Join us for the annual Alumni & Friends Weekend on October 9. See www.ses.wsu.edu and click on Announcements.

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Contact us: Sharon Baum (baum@wsu.edu) | phone 509-335-5555 | fax 509-335-1173 | PO Box 646210
Washington State University | School of Economic Sciences| Pullman, WA 99164-6210 | www.ses.wsu.edu
The faculties of the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics and the Department of Economics are pleased to announce that the Faculty Senate, Provost, President, and Regents have all approved formation of the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University.

The two departments already offer a coordinated Ph.D. (together with faculty in Finance). The School of Economic Sciences was the logical next step, with the goal of creating an outstanding academic environment dedicated to research, undergraduate and graduate teaching, service, outreach and extension. Theoretical and methodological contributions will continue to be made and highly valued, although the strategic thrust of the School will be to achieve excellence focused on four areas:

- Economics of Agribusiness Systems and Biotechnology.
- Environmental and Resource Economics
- International Trade, Markets and Development
- Transportation Policy

The new school brings together the faculties of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics from the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences and the Department of Economics from the College of Business and Economics into a single administrative unit. The separate departments will cease to exist after a brief transition period. The faculty involved will keep their current tenure homes and budget lines within their respective colleges, so for now this new school cuts across two colleges.

**Research Impacts**

Scott Matulich’s Research Impacts Federal Fisheries Policy. When President Bush signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act in January, he enacted into law a unique federal fisheries policy that is anchored in the research of Scott Matulich, Professor of Economic Sciences. This policy will rationalize the most dangerous fisheries in the world—the North Pacific crab fisheries. It is expected to generate approximately $1 billion of new economic wealth for the states of Washington and Alaska, and help conserve the resource. But, most importantly, it will save lives.

The crab rationalization plan is the latest development in fishery rationalization, following the American Fisheries Act of 1998 (AFA). That Act was also anchored in Scott’s research and policy outreach. AFA continues to have enormous economic and conservation impacts on the biggest fishery in the world, primarily benefiting Washington. While AFA was a variant of Scott’s research, the crab rationalization plan is built directly on his research and policy design. Passage followed a long and arduous policy debate that began four years ago. Scott participated in this debate both as a WSU Professor and as a policy adviser to the state of Alaska through an ongoing cooperative agreement between WSU and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. What made this plan so controversial is the amount of money at stake and the challenges of designing a policy that is “win-win-win” for harvesters, processors and fishery-dependent rural coastal communities. Any of these three mutually dependent groups could be ruined by careless public policy.

**NEW SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

The first Director of the newly formed School of Economic Sciences is Ron Mittelhammer. Ron received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Rutgers and his Ph.D. from WSU in agricultural economics in 1978. Ron is a WSU Regents’ Professor and received the WSU Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching in 2002 and the AAEA Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award in 2001. He is an internationally renowned scholar in the field of econometrics and agricultural marketing.

**FACULTY HONORS**

Ken Casavant, Richard Shumway, and Norm Whittlesey were selected as Distinguished Scholars for Lifetime Achievement by the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

Ken Casavant was selected to present the 2004 WSU Distinguished Faculty Address. Ken also received the WSU Sahlin Faculty Excellence in Public Service Award.

Fabio Chaddad received the RM Wade Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Ron Mittelhammer was promoted to the new rank of WSU Regents’ Professor.

Jill McCluskey received tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

James Nielson (emeritus) received the International Food & Agribusiness Management Association Fellows Award.

Ray Folwell was appointed Director of the new Viticulture/Enology program.
Brock Howell, 2004 graduating senior, was one of the recipients of the WSU President’s Award. Brock was also chosen as one of the WSU Big Ten Seniors, winning the campus involvement category award for male seniors.

Amanda McKinley (a double major in agricultural economics & management and crop science) was one of the Commencement Highlight Students to be recognized at the December graduation.

Agribusiness/Agricultural Economics Club officers elected for 2004 are: Stephanie Roorda, president; Aaron Reimer, vice-president; Andy Cavalletto, secretary; Erin McCary, treasurer; Erin Fuhrer, public relations; Kristy Frazer, AHESC representative; and Keva Herron, faculty representative.

Jake Burkey, Ph.D. student, was selected as a Thomas S. Foley Institute Graduate Fellow for 2003-04 and received the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Graduate Fellowship.

