

Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

Paul Preckel



Paul Preckel joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in Purdue University's Department of Agricultural Economics in August of 1983. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematical Sciences from Ohio State University in 1977, his Master of Science degree in Operations Research from Stanford University in 1979, and his Doctorate of Philosophy in Operations Research from Stanford University in 1983. His graduate work focused on the formulation and computation of large-scale economic equilibrium problems. He met his spouse, Janet Winters, in West Lafayette.

His research career at Purdue spanned a broad range of sub-disciplines within Agricultural and Applied Economics including production economics, risk management, farm finance, agricultural policy, consumer behavior, biotechnology, economic development, marketing, agribusiness management, environmental economics and management, energy economics, pest management, international trade, supply chain design, technology adoption, and climate change. He made a variety of methodological contributions in the areas of optimization, functional approximation, econometrics, sensitivity analysis, efficiency measurement, distribution representation and approximation, entropy, statistical sampling, and numerical integration.

In 1989, he was promoted to Associate Professor, and in 1994 to Professor. He served from 2002-2007 as Associate Department Head and Head of the Graduate Program. From 2007-2020, he served as Faculty Director of the Indiana State Utility Forecasting Group. He taught Agricultural Economics 652, a Ph.D. level course in applied mathematical programming, from 1984-2019, helping to shape the research careers of over 250 graduate students. He also taught Agricultural Economics 552, a M.S. level course in applied linear and integer programming from 2011-2018. In honor of his teaching contributions, he received the Gamma Sigma Delta Award of Merit for Graduate Teaching, the American Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Graduate Teaching Ten or More Years' Experience award in 2003, Purdue's College of Agriculture Outstanding Graduate Teacher/Mentor award in 2018, and in 2018 he was entered in Purdue's Book of Great Teachers. He has lectured on five continents and enjoyed both domestic and international travel.

His greatest professional interest was the instruction and mentoring of graduate students. He supervised the completion of 32 Ph.D. dissertations and seven M.S. theses, and his students were placed in a broad range of academic, industry, and government positions. In addition, he served on the advisory committees of over 150 students.

He provided service at the international, national, state and local level to both the profession and government. His work with a group at the International Livestock Research Institute received the Neville Clarke Award for Outstanding Teamwork. He worked on several cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the areas of soil conservation, agricultural trade, productivity

measurement, and biopower assessment. His work with the Indiana State Utility Forecasting Group supported decision making by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, and he served on Indiana Governor Holcomb's 21st Century Energy Policy Development Task Force. He served as Associate Editor and subsequently Co-editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. He also served as a Guest Editor and member of the Editorial Staff for *Manufacturing and Service Operations Management*.

His personal interests include physical activity (bicycling, kayaking, yoga, and hiking), food preparation (cooking and fermentation), ceramic arts, and domestic and international travel.