

# SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | NOVEMBER 2009

## *Holiday Greetings*



All of your friends and colleagues in the School of Economic Sciences hope that your holiday season is filled with joy and wonderful times spent with family and friends. We also wish you a happy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year.

We continue to receive a substantial number of communications throughout the year from alumni and friends keeping us abreast of new developments in their careers and lives. We look forward to receiving these communications and take great interest and pleasure in reading them. Please keep writing and try to remember to include your e-mail address and/or home address when you do. We were indeed thrilled to converse with many of you up close and personal at the School of Economic Sciences fifth Annual Alumni and Friends BBQ during WSU Homecoming Weekend! We were housed in the remodeled Ensminger Pavilion

(right across from the Lewis Alumni Centre), and we enjoyed a fantastic charbroiled steak meal provided by The Grill. From all accounts, the program that followed the meal was lively and great fun!

All of you have no doubt heard about the very difficult budget situation that befell the state. The subsequent budget reductions to Washington State University were the deepest in the history of the institution. While the School of Economic Sciences was categorized by administrators as an "invest and grow" academic program, the magnitude of the university's budget reductions still resulted in the school experiencing significant budget reductions. Managing the reductions was very difficult, and unfortunately resulted in the school losing four hard-working staff members, one non-tenure track research professor, a number of research assistant positions, and a significant amount of operating funds. However, the SES faculty has risen to the occasion, and I am pleased to report that grant proposals and grant awards have risen substantially, partially mitigating the effects of the budget cuts. We were able to award the Distinguished Professorship in Agricultural and Resource Economics to one of our highly accomplished faculty (discussed later in the newsletter), and we received donations from the Washington Wheat Commission to endow a Professorship in Grain Economics, which we hope to recruit for beginning early next year. Both undergraduate and graduate programs remain strong, with the number of undergraduate majors continuing to rise and the graduate program remaining vibrant both in terms of numbers and quality.

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. In some cases, scholarships 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, such as allowing us to bring many high-quality seminar speakers to Pullman. Donations support high-quality teaching and scholarship, allowing the school to purchase much-needed computer software and equipment. Donations also help support faculty and graduate student 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. 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, staff, and friends in this issue of *SES News*.

Again, happy holidays and may the coming New Year be your best ever. GO COUGS!

—Ron Mittelhammer, Regents Professor and Director

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# Department Highlights

**Alumni and Friends Weekend** was held October 10, 2009, and attendance was exceptional. Alumni, emeriti, and friends interacted with current students and faculty just before kickoff of the WSU versus Arizona State football game. Entertaining auctions and raffles generated over \$5,706 for the SES Excellence/Development Fund. Next year's event will be held again during Homecoming. Check our Web site for reservation information.

## ***New Faculty***



**Ana Espinola-Arrendondo**, assistant professor, received her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in 2008 and a master's degree from the University of Barcelona in Spain. She is originally from Chile. Ana has research interests in applying game theory and mechanism design to problems in environmental and resource economics, including biofuels. She teaches environmental economics and microeconomics.



**Michael Brady**, assistant research professor, is working with the IMPACT Center. Michael received a doctorate in agricultural economics in 2007 and a master's degree in economics in 2004 from Ohio State University. He received a master's of science degree from the London School of Economics in 2001. Prior to coming to WSU, he worked as an agricultural economist for the USDA Economic Research Service on a variety of research projects related to land use. He has also conducted research in behavioral economics that looks at

how and why decisions made by small groups differ from those made by individuals.

## ***New Staff***

**Jaimie Dahl**, office assistant, comes to SES from the WSU Department of Animal Sciences. Jaimie and her husband Tom have two daughters and five grandchildren with another on the way. Jaimie likes to fish, camp, go boating and canoeing, and reading if she can find time.

## ***Department Honors and Promotions***



President **Elson S. Floyd**, **Ken Casavant**, CAHNRS Dean **Dan Bernardo**, and Provost **Warwick M. Bayly**.

**Ken Casavant** received WSU's Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award for Leadership. Ken was also appointed to the Faculty Representative Advisory Panel for the NCAA, and is president elect of the Pac-10 Conference.

**Ana Espinola-Arrendondo** received second place at the Annual Global Development Awards and Medals Competition 2008 for the paper "Free-riding and Cooperation in Environmental Games." The awards are sponsored by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) of Canada. She received the Junta de Andalucia Research Fellowship, in Spain, for summer 2009. Ana was also honored as an Outstanding Mentor by WSU's Women and Leadership Forum.

**Eric Jessup** was promoted to the rank of associate research professor.



Jeffrey LaFrance

**Jeffrey LaFrance** was awarded the first Distinguished Professorship in Agricultural and Resource Economics. Jeff was also elected to the chair of the AAEA Econometrics Section for 2009, and is on the editorial council for JARE.

