

# SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | DECEMBER 2008

## Holiday Greetings



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

We continue to receive a substantial number of communications from our alumni and friends that keep us informed of new developments in their careers and lives. We very much appreciate receiving this information and take great interest and pleasure in reading about you. Please keep writing and try to remember to include your e-mail address or home address when you do. We were very happy to talk with many of you personally at the School of Economic Sciences 4th Annual Alumni and Friends BBQ during homecoming weekend, held in the newly remodeled Ensminger Pavilion (right across from the Lewis Alumni Center). We had a new caterer provide a fantastic charbroiled steak meal. In addition to the great conversation and camaraderie, we had a lively and fun auction run by alumnus Monte Marti that broke the previous record (set last year) for auction fundraising for school programs, and by a very substantial margin. Next year's BBQ will again be held during WSU's homecoming weekend in Ensminger Pavilion, and we are continuing to work on making this one of many reasons for you to come back and visit us in Pullman.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the many of you who have contributed financially to the School of Economic Sciences this past year. Your contributions are very important to us and support the school and its students in many ways. Undergraduate and graduate scholarships help students pay tuition and 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, partly by allowing us to bring many high-quality seminar speakers to Pullman, including two Nobel laureates in the last few years. Donations support high-quality teaching and scholarship, allow the school to purchase much-needed computer software and equipment, and help support faculty and graduate student travel for professional development and research, among other important activities. We thank you in advance for any future contributions you consider making. We have enclosed a self-addressed envelope with possible funding areas listed if you are interested.

We hope you enjoy reading about the progress and accomplishments of alumni, faculty, students, and staff in this issue of *SESnews*. I hope you enjoy the new, modernized, and expanded format for this issue!

All of us in the School of Economic Sciences wish you a peaceful, joyous, and prosperous New Year. Go Cougs!



—Ron Mittelhammer, Regent Professor and Director

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*World Class. Face to Face.*

# The Cougar Impact

More than ever, the quality of a strong economics education can be seen through its profound impact on society and the world around us. The WSU School of Economic Sciences is leading the way. Just a few of the Cougars making an impact on the global stage are **Asif Chaudhry** ('88 Ph.D. Ag Econ), who was recently appointed as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, and **Michael Baumgartner** ('99 B.A. Econ), who showed great leadership as a civilian volunteer and deputy director of economics for the U.S. State Department in Iraq.

## *The Foundation of Impact*

It all begins within the halls of WSU. In preparation for spheres of influence to be felt around the world, analytical and problem-solving skills are honed with an economics education. This education provides the foundation for many and varied disciplines, all of which benefit from a general economic knowledge and methodical way of thinking.

It is with this thought in mind that the School of Economic Sciences continues to provide an excellent economic education. As economics departments across the country consider their futures, WSU has already begun to see the fruits of success from its purposeful strategy of combining a general economic education with historical strengths in areas such as agricultural and natural resources, transportation, environmental, and international trade and development economics, among others. New faculty hires, including **Andrew Cassey**, **Karina Gallardo**, and **Mykel Taylor**, continue to be attracted to the collaboration that SES offers with WSU Extension.

What does this mean for us? It means that now, more than ever, we are dependent on the alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and stakeholders of the School of Economic Sciences to help us maintain our continued success. Help us be the vanguard of a solid economic education.

## *How Can You Make an Impact?*

We invite you to be a part of this exciting time in the School of Economic Sciences. Consider attending one of our upcoming events. Reach out to fellow alumni from your class year and plan to return to Pullman for homecoming. Think about the benefits that your economic education has given you, and consider leaving a lasting legacy of your own. Most importantly, stay connected with WSU and let us and others know the impact that education has made in your life.

The School of Economic Sciences relies on you—alumni, friends, and stakeholders—to be our lifeblood to the community. Please continue to keep us informed about your careers and lives, and join us in our efforts to raise the visibility of SES in your community, region, and nation. Re-engage with alumni, friends, faculty, and students by participating in an upcoming outreach event in your area, the Economic Issues and Outlook Conference, or the annual Alumni and Friends BBQ during homecoming weekend. The SES Friends Development Committee and WSU faculty and staff look forward to visiting with you and listening to your comments and ideas.

### ***Rise to the Challenge***

The family of **Richard** and **Janet Shumway** has generously established a graduate fellowship for endowment through a matching challenge. They have committed to match dollar for dollar all donations to the new fellowship up to \$25,000. Rise to the challenge with a gift that fosters the education of a graduate student in perpetuity. How much can you contribute toward the future?

### ***Distinguished Professorship Success***

The SES Friends Development Committee's first major fundraising effort has been a great success. We are grateful for the nearly 100 alumni, friends, faculty, and emeriti who donated to the Distinguished Professorship in Agricultural and Resource Economics. Although we have achieved endowment level with current pledges, you can still give to enhance this endowment. Your donation will continue giving in the future through an endowment that assures a quality education for generations to come and for economic research issues that affect us all, including agriculture, food systems, and related environmental issues.

### ***Looking Ahead***

Join us at a reception for alumni and friends at the Red Lion in Pasco on March 4, 2009, during the next Economic Issues and Outlook Conference. The theme this year is political change and the implications for Washington. More information about the event will follow in the weeks ahead. Also, mark your calendars for the Alumni and Friends BBQ during homecoming weekend, October 10, 2009. For ways to get involved with alumni and friends outreach and fundraising activities, please contact faculty liaison **Vicki McCracken** (509-335-4728), friends chair **Monte Marti** (425-334-8164) or assistant director of development **Jennifer Olegario** (206-219-2409 or olegario@wsu.edu). We'd love to hear from you!

