

SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | NOVEMBER 2010

Holiday Greetings 2010



Your friends at 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 very much enjoy the news we receive throughout the year from alumni and friends about the happenings in their careers and lives. We look forward to reading these messages and celebrate your accomplishments. Please let us know what you're doing and remember to include your email address and/or home address when you do.

We thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the alumni who came to the School of Economic Sciences' 6th Annual Alumni and Friends BBQ on WSU Homecoming Weekend! We were housed in the remodeled Ensminger Pavilion (right across from Lewis Alumni Centre), and we enjoyed a fantastic charbroiled steak meal provided by The Grill. Monte Marti's performance as auctioneer was great fun! We also shared a fantastic time with the alumni and friends who traveled from all over the world to come to a special Cougar Reception at the AAEA meetings in Denver.

The state of the School of Economic Sciences is strong with undergraduate majors at an all-time high of about 250, and the master's program is growing. The doctoral program is the second largest producer of doctorates at WSU. Faculty publications and external grants are increasing. With the school well positioned, I am stepping down as director as of January 1, 2011. I am looking forward to staying on at SES in the capacity of a faculty member engaged in teaching and research. Robby Rosenman will also step down as associate director. The school is currently engaged in a national search for a director. We also have a current national search for the Endowed Professorship in Grain Economics, which was endowed by the Washington Wheat Commission.

The state of Washington is again facing a very difficult budget situation. New budget cuts have been announced, but the specifics are not yet available. Previous budget cuts took staff positions and a significant amount of operating funds, so other sources of funding will be especially important in the future.

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 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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World Class. Face to Face.

Department Highlights

Alumni and Friends Weekend was held October 9, 2010, and attendance was exceptional. Alumni and emeriti interacted with current students, staff, and faculty members just before kickoff of the WSU-Oregon football game. Entertaining auctions and raffles generated over \$4,000 for the SES Excellence/Development Fund. Next year's event will again be during Homecoming. Check our website for reservation information.

New Faculty



Genevieve Briand is an instructor teaching microeconomic principles, intermediate micro, and the undergraduate capstone course. She received a doctorate from WSU in 2002, a master's degree from the University of Wyoming, and a bachelor's degree in her native country of France. Dr. Briand was previously an associate professor at Eastern Washington University. Genevieve and husband, Dan Bodtke, have a 5-year old daughter, Gwynff.



Ben Cowan, assistant professor, received his doctorate in economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2010, a master's degree also from Wisconsin, and a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University. Ben's main research interests are in the fields of health and labor economics. His current research focuses on how college prospects affect teenage risky behavior and whether differences in health insurance costs explain why smokers earn less than non-smokers in the paid labor market. During his time in Madison, Ben was a National Institute of Mental Health trainee in health economics and a graduate research fellow at the Institute for Research on Poverty. He recently co-authored "Trends in Income Support" (with John Karl Scholz and Robert Moffitt), which appeared as a chapter in the book, *Changing Poverty, Changing Policies*. Ben, his wife, and two daughters are thrilled to be in Pullman and look forward to taking advantage of all the area has to offer.

Department Honors and Awards

Ken Casavant, WSU Faculty Athletics Representative to the Pacific-10 Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, has been named president of the Pac-10 for the 2010-11 academic year.

Hayley Chouinard received AAEA's Distinguished Teaching Award for professionals with less than ten years' experience.

Ana Espinola was awarded the Sylvia Lane Fellowship from the AAEA Foundation.

Tom Marsh is the chair-elect of the Econometrics Section of the AAEA.

Jill McCluskey is the chair-elect of the Food and Agricultural Marketing Policy Section (FAMPS) of the AAEA.

Ron Mittelhammer received the August 2010 Crimson Spirit Award for superior service to the WSU community.