Wen Du was selected to participate in the 2004 Summer Doctoral Fellows Program sponsored by the Graduate College.

Taufhid Rahman, Ph.D. candidate, will join the faculty at the University of Arizona this fall.

Armenak Markosyan received an M.A. to Ph.D. Transition Award from the WSU Graduate School.

Quan Li, Mariam Lankoande and Taufhid Rahman, Ph.D. candidates, were awarded travel grants from the WSU Graduate School and the American Agricultural Economics Association Foundation.

Tiziano Cembali, Ph.D. candidate, and Stephanie Swannack, M.A. candidate, were selected as outstanding graduate students in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics for 2003-04.

Cory Walters, president; Marco Costanigro, vice-president; and Angelica Monet, treasurer.

Where They Went

Twelve agribusiness students and 9 agricultural economics students graduated this past year. Of these, 3 went to farming enterprises, 5 continued on to graduate school, 1 went to work for the government, and 12 found employment in the private sector.

STUDY ABROAD

The School of Economic Sciences will offer a study abroad program, open to all majors, in Florence, Italy during Spring Semester 2005. Students will study global environmental and resource issues with WSU faculty. They will take 4 WSU-accredited classes (13 credits) and can earn 9 credits towards an international business minor. More information is available on our web site.

NEW SES FACULTY

Two new faculty members joined the School this summer. Both will teach and conduct research in marketing and agribusiness economics.

Dr. Thomas Marsh received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from WSU in 1998. He received a B.S. degree in mathematics and M.S. degrees in mathematics and economics from Montana State University. He has been an Associate Professor at Kansas State University, emphasizing marketing, agribusiness, and natural resource economics, and applied econometrics. He has taught and advised undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Trenton Smith received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2002. He received B.S. degrees in biology and economics and an M.S. in environmental engineering from Stanford University. He recently was Global Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor at the UCLA International Institute. His research focuses on the economics of obesity and addiction, a regional and national high-priority research area. He has taught three classes, including one on the economics of advertising.

Is helping to assure high-quality agricultural and resource economics programs at WSU in your estate plan?
If you would like to contribute to the Agricultural and Resource Economics Distinguished Professor endowment or to critical scholarship funds to enable well-prepared students to obtain a high-quality education, please use the enclosed envelope or go to the department’s website (www.ses.wsu.edu) and click on “I want to give.”

Continuing a History of Excellence

Many thanks to all who have contributed during the last year to the department’s development fund and to the endowment campaign to provide distinguished professorships and scholarships in agricultural and resource economics. Your generous donations assure continued excellence of vital programs. If we missed listing you, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight.

Sustaining and Tower Club Members ($0-$499)

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<td>Rose Hannahs</td>
<td>Linda Baker</td>
<td>Funk Enterprises, Inc.</td>
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<td>Nickolas &amp; Diana Hein</td>
<td>Nancy Boettcher</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Karlynn Funk</td>
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<td>Kim Herron</td>
<td>Charun Dayananda</td>
<td>Douglas &amp; Lynette Hammarstrom</td>
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<td>Roy &amp; Irene Jorgensen</td>
<td>C. Duane Depping</td>
<td>F. Michael &amp; Sally Kilpatrick</td>
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<td>William &amp; Linda Lyman</td>
<td>Arthur &amp; Joyce Duarte</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Eileen Shane</td>
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<td>Glen Rollman</td>
<td>Kenneth &amp; Sandra Duft</td>
<td>Henry &amp; Lois Vosral</td>
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<td>Mark Savage &amp; Karen Barale</td>
<td>Fabrizio Felloni</td>
<td>WA State Fruit Commission</td>
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<td>Gayle Willett</td>
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Bryan Society Members ($500-$999)

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<tr>
<td>Robert &amp; Victoria Braden</td>
<td>Kenneth &amp; Dorothy Casavant</td>
<td>Palouse Grain Growers, Inc.</td>
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<td>Michael Wohld</td>
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President’s Associates ($1,000-$4,999)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Don Blayney</td>
<td>Ron &amp; Linda Mittelhammer</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Karen Maughan</td>
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<td>Jess &amp; Carmelia Lyon</td>
<td>C. Richard &amp; Janet Shumway</td>
<td>Robert Working</td>
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<td>Christopher Maguire &amp; Hildagard van-Voorthuizen</td>
<td>Monte &amp; Carole Marti</td>
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Silver Associates ($10,000--$24,999)

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<td>Ruth L. Butcher Family Trust</td>
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Lifetime Benefactors

We would also like to thank those who have given a lifetime cumulative of $100,000 to $999,999 to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics and who generously included the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in their gifting: Grady Auvil, Lilli Auvil, Beulah Wilke, and the Motorola Corporation.