### ***Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAEA) Reunion Reception***

WSU annually hosts a reunion reception at the AAEA meetings, held this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 25–27, 2009. SES director and AAEA president-elect **Ron Mittelhammer** will receive the gavel to become AAEA president in Milwaukee, and he will preside over the 100th anniversary meeting of the AAEA in Denver the following year. Details of the reception in Milwaukee will be announced soon at [www.aaea.org](http://www.aaea.org).

### ***Retirement Symposium for Doug Young at the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) Meetings***

After 33 years at WSU, **Doug Young** is retiring in 2009. Former students of Doug's graduate production economics courses are hosting a retirement symposium for Doug on June 24, 2009, at the WAEA Meetings in Kauai, Hawaii. The theme of the symposium is economics in service of humanity. Six of Doug's former production economics students will be presenting papers and others will be serving on discussion panels. The symposium begins at 9:00 am and concludes with a recognition ceremony for Doug at 3:00 pm. Further details will appear on the WAEA site at [waeonline.org](http://waeonline.org).

# School Highlights

## **New Faculty**

We are pleased to introduce 10 new tenure-track/tenured faculty members who joined SES over the past two years.

*Front: Felix Munoz, Andrew Cassey, Seung Mo Choi, and Bidisha Mandal  
Back: Jeff LaFrance, Karina Gallardo, and Mykel Taylor  
Not pictured: Mark Gibson, Jennifer Steele, and Jia Yan*



**Andrew Cassey** joined SES in August 2008 as an assistant professor/extension economist in regional economic development. He received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota. Andrew's research interests are international trade, growth and development, industrial organization, and regional economics.

**Seung Mo Choi**, assistant professor, joined SES in August 2008. He received his doctorate from the University of Chicago. His interests are in macroeconomics, growth and development, and international trade.

**Karina Gallardo** joined SES in August 2008 as an assistant scientist/extension specialist stationed at the Wenatchee Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center. She received her doctorate from Oklahoma State University. Her areas of interest include agribusiness marketing, consumer demand, and value-added food products.

**Mark Gibson** joined SES in August 2007 as an assistant professor. He received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota and conducts research in the fields of international trade and development.

**Jeffrey LaFrance** became a full professor in SES in January 2008. He was previously a full professor at the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests include agricultural policy, consumption and demand, econometrics, and natural resource economics.

**Bidisha Mandal** joined SES in August 2007 as an assistant professor/extension economist in health economics. She received her doctorate from Ohio State University and has research interests in applied econometrics, statistics, and health economics.

**Felix Munoz** joined SES as an assistant professor in August 2008. He received his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. Felix has research interests in game theory, behavioral economics, industrial organization, and public economics.

**Jennifer Steele** joined SES in August 2007 as assistant professor. She earned her doctorate from the University of Texas, Austin. Her primary research interests are applied microeconomics and economic development.

**Mykel Taylor** joined SES in August 2008 as assistant professor/extension economist. She received her doctorate from North Carolina State University. Her interests are in agricultural marketing, consumer demand, food safety, and microeconometrics.

**Jia Yan** joined SES in August 2007 as assistant professor. He received his doctorate from the University of California, Irvine. Before joining SES as an assistant professor, he was assistant professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His research interests are in transportation economics, applied microeconomics, and applied econometrics. Jia's wife, Yan He, gave birth to twin boys, Matthew and Nathan, in August.

SES News is published annually by the WSU School of Economic Sciences, PO Box 646210, Pullman, WA 99164-6210.

Vol. 5, Issue 1

12/08 125125

## New Staff

**Ana Espinola-Arredondo**, postdoctoral research associate, received her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in 2008. She is currently working with **Jon Yoder** on the economics of biofuels and teaching environmental economics.

**Karla Makus**, academic coordinator, comes with many years of advising experience, one at WSU and several at the University of Idaho. She is married to UI agricultural economics professor Larry Makus.

**Melissia Meyer Reisenauer**, office assistant, comes to SES from the University of Idaho. She is fanatic about Cougar basketball.

**Justin Taylor**, research associate, holds a master's degree from Kansas State University. He previously worked as an associate agricultural economist in food and agricultural policy at RTI International.

## Department Honors and Awards

**Hayley Chouinard** was promoted to associate professor and granted tenure.

**Jeffrey LaFrance** won the 2008 AAEA Quality of Research Discovery Award. His winning article is entitled "Imperfect Price Deflation in Production Systems." This award recognizes the exceptional quality of an article and its contribution to the literature. It is one of the AAEA's most prestigious awards. In 2007, Jeff was named a fellow of the AAEA.

**Ron Mittelhammer**, **SES Director and Regents Professor**, has been elected president of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) (note the new name but the same acronym). The AAEA is committed to furthering knowledge about the economics of agriculture, rural communities, and natural resources. Mittelhammer served on the executive board of AAEA from 2003 to 2006. He was awarded the AAEA Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award in 2001 and the AAEA Award for Professional Excellence for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in 1978. "I am truly thrilled that I will be presiding as president of this venerable association during its 100th year centennial celebration," Mittelhammer said.

**Richard Shumway** received the WAEA Outstanding Public Research Award. His winning article is entitled "Distinguishing the Source of Market Power" (with coauthors Kellie Raper and Alan Love).

**Maggie Kettwig**, academic coordinator, received the CAHNRS Advisor Excellence Award. Maggie retired September 1, 2008, after 21 years of service to WSU.