**Tom Marsh** was promoted to full professor and appointed director of the IMPACT Center.

**Ron Mittelhammer** is the 2009–10 president of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA).

**Felix Munoz** received the Junta de Andalucia Research Fellowship, in Spain, for summer 2009.

**A. Desmond O'Rourke**, SES Professor Emeritus and past director of the IMPACT Center, received the Food Distribution Research Society's 2009 Frank Panyko Award for Distinguished Service.

**Jia Yan** received the silver medal from the International Exhibition of Inventions. Jia (along with coauthors Tae Oum and Chunyan Yu) won the best paper award at the National Transportation Research Forum in Portland, Oregon.

**Jon Yoder** was elected director of the Western Agricultural Economics Association for 2009–2011, and is associate editor of the *Journal of Natural Resource Policy Research*.

**Doug Young** received the Recognition of Life-Time Achievement Award from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences in 2009.

### **Leigh Distinguished Lecture**

**Jerry A. Hausman**, the John and Jennie S. MacDonald Professor of Economics at MIT, presented the 2009 **Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Distinguished Lecture**, "Is Wal-Mart good or bad for supermarket shoppers?" Nobel Laureate **Robert Lucas** from the University of Chicago will give the next Leigh Lecture on April 29, 2010.



Jerry Hausman with Joan and Duane Leigh.

### **Other Featured Seminar Speakers**

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

**Greg Duncan**, University of California, Berkeley, and the Huron Consulting Group

**Seik Kim**, University of Washington

**William C. Horrace**, Syracuse University

**Wolfram Schlenker**, Columbia University

**Clifford Winston**, Brookings Institute

*continued on page 4*

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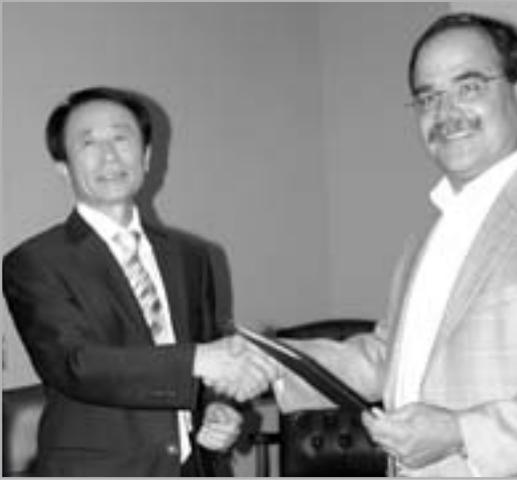
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## WSU JOINS FORCES WITH KOREA TO RESEARCH RURAL ECONOMICS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



*Se-Ilk Oh (PhD '91) and CAHNRS Dean Dan Bernardo*

The economic health of rural areas on both sides of the Pacific Rim is the focus of a new partnership between the WSU School of Economic Sciences and the Korean Rural Economic Institute. Representatives from both organizations have signed a formal memorandum of understanding to create a teaching, research, and extension partnership focused on rural economic development. "The similarities and differences in rural economic development on both sides of the Pacific Rim will provide an excellent foundation for research, teaching, and extension activities," said WSU Regents Professor **Ron Mittelhammer**, director of SES. Professor **Thomas Marsh**, who directs the WSU

IMPACT Center, agreed. "The recent downturn in the world economy emphasizes the impact of international trade and relationships on Washington's economy," he said. Marsh said that South Korea is an important trading partner with the United States. The agreement will lead to mutually agreed upon cooperative and collaborative projects with potential benefit for both parties and will include a variety of student and faculty exchanges and collaborations. **Se-Ilk Oh** ('91 Ph.D. Ag Econ), president of the Korea Rural Economic Institute in Seoul, recently traveled to Pullman to meet with WSU representatives and participate in a signing ceremony for the memorandum of understanding. The five-year partnership begins immediately.

## YOUNG HONORED AT WAEA MEETINGS



*Samm Bbuyemusoke (PhD '81) and Doug Young*

WSU agricultural economics alumni who took **Doug Young's** graduate production economics courses hosted a pre-conference retirement symposium for him at the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) meeting in Kauai, Hawaii, in June 2009. The symposium, entitled "Microeconomics in Service of Humanity," included paper presentations ranging from "Economics of North Korean Agriculture" to "Basis Risk in Satellite-Based Pasture Insurance Programs." Presenters represented former students originally from Korea, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, and Uganda plus three Americans currently working in Georgia, Colorado, and Washington. Doug presented the 2009 WAEA keynote address, "Biofuels: Political-Economic Boondoggle or Energy Salvation for Western States?"