The attached envelope can be used to make your contribution or pledge this year or you can go to the School web page at www.ses.wsu.edu and click on I Want to Give
Hilde van Voorthuizen (Ph.D. 2001)—Traveling the U.S! In 1997, Hilde joined our Ph.D. program after earning a master's degree from New Mexico State University. She graduated in 2001 and accepted a position at Cal Poly State University. She became a highly popular instructor before joining J.P. Morgan Chase at Garden City, NY. At J.P. Morgan, Hilde re-engineered the underwriting segmentation scheme to a new regime that had greater power to discriminate between good and bad loans for the auto market. She also strengthened her statistical and econometric skills by developing several origination models that had a tremendous impact on the business.

Hilde now works for American Express at the New York headquarters where she combines strategic thinking with statistical analysis techniques to maximize collections yield. She and her husband Chris enjoy the energy of the Big Apple, the exquisite food of New York restaurants, and the cultural diversity of the city.

Hilde's message: keep improving your leadership and technical skills to succeed in a changing, challenging, and exciting world!

Don Blayney (Ph.D. 1988), The Palouse Years Don arrived on the Palouse in the spring of 1978. After receiving an M.A. degree in economics at New Mexico State University, he took a position in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Idaho as a Research Associate. During those early years, there was interaction with WSU faculty and staff in several venues—including the famous steakfeeds (ala Wally Rehberg) and seminars at the Down Under.

After the research project was completed at Idaho, Don entered the Ph.D. program at WSU on a full-time basis in 1982. The Ph.D. was completed in May 1988 and then it was off to the East Coast (really a return closer to home—Pennsylvania).

In June 1988, Don took a position with the Animal Products Branch of the USDA's Economic Research Service in Washington, DC. Over the years, Don has examined all aspects of the U.S. dairy industry including the impacts of BST adoption, analysis of alternative dairy policies, ongoing studies of the effects of structural changes in the industry, analysis of the generic promotion programs funded by checkoffs, and WTO multilateral dairy trade issues facing the U.S. (as well as other countries).

Don lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Michael Stolp (B.S. Agribusiness, 1996) grew up on his family's farm and ranch near Sprague, Washington where his father and brother operate today, raising wheat, barley and beef cattle.

Following graduation from Washington State University in 1996, Michael obtained his masters' degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University (1998), where his focus included strategic market planning and work with Purdue’s Center for Agricultural Business.

Prior to Farm Credit, Michael’s agribusiness experience included internships with Cargill in Ohio and Indiana as a commodities merchant intern and work as a regional business specialist with Cenex/Land O’Lakes (now AgriLiance), in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Utah. Today, Michael is Assistant Vice President of Research and Development for Northwest Farm Credit Services where he directs market research, marketplace assessments, strategic analysis and special projects in new product and service development.

On a personal note, Michael is single and lives in Spokane. Professional associations include his past chairmanship of the Pacific Northwest Farm Forum, completion of Leadership Spokane (a one year program in community leadership), and current membership on the Spokane Ag Expo Board. Destinations in travel have found Michael enjoying Chicago, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Cabo San Lucas. Closer to home, August includes annual harvest leave to his family’s farm, while fall finds Michael enjoying season tickets to Cougar football.

Kris (Ochsner) Imhof (B.S. 1984, M.A. 1985) writes that "My degree led to a job in the wine industry. When I relocated to the Bay area, it led to my job as executive director of farmers’ markets throughout the Bay area! Thanks!" Kris and husband, Mike, live in Fremont, California.

Oliver Brown (B.S. 1955) is the owner of Hang N On Livestock. He states, “I started as an animal husbandry major. One course, farm management, changed my mind. I believe my career choices were much broader with an ag econ major.” He remembers “good down-to-earth staff: Barney Parrish, Owen Brough, and Al Harrington.”

Ron Johnson (M.A. 1981) is Director of Sales for Syngenta Seeds, Inc. in Boise. He writes, “The educational experience added with an advanced degree has assisted my ability to advance with Syngenta since it is a large global agriculture corporation. The experience in working with Drs. Mittelhammer and Casavant was especially good. WSU experience was good and I was prepared for the challenges of work. Thank you.”