Distinguished Professor **Jill Findeis** ('82 WSU Ph.D. Ag Econ) of Penn State received the CAHNRS Professional and Academic Leadership Award for 2008. This award honors those who have distinguished themselves in academic, career, leadership, or professional service.

## Leigh Lecture

The **Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Distinguished Lecture in Economics** is a university-wide lecture series made possible by a generous gift from the family of **Duane Leigh**, professor emeritus and former chair of the economics department at Washington State University. The Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Distinguished Lecture Endowment was established in 2001 by Duane's father, the late **Roy E. Leigh**, to honor his wife. The next Leigh Lecture will be presented on April 10, 2009, by **Jerry A. Hausman**, the John and Jennie S. MacDonald Professor of Economics at MIT. Hausman is the director of the MIT Telecommunications Economics Research Program and has conducted research on the effects of taxation on the economy, the economics of aging, and in energy and environmental economics. Previous Leigh Lecture speakers include **Tim Kehoe**, **James Heckman**, **Dan McFadden**, **Kerry Smith**, **Alan Auerbach**, **Kathryn Shaw**, **Ed Lazear**, and **Hal Varian**.

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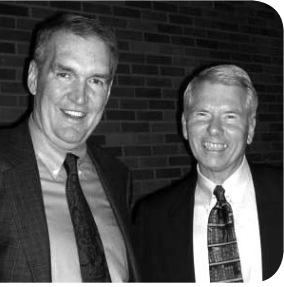
*Hayley Chouinard*



*Maggie Kettwig*



*Dean Dan Bernardo (left), Jill Findeis, and Ron Mittelhammer*



2008 Leigh Lecture Speaker Tim Kehoe (left) with SES Professor Emeritus Duane Leigh.

### **Featured Seminar Speakers**

**Frank Asche**, Norwegian Fisheries Economist, University of Stavanger, Norway

**George Davis**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

**John Gilbert**, Utah State University

**Timothy Kehoe**, Distinguished McKnight Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota. 2008 Leigh Lecture in Economics

**Andrew Leach**, University of Alberta, School of Business

**Andrew Nutting**, University of Idaho

**Brian Roe**, Ohio State University

**Wolfram Schlenker**, Columbia University

**Rachel Soloveichik**, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

**Max Stinchcombe**, University of Texas, Austin

**Stephen Turnovsky**, University of Washington

**Jason Winfree** ('03 Ph.D. Econ), assistant professor at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, was our first speaker in SES's new Alumni Seminar Series.

### **SES on the Road**

There has been a flurry of activity over the past year as SES friends took to the road. Last December, in conjunction with the launch of our inaugural Economic Issues and Outlook Conference, WSU alumni and friends descended upon the Tri-Cities area at a private reception in Pasco hosted by the SES Friends Development Committee. In May, the committee cosponsored a similar reception in Spokane, as part of "A Conversation with WSU President Elson S. Floyd," an alumni listening tour and a series of gatherings around the state. Back on campus at the annual SES Alumni and Friends BBQ in September, our auction and raffle garnered the highest amount to date. The \$7,300 raised for the SES Excellence Fund will help recruit outstanding students and faculty, provide travel support, and strengthen alumni engagement. Thank you! We couldn't have done it without the alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students in attendance.

### **SES Economic Issues and Outlook Conference**

On March 5 and 6, 2009, the School of Economic Sciences will host the second annual Economic Issues and Outlook conference at the Red Lion in Pasco, Washington. The continuing upheaval in the financial, energy, and commodity markets and their implications for Washington's economic outlook, bio-energy development, transportation system, consumer health, and commodity outlook will be addressed in the conference program. Nationally recognized experts, industry leaders, state economists, and School of Economic Sciences faculty members will provide two days of presentations and interactive discussions addressing these economic issues at a national and state level. Highlighted speakers include nationally recognized economists **Jayson Lusk**, Oklahoma State University, and **Nick Piggott**, North Carolina State University. J. T. Wilcox, of Wilcox Strategies and formally of Wilcox Farms, will provide a keynote lunch address. The conference's presentations, panel discussions, and social activities provide excellent opportunities for community leaders, agricultural producers, public officials, economists, energy professionals, agribusiness leaders, and others to interact and address issues impacting Washington. For additional information on the conference contact **Shannon Neibergs**, [sneibergs@wsu.edu](mailto:sneibergs@wsu.edu) or 509-335-6360, or visit [www.ses.wsu.edu](http://www.ses.wsu.edu) and click on the conference link.

# Phil Wandschneider's Sabbatical

This year SES Professor **Phil Wandschneider** had the good fortune to spend almost a half year in new lands, and explore new economic topics—without ever leaving the Cougar economics community. During his half-year sabbatical, he visited colleagues in Bologna, Italy; Santiago de Compostella, Spain; and Bonn, Germany. The sabbatical was built around two themes: bioenergy and behavioral economics. The behavioral economics research centered on the theme of stewardship and conservation (who does it and why). The bioenergy economics research objective was to explore the prospects for the emerging biofuels markets, comparing the United States and Europe, and to look at the world situation. During this time, an international debate on the issue of world food prices versus U.S. corn ethanol production emerged, leading to talks on the topic during his visits to the University of Bologna in Italy, the University of Santiago de Compostella in Spain, and the University of Bonn in Germany.

