

Continuing a History of Excellence

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the SES development funds and to the endowment campaign to provide distinguished professorships, graduate fellowships, and undergraduate scholarships in the School of Economic Sciences. Your generous donations assure continued excellence of vital programs. The following listing is for the period July 1, 2005, through October 31, 2006. If we missed your donation, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight.

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The attached envelope can be used to make your contribution or pledge this year or you can go to www.ses.wsu.edu and click on "I Want to Give."

Faculty Honors

Ken Casavant received the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute's **Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of his distinguished career in transportation policy and marketing.

Ken Duft was awarded the 2005 **Cooperator of the Year** award, endorsed by all three Northwest Cooperative Trade Associations and the Northwest Cooperative Development Center. The award is in recognition of career-long substantive contributions in economic research relating to problems/issues facing agricultural cooperatives.

Scott Matulich received the Fisheries Conference (Multistate Project W1004) **2006 Excellence Award** for outstanding contributions in research to the marketing, trade, and management of fisheries and aquaculture.

Holiday Greetings

All your friends and colleagues in the School of Economic Sciences wish you the best during this holiday season. We hope it is a wonderful and joyous time for you and your family.

Once again many of you have let us know of new developments in your careers and in your lives. We always appreciate hearing from our alumni, friends, and colleagues. Hearing about how our alumni and friends are doing is one of the most rewarding aspects of our jobs. Please keep writing, and try to include your e-mail address when you do.

It has been a very productive and invigorating year for the school. The faculty has worked together in many ways to finalize the redesign, enrichment, and overall improvement of the academic programs of the school at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We are proud of the new academic programs we have created and implemented, and we are confident that you will approve of them as well. If you have the time, please visit our Web site at www.ses.wsu.edu and take a look at the current program in SES. It is also a particularly busy time for the faculty, especially since we are currently recruiting for FIVE new faculty members, following three new faculty hires that arrived last August!

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the many of you who have contributed financially to the School of Economic Sciences. Your contributions support the school and its students in many ways.

Undergraduate and graduate scholarships help students purchase books as well as other academic materials and supplies needed for their studies and, in some cases, make attendance at WSU possible for students who otherwise might not have been able to attend at all. Contributions also enhance the intellectual environment in the school, allowing us to bring many high-quality seminar speakers to Pullman, including Nobel Prize winners (see the "guest speakers" section of *SESnews*). Donations support high-quality teaching and scholarship, allowing the school to purchase much-needed computer software and equipment, and helps support faculty travel for professional development and research, among a long list of other important activities. We thank you in advance for any future contributions you might consider making and have enclosed an envelope with possible funding areas listed.

We hope you enjoy reading about the progress and accomplishments of alumni, faculty, students, and staff in this issue of *SESnews*. All of us in the School of Economic Sciences wish you a peaceful and prosperous new year. Go Cougs!

Ron Mittelhammer, Director

SES HIGHLIGHTS

This coming January the School of Economic Sciences will have been in existence for 30 months. When we wrote about the SES highlights 12 months ago, we had a long list of accomplishments during our first 1½ years but focused on two large accomplishments: the move of all the faculty to Hulbert Hall, and the complete revamping of our undergraduate and master’s level programs. Our efforts on curriculum development continued unabated this past year. Under the strong leadership of the Graduate Studies Committee, we revised the doctoral programs in agricultural economics and economics to add formal, well-defined fields in students’ programs, and created two-course sequences supporting each field. Doctoral students choose two fields of concentration from the areas of econometrics, environmental and resource economics, international economics (trade and development), public economics, industrial organization, agricultural economics, and financial economics. We have revised every degree program offered by the school, increasing depth, rigor, and applications.

