

A Tribute to Joseph Havlicek Jr. Agricultural Economist

Joseph Havlicek Jr. was an agricultural economist who taught courses in applied econometrics at Purdue University and at VPI in the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s. Among doctoral students his courses and lecture notes were famous at both institutions. Joe did many other things, subsequently serving as department chair at both Maryland and Ohio State. He served as president of the AAEA in 1986-87 and became an AAEA Fellow in 1989. Joe was a bundle of energy. Sadly, Joe died in 1993.

Joe often spoke of eventually publishing his lecture notes as an applied econometrics textbook, but that never happened. However, I kept a copy of his notes from the AEC 651 class I took as a doctoral student at Purdue, as well as the notes for a companion course in matrix algebra he taught as AEC 603.

Oral Capps Jr., a student of Joe's at VPI and now a Texas A&M faculty member, gave me a copy of the updated notes Joe used when he taught a similar course at VPI.

The 1971 Purdue notes I have are old enough such that they were run on a purple ditto machine. They have faded, but the scan is still quite readable. Joe's colleague Earl Kehrberg, an Iowa State trained applied statistician during his years at Purdue, used to champion the idea for a journal called *The Journal of Economics Rejects* or *JER* for short. He proposed that the sole criterion for inclusion in this new journal was a rejection letter from a legitimate economics journal, and further, that the new *JER* be published using a purple ditto machine, so that the ideas therein would gradually fade away over time!

Thankfully, Joe's lecture notes have not faded away. My 1971 purple ditto copy has my own side notes on some of the material.

The 1971 notes are at

<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/havpu.pdf>

The 1980 version courtesy of Oral Capps are similar but updated 9 years, the scanned document was run on a real mimeograph machine, creating a darker scan and are cleaner without any hand-written annotations, so they are easier to read. The 1980 notes are at

<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/havvpi.pdf>

I also have a scanned pdf copy of Joe's AEC 603 matrix algebra notes, from Purdue fall semester, 1970, at

<http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/havmat.pdf>

Joe has been gone for over 20 years, and to the best of my knowledge he never turned a copyright to any of this over to a third-party publisher. However, if anyone has more information that somehow would conflict with this, let me know at ddeberti@uky.edu

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