The visit to Bologna benefitted from a long relationship between WSU and the University of Bologna, dating at least from **Ray Folwell's** work on wine, asparagus, and other crops common to both the Northwest United States and Central and Northern Italy. The Bologna connection includes recent WSU graduates **Marco Costanigro** ('07 Ph.D.) and **Tiziano Cembali** ('04 Ph.D.). Among the projects at Bologna have been research on irrigation with **Giulio Malorgio's** group, research on biofuels prospects with **Maurizio Aragrande's** group (a leading EU biofuels and agriculture researcher), and questionnaire construction and research on halal food branding in Italy (an Islamic designation).

While in Spain, Phil was on a commission to examine **Maria Loureiro's** ('00 WSU Ph.D.) first European doctoral student. Cougs will be proud to hear that Maria was one of three Young Scientists of the Year for the region of Galicia, Spain. Phil escorted her to this year's celebration, where he saw the esteem of her Spanish colleagues and indications of her growing international reputation.

In Germany, Phil and his wife Mary were pleased to attend former WSU Assistant Professor **Christine Wieck's** wedding to **Markus Kempen**. Phil visited the University of Bonn where he reunited with alumnus **Thomas Heckelei** ('95 WSU Ph.D.), now professor and director of the Institute for Agricultural Policy, Market Research, and Economic Sociology at the University of Bonn. Phil's fondest memories are of lunches, usually at the local Kurdish kabob spot, where they tried to solve all of the economics and policy questions of the world in 45 minutes.

In sum, Phil had fantastic academic and personal experiences. He wishes to thank his Cougar colleagues all around the world!



*SES Professor Phil Wandschneider in Bonn, Germany, with former WSU Assistant Professor Christine Wieck and her daughter Abby.*



SES faculty members Eric Jessup (left) and Ken Casavant (center) with transportation research group graduate students.

## WSU's Transportation Research Group Chosen by USDA for National Study

### **SES and WSU Collaborators Awarded USDA National Needs Grant**

Increased global population growth, climate change, and the recent trend in agriculture toward converting croplands for biofuel production is leading to increased pressure on agricultural lands and natural resources, both nationally and internationally. A new national needs fellowship has been awarded for talented graduate students to participate in a graduate program that is designed to provide an interdisciplinary and international program in sustainable development and natural resource management, linking engineering and economic sciences.

The program will train a cohort of three graduate students—two doctoral students in biological systems engineering and one doctoral student in economics. It will use an innovative curriculum, containing pertinent coursework in engineering, economics, environmental policy, and professional development. The students will interact and conduct research as a team, integrating engineering, economics, and policy analysis into their graduate theses. All three students will spend a semester at the University of Bologna, Italy, where they will attend classes and conduct research. Talented students nationwide are encouraged to apply for this fellowship, and Hispanic and Native American students are especially encouraged to apply. Upon graduation, the participating students will have attained multiple core competencies: thorough disciplinary training; multidisciplinary research in sustainable sciences, including policy, legal, and social issues; international and global perspectives; and professional leadership skills and visions for sustainability. These competencies will enable them to tackle the current and future challenges in various leadership positions in the agricultural and environmental sector. Interested students can contact **Jill McCluskey**, graduate studies chair, at [mccluskey@wsu.edu](mailto:mccluskey@wsu.edu).

WSU has signed a cooperative agreement with the USDA to help them, along with the U.S. Department of Transportation, to develop a comprehensive study of rural transportation issues. The study will be done with the USDA's Transportation Services Division. "They felt we had the skills and background and would commit to doing it well," said **Ken Casavant**, a WSU transportation economist and leader of the transportation research group in SES. "Our research history shows we are familiar with many of the issues." WSU is the only university chosen to be involved in the project.

The study, which was authorized by congress in the recent 2008 Farm Bill, will examine issues related to the movement of agricultural products, domestically produced renewable fuels, domestically produced resources for the production of electricity for rural areas, and economic development in those areas. "We don't have adequate rail service to handle the growing needs of the rural sector," Casavant said, "and we don't know if the business plans of the railroads will cause them to provide the kinds of capacity agriculture needs. We simply have to have access to international markets and consumers. Rising diesel prices have put a lot of independent truckers in dire straits, and some trucking firms have gone out of business. We can't get trucks when we want them seasonally, and rising fuel costs contribute to higher transportation costs and therefore to higher prices paid by consumers." Barge movement will be studied as well. "We've been fortunate up to now in the Pacific Northwest," Casavant said, "but silt buildup and pressures from environmental concerns have put the Snake and Columbia barge system under pressure. In the Midwest, the locks on the Mississippi are outmoded, so barge operators have to break down tows, making barge movement less efficient."

WSU economists will collect existing data on its assigned tasks and consolidate the information into a comprehensive report that Casavant and his team of WSU researchers will present in final form next spring. "We will integrate the national databases and opinions from commodity groups, researchers, government, and other agencies into one report focusing on rural transportation issues," he said. "We won't make any recommendations in a political sense but will base our findings on economic analysis." Members of the transportation research group working on the project include **Casavant**, assistant research professor **Eric Jessup**, professor **Vicki McCracken**, assistant professor **Jia Yan**, and several graduate students.



# Industry–University Alliance

SES faculty members **Tom Marsh**, **Jill McCluskey**, and **Ron Mittelhammer** entered into a data-sharing agreement with a national retail grocery chain in 2007. “The alliance is a win-win arrangement for both parties,” says McCluskey. SES doctoral students receive the opportunity to flex their econometrics muscles on massive and detailed scanner data sets that would be costly to purchase. At the same time, the national retail chain receives sophisticated analysis that is cost prohibitive to produce. Two doctoral dissertations have already been completed and a third will be completed this year. **Faysal Fahs** ('08 Ph.D.) used the scanner data to analyze how demand for salad vegetables was affected by the 2006 *E. coli* outbreak in spinach. **Joshua Berning** ('08 Ph.D.) studied how consumers respond to nutrition labeling on grocery store shelves. **Huifang Zhang** expects to complete her dissertation this May, including an event analysis of the *E. coli* outbreak. In addition, **Jill McCluskey**, along with **Hayley Chouinard**, leveraged this data-sharing agreement to obtain a new three-year USDA NRI grant that will be used to fund graduate students and other research activities.