Curricular issues were the focus of another major highlight in 2006. In preparation for reaccreditation, WSU has been focusing on assessing learning goals and outcomes. We in the school have taken this as an opportunity to improve our students’ learning. Each and every course has well-defined learning goals that clearly and coherently contribute to each degree. We have developed assessment tools that help us evaluate how well our students achieve the learning goals for principles-level classes and degree programs. Last year we piloted these tools, and we are moving to full implementation of the assessment this year. The feedback we are getting from assessing student outcomes has led to marked changes in the content of classes and the way we are teaching our students. We are also implementing peer review of teaching so faculty receive the benefit of structured feedback on their courses and teaching methods from colleagues, students, and administrators. All this is designed to improve the education

we can offer students taking courses in the School of Economic Sciences, with the final goal being to improve learning and understanding of economics.

Meanwhile, the school continues to grow. The number of undergraduate majors exceeds 150 and we have over 60 students in the doctoral programs. In a very successful faculty recruiting year we added three new faculty. Two of our new faculty are recently graduated PhDs. Gregmar Galinato (environmental and resource economics) joins us from the University of Maryland, and Gilad Aharonovitz (development and macroeconomics) comes to us from the University of Tel Aviv. Shannon Neibergs, our new extension economist (livestock economics and marketing), joins us as an associate professor after spending 11 years as assistant and associate professor at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. Shannon will also teach two courses per year in the school. Our faculty ranks will continue to grow, with five searches ongoing as you read these highlights. Two of these searches are to fill new positions in the school, while three are to fill open positions that resulted from faculty retirements.

Faculty awards and accomplishments are highlighted elsewhere in *SESnews*. As always, we had some very successful and enjoyable social activities, including the second SES anniversary barbecue at the Yoder farm in Palouse, a continuation of the SES baseball weekend in Seattle including a fantastic Pike Street alumni wine and cheese event hosted by alumnus Kurt Dammeier, and the second annual SES whitewater rafting trip for two days on the Salmon River (joined this year by Dan Bernardo ’85 Ph.D., dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences). The 2006 School of Economic Sciences Alumni Barbeque was held on September 30 where alumni, friends, and family mixed with current students and faculty, and where we also celebrated the induction of several undergraduate students into Omicron Delta Epsilon, the Economics Honor Society.



Visiting Faculty

Dr. Huaihong Diao is a visiting professor in SES, working with Dr. Holly Wang on a research project entitled Mortgage Finance of Agricultural Land and Transfer of Use Right over Agricultural Land in China. In China, Dr. Diao is an associate professor in economics at Guangdong University of Business Studies.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

Gregg Baldrige (’78 B.S. AgEcon) is the sales manager at RE/MAX Home and Land in Pullman and immediate past president of the Whitman County Association of Realtors.

Alan Bargmeyer (’63 B.S. AgEcon) is a retired general manager for H&N International, a poultry breeding company.

Randi Boeckman (’05 B.S. AgBus) is with NW Farm Credit Services and recently became engaged. She writes that she loves her job and enjoys Spokane, but misses WSU.

Kelli (Myers) Collins (’04 B.S. AgBus) writes that they recently moved to Bainbridge Island, Washington. Kelli operates L’acquistio—A Personal Shop and Jason is a civil engineer in Seattle.

Dustin DeVries (’97 B.S. AgBus) is a director with Bausch and Lomb Vision Care in Texas. He and wife Lisa still find time to travel, enjoy fine wine, and boating. They are planning on attending a WSU football game next season and look forward to running into old Ag Econ friends.

Ricardo Torres Diaz (’05 M.A. AgEcon, ’05 Ph.D. Hort) works for Pace International as a product manager. Ricardo and Carolina live in Yakima. Ricardo’s funniest experience as a student at WSU was watching Phil Wandschneider fight with the smartboard.

Timothy Dufault (’99 B.S. AgBus) earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona J.E. Rogers College of Law in May 2006. He also took second place in a national student writing contest sponsored by the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He and his wife and 1-year-old daughter live in Yakima, Washington.