## MARSH NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF IMPACT CENTER

The IMPACT Center has undergone a number of exciting changes in the past year, including being housed entirely within SES and gaining a new director, **Dr. Thomas L. Marsh**. The new focus for IMPACT will be economic analysis and outreach to strengthen Washington's economy, targeting agriculture, environmental and natural resources, and economic development. Marsh's vision is using applied economic analysis to address



From left: **Michael Brady**, **Suzette Galinato**, and **Tom Marsh**.

a research associate, and **Dr. Michael Brady**, assistant research professor. Galinato joined the IMPACT Center in 2007. Prior to coming to WSU, she worked at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. She is presently involved in projects that examine economic issues related to bioenergy production, agri-tourism, and pest management in tree fruit production. Brady joined IMPACT this year. His current projects include agricultural demand for water and land use analysis. Finally, **Charli Hochsprung** retired after 19 years in the IMPACT Center. Charli was a cornerstone for IMPACT's staff and students. Her contributions and dedication were monumental and she will be greatly missed.

important, critical, and relevant problems for Washington, the nation, and the world. IMPACT supports and contributes to new and ongoing projects in tree fruit economics, agricultural water demand, wine marketing, invasive species, agri-tourism, and animal health economics. Other projects include the economics of high-value specialty crop production, biodegradable products and mulches, pest control, and pesticide use.

IMPACT's research staffers include **Suzette Galinato**,

## NIH GRANT FOCUSES ON COST EFFECTIVENESS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

How successful and cost-effective are community-based substance abuse prevention programs? It's a question that plagues politicians and policy makers, especially in a time of shrinking resources and increasing demand for services. Now, thanks to a two-year \$400,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health, SES professors **Robert Rosenman** and **Ron Mittelhammer**, assistant professor **Bidisha Mandal**, and human



From left: **Ron Mittelhammer**, **Bidisha Mandal**, and **Robert Rosenman**.

development professor **Laura Hill** are working on a new way to assess the effectiveness of those programs in the real world. Traditionally, the effectiveness of prevention programs has been measured based on randomized clinical trials, using objective measures with representative samples. However, Rosenman notes, in the real world, prevention program participants choose or "self select" to attend. The question is whether or how that impacts actual program effectiveness. How well do research results translate to actual community results? "These selection effects alter the value of the program so that as randomized clinical trials are translated to real-world implementation, new measurement is needed," said Hill. The randomized clinical trials are not designed to detect those subtleties, according to Rosenman, and, as a result, can't provide a true picture of effectiveness. Their project will use new statistical tools to analyze existing outcomes data from the Strengthening Families program to determine how self-selection affects program impact. "The purpose of the grant isn't to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of Strengthening Families, but rather to develop and test new methods of evaluation," Rosenman said.

*continued on page 6*

## NEW TRG STUDY: HIGH FUEL PRICES RESULT IN CHANGED BEHAVIOR FOR WASHINGTON COMMUTERS

A recent study just completed by **Eric Jessup** and **Ken Casavant** of SES's Transportation Research Group (TRG) has found that consumers, contrary to historical expectations, are becoming quite responsive to the price of gasoline. Based on a survey of over 500 consumers, their analysis provides evidence that at the higher fuel prices currently being experienced, consumers are shifting away from automobiles as their main form of commuting. Earlier studies suggested that consumers were "set in their ways" and did not respond to price changes (e.g., inelastic demand). The TRG's preliminary findings show two distinct and interesting responses. First, the response to the higher prices was quite elastic. Interestingly, there was a less significant response to the price as it decreased. This suggests that consumers learned and altered their commuting patterns. The TRG is interested to test whether this learning contributes to sustained shifts in automobile usage in the future.

## SES GETS A SHARE OF WSU's \$15 MILLION IN USDA SPECIALTY CROP GRANTS



*Mykel Taylor (center) with SES students.*

WSU research teams have been awarded more than \$15 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture grants aimed at specialty crops such as tree fruit, wine grapes, and potatoes. They will receive nearly a third of the \$47.3 million awarded nationally, which places them among the top recipients in the country. SES team collaborators **Karina Gallardo** and **Tom Marsh** were part of a team led by entomologist Doug Walsh for "Agronomic and Biochemical Impacts of Biotic and Abiotic Stress on Pacific Northwest Flavor Crops." **Vickie McCracken**, **Mykel Taylor**, and **Karina Gallardo** were on a team led by horticultural geneticist Cameron Peace for "RosBREED: Enabling Marker-assisted Breeding in Rosaceae." **Ana Espinola-Arredondo** was a collaborator on a team led by plant pathologist Debra Inglis to develop "Biodegradable Mulches for Specialty Crops Produced under Protective Cover."