*SES faculty members Tom Marsh (second from right) and Jill McCluskey (right) discuss demand for salad vegetables with SES graduate students Huifang Zhang (left) and Brady Horn.*



*New faculty member Felix Munoz and his wife Ana Espinola (center) weren't scared away from WSU by SESRAFT.*



*Richard and Janet Shumway at the fourth anniversary SES picnic.*

## SES Summer Fun

For the fourth year in a row, **Jon Yoder** took the lead in organizing a white-water raft trip, dubbed SESRAFT (SES Retreat and Float Trip), for SES faculty and their families. Ten faculty members and 14 family members braved two days of high, fast water in the lower Salmon River, putting in at Pine Bar and taking out at the infamous Eagle Creek Road, known for flat tires and eating small cars. Lots of intended and unintended swimming occurred. Dean **Dan Bernardo** fell overboard during an early rapid, **Tom Marsh** completed a beautifully performed raft flip just to wake up **Ana Espinola** and **Felix Munoz**, and several people went for swims in Big China Rapid. **Jon Yoder** fell out of his raft, leaving mostly new rafters (and new faculty) fending for themselves. Rumor has it that **Greg** and **Suzette Galinato** tossed out the rescue line for him, but on the wrong side of the raft.

Other SES activities during the summer included the fourth anniversary school picnic, held at **Shannon Neibergs'** farm in Palouse, and the first international wine tasting competition hosted by **Felix Munoz** and **Ana Espinola**.

## *Incoming Graduate Classes*

The school enrolled 24 new doctoral students for fall 2008. Typically, about 40 percent of SES doctoral students are from the United States. The other students came from several countries, including China, Colombia, Ghana, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. The school is enriched from this diversity. At the master's level, 10 new students enrolled.

## *Soros Foundation Fellow*

**Alisher Marmadzhanov** is SES's first scholar in Tajikistan's doctoral fellowship program within the Network Scholarship Programs department of the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation. The fellowship program is designed to provide the highest research and teaching qualifications to individuals positioned to become leading scholars in their disciplines. Created and funded by the philanthropist George Soros, OSI is part of an informal network of more than 30 autonomous nonprofit foundations and other organizations in central and eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Guatemala, Haiti, and South Africa, as well as in the United States. Alisher received his master's degree in sustainable energy engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, and his bachelor's degree from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

## *Fulbright Fellow*

**Daniel Toro** was selected as a participant in a special Fulbright program in Colombia known as the Graduate Program for the Region. Fulbright is the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world, supported for more than half a century by the American people through an annual appropriation from the U.S. Congress and by the people of partner nations. The program—working with universities, schools, bi-national Fulbright commissions, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector—actively seeks out individuals of achievement and potential who represent the full diversity of their respective societies and selects nominees through open, merit-based competitions. From its inception, the Fulbright program has fostered bilateral relationships in which other countries and governments work with the United States to set joint priorities and shape the program to meet shared needs. The world has transformed in ensuing decades, but the fundamental principles of international partnership and mutual understanding remain at the core of the Fulbright mission.

## *Graduate Student Awards and Kudos*

### **Almuhanad Melhim**

Krautkraemer Scholarship, Thomas S. Foley Graduate Fellowship, Graduate and Professional Student Association Award for Teaching Assistant Excellence

### **Lia Nogueira**

Association for Faculty Women Graduate Student Award, IATRC Dissertation Award, WAEA Travel Grant

### **Hayk Khachatryan**

Canadian Transportation Research Forum Best Research Paper Award, second place honors for Outstanding Research Paper in Agricultural and Rural Transportation at the Transportation Research Forum Conference

### **Qiujie Zheng**

AAEA Foundation Travel Grant

### **Evgeniy Perevodchikov**

AAEA Foundation Travel Grant, Thomas S. Foley Graduate Fellowship

### **Sanatan Shrey**

Graduate and Professional Student Association Travel Grant to attend and present a paper at the Food Distribution Research Society meetings in Ohio

## **New SES Graduate Student Association Officers**

The new officers for 2008–09 are **Joel Michalski**, president; **Hayk Khachatryan**, vice president; and **Yunfei Zhao**, treasurer.

## **Graduate Student Placement**

The School of Economic Sciences' strong quantitative training allows for more rigorous research and creates excellent job opportunities for graduates. About 40 percent of SES's doctoral graduates take tenure-track faculty positions, another 40 percent take lucrative positions as econometricians or analysts with prestigious corporations, and 20 percent take analyst or administrative positions in governments, nongovernmental organizations, or think tanks. Graduates in 2008 attained teaching positions at California Polytechnic University, Colorado State, Texas Tech, University of Illinois, University of Kentucky, and West Texas A&M, and professional careers at Econ One and FedEx.

## **Doctoral Graduate Spotlight**

**Lia Nogueira** completed her doctorate in economics and a master's degree in statistics in May 2008 under cochairs Hayley Chouinard and Tom Marsh, and is currently an assistant professor at the University of Illinois-Champaign. While at WSU she received the Association for Faculty Women Graduate Student Award, the Foley Institute Graduate Fellowship, and the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium Dissertation Award. Lia's undergraduate degree was earned at ITESM, Queretaro Campus, Queretaro, Mexico, and she received her master's degree from the University of British Columbia.