Russ Fode (’79 B.S. AgEcon) is with Smith Barney as financial planner with a wealth management team in north central Washington.

Jeffrey Franks (’85 B.A. Econ) is now in his third year as head of the International Monetary Fund office in Kiev, Ukraine, where he works in analyzing the economy and advising the government on their economic policies.

Ben Frerichs (’69 M.A., ’73 Ph.D. Econ) is with Economic Consulting Services. He spent three to four months as a technical assistance consultant to FEMA’s Long-term Community Recovery program doing economic development planning in hurricane-damaged parishes in Louisiana.

David Gillette (’90 Ph.D. Econ) is a full professor at Truman State University and will be on sabbatical in the spring to work on a book.

Phil Halverson (’90 Ph.D. AgEcon) and wife Ewa live in Las Vegas but visit Ewa’s family in France frequently. They plan to retire there in six years, one month, and two days. Phil writes that he is an accomplished sun bather and has part-interest in a jet boat for use on the Colorado River, mostly as a floating cooler and swim platform.

Richard and Diane Harris (’80 B.S. Ag Econ, ’80 B.A. Business, ’80 B.A. Econ) live in Chehalis and their daughter, Katie, is a student in animal science. Richard is a packaging broker for dairy products. His favorite memory is having ‘way too much fun.’

Bob Hulbert (’51 B.S. AgEcon) and Toni attended the SES BBQ in September. He retired a few years ago from farming. Bob’s favorite memory of his WSU days was when Professor Smith asked everyone who lived on a farm to bring a container of soil from their farm. The professor lectured on the soil from Bob’s farm and said it was the best and could grow anything.

Mariam Lankoande (’05 Ph.D. Econ) received an honorable mention for the national AAEA Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award. Her dissertation chair was **Dr. Jon Yoder**.

Lindsay Loyd (’00 B.A. Econ) worked for Capital One after graduating from WSU and is now in her final year of an MBA program at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

Molly MacMillan (’04 B.S. AgBus) is a Peace Corps Volunteer in South West Bay on the island of Malekula, the second largest island in Vanuatu, a small country in the South Pacific. She teaches farmers sustainable farming techniques, and works with developing tourism in SWB and with the primary and secondary schools with water and sanitation.

Carole (’83 M.A. AgEcon) and **Monte** (’80 B.A., ’84 M.A. AgEcon) **Marti** are busy with two teenagers and their many activities. Carole has been with Verizon for 25 years and Monte for 22 years. Monte is a member of SES’s Friends Committee.

Matt Moore (’05 M.A. AgBus) is a buyer of fat cattle for Cargill Meat Solutions. He writes “most people know our beef brand as EXCEL, genuinely better beef. My region is known as the Dumas area; it includes most of the region north and east of Amarillo, a big and very competitive area of the Texas Panhandle. It is a very competitive market/area because I have Swift, National, and Tyson buying large numbers out of this area also. Things are going good for me, I am building new relationships and continue to learn and grow as a buyer.”

Tyler Morgan (’01 B.S. AgEcon) is a risk management/buyer for Kraft Foods in Northfield, Illinois.

Cory Pickelsimer (’02 M.A. Ag Econ) will become the new agricultural attaché for the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. He is currently undergoing intensive language training to prepare him for his upcoming appointment.

C. James Quann (’60 M.A. AgEcon) recently published a summary of his research on WSC/WSU military veterans. *WSU Military Veterans: Heroes and Legends* recounts the heroism and gallantry of 120+ veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The book also provides data on 387 Cougars killed or missing in action in those wars.

Dana (Erickson) Repp (’00 B.S. AgEcon) and Aaron farm family ground in Dusty, Washington. They have one son and are expecting another in November. Dana works part time as a credit analyst for commercial lending.

Mark Rogstad (’78 B.A. Econ) is with Yakima Valley Community College and received his master’s degree in organizational development in 2001.

