 2001 "Young Professionals" conference**.
- Co-editor of 1 book/conference proceeding on diversity (with H. Williamson), 3 journal articles and 1 College report serving as a roadmap to diversity (see below).
- Speaker at numerous diversity sessions, e.g., "Bridging the Gap between 1890 and 1862 Land Grant Agricultural Economics Programs" USDA workshop.
- Coordinated workshops/symposia on diversity, teaching enhancement and promotion and tenure at the AAEA, university and college levels throughout career.

Diversity Publications—throughout career, including book/conference proceedings (#2 below; see full CV for all publications):

Edited Volumes:

University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture. *Diversity Issues in the College of Agriculture*, Diversity Task Force Report, Mary A. Marchant, Chair. 2003 (83 pages).

Marchant, Mary A. and Handy Williamson, Jr., co-editors. *Achieving Diversity: The Status and Progress of Women and African Americans in the Agricultural Economics Profession*. NYC: Garland Pub., 1994 (218 pages). [Also, co-author of five chapters in this book.]

Journal Articles:

Zepeda, Lydia, and Mary A. Marchant. "Bigger, Smaller, Richer, Poorer: Trends in Agricultural Economics." *Review of Agricultural Economics*. 20:2(1998):406-21. On web: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1349998>

Marchant, Mary A., and Lydia Zepeda. "The Agricultural Economics Profession at the Crossroads: Survey Results of Faculty Salary, Employment, and Hiring Prospects." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 77(1995):1322-28. On web: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1243369>

Zepeda, Lydia, Mary A. Marchant, and Hui-Shung Chang. "The Status of Women Agricultural Economists in Academia." *Review of Agricultural Economics*. 15:3(September 1993):537-45. On web: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1349487>

FAEIS Newsletters Related to Diversity, 2006-2014:

Note: The Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS) is a nationwide database that tracks student enrollment, degrees awarded and job placement **by gender, race, and major**, as well as faculty counts and salaries for colleges of agriculture and related sciences from over 200 higher education institutions. During my service as FAEIS Project Director (2006-2014), our VT-FAEIS team **distributed FAEIS Newsletters to over 1,800 national leaders in agriculture**, including Land-Grant Colleges and Universities (1862, 1890, and 1994 Tribal) as

well as two- and four-year state colleges and USDA-NIFA. Of the 66 FAEIS Newsletters during this time, 26 focused on diversity and are listed below. All FAEIS Newsletters are on the FAEIS website:

<https://faeis.cals.vt.edu/resources/newsletters/>

- o *Graduate Degrees Awarded in Agriculture & Natural Resources—Including “Minority Trends*, Issue 28, Summer 2014.
- o *Minority Undergraduate Student Enrollment*, Issue 27, May, 2014.
- o *Baccalaureate Enrollment for Minorities in Natural Resources and Conservation (NRC) disciplines*, Issue 25A, June 2013.
- o *Minorities are Sustaining the Growth in Undergraduate Enrollment in Family & Human Sciences*, Issue 21A, Oct. 2012.
- o *Trends for Minority Students Enrolled in Colleges & Departments of Agriculture & Natural Resources at 98 Higher Education Institutions Across the U.S.*, Issue 20, Sept. 2012.
- o *Trends in Gender of Undergraduates in Natural Resources & Conservation Programs at Institutions Affiliated with NAUFRP - National Assoc. of University Forest Resources Programs*, Issue 19, Aug. 2012.
- o *Trends in Gender of Undergraduates in Agriculture Programs at the Land-Grants from 2004-11*, Issue 18, July 2012.
- o *Faculty Age Trends*, Issue 17, May 2012.
- o *Faculty & Student Gender Trends for Animal Science*, Issue 16, April 2012.
- o *Undergraduate Student Gender Trends for Agricultural Economics*, Issue 15, March 2012.
- o *Exploring Agricultural Enrollment by Race & Institution Type*, July 2010.
- o *SPECIAL EDITION: 1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges Update*, April 22, 2010.
- o *Diversity in the Administrative Faculty Ranks*, Sept. 2009.
- o *Faculty Age & Academic Rank*, July 2009.
- o *Trends in Doctorate Degrees Awarded-Total Numbers, Gender & Race*, April 2009.
- o *Gender Comparisons of Students & Faculty*, March 2009.
- o *American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture & Renewable Resources (AASCARR) Enrollment and Diversity*, Oct. 2008.
- o *International Programs’ Database & International Student Enrollment*, Feb. 2008.
- o *Animal Science Graduate Student Enrollment by Race & Gender*, Dec. 2007.
- o *Faculty Salary Data—by Institution Type, Program Area, Gender & Ethnicity*, May 2007.
- o *Forestry—Baccalaureate Enrollment by Gender & Ethnicity; Degrees Awarded*, March 2007.

- o Home Economics Teacher Education—Baccalaureate Enrollment by Gender & Ethnicity; *Degrees Awarded*, Feb. 2007.
- o Horticulture—Baccalaureate Enrollment by Gender & Ethnicity; *Degrees Awarded*, Dec. 2006.
- o Agricultural Teacher Education—Baccalaureate Enrollment by Gender & Ethnicity; *Degrees Awarded*, Aug. 2006.
- o Agricultural Business & Economics—Baccalaureate Enrollment by Gender & Ethnicity; *Degrees Awarded*, June 2006.
- o Animal Science—Baccalaureate Enrollment by Gender & Ethnicity; *Degrees Awarded*, May 2006.