## NEW INDUSTRY-UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE

SES faculty members **Jill McCluskey** and **Ron Mittelhammer** entered into a new data-sharing agreement this year with a regional quick service restaurant (QSR) chain as part of a new grant project, "Promoting Healthy Kids' Menu Items in Quick-Service Restaurants," that was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with colleagues at Thurston County Department of Public Health and the University of Washington. Their project will examine how offering healthier choices as the default option on a kids' menu affects sales and profitability. Currently, few QSR kids' meals meet child nutritional guidelines. Families who have made a decision to feed their children in a QSR are

influenced by a variety of factors, including ease and convenience, relatively low costs, and fun for kids. Given these factors, these families may be relatively resistant to health marketing messages, and more susceptible to constraining choices (such as healthier menu items being the default). These influencing factors have not been well studied, but they are highly relevant to attaining a healthier food environment for kids in QSRs. A revised menu will be introduced that contains both standard and less calorie-dense menu items. Mittelhammer and McCluskey will collect data to measure the impact of these changes in unit sales and percent sales volume for less calorie-dense kids' menu items in ten outlets of a single QSR franchise and analyze scanner sales data with an event-analysis approach.

## NEW ECON CLUB FACULTY ADVISORS



**LEFT** Anthony Gong, Econ Club President, and Sebastian Lopes, Vice President, at CAHNRs Fall Festival.  
**RIGHT** Felix Munoz, left, and Ana Espinola, right, with SES Econ Club students

**Felix Munoz** and **Ana Espinola-Arredondo** are the new advisors for the Economics Club. The Econ Club offers a forum in which students of economics can express their views on the most important economic issues of the day and on how those issues affect the region, the nation, and the world. Recent club discussions included “Cash for Clunkers” and health care reform.

## SUMMER FUN

At last year’s alumni event, faculty member **Jon Yoder** auctioned off his services as a whitewater rafting guide. **Monte Marti** was the highest bidder, and in June of 2009, Yoder took Marti and friends to the Lochsa River in Idaho. The water was fast and cold, and the rapids were big. Lochsa Falls was the scene of a near raft-flip and some impressive acrobatics by Neil Taylor. Yoder was the only one to fall out of the raft the entire weekend.



**LEFT** Professor Emeritus Norm Whittlesey leading the way as usual in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, with Tom Marsh’s mules in tow. **RIGHT** Neil Taylor returns to earth, and Monte Marti (with the white-soled shoes) softens his landing, after a bout with Lochsa Falls.

# Student Pages

The school enrolled 20 new doctoral students for fall 2009. Typically, about 40% of SES doctoral students are from the United States. The other students came from several countries, including Canada, China, Colombia, South Korea, Libya, Russia, and Tajikistan. The school is enriched by this diversity. At the master's level, eight new students enrolled.

## ***New OSI/Soros Foundation Fellows***

**Mirzobo Yornmirzoev** and **Zarrina Jurakulova** are SES's new scholars in Tajikistan's Doctoral Fellowship Program within the Network Scholarship Programs department of the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation. Mirzobo graduated with honors from Tajik State University of Law, Business, and Politics in 1999. His professional experience includes positions as a researcher, teacher, and translator in Tajikistan. Mirzobo's interests are in development and international economics. Zarrina graduated in 2001 from the Technological University of Tajikistan, majoring in world economy. Prior to WSU, she was employed by Winrock International, the Tajikistan/Water Users Association Support Program, and the UN Development Program in Tajikistan. Her research will focus on policy, economic development, and sustainable agricultural systems.

## ***New Fulbright Fellow***

**Lilian Carrillo** was selected as a participant in a special Fulbright Program for Colombia known as the Graduate Program for the Region. Lilian received her master's degree from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia, in 2002. Her professional experience includes serving as head of the Department of Economics and professor of economics at the Universidad Autonoma de Occidente. Lilian's interests are in development and regional economics.

## ***Graduate Student Awards and Kudos***

**Saad Alshahrani:** Teaching Assistant Excellence Award in Economics

**Fafanyo Asiseh:** Jeff Krautkraemer "Pay it Forward" Scholarship

**Andrew Hanks:** GPSA Excellence in Research Award

**Jeff Luckstead:** WAEA Best Thesis Award

**Almuhanad Melhim:** AAEA Foundation Travel Grant

**Sanatan Shreyay:** WSU Teaching Assistant Excellence Award



*Fafanyo Asiseh*

**Quijie Zheng:** AAEA Foundation Travel Grant

**Evgeniy Perevodchikov:** AAEA Foundation Travel Grant; RA/TA Excellence Award



*SES doctoral student **Jeff Luckstead** accepting the WAEA Best Thesis Award from President Penny Diebel.*

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

The new officers for 2009–2010 are **Quijie Zheng**, president, **Fafanyo Asiseh**, vice-president, and **Daniel Toro**, 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% of SES's doctoral graduates take tenure-track faculty positions, another 40% take lucrative positions as econometricians or analysts with prestigious corporations, and 20% take analyst or administrative positions in governments, non-governmental organizations, or think tanks. Graduates in 2009 attained tenure-track faculty positions at Illinois State University, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Guelph-Canada, and professional careers with the State of Washington.