Eric Schuck (’99 Ph.D. AgEcon) is now an associate professor in the economics department at Linfield College. While at Colorado State University, he won the Shepardson Faculty Teaching Award and was named the Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Faculty in Teaching. Eric spent two months in South Africa on a Fulbright at the University of the Western Cape developing a master’s curriculum in Water Resource Management.

Richard Shane (’78 Ph.D. AgEcon) writes that he is still working, still department head at South Dakota State, still married, and still has six grandchildren.

Shahla Shapouri (’78 Ph.D. AgEcon) received the Women’s History Recognition Award for Community Leadership and Public Service from the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. Shahla is with the Economic Research Service, USDA, in Washington, D.C., and is currently working with the UN-FAO in Rome.

Prasanna Sreedharan (’05 Ph.D. Econ) is a senior analyst, research and modeling, with Taylor Nelson Sofres in Vienna, Virginia.

Chad Steiner (’00 B.S. AgEcon) and wife Jeana (’06 Pharmacy) recently moved from Moses Lake to Oak Ridge, South Carolina, with Syngenta Crop Protection. They recently celebrated a successful ascent of Mt. Rainier.

Kevin Sund (’03 M.A. Agbus) is with Bybee Foods in Pasco, Washington. **Todd Tippett** (’94 B.S. AgEcon) and wife Rosalyn live in the Dallas area and are parents of two daughters. Todd is with Zelle, Hofmann, Voelbel, Mason & Gette, LLP.

Aaron Ward (’05 M.A. Econ) is an economics instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

John Whillis (’70 B.A. Econ) lives in Castletown, Isle of Man, Great Britain. While visiting his home town of Kelowna, British Columbia, this past summer, he played in a two-day golf tournament. He aced the par-3, 195-yard, #9 hole, winning \$5,000—all of which he promptly gave back to the junior golf program. John proved that WSU golfers are probably the nicest golfers you would ever want to meet.

Tessa (Schwartz) Wicks (’96 B.A., ’98 M.A. AgBus) works for Edwall Chemical Corp. in Davenport and also does contract work with WSU’s Western Center for Risk Management Education in Spokane.

Khaliela Wright (’04 M.A. AgEcon) currently works as an adjunct instructor teaching micro/macro economics for Walla Walla and Spokane Falls community colleges, and Lewis Clark State College.

Steve Yorke (’00 B.S. AgEcon) is a grain merchandiser with United Harvest LLC in Vancouver, Washington. He is married and has two daughters.

SES GRADUATES

(December 2005, May 2006, and August 2006)

Doctorates

Alok Anand, Aspects of Food Consumption in India: A Limited Dependent Variable Approach. Major Professor: Mittelhammer.

Sanjoy Bhattacharjee, Consumer Attitude and Willingness to Pay for Genetically Modified Food: A Case Study on Indian Consumer and Other Issues. Major Professor: Wandschneider.

Raphael Karuaihe, Economics of Production and Risk Management. Major Professors: Wang/Young.

Camille Nelson, Market Structure and the Provision of Corruption: A Theoretical and Empirical Investigation. Major Professor: Nziramasanga.

Masters of Arts

Andrew Earle, Major Professor: Wandschneider

Steve Flaming, Wholesale Cherry Price Formation. Major Professors: Marsh/Wahl

Ashley James, Market Potential for Washington Fresh Asparagus Exports to Europe. Major Professor: Folwell

Bryan Lanspery, Major Professor: Yoder

Lillie McComb, Major Professor: McCluskey

Grant Monson, Modeling Transportation Cost and Flow Impacts as a Result of Port Security Measures and Catastrophic Impacts. Major Professor: Casavant

Mehmet Mus, Traceability System Approaches and Cost Analysis for the Beef Industry. Major Professor: Wahl

Elizabeth Nail, An Economic Analysis of Conservation Tillage in Eastern Washington. Major Professor: Young