Kami and Robert Mensonides (both B.S. graduates in agricultural economics in 1997) are owners of K-n-R Farms in Nampa, Idaho. Kami writes that her degree was very helpful and that having gone through the program enables her to solve problems and make wise decisions in the agricultural marketplace. Kami and Robert have one daughter, Maaike Lynn.
I was born in Eastern Colorado and raised there on a dirt farm/cattle ranch until 12 years of age. My family was poor but no worse than most during that era. Remember we are starting this story in the early 1930s. We lived 35 miles from the nearest town and ate what we produced (pinto beans, meat, milk, eggs, and a garden), but never went hungry. In 1946 my family moved to Western Colorado where we lived on an irrigated farm/cattle ranch until I left home for personal adventures.

A digression about education is in order at this point. My first seven years were spent in a “large” school in Eastern Colorado. There were 12 grades in three rooms with one teacher in each. I spent the eighth grade in a smaller school in Western Colorado, eight grades in one room. A memorable part of that experience was on the last day of school the teacher told me that I should look for a job because I would never make it through high school. I ignored her words, as I have a lot of other well-intended advice along the way. High school was in a larger school. There were 34 students in grades 9-12, but my class was a large one with 12 students. The first year of high school there were two teachers but the number grew to four (two part time) by the time I graduated. I went to college at Colorado A&M (about 2000 students at the time) in 1951. Without explaining all of the detours, I graduated with a degree in vocational agriculture. Promptly thereafter went into the army where I served with the 101st Airborne Division for 2+ years. Having married during my senior year in college and now with two children, a career in the army didn’t sound good. But I did not want to teach vocational agriculture in a high school. Long story short, I applied for an assistantship in economics at Colorado State University (a friend getting a degree there talked me into it). It paid $166 per month, just barely enough for a family of four but no Friday night beer. We lived there two years while I finished a master’s degree in Economics. Earning a living with that degree didn’t look real promising either so we moved on to Iowa State University where I obtained a Ph.D. in agricultural economics under the guidance of Earl O. Heady.

With this background, my family moved to Pullman in February 1964 with the intention of staying only one year. I was employed by the USDA Economic Research Service at the time. After one year, however, I became an assistant professor in the department and never managed to leave Pullman. Cynthia (my wife of 50 years) and I raised two children in Pullman and will probably die here for lack of a better alternative.

Now a word about experiences in the department. I followed the path of a teaching and research appointment. I taught a number of topics: graduate-level production economics, mathematical programming, resource and environmental economics, and undergraduate farm management. However, it was my research that was of greatest interest and led to the most excitement over time. It began with a focus on farm management and production economics but after a few years began to emphasize water management, water policy, and environmental economics. I worked in this mode with a number of good graduate students for 35 years and enjoyed most of those contacts. It was research in the “benefits and costs of irrigation development” that created the most excitement, however. This work is credited (or blamed) for stopping the second half of the Columbia Basin Project in the mid 1980’s, approximately a $2.5 billion U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project. Being naive about politicians, I thought they would appreciate knowing the truth about the project’s benefit/cost ratio and who would have to pay for it. Instead, I discovered that local politicians did not want the public to know such information and I was subjected to some unpleasant political and administrative pressure for several years. I am still remembered and vilified in some parts of the state for this activity. Maybe good work has a lasting effect?? Without tenure and great support from my colleagues, I would not have survived. Tenure does have its good points. Ultimately our profession did recognize the merits of this work.

Through the years this department and University was good to me despite all of the trouble I caused along the way. It was a great ride and, like most of my other life experiences, it ends in a cloud of dust and a few broken and well-worn parts. Life turned out ok for a simple farm boy without a plan who just took the fork in the road whenever it appeared, never knowing where it would lead. Over beer someday we can discuss the experiences of working cattle, horses, rodeos, coal mining, skiing, parachute jumping, bungee jumping, hunting, fishing, and any number of things that I probably don’t remember very well.
 Walter R. Butcher—
WHERE I AM IN 2004 AND HOW I GOT HERE—
I decided to start my micro-autobiography at the present, to avoid the possibility of boring all with childhood details in Southern California and youth in southern Idaho. So, first the here and now.