### Spotlight on Doctoral Alumni

**Jason Winfree** ('03 Ph.D. Econ) was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of Michigan in the Department of Sports Management. Jason and his wife **Nikki** have two children Max (2 years) and Grace (6 months) who wear Cougar gear in Ann Arbor.

**Hsiang-Tai Lee** ('05 Ph.D. Econ) was promoted to associate professor and named department chair in the Department of Banking and Finance at the National Chi Nan University in Taiwan.



Jason Winfree

### Undergraduate Kudos

**Mauricio Cifuentes-Soto** received the 2008 WSU Undergraduate Research and Creative Project Award for his proposal, "An Economic Analysis of the Western Climate Initiatives." His advisor is Dr. Ana Espinola-Arredondo.

## SES GRADUATES

(December 2008, May 2009, August 2009)

### Doctoral Degrees

**Brady Horn**, *The Economics and Measurement of Racial Bias in Law Enforcement*. Major Professor: McCluskey

**Armenak Markosyan**, *Essays in Modeling Individual Preferences*. Major Professor: McCluskey

**Almuhamad Melhim**, *Growth and Diversification in US Agriculture: Farm Level Analysis of Cost Structure under Risk and Uncertainty*. Major Professor: Shumway

**Adrienne Ohler**, *Three Essays on Natural Resource Allocation and Public Policy*. Major Professors: Chouinard and Yoder

**Sanatan Shreay**, *Essays on Modeling Limited Dependent Variables Applied to Industrial Organization and Labor Markets*. Major Professors: Chouinard and McCluskey

**Cory Walters**, *Producer Opportunism and Environmental Impacts of Crop Insurance and Fertilizer Decisions*. Major Professor: Shumway

**Caiping Zhang**, *Essays in Empirical Economics: Wheat Gluten Imports, Pear Marketing and Banking Inefficiency*. Major Professor: Marsh

**Huifang Zhang**, *Impacts of Food Borne Illnesses on Demand and Consumers' Willingness to Pay for Sensory Quality in Pears*. Major Professors: Marsh and McCluskey

### Master's Degrees

**Saad Alshahrani**, Major Professor: McCluskey

**John Cary**, Major Professor: Yoder

**Wei-Li Chiu**, Major Professor: Gibson

**Christopher Horsethief**, Major Professor: Nziramasanga

**Zhen Ren**, Major Professor: Steele

**Brian Sancewich**, Major Professor: McCluskey

**Tristan Skolrud**, Major Professor: Shumway

**Benjamin Thompson**, Major Professor: Galinato

**Kejie Yang**, Major Professors: Aharonovitz and Hallagan

The attached envelope can be used to make your contribution or pledge, or you can go to [www.ses.wsu.edu](http://www.ses.wsu.edu) and click on "I Want to Give."

continued on page 10



Newly minted Ph.D.s **Brady Horn** (left) and **Sanatan Shrey** with their advisor, Professor **Jill McCluskey**. Dr. Horn started as an assistant professor in economics at the U. of New Mexico this fall. Dr. Shrey is a visiting assistant professor in health policy at WSU, Spokane.

***Bachelor of Arts in Economics***

Erin Ackers, Nduka Azubuike, Justin Bliggenstorfer, Maria Carrillo, Yu-Hsin Chen, Grant Eickstadt, Stephen Franada, Mitchell Frazier, Kyle Freeborn, Thomas Gibbon, Daisuke Goto, Clayton Graef, Aaron Hall, Kuo-Wei Huang, Ji Ha Lee, Eric Leung, Brandt Lyse, Christopher Miller, Daniel Miller, Kalia Mills, Takuya Nagura, Scott Peterson, Garrett Picton, Karina Rasanen, Lee Rushton, Cody Schueler, Geoffrey Sechter, Jeffrey Silvernail, Jonathan Smith, Thad Swanson, Kathryn Sydnor, James Wicker, and Hang Tat Wong

***Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness***

Robert Colbert, Kyle Freeborn, Daniel Gundersen, Kaitlin McClellan, and Jessie Schneider

***Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics***

Jared Hemmer and Brandy Katich

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

Richard Adams, Brian Fink, Cody Harris, and David Moore

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

Arthur Dombay, Jeffrey Malone, and Geoffrey Sechter

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

# Alumni News

**Vugar Ahmadov** ('06 M.A. AgEcon, '08 Ph.D. Int Dis) sends his best wishes and greetings. Vugar is an assistant professor at Azerbaijan University and is currently head of the economic research and forecasting division at Central Bank of Azerbaijan where he has been heavily involved in assessment of the impact of economic crisis as well as potential currency devaluation on our economy. His wife Shahla and the kids are doing fine and Shahla works part time at a private clinic.