**Asif Chaudhry** ('88 Ph.D. Ag. Econ.) was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova (between Ukraine and Rumania). Asif has been the senior U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service representative in Russia, Egypt, and elsewhere.

**Arun Raha** ('91 Ph.D. Econ.) was recently named executive director of the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. In the years prior to this appointment, Dr. Raha was vice president for economic research and consulting at Swiss Re in New York, managed economic analysis at Eaton Corporation, served on the Ohio Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, served as director of the Asia Service of WEFA (now Global Insight Inc.), and was a faculty member in the economics department at Boise State University where he forecast Idaho state general fund revenues for the state legislature. He received the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's top overall forecasting award in 2007, and in 2005 he received the *Wall Street Journal's* forecasting award.

## **Spotlight on Undergraduate Alumnus**

In May 2007, **Michael J. Baumgartner** ('99 B.A. Econ.) left the private sector to become a civilian volunteer with the U.S. State Department in Iraq. For the next 13 months, Michael served as deputy director of economics in the Office of Joint Strategic Planning and Assessment (JSPA) at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. During the course of the troop surge, he helped lead U.S. support of the Baghdad Security Plan (BSP) counterinsurgency and attended more Iraqi cabinet meetings than any U.S. official besides General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker. His activities in support of the BSP, including a key role on an Iraqi-led effort to reduce Jayesh Al Mehdi militia involvement in a key service sector in Baghdad, were twice recognized by the Iraqi prime minister. Other notable activities while in Iraq included coauthoring a paper, "Consequences of U.S. Withdrawal from Iraq," in preparation for the ambassador's September 2007 congressional testimony; serving as lead coordinator and author of the embassy's 2010 Mission Strategic Plan; and regularly lecturing at a course on counterinsurgency leaders for deploying officers at Camp Taji, Iraq.

Previous to working in Iraq, Michael worked in a number of international business activities. These included working in the executive office of



Lia Nogueira



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the crown prince of Dubai, serving as vice president of a consortium attempting to build a new telecom network in Saudi Arabia, and advising the largest U.S. gold mining company in Venezuela on a buy/hold/sell strategy amidst the challenging political environment of that country.

In total, Michael has traveled to or worked in more than 60 countries. Other notable trips include a year as a volunteer assisting the Jesuits of Mozambique, a summer with Transparency International in Kathmandu, Nepal, and participation on a joint U.S./Russian forest service project in Lake Baikal, Siberia. Michael enjoys lecturing and his experiences in academia include working on the faculty of the Catholic University of Mozambique, serving as a teaching fellow in economics at Harvard for Dr. Jeff Sachs, and lecturing at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates and at the Brigade Combat Team Commanders' Development Program at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Michael holds a bachelor's degree in economics with minors in math and French from Washington State University ('99) and a master's of public affairs degree in international development from Harvard University ('02). He also completed one year of study at the ESC Graduate School of Business in Chambéry, France.

### ***Undergraduate Kudos***

**Melissa Bughi**, senior of the year for Agricultural Economics and Management

**Jamie Jovanovich**, senior of the year for Environmental and Resource Economics and Management

**Chris Miller**, SES major, has been offered an internship by the U.S. State Department. He will spend next summer as an intern at the U.S. Embassy in London.

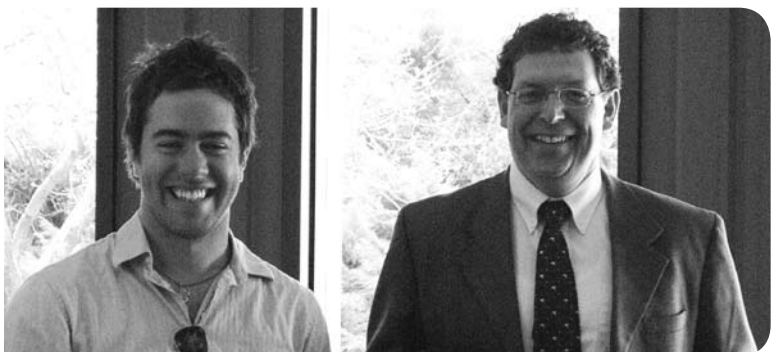
**Tristan Skolrud**, CAHNRS Family and Consumer Scientist of the year, senior of the year for Economics, and WAEA's senior of the year

**Bowen Staples**, senior of the year for Agribusiness

**Grant Williams**, *Wall Street Journal* Student Achievement Award

### ***SES ECONOMICS CLUB***

The Economics Club has been involved in a number of activities, including the presentation of a forum on the current financial/economic meltdown. The forum looked at the role of the subprime mortgage collapse, why the credit markets entered a deep freeze, why the Federal Reserve chairman and the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury became so actively engaged and what they can do to avert the pending crisis, and why global financial markets have been so adversely impacted by the financial market problems in the United States. The forum was comprised of economics students from SES and presented to students in GED classes and the general public. Professor **Fred Inaba** is the long-time advisor for the Economics Club.