Monica Roth, Policymaking Versus Rulemaking Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act: Insight from North Pacific Crab Rationalization. Major Professor: Matulich

Aaron Ward, The Effect of Institutions on Economic Development: An Analysis of Institutional Effects on the Transition Economies of Eastern Europe. Major Professor: Lowinger

Eric Ward, Effects of Mechanized Harvesting on Revenues from Fresh Pack Asparagus. Major Professor: Folwell

Andrey Zaikin, Economics of Soil and Water Conservation in Irrigated and Dryland Agriculture. Major Professors: Wandschneider/Young

Alumni and Friends Weekend was held October 7, 2006, and attendance was exceptional. Alumni and emeriti interacted with current students and school faculty members just before kickoff of the WSU/USC football game.

Entertaining auctions and raffles generated \$4,636 for the SES Excellence/Development Fund. Next year’s event will be on October 6, 2007, when the Cougars take on Arizona State. Check our Web site for reservation information.

SES UNDERGRADUATES

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and Management
Guled Ali, Keva Herron, Kyle Madison, Musse Mohamed, Doug Schneider, Emily Silver

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics
Sara Craver, Erin Fuhrer, Denise Rumsey, Jesse Taylor

Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness
Aaron Dehaan, Lindsey Huber, Morgan Irwin, Erien Preus, Charles Remington, Amber Shaffer, Sean Treasure, Kristiann Vlieger

Bachelor Arts in Economics
Tyson Adams, Sean Balch, Theresa Beckett, Dane Carlson, Justin Challain, Chun Chau, Kevin Doleshel, Misty Hutchison, Jason King, Emi Konishe, Cagri Korlu, King-Kai Lee, Ko Liao, Barrett Livingston, Sarah Medrano, Brian Sancewich, Allan Schaner, Kayla Stoker, Young Syn, Michael Ward, Jeremia Webster, Zhengmao Yan, Tim Zuroff

Emeriti

Duane Leigh and wife **Joan** moved into their new home in Newberg, Oregon, in February and are now feeling well settled. Duane is enjoying a more flexible schedule and closer proximity to family. “We have three grandchildren in nearby Tigard and three more grandchildren on Vashon Island in Seattle. Keeping up with their activities keeps us busy. We just returned from a long-awaited trip to northern Italy and Rome. We very much enjoyed seeing the wonderful art work and beautiful country.” Duane is also nearing completion of a monograph dealing with the responsiveness of community colleges to the needs of immigrants and local employers.

Dr. Albert Harrington, AgEcon Emeritus

Excerpt from “Memories from WSU during 1946–1952, Learning on the Run”

I arrived at WSU two weeks late in the fall of 1946 and immediately stepped into AgEcon 90, Marketing of Farm Products, with 30 male students, and AgEcon 190, Advanced Marketing, with 8 male students. Many were GIs who knew what they wanted from their studies, not just the grades. The whole department became involved in a study of “Estimated Fuel Requirements for Potential Processing of Agricultural Products of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project,” during the time of competition of corporations for the distribution of natural gas from Canada. The radio stations around the state wanted a study of the relative importance of the various farm products in each of their listening areas. WSC Institute of Technology and Home Economics wanted a market test of Unifine Flour, and Agronomy wanted an Economic Feasibility of Safflower Production. Consumer groups were very interested in marketing margins; during the war many foods were rationed and under price control. It was a real challenge to explain marketing margins to an audience in which farms, consumers, and marketers were listening. Swift & Company courted me and others, and a Safeway representative visited me regularly.

USDA sponsored a regional workshop for researchers on writing research results to meet *Readers’ Digest* standards. I attended and then presented the highlights to the College faculty. The hardest task, though, was digesting a few large graphs of data into an Extension Circular, “The Farmers’ Customers.” I still have the bar and line graphs of data that had to be distilled into a four-page leaflet.

Is helping to assure high-quality agricultural and economics programs at WSU in your estate plan?