**Gery Amos** ('73 B.S. AgEcon) writes that after 23 years in Salem, Oregon, he is moving back to central Washington. He will be managing frozen onion sales for Freeze Pack in Pasco. He was previously with RainSweet Inc. and was a commissioner on the Oregon Red Raspberry and Blackberry Commission. He and wife Sherry will continue to farm.

**Butch Booker** ('86 B.S. AgEcon) is the 2008–2009 Men's International Auctioneer Champion. Butch has participated in more than 2,500 career auctions and has competed in more than 20 competitions where he has placed in the top three 12 times. In addition to being owner/broker of Kincaid Real Estate in Colfax, Washington, Butch spends about 150 days a year on the road on auction-related business, specializing in real estate, industrial/farm machinery, purebred cattle sales, and benefit auctions. Butch and wife Jennifer have one son, Cotton.

**Randi (Boeckman) Bural** ('95 B.S. AgBus) is a senior credit officer with Northwest Farm Credit Service in Salem, Oregon.

**George Busch** ('95 B.S. AgBus, '98 MBA) is vice president of U.S. Bank in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. "Cougar Football Saturdays are a great way to spend time with family and friends."

**Oumou Camara** ('97 B.S. AgEcon, '99 M.A.) is a scientist of economics with the International Fertilizer Development Center. Oumou and husband welcomed their first child, Ahmed Ben, in May 2009.

**Sam Cordes** ('73 Ph.D. AgEcon) is associate vice provost for engagement at Purdue University. He writes, "I am in Costa Rica on a six-month sabbatical and am having a great time reconnecting with two wonderful friends from my Ag. Econ. graduate school days: Ralph Loomis and Sergio Sepulveda. Both live near San Jose. Also, I have rediscovered Jerry LaGra, who was also in the Ag. Econ. grad program. Jerry now lives in Guyana and I hope to visit him."

**Dustin Devries** ('97 B.S. AgBus) owns and operates a nationwide executive recruiting firm for agribusiness and specialty science fields. His first daughter was born in July and is already wearing her Cougar crimson and gray! Dustin's fondest memories are of the people he was fortunate enough to have met (and still call friends today) during his time in Pullman.

**Ed Estes** ('79 Ph.D., AgEcon) is associate department head and professor at North Carolina State. Ed writes that he has had a major life-style change. He received a kidney transplant in January 2008 after spending two years on dialysis. He says he is doing fine now.

**Fabrizio Felloni** ('00 M.A. AgEcon) moved temporarily to New York from Italy in 2008 to work on international development assignments. He is glad to be back in the United States although he misses the Pullman atmosphere. He hopes to be able to pay a visit to SES in the forthcoming months and/or meet former faculty and students in one of their trips to the East Coast.

**Jeffrey Franks** ('85 B.A. Econ) is division chief with the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. Since January he has been deeply involved in the global financial crisis as IMF mission chief for Romania.

**Shaikh Ghanzanfar** ('69 Ph.D. Econ) is a University of Idaho professor emeritus and recently was a visiting lecturer at the University of Sargodha, Pakistan. Ghanzanfar was the 2007 recipient of WSU's Distinguished Alumnus Award and was also inducted into the Hall of Honored Alumni in 2007.

**Doug Gross** ('89 B.S. AgEcon) is an operations manager with the Dairyland Seed Co. affiliate of Dow in Homedale, Idaho. "When I think of WSU I always have fond memories of the great experience and education I received. Life is good, I'm married to a wonderful Montana State alum, and we have three children."