*Dr. Michael McCullough (Ph.D. 2008, left) is all smiles on graduation day. Michael started as an assistant professor at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo this fall. His advisor is Tom Marsh (right).*

# SES Graduates

(December 2007, May 2008, August 2008)

## *Doctoral Degrees*

- Michael Barnes.** Risk Perceptions and Lifestyle Choices: Empirical and Theoretical Findings for Smoking and Obesity. Major Professor: Smith
- Joshua Berning.** Shelf Label Nutrition Information: Consumer Preferences and Behavior. Major Professor: McCluskey
- Faysal Fahs.** Essays in the Estimation of Systems of Limited Dependent Variables with Application to Demand Systems. Major Professor: Mittelhammer.
- Yucan Liu.** Risk, Induced Innovation, and Productivity Convergence in U.S. Agriculture. Professor: Shumway
- Michael McCullough.** Phase Space Reconstruction: Methods in Applied Economics and Econometrics. Major Professors: Huffaker/Marsh
- Sean Murphy.** Disease Management and Latent Choices. Major Professor: Rosenman
- Lia Nogueira.** Non-Tariff Barriers and Research Programs: Trade and Welfare Implications. Major Professors: Chouinard/Marsh

## *Master's Degrees*

- Colin Anderson.** Major Professor: Inaba
- Selmin Creamer.** Major Professor: Casavant

## *Bachelor of Arts in Economics*

- Jon Angelovich, Ryuji Baba** (Summa Cum Laude), **Wilhelm Boni, Brett Burdick, Jaehyuk Chung** (Cum Laude), **Skyler Dompier, Tabarak Farah, Shuxiang Guo, Jose Heredia, Kyle Haynes, Isabelle Hoczek, Cameron Hunt, Grace Hutchinson, Tomaz Kaszewicz, Kevin Kenny, Matthew Kunkel** (Magna Cum Laude), **Tishra Mattox, David Mayom, Travis Messinger, Todd Miller, Yusuke Miyaoka, Jisung Moon, Sam Oh, Aaron Olanie** (Magna Cum Laude), **Jeremy Rosenman, Thomas Rumberger, Christine Schultz, Chris Singh, Tristan Skolrud** (Cum Laude), **Jacob Tavares, Joshua Tiano** (Cum Laude), **Holi Weaver, Grant Williams** (Cum Laude), **Meng-Hsiu Wu, Ning Xiang** (Cum Laude), **Seongwon Yoon, Phillip Zhen**

## *Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness*

- Kevin Bernard, Justin Chambers, Alan Petro, Tyler Greenwalt, Jeremy Rodriguez, Mark Smalley, Bowen Staples** (Magna Cum Laude)

## *Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and Management*

- Joshua Adams, Christopher Boesche, Melissa Bughi** (Magna Cum Laude), **Marie Bowers, Curtis Engbretson, Brianna Kinsman, Kaitlyn Larsen, Rachel Lewis, Jordan Munding, Nathan Siler, Joshua Steward**

## *Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics and Management*

- Isaiah Bryant, Jaime Jovanovich** (Cum Laude), **Cody Lee, Anthony Sczenski, Katie Sherritt**

# Alumni News

**Sara Colson Ahola** ('98 M.A. Econ.) writes, "I am now practicing in a mixed-animal veterinary clinic in Idaho, west of Boise. My business background gained at WSU is of great benefit in the veterinary business and I use my economics training every day. My husband, Jason, is a faculty member at the University of Idaho (never thought I'd marry a Vandal!). Hello to everyone in the econ department."

**Brian Alton** ('97 B.A. Econ.) is the chief financial officer of Ripcode Inc. in Richardson, Texas. He writes "After being in Texas for eight years, we were excited to finally see the Cougs play a football game in the state. But, unfortunately, Hurricane Ike had other ideas as it kept us from getting to the game."

**Clark Bishop** ('07 M.A. Econ.) and his wife are serving as Peace Corps volunteers in Moldova.

**Cindy Kaseberg Brown** ('95 M.A. Ag. Econ.) recently sold Hughes Feed & Grain Inc. after over 18 years of owning the business. Cindy is now the coordinator for the TriCounty Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program serving Wasco, Sherman, and Hood River counties in Oregon. The program provides hazardous waste disposal services and provides recycling and waste prevention education and outreach.

**Dan Carmody** ('84 B.A. Econ.) is with Carmody Company Inc. in Vancouver, Washington. "Can't believe I'm a Cougar Dad. Melissa Carmody is a freshman and we are so proud of her. Go Cougs!"

**Marco Costanigro** ('07 Ph.D. Econ.) writes, "Things are going great at Colorado State." Daughter Alba is a year old and son Matteo is due the end of November. Marco sends his regards to all.

**Gail Cramer** ('63 B.S. Ag. Econ.) is a department head at Louisiana State University. He has been working on an aid project in Costa Rica, Philippines, China, and the United States to estimate the costs and benefits of adding micro nutrients to rice. The costs and effectiveness varies substantially depending upon whether you put the micro nutrients on the outside or the inside of the rice kernel.

**Richard Freeman** ('91 B.A. Econ.) is with Credit Suisse Securities and says that after working in Asia for the last 18 years, he has finally relocated back to the United States.

**Mike Hodgjin** ('76 B.S. Ag. Econ.) and his wife Janet ('77 Clothing and Textiles) own and operate Kids Northwest, a children's store in downtown Bellingham. "We're also excited to have our youngest daughter enrolled as a freshman at WSU and studying economics. Go Cougs!"

**John Kuhlman** ('48 B.A. Econ.) writes, "Those wonderful professors I had in 1946-8 at WSC had a profound impact on me including my decision to be a professor." Dr. Kuhlman retired from the University of Missouri faculty in 1985, and is currently a volunteer with the Ashland, North Carolina, Literacy Council of Buncombe County teaching English as a second language.

