

Blessing Ngozi Ugwuanyi

bugwuany@gmail.com | (806) 300-3842

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics (May 2020)

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Master of Science, Analytics (May 2024)

Georgia Institute of Technology; Atlanta, GA

Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics (August 2015)

University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and Farm Management (October 2010)

Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria

Summa Cum Laude

CERTIFICATION

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria

Certified Accounting Technician (August 2009)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, (August 2024 – Present)

✓ Teaching the following classes:

- Farm Management
- Price Analysis
- Agribusiness Market
- Agricultural Finance
- Agribusiness Entrepreneurship
- Decision Support Tools

Assistant Professor, Southern Arkansas University (SAU), Magnolia (August 2020 – July 2024)

✓ Taught the following classes:

- Data Management
- Financial Statements and Planning
- Entrepreneurship
- Risk Management
- Futures and Options
- Marketing of Agricultural Products
- International Agribusiness

Instructor, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, (Spring 2018, Fall 2019)

- Price Theory
- Applied Optimization

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Agribusiness

Texas A&M University – Kingsville (RELLIS campus), (August 2024 – Present)

- Conducts research in Applied Economics and Analytics.

Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, Arkansas (August 2020 – July 2024)

- Conducted research in Applied Economics and Analytics.

Analytics Practicum - Credit Risk Modeling Intern

Equifax, Atlanta, Georgia (January 2024 – May 2024)

- Collaborating with the Equifax team to develop a robust credit risk propensity model.
- Utilizing advanced analytics tools, such as Python and SQL, to analyze large datasets.
- Conducting in-depth analysis to predict customer behavior, specifically in opening new credit card accounts, and obtaining personal loans and mortgages.
- Working closely with cross-functional teams to integrate the propensity model into Equifax's decision-making processes.
- Presenting findings and actionable insights to stakeholders, contributing to strategic financial planning in the dynamic landscape of credit risk.

Research Assistant/Data Analyst

Texas Tech University, (August 2015 – May 2020)

- Identified researchable questions for projects and developed analytical models.
- Designed surveys and sourced primary and secondary data for studies.
- Tested and validated theoretical models using various statistical packages like R, Stata, SAS, and MATLAB.
- Prepared comprehensive reports on research outcomes.
- Presented research findings at conferences.

Research Assistant/Data Analyst

University of Wyoming, (January 2013 – August 2015)

- Sourced secondary data for research and conducted analysis using GAMS and Stata.
- Interpreted results, identified patterns, and drew conclusions.
- Wrote reports on research work.
- Published research findings and presented reports summarizing key insights.

Business/Management Experience

Farm Manager

Saint Paul Ranch, Ogun State, Nigeria (January 2010 - August 2010)

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- Supervised a team of less than 10 employees, overseeing day-to-day operations and ensuring adherence to established protocols and procedures.
- Managed all farm activities to ensure smooth operations and maximize productivity and profitability.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

- Solomonson, J. K., Wells, T., Rank, B. D., & Ugwuanyi, B. (2023, June). What Factors influence Students' decisions to pursue Agricultural Degrees at Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture? NACTA Journal.
- Devadoss, Stephen, Blessing Ugwuanyi, and William Ridley (2021). "Determinants of Global Agricultural Trade." Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics.
- Blessing Ugwuanyi and Chian Jones Ritten. (2016) "Explaining the Gender Wage Gap: The Role of Discrimination and the Mining Industry." Chapter Nine in Sternadori, Miglena and Carrie Prentice (eds.) Gender and Work: Intersectionality, Resistance, and Identity, Cambridge Scholars Publishing (Original Research).
- Jones Ritten, Chian and Blessing Ugwuanyi (2015). "Is Wyoming still the State of Equality?" The Wyoming Lawyer 32(2), 20-23.

Conference Presentations

- Ugwuanyi, B. (2025, February). Trade Restrictions, Food Security, and Mental Health: A Sentiment and Econometric Analysis of Sub-Saharan African Countries. Paper presented at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Irving, TX.
- Ugwuanyi, B. (2025, February). Analysis of Trade Dependency and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa Using Spatial Econometric Models. Poster presented at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Irving, TX.
- Solomonson, J. K., Wells, T., Rank, B. D., & Ugwuanyi, B. (2022, June). What factors influence students' decisions to pursue agricultural degrees at non-land-grant colleges of agriculture? Poster presented at the 68th Annual NACTA Conference. Wooster, OH.
- Blessing Ugwuanyi and Ryan Williams. "Extortion in the Presence of Market Power." Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting. Jacksonville, FL: February 26, 2018.
- Williams, Ryan, Blessing Ugwuanyi, Joseph Young, and Vikram Baliga. "Estimation of Household Willingness to Pay for Water Conserving Landscape Design." Agricultural Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL: July 30 - August 1, 2017.
- Blessing Ugwuanyi and Chian Jones Ritten. "The Gender Wage Gap: The Role of the Mining Industry and Discrimination." Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting. Victoria, BC: June 21-24, 2016.
- Williams, Ryan, Blessing Ugwuanyi, Joseph Young, and Vikram Baliga. "Estimation of Household Willingness to Pay for Water Conserving Landscape Design." Universities Council on Water Resources Annual Meeting. Pensacola, FL: June 21-23, 2016.