Robby Rosenman and coauthors **Sean Murphy** ('08 Ph.D.) and **Dan Friesner** ('00 Ph.D.), were presented with the Distinguished Paper in Economics award at the 2010 meetings of MBAA International. Their paper was entitled "Patients' Perceptions and Treatment Effectiveness: A Reassessment Using Generalized Maximum Entropy."

Richard Shumway was promoted to Regents Professor.

Richard Shumway and **Yucan Liu** ('07 Ph.D.) received Western Agricultural Economics Association's Outstanding Published Research Award for their paper "Induced Innovation in US Agriculture: Time-Series, Direct Economic, and Nonparametric Tests."



Phil Wandschneider

Phil Wandschneider was appointed to the new SES Professorship in Sustainable Development.

Jon Yoder was named associate editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.



AAEA President **Ron Mittelhammer** presented **Hayley Chouinard** with the Distinguished Teaching Award at the AAEA conference in Denver in July. (Photo is courtesy of Agricultural & Applied Economics Association)



SES doctoral students with Nobel Laureate **Robert Lucas** and Professor **Seung Mo Choi**. Lucas was Choi's advisor at the University of Chicago.



Robert Lucas and Joan and Duane Leigh

Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Distinguished Lecture in Economics

The Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Distinguished Lecture is a university-wide lecture 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. **Jill McCluskey** is the Leigh Lecture organizer.

Robert E. Lucas Jr., John Dewey Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago and a 1995 Nobel Laureate, presented the 2010 Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Distinguished Lecture in Economics seminar. Nobel Laureate George Akerlof has been invited to give the 2011 Leigh Lecture.

Featured External Speakers

The spring semester 2010 was filled with seminars from job candidates for an assistant professorship. The School of Economic Sciences was extremely pleased to hire **Ben Cowan** from the University of Wisconsin out of the pool of candidates. Other featured external speakers included:

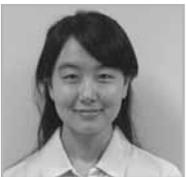


Arun Raha ('90 Ph.D.), chief economist for the State of Washington and executive director of the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. Dr. Raha gave a talk on the "Art & Science of Economic Fortune Telling." He received the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's top overall forecast prize in 2007, as well as the *Wall Street Journal's* forecasting award in January 2005. Raha now serves on the *Wall Street Journal's* Economic Forecasting Panel and his economic forecasts have been included in *Business Week*, *Bloomberg*

Business News, *Reuters*, and *Consensus* blue chip forecasts.

Other guest speakers included **Greg Perry**, Oregon State University; **Thomas Holmes**, University of Minnesota; **Christopher Costello**, UC Santa Barbara; **Yoram Bauman**, University of Washington; **Andrew Shim**, University of Tokyo; **Greg Duncan**, UC Berkeley; **Jeffrey Franks** ('85 B.S.), International Monetary Fund

VISITING SCHOLARS



Min He is a visiting scholar from China Agricultural University in Beijing and will receive her doctorate in July 2010 in agricultural economics. In China, her experience includes working as an assistant with the WTO Affairs Division, Agricultural Trade Promotion Center, Minister of Agriculture. In SES, she is working with **Andrew Cassey** on international trade and regional economics.



Hugo Storm is a research assistant and doctoral student at the Economic and Agricultural Policy Institute for Food and Resource Economics, University of Bonn-Germany working with **Thomas Heckelei** ('95 Ph.D.). Storm is working with **Ron Mittelhammer** on the Bayesian estimators of Markov chain models.

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CASSEY: FEDERAL RESERVE BANK VISITING SCHOLAR



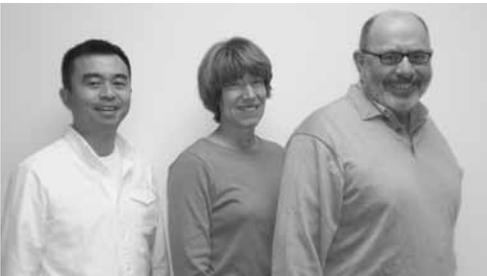
Andrew Cassey, assistant professor, spent a month this summer as a visiting scholar at the Globalization and Monetary Policy Institute at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. This institute, part of the research department at the Dallas Fed, studies the interactions between international economic events and U.S. domestic monetary policy.