**Duane Leigh** ('64 B.A. Econ.), professor emeritus of WSU writes that his 2007 book with Andy Gill was selected as one of 10 "noteworthy" books in industrial relations and labor economics by the Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University.

**Lindsay Loyd** ('00 B.A. Econ.) married Adam Berkowitz in 2008 and is currently working in corporate card marketing for American Express in New York City.

**Carole Marti** ('82 M.A. Ag. Econ.) is in her 27th year at Verizon, currently managing construction workforces and projects in all of Washington and Idaho. Her husband, **Monte Marti** ('84 M.A. Ag. Econ.) has been with Verizon for 25 years. He continues an active role on the board of supervisors for Snohomish Conservation District. Carole and Monte are very active with school soccer and in activities with their church. Monte received the honor of being selected as Knight of the Year by the Knights of Columbus.

**Matthew Moore** ('05 M.A. Ag. Bus.) is a cattle buyer in the beef procurement business unit of Cargill Meat Solutions in the panhandle of Texas. He is looking forward to coming back home and recruiting at WSU for Cargill this fall and next spring. "I am very excited to see old friends and faculty and also very grateful to come back to WSU and hopefully give a little back to the college, department, and to all those who have helped me on my life's journey."

**Quinton Pike** ('05 M.A. Ag. Bus.) was recently awarded the Cargill Strategy and Business Development's Supply Chain Excellence Award for helping launch Truvia, the first natural, zero calorie sweetener for food and beverages. Quinton and his family live in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

**Jim Quann** ('60 M.A. Ag. Econ.), WSU registrar emeritus and coordinator of veterans' research, and his wife Barb, are retired and live in Spokane. Jim is a member of the Spokane chapter of Westerners and has two stories in their November quarterly, the *Pacific Northwesterer*: "Big Jim, Drilling with Diamonds," and "WSU Veterans' Memorial—Constructed in 1993, Completed in 2000." Dr. Quann was the driving force behind the construction of the Veterans' Memorial on campus. The memorial honors the WSU faculty, staff, and students who gave the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, and the Korea, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars. Dr. Quann also wrote *WSU Military Veterans: Heroes and Legends*, published in 2005.

**Laura Richardson** ('97 B.S. Ag. Bus.) and her husband started their own electrical company in 2007, Kolkay Electric Inc., in Ravensdale, Washington, and are "looking forward to this awesome challenge." They have two children—Kayla 6, and Kolby 2.

**Gary Schell** ('70 B.S. Ag. Econ.) retired from banking in 2003 and now sells real estate for Beasley Realty in Pullman and manages GDS Properties and Evergreen Storage. He is also chapter advisor to the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity at WSU.

**Sandi Shaub** ('72 B.A. Econ., '79 M.A. Econ.) writes "Nearly 35 years with the same company (Hyster and Yale Forklifts) has made me appreciate my education from WSU."

**Chad Steiner** ('00 B.S. Ag. Econ.) relocated from North Carolina to the Memphis, Tennessee, area where he is the cotton, vegetable, sugarcane, and tobacco crop manager for Syngenta. His wife, Jeana, is a staff pharmacist with Target Pharmacy. "This time of year we are reminded of how much we love Cougar football and the great fellowship along with it."

**Robert Stump** ('76 M.A. Ag. Econ.) relocated with Washington Mutual to Texas in May 2008, and writes "Can't wait until I can get back to the beautiful Pacific Northwest."

**Kevin Sund** ('03 M.A. Ag. Bus.) is vice president of sales and marketing for Bybee Foods, Pasco, Washington. Kevin and Megan have four children, ages 9, 7, 2, and 1. "They keep me very busy along with my job managing all of the sales and marketing for a vertically integrated frozen vegetable company."

**Melissa Tibbs** ('03 B.S. Ag. Bus.) "retired" in the spring to raise her son Henry, who was born in March 2008, and to "give homemaking a try."

**Glen Whipple** ('80 Ph.D. Ag. Econ.) is a professor at the University of Wyoming. "I had a great experience at WSU. Wonderful faculty, staff, and friends."

**Tessa Wicks** ('98 M.A. Ag. Bus.) recently received a promotion within Ag Link Inc., a chemical/fertilizer cooperative in Davenport, Washington. She welcomed her second child in October.

### *In Passing*

**Robert J. Hulbert** ('51 B.S. Ag. Econ.), the son of James H. Hulbert (the namesake for Hulbert Hall), passed away January 9, 2008.

### *Retirements*

**Herb Hinman**, professor, 28 years of service

**Maggie Kettwig**, academic coordinator, 21 years of service

### *Moving On*

**Susan He** resigned and is pursuing interests in the College of Business at WSU

**Ray Huffaker**, department chair, food and resource economics, University of Florida. Ray spent 18 years at WSU, and he will be missed. We wish him the best in this new opportunity.



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# Continuing a History of Excellence

Alumni and friends continue to ask us about the relationship between SES, the College of Business, and the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. Since our merger in July 2004, SES has been fully housed in CAHNRS. There is no administrative relationship between SES and the College of Business. Many alumni and friends do not realize that donations made to the College of Business do not reach SES and do not benefit SES in any way. Those funds are fully utilized by the College of Business for its programs and faculty. If you want your donation to benefit the School of Economic Sciences, please designate SES specifically for any donations you make. You can then be assured that your generosity will work for continued excellence for our programs and faculty in economics, agricultural economics, agribusiness, and natural resource and environmental economics. We appreciate your continued support.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the school's development fund 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 includes contributions for the period of October 11, 2007, through October 6, 2008, listed under university categories for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 fiscal years. If we missed listing your donation, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight.

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