Diversity Presentations/Workshops:

- Marchant, Mary A. "**Achieving Inclusive Excellence in Grant Proposals workshop**," invited speaker. Sponsor: Virginia Tech Center for Academic Excellence and Enrichment, April 23, 2009.
- Marchant, Mary A., "**Bridging the Gap between 1890 and 1862 Land Grant Agricultural Economics Programs**" invited workshop presentation, **USDA-ERS and USDA-CSREES**, Washington, DC; June, 2005.
- Marchant, Mary A., organizer. "*Promotion and Tenure at the University of Kentucky.*" Workshops sponsored by (1) the **University of Kentucky (UK) President's Commission on Women**, Sept. 9, 2005 [120 faculty attended] and (2) the College of Ag. Faculty Council, Sept., 6, 2002 [45 faculty & administrators attended].
- Marchant, Mary A., "Campus Culture." Presentation to the UK President's Commission on Women retreat, May 18-19, 2005.
- Marchant, Mary A. "Promotion and Tenure at UK the University of Kentucky." Presentation to the **UK's Women's Studies Program-Mentoring Series**, October 10, 2003.
- Marchant, Mary A., "**The Facts on Women Faculty and Graduate Students in Agricultural Economics**," invited presentation, Recruiting and Retaining Women in Agricultural Economics Symposium, Selected symposium presented at the **AAEA annual meeting**. San Antonio, TX. July 1996.
- Marchant, M. and M. Witt, organizers. "*Successful Strategies for Recruitment and Retention: Building an Inclusive University.*" Workshop endorsed and funded by the University of Kentucky Chancellor, Vice President for Research, and respective Deans of the College of Agriculture and Graduate School. Lexington, KY. May 2, 1996.
- Marchant, Mary A., organizer and presenter. **National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators (NAAEA)**, "Recruiting and Retaining Women in Agricultural Economics" at the NAAEA biennial meeting, Nashville, TN, Nov. 1995.
- Marchant, Mary A. and Lydia Zepeda. "The Agricultural Economics Profession at the Crossroads: Survey Results of the AAEA Employment Services Committee," **principal paper presentation at the AAEA annual meeting**, Indianapolis, IN, Aug. 1995; article published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 77(December 1995):1322-28.
- Marchant, Mary A. "Women in Agricultural Economics," invited presentation at the *Gender and Workplace Relations: New Rules for a New Diversity* **pre-conference to the AAEA annual meeting**, San Diego, CA, Aug. 1994.
- Marchant, Mary A., symposium organizer. "**Cultural Diversity**" symposium selected for presentation at the **AAEA annual meeting**. Baltimore, MD. Aug. 1992. Abstract: *AJAE*, 74:5(Dec. 1992):1264.
- Marchant, Mary A., Hui-Shung Chang and Lydia Zepeda. "1990 Survey Results of Women Agricultural Economists," selected poster presented at the **AAEA annual meeting**, Manhattan, KS. Aug. 1991; abstract in the *AJAE*, 73:5(Dec. 1991):1558.

Diversity Service Activities:

- Virginia Tech-College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (VT-CALS), **Diversity Council**, ex-officio member, 2006-2008.
- **USDA-CSREES Multicultural Scholars national peer review panel**, appointed member, 2007.
- **University of Kentucky (UK) President's Commission on Women**, appointed member by UK President Todd, 2003-2006; appointed Chair, Scientific and Professional Advancement subcommittee, 2005-2006. This committee sponsored university-wide promotion and tenure workshops. The first workshop, September 9, 2005, was attended by 120 UK faculty. Also, appointed Co-Chair, Leadership in Governing and Decision-Making subcommittee, 2003-2004.
- UK-College of Agriculture, appointed member, **Diversity Advisory Committee**, 2005-2006. Appointed Chair, Retention subcommittee, 2005-2006.
- UK-College of Agriculture, appointed **Chair, Diversity Task Force**, 2001-03. Results included the *Diversity Issues in the College of Agriculture* 83-page report, April 2003.
- AAEA Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE), **elected Chair**, 1996-1997; Board Member, 1992-99.

Grants Related to Diversity:

At Virginia Tech

- 2006-14, "**Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS)**." Funded by *USDA-NIFA Higher Education Programs*. PD: **M. Marchant**; co-PDs T. Mack, E. Smith, E. Vance and D. Sutphin. This nationwide database tracks student enrollment, degrees awarded and job placement at all degree levels **by gender, race and major** as well as faculty counts and salaries for colleges of agriculture and related sciences from over 200 higher education institutions.
\$2,188,258
- 2007-08, Astronaut Bernard Harris "Math-Science Summer Camp." Funded by *ExxonMobil*. Principal Director (PD): **M. Marchant**; co-PD J. Pelzer.
\$80,000

At the University of Kentucky

- 1996, "Successful Strategies for Recruitment and Retention" conference. Funded by the University of Kentucky Chancellor, Graduate School, College of Agriculture Dean and Barnhart Fund for Excellence. PD: **M. Marchant**; co-PDs D. Witham and R. Dwyer.
\$6,000
- 1994, "Achieving Diversity" workshop. Funded by *Farm Foundation*. Funds used to distribute complimentary copies of our book to land grant universities, PD: H. Williamson; co-PD **M. Marchant**.
\$5,000