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- Blessing Ugwuanyi and Chian Jones Ritten. “The Gender Wage Gap: The Role of the Mining Industry and Discrimination.” Poster Presentation. Pacific Northwest Regional Economics Conference. Vancouver, WA: May 11-13, 2016.
- Blessing Ugwuanyi and Chian Jones Ritten. “The Gender Wage Gap: The Role of Discrimination and the Mining Industry.” University of Wyoming Agricultural and Applied Economics Seminar Series. Laramie, WY: October 2, 2015.
- Chian Jones Ritten and Blessing Ugwuanyi. “The Gender Wage Gap: The Role of the Mining Industry.” Biennial Women and Gender Research Conference. Vermillion, SD: April 9-10, 2015.

GRANT PROPOSALS

Ugwuanyi, B. (Lead Project Director), Chumbley, S. B., & Turner, B. (Co-Project Directors). *Future-Ready Agriculture: Machine Learning Capacity Building for Agriculture*. Grant proposal submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), [Month, Year]. Status: Under Review.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Southern Arkansas University Faculty Research Grant, March 2024: Awarded \$4,430
- Graduate Research Assistantship, Texas Tech University (2015 – 2020)
- Award of Excellence (Graduate Paper Competition), Western Agricultural Economics Association, 2019
- Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Texas Tech University (2018 – 2019)
- **CH** Foundation Fellowship Award for Outstanding Incoming Students (2015 – 2019)
- Graduate Research Assistantship, University of Wyoming (2013 – 2015)
- Distinguished Senate Award for Outstanding First-Class graduate, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria (2010)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Western Agricultural Economics Association (2018 - Present)
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (2016 - Present)
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association (2016 – Present)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee:

- Western Agricultural Economics Association
- Journal for the Advancement of Developing Economies

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EXPERIENCES

- Coordinator/Advisor, Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) Society, Southern Arkansas University Chapter (Fall 2021 – present).
 - Organized award ceremonies for top-performing students.
 - Advised the Delta Tau Alpha Society.
 - Promoted scholarships and collegiality among DTA members and non-DTA students.
- Facilitator/Judge, FFA regional contest, 2022 -2024

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Academic Advisement and Mentorship (SAU) (August 2020 – May 2024)

- Advises about 30 students per semester to ensure progress towards degree completion.
- Provides support to students for employment, graduate, and professional school placements.

Committee Service (SAU)

- Member, Discipline Committee, Southern Arkansas University (August 15, 2023 – Present)
- Member, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education faculty search committee (February 2, 2023 – Present).
- Member, Assistant Professor of Animal Science faculty search committee (March 2, 2023 – Present).
- Member, Entrepreneurial Access Resource Network Committee Member (December 1, 2022 – Present).
 - Tasked with setting up an accessible resource base for upcoming entrepreneurs from Southern Arkansas.
- Member, Assistance Professor Computer Science Faculty Search Committee (September 1, 2021 - October 17, 2022).
- Member, Non-Tenure Assistant Professor of Cybersecurity faculty search committee. (September 1, 2021 - October 17, 2022).
- Title IX Investigator, Southern Arkansas University. August 3, 2022 - Present.
 - Investigate faculty members, staff, or student-reported Title IX violations.
- Member, Assistance Professor Computer Science Faculty Search Committee (September 1, 2021 - October 17, 2022).
- Member, Non-Tenure Assistant Professor of Cybersecurity faculty search committee. September 1, 2021 - October 17, 2022.

Committee Service (TAMUK)

- University Service: Administrator Evaluation Committee – Participating in the assessment of university leadership to support institutional effectiveness and governance.
- College Service: PhD Program Committee – Contributing to the oversight and development of the PhD program, ensuring academic quality and student success.
- Department Service: Strategic Planning Committee – Assisting in setting long-term departmental goals, curriculum enhancements, and faculty development initiatives.

SKILLS

- Computing/Analytical: Financial modeling, Econometric analysis, Time Series Forecasting, STATA, R, Python, SAS, SQL, Tableau, PySpark, AWS, Google Cloud Platform, Azure, Big Data, Microsoft Office.
- Languages: English (fluent), Igbo (Native Proficiency), Yoruba (fluent), Pidgin (fluent).