*continued on page 12*

- Joe Harris** ('84 B.S. AgEcon) is executive district manager for Sepracor Inc., a pharmaceutical company. He also owns and operates Elizabeth Country Kennels Pet Resort and Spa in Elizabeth, Colorado.
- Erika (Howell) Hartlieb** ('98 B.S. AgEcon) is a law clerk for the U.S. District Court in Richland, Washington. She recently gave birth to daughter Allison and has a two-year-old son, Owen.
- Verne House** ('71 Ph.D. AgEcon) writes from Montana, "I keep busy playing with wood and sometimes playing in the woods. Built two garden gates of copper pipe; that was fun. Neither is seen from the road so they should not get 'recycled.' Do you know anyone who is as lucky as I am? I got to return to the classroom after 30+ years in extension, teaching students so good that 1/5 of them got into U.S. graduate programs. In my humbler moments, I recall the observation that the smartest professors are those with the brightest students."
- Jeff Huff** ('81 B.A. Econ) is a reg. advisory associate with National Planning Corp. in Tacoma. He writes, "God, please send us a football team..."
- Mary Ann (Kulpaca) Kilpatrick** ('98 B.S. AgEcon) is region director for Renaissance Hospital of Dallas. Mary Ann and Shane are expecting a daughter in January 2010.
- Kai Langendoen** ('96 B.S., '98 M.A. AgBus) lives in Texas and is getting married in April 2010. He is senior product manager for St. Jude Medical Inc. "While ag is not part of my job, I still have many fond memories of WSU and put a bit of that experience to good use on our small five-acre horse farm. Still a farm boy at heart!"
- Corey Larson** ('89 B.A. Econ) is an associate attorney with Salzsieder Legal Services in Longview, Washington. He and his wife also own and operate Evergreen Dance Center in Longview.
- James Lawler** ('79 B.S. AgEcon) is serving a second term as superior court judge in Lewis County Superior Court, Chehalis, Washington.
- Daniel MacQuarrie** ('61 B.S. AgEcon) is retired and living in Seeley Lake, Montana. He would love to hear from any old friends from Pullman.
- Craig Marotz** ('88 M.A. AgEcon) is a program manager with Sensitech Inc. in Massachusetts.
- Jerry McNaul** ('65 B.A. Econ) is a partner in a 25-person Seattle law firm.
- Danna (Mortimer) Moore** ('88 Ph.D. AgEcon) is associate director of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at WSU. Danna writes that daughter Ariel is a 4-year survivor from a relapse of cancer—Hodgkins Lymphoma and a stem cell transplant. Son Dylan is a sophomore in high school, and all still avidly scuba dive.
- Jeff Van Pevenage** ('91 B.S. AgBus) is vice president/general manager at Columbia Grain International in Great Falls, Montana. He writes that he recently climbed Mt. Rainier's Emmons glacier. "Have four kids now so I coach soccer until the cows come home."
- George Pfeiffer** ('76 Ph.D. AgEcon) is professor emeritus at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. George writes that one of his daughters is a fisheries economist with NOAA, and the other continues work on her doctorate at UC-Berkeley.
- Susan Pheasant** ('03 Ph.D. Interdis) is principal consultant for Pheasant Projects Inc. in Wenatchee, Washington, and also works as coordinator for the food safety and sustainability program being developed by the Washington State Horticultural Association. She is collaborating with colleagues in Chile to lead a sweet cherry tour for tree fruit growers to Argentina and Chile in November.
- Ron Riedasch** ('66 B.A. Econ) is retired from the Boeing Company.
- Joe Roop** ('74 Ph.D. Econ) is retired from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He has taken up family genealogy and is a master gardener, and says he keeps way too busy.
- Eric Schuck** ('99 Ph.D. AgEcon) spent the summer teaching water resource economics at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. This was his second Fulbright. He continues to be an associate economics professor at Linfield College in Oregon, and recently became chair of the environmental studies program.
- Stephanie Swannack** ('04 M.A. AgBus) is director of marketing and analytics with Catalina Marketing in California. She received her MBA from the University of California, Davis, in 2007. She says, "I love it here in the San Francisco Bay area and luckily there is a very active WSU alumni group. If you are ever in the area, look me up!"

**Mani Upadhyay** ('03 Ph.D. AgEcon) is a senior risk analyst with Agriculture Financial Services Corp. in Lacombe, Alberta, Canada.

**Kari (Harris) Van Beek** ('00 B.S. AgEcon) is a viticulturist with Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.

**Dustin Walton** ('08 M.A. AgEcon) is a data analyst with Regence Blue Shield in Seattle.

**Ric Wesselman** ('89 B.S. AgEcon) recently celebrated his 20th year with Syngenta. He is the key account representative in Spokane, and is also the president of the Washington Wheat Foundation. He received the 2008 Dan Shon Award which recognizes Syngenta employees for hard work and dedication to the industry while carrying out their duties with a friendly and positive disposition.

## Retirements



*Herb Hinman*

**Herb Hinman** was a professor and extension economist with SES for 29 years. He taught farm management and his main research and extension responsibilities were in the area of farm and financial management. "I retired in September 2007 mainly because of health reasons, although I was 65 years old. For about two years both my wife and I had many health issues. We both are much better now, and I was asked to come back to SES this fall semester and teach EconS 350, which I am doing. I have also been assisting some young faculty in putting together apple budgets." Herb's plans include a move to Oregon to be near his grandchildren.



*Fred Inaba*

**Fred Inaba** taught at WSU for 32 years. He taught advanced microeconomic theory to doctoral students and microeconomics to master's students. At the undergraduate level he taught industrial organization, transportation economics, economics of strategy and organization, intermediate microeconomics, and principles of macroeconomics. His areas of research include transportation economics, microeconomic theory, and industrial organization. "I plan to devote a significant portion of my retirement to researching problems that I've been interested in but didn't have the time when I was teaching. I'm also planning to spend some vacation time with family and relatives whom I have only infrequently seen in the past.