Cassey was invited to the Dallas Fed in order to conduct research on the patterns of U.S. state exports. According to Cassey, “The Globalization and Monetary Policy Institute wanted work done on Texas exports. I decided to focus on Texas’ export relationship with Mexico. Texas–Mexico is the largest state–country export relationship.”

Cassey’s findings showed that the share of Texas manufactured exports to Mexico has been declining since 1997, even though the level of exports has increased. Cassey argued that changes to the geography of Mexico’s maquiladoras imports are likely the cause of the decreased share. Maquiladoras are manufacturing establishments in Mexico that do final assembly of goods for export to the United States. Previously maquiladoras were located along the U.S. border and imported American intermediate inputs. However, increasingly, maquiladoras are located throughout Mexico and purchase inputs from China. Dr. Cassey’s work was published as an article in the Dallas Fed’s academic journal, the *Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Staff Papers*.

In addition to his work on exports, Cassey’s activities as a visiting scholar included collaborating with the Fed’s research economists, participating in seminars, and interacting with other visiting research associates. Cassey said, “During my time at the Dallas Fed, Dean Corbae and Russell Cooper (University of Texas) and Karen Lewis (University of Pennsylvania) all came by for various amounts of time. Plus I got to work with the great team of economists in the research department—people such as Simona Cociuba, Ananth Ramanarayanan, and Carlos Zarazaga. It was a great experience professionally, and I hope to continue my relationship with the Dallas Fed in the future. But it was really hot.”

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH GROUP STUDIES RURAL TRANSPORTATION



TRG Faculty: Jia Yan, Vicki McCracken, and Ken Casavant.
Not pictured: Eric Jessup

A recent national study was conducted by SES’s Transportation Research Group (TRG), which includes faculty members **Ken Casavant** (TRG director), **Eric Jessup**, **Vicki McCracken**, and **Jia Yan**. The study examines the transportation system as a whole and each of the four major modes of transportation commonly used by agriculture in the United States: trucking, railroads, barges, and ocean vessels. Each is evaluated in light of its ability to meet rural America’s

transportation needs. Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN) states that the study “provides Congress the most up-to-date data and information about transportation challenges we face in rural America.” The TRG research explains that there are tradeoffs to antitrust exemptions for ocean shippers and rail. Ocean shipping and railroads are exempt from many antitrust rules. These exemptions have the potential to decrease competition, reduce service, and raise rates. However, since each of these industries cooperates as part of a network, carriers believe the limited antitrust exemptions have facilitated this cooperation. Rail consolidation means fewer choices and more restrictions for most shippers, but the rail industry has become more stable and profitable and some rates have gone down. The study will have significant impacts on policy. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James L. Oberstar argues, “Many of the issues highlighted in this study relate back to the relative lack of competition in the rail industry, which adversely affects the agriculture industry and other sectors that are vital to a robust economy...It confirms that Congress must reduce impediments to competition that adversely affect rail customers.”

IMPACT CENTER HIGHLIGHTS



In his first year as IMPACT director, in addition to his research and teaching duties, **Thomas Marsh** focused on planning new projects, mainly tree fruit production and trade, agricultural trade barriers and export enhancement, and participating in grant opportunities. The time spent on grant proposals paid off. IMPACT Center staff members were co-investigators or collaborators on new grants from which IMPACT/SES realized over \$1 million in new funds from various sources (including USDA, WRIPM, DOE, and commodity commissions). The funding provides support for staff and for eight doctoral students.