I am still spending quite a bit of time at the office—working for the most part on international activities. For six years I have been involved in partnership activities with the recently renamed Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration in Uzbekistan. I was introduced to TIIM by a friend of a friend. Dale Henry was in Uzbekistan with a U.S. Private Voluntary Organization, working with great zeal and some notable success at “building people to build their nation.” Dale got me over to Uzbekistan through Winrock International’s Farmer to Farmer program. One thing led to another and now, six years and six trips to Uzbekistan later, we are in the middle of our second university development partnership project.

The goal of the WSU/TIIM partnership is to build capability at TIIM for teaching and research in areas that were sorely lacking in the Soviet system—agricultural and resource economics, applied social sciences, environmental science, and policy analysis. Social scientists, headed by Ed Weber, an environmental policy specialist in Political Science, have the major part in this project. The main activities are workshops and training presented in Uzbekistan by professors from here and short visits to WSU by professors and graduate students from TIIM.

Two things keep me going in Uzbekistan. One is the opportunity to associate and work with a few dedicated individuals who exemplify the virtues of a noble vision of what their university can become and a willingness to sacrifice their own interests for the good of the institution and their colleagues and students. Dr. Abdulkhakim Salokhiddinov, our principal partner in these projects, combines vision and sacrifice with a high level of integrity, a virtue that is somewhat lacking in many former Soviet institutions. It is an inspiration and delight to be associated with him. Several colleagues and friends (Phil Wandschneider, Joel Hamilton, Larry Makus, LeRoy Rogers, Roger Martin) have joined with a good heart to help, even though they receive very little money and probably little professional benefit.

The second attractant to me is the opportunity to do as the Good Book teaches—if someone is in need, those of you with the means to help should do so. Uzbekistan and TIIM certainly need help in teaching and research on economics and policy analysis. I have an accumulated stock of intellectual and human capital acquired during undergraduate study at the University of Idaho, graduate study at Iowa State University, and 40 years of working at ERS and WSU. That asset is now fully amortized and, I hope, not completely depleted. TIIA/CREF and Social Security send me checks regardless of what I do. So, our Uzbekistan project gives me the chance to wring a little more productivity out of my capital and invest it in someone else. What a deal!

Elinor and I are still right here in Three Forks City, living in our home of 40+ years. We really like Pullman. The scenery, climate, and cultural opportunities are attractive to us, even if not so beautiful and famous as San Francisco, where Elinor was born and spent the first year of her life and where we got engaged to be married. That momentous event happened to occur in San Francisco because she had flown down to visit me as I was being mustered out of the Army. But wait, I digress.

Pullman is home to our kids, our oldest was 1 when we moved here. Lori, Susan, and Dave all graduated from Pullman High and WSU. The things that keep us in Pullman are friends and neighbors, church, and community. There is something very appealing to us about having lots of good friends to meet for dinner or lunch, help or call on for help, visit with at a concert or ballgame, or encounter at the store. Almost weekly we run into a former teacher or classmate of one of our three kids, all graduates of Pullman High and WSU. Shopping in Pullman is a social event for us. We invariably encounter some friend or acquaintance and catch up on family and activities. What a delight. We don’t see Mark or Chet or Guy anymore, since the Dissmore family sold the store; however, there are still plenty of other places, such as Bank of America, where friends have become managers or managers have become friends.

The Evangelical Free Church has been a great part of our life in Pullman. We helped start it in our home, 35 years ago. Teaching and spiritual guidance received there and very close friendships have had a great effect upon our lives and the lives of our children. We want to keep enjoying that.

So, we are likely to continue for at least a while in the same places, doing the same things, and enjoying the company of the same friends.
Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

Alumni Directory

2004
Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
Alumni Directory 2004

Degree Codes: AgEc = Agricultural Economics; Agribus = Agribusiness
Career Codes:
A) Academia, AC) Accounting, AS) Ag Input Sales Services, AP) Ag Production, BL) Banking/Financial Services, EC)
Import/Export, LA) Law, MS), Marketing and Marketing Services, NP) Non-Profit, RE) Real Estate/Insurance, R) Research, SA) Sales, TL) Transportation and Logistics, O) Other
Industry Codes:

Adamson, Clinton J.
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Commodity: Ip o

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Commodity: tf

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Wilbur Ellis Co.
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Degrees: MA 1987 AgEc, Economist
U.S. Treasury
Industry: G
Commodity: o

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