Finally, I'll spend the rest of my time fixing up my house and yard."

**Wayne Joerding** was in economics at WSU for 29 years. "My primary research interests were finance, econometrics, and economic education. In retirement I plan to enjoy my grandchildren, travel, and pursue my hobby of photography. So far I've spent two months skiing in Utah, a month visiting Maya ruins in Yucatan, and a month cycling along the Pacific Coast from Seattle to San Francisco. This coming winter I'm off to southeast Asia for some cycle touring. I'm planning to ride around Thailand."



*Wayne Joerding biking on Pacific Coast.*

*continued on page 14*

**Scott Matulich** served SES for 33 years teaching micro theory and mathematical programming. He conducted research in natural resource sciences, and for the last 15 years he worked on fisheries policy. Scott's retirement plans include becoming a professional golfer (meaning, pay to play), consulting, and continuing on-going research. He and his wife JoAnne plan to travel to as-yet-unknown destinations.



*Scott Matulich*



*Mudziviri Nziramasanga*

**Mudziviri Nziramasanga** was with economics at WSU for 36 years. Mudzi conducted research and taught in the area of international development economics. He served as a high-level economic advisor to government leaders. He plans to travel and conduct grant-funded research in his retirement. His to-the-point (and often humorous) insights during faculty meetings will be greatly missed.



*Douglas Young*

**Douglas Young** taught farm and ranch management, international agricultural development, production economics, decision making under uncertainty, and microeconomic theory during his 33 years at SES. He conducted research in economics of soil, water, and air quality preservation in agriculture, conservation policy, decision making under risk, international agricultural development, economics of sustainable agriculture, farm and ranch business management, and, most recently, economics of biofuels. In retirement, Doug plans to continue working on extramural grants within SES and CAHNRS and do some selective private consulting. Outside of work, he plans to enjoy vacationing and daily pleasures with Lillian, playing with the grandchildren, growing perennial surpluses of vegetables and teaching others to do the same, fishing and hunting, ballroom dancing, reading and writing for pleasure, and being a gentleman rancher.

### **Staff Departures**

Due to budget cuts, SES lost funding for some of our wonderful staff. SES bids a sad farewell to:

**Kim Dupin**, who served 12 years at SES as senior secretary.

**Laci Graciano** was with SES for three years as senior secretary.

**Charli Hochsprung** retired after serving 19 years in IMPACT and SES as a principal assistant.

**Jan Musick** was senior secretary for economics and SES for 12 years.



*Richard and Janet Shumway*

### **Temporary Leave**

**Richard Shumway** has taken an 18-month leave of absence from WSU. He and his wife, Janet, were called to serve a mission for their church as full-time volunteers in Europe. They live in Frankfurt, Germany, and are traveling throughout Europe training religious outreach volunteers. If you would like to catch up on their activities, they regularly update on Facebook. For access, contact Richard on Facebook or [shumwaycr@gmail.com](mailto:shumwaycr@gmail.com).

Have you signed our guestbook recently?



Assistant Professor **Seung Choi** shows his Cougar spirit.

## THANKS TO OUR 2009 LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS

**SES Advisory Committee:** Peter Berck, Willem Drost, Grant Forsyth, David Knowles, Dave Lamoreaux, Denny LeMaster, Monte Marti, Fred Mills, Sean Phinney, Bryan Sakuma, and Stephanie Schweitzer.

**Friends Development Committee:** Monte Marti (chair), Bruce Prenguber (vice chair), Nick Campos, Bart Gebers, Eric Jessup, Duane Leigh, Tyler Morgan, Katie Nelson, Toby Paterson, Larry Pederson, Leslie Roy, Edward Schneider, Robert Thayer, Tracy Tribbett, Hildegard Van Voorthuizen, James Weed, and Tom Roney.

## WSU REUNION AT AAEA MEETINGS

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in Denver, July 27–29, 2010. The Canadian Agricultural Economics Society and the Western Agricultural Economics Association will join in this meeting. The first AAEA President was a WSU faculty member, **William Spillman**, and the AAEA President who will preside over the meeting is **Ron Mittelhammer**. As part of this celebration, the School of Economic Sciences will host a special reunion for all its alumni and friends. Please check [www.ses.wsu.edu](http://www.ses.wsu.edu) for information as the details of this reunion become available.

# 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 housed fully 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 ensure the continued excellence of vital programs. The following listing includes contributions for the period October 6, 2008, through October 10, 2009; however, the category assignments are provided by the university for fiscal years 2008–09 and 2009–10. If we missed listing your donation, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight.

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