Other IMPACT Center news includes the hiring of a new postdoctoral research associate, **Srinivasa Ponnaluru** ('10 Ph.D.), to contribute to a USDA–SCRI grant on biodegradable mulches and to an IMPACT project on the economics of tree fruit production and trade. Assistant Research Professor **Michael Brady** led efforts to identify the economic contribution of agriculture to Washington's economy and the economic demand for water in Washington. Brady made multiple presentations, including "Issues and Economics Involved in Breaking out Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Land and the Baseline Forecast" to the Policy Advisory Group of the Columbia River Basin Project. Research Associate **Suzette Galinato** coauthored several IMPACT-supported projects, including cost estimates of establishing and producing sweet cherries in Washington and hops in Yakima Valley, impacts of the Azinphos-methyl ban in the apple industry, and a profile of the agri-tourism in Washington.

SES AND GLOBAL ANIMAL HEALTH

In 2008, WSU announced the formation of the School for Global Animal Health, which builds on the university's worldwide leadership in research on animal health and its link to human health. "The School for Global Animal Health will strengthen existing international partnerships into a sustainable network to develop innovative solutions to major infectious diseases of animals that directly affect human health and economic development," said **Guy Palmer**, School for Global Animal Health director. SES has strong expertise in animal health economics, and faculty members **Tom Marsh**, **Jeff LaFrance**, and **Jon Yoder** serve as affiliated faculty members in the school. Marsh co-organizes a working group that explores animal health economics, facilitating interaction and information about the economics of animal health among interested parties. He also served as a subject matter expert to the Department of Homeland Security and the National Academy of Sciences on the economic assessment of disease outbreaks in agriculture.

In animal health related research, Marsh, along with alumni **Peter Tozer** ('98 Ph.D. AgEcon), an economist in Australia; **Lia Nogueira** ('08 Ph.D.), an assistant professor at the University of Illinois; and **Evgeniy Perevodchikova** ('10 Ph.D.), an econometrician at American Express, recently completed a federally funded project on foot and mouth disease (FMD) in North America and Australia. Economic losses of an FMD outbreak are often dramatic (in the billions of U.S. dollars) and distort trade patterns worldwide. An important finding is that country-specific characteristics, such as dependence on exports or imports, livestock inventories and management, disease-control policies, consumer demographics and reaction, and value of livestock, make it difficult to extrapolate the impacts of FMD from one country to another.

AGRIBUSINESS CONNECTIONS



Assistant Professor and Extension Economist **Karina Gallardo's** focus is on value-added agribusiness opportunities for specialty crops in the state of Washington. Gallardo is located at the Wenatchee Tree Fruit Research Extension Center, which places her in the middle of the action in the tree fruit industry. With food industry work experience, undergraduate and professional degrees in food science, and a doctorate in agricultural economics, she is ideally positioned for interdisciplinary research as she leads the economic

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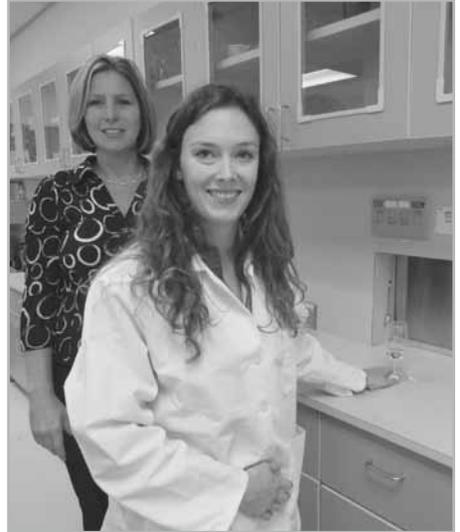
component. Gallardo has been active in establishing collaborations with allied scientists in projects such as analyzing the use of biological control in western tree fruit orchards and increasing the efficiency of new Rosaceae apple cultivars development by using marker-assisted breeding. She recently became involved with the Small Farm Programs, in a project aimed to increase the value of specialty and sustainable crop sales at farmers' markets by implementing the use of electronic benefits transfer and credit card capability. She also finds time to collaborate with colleagues in Pullman and at other universities with journal articles published in *Agricultural Finance Review*, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, *Nutrition and Natural Resources*, and *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*. She has also worked with **Mykel Taylor** and **Herb Hinman** to produce highly used cost estimates of establishing and producing various crops in Washington. A native of Peru, Gallardo is bilingual in English and Spanish. Gallardo was part of the organization team for the series "Ag in Uncertain Times en Español," available at www.farmmanagement.org/aginuncertaintimesespanol.

WINE ECONOMICS: REPUTATION, LOCATION, AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Although Washington is a relatively young wine region, it is the second largest wine producing state in the United States and has already developed a strong international reputation. Starting with the work of Professor Emeritus **Ray Folwell**, SES has been at the forefront in studying the economics of Washington wine. **Jill McCluskey** and colleagues are continuing this line of research and taking it in new directions. McCluskey started her work on wine economics with **Marco Costanigro** ('07 Ph.D.), who is now an assistant professor at Colorado State University. Wine is a product with extreme variations within the category. Costanigro, with McCluskey and **Ron Mittelhammer**, studied empirically how to group sub-categories of wine (e.g., everyday versus premium) and how product attributes (such as vintage and appellation) affect prices differently across sub-categories. Costanigro and McCluskey also studied how both collective reputation (such as Washington wine or a specific appellation) and brand/winery reputation affect prices.

From an economist's point of view, wine is also an interesting product because producers want their closest competitors to produce a high-quality product. A bad wine will negatively affect the reputation of the group of producers, and a great wine will help the collective reputation. McCluskey worked with **Michael Brady** and **Nan Yang** ('09 Ph.D.), who is currently doing postdoctoral research with **Karina Gallardo**, with winery-level geographic information system (GIS) data to understand the spatial relationships among neighboring wineries. With the GIS data, they conducted clustering tests based on wine prices and tasting scores. Their estimated spatial lag model indicates that there exist strong neighbor effects—so, depending on land prices, it can pay to locate a new winery close to an established winery with a high reputation.

McCluskey is currently working with **Hainan Wang** ('11 Ph.D. expected) and **Christina Stump** ('11 M.A. expected). Wang conducted auctions for bottles of wine with different countries of origin in Beijing and Shanghai to understand how the Chinese wine market will evolve. They found that Chinese consumers prefer imported wine, specifically French wines, which currently occupy the most shelf space in urban Chinese stores. Since wine is a product that consumers develop a taste for and the average level of consumption is currently very low in China, there may be an opportunity for Washington wines to enter this expanding market. Working with McCluskey and Food Science Professor **Carolyn Ross**, Stump is combining sensory evaluation with economic choice experiments to understand consumer preferences for oak attributes in white wines.



Christina Stump (foreground) waits to provide a wine sample as part of an economic experiment in the food sensory evaluation lab with her advisor **Jill McCluskey**.

Undergraduate Highlights

ECON CLUB



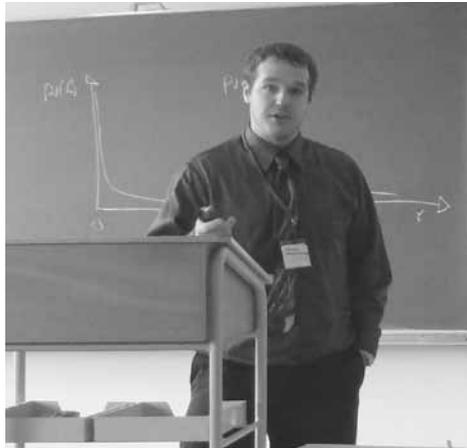
Econ Club members with co-advisor **Felix Munoz** at far right. Not pictured: **Ana Espinola**, co-advisor.

The Econ Club has been quite active this past year and membership is growing. The faculty advisors are **Felix Munoz** and **Ana Espinola**. The Econ Club officers for 2010-2011 are **Adam Nance**, president, **Ashley Willoughby**, vice president, and **Amara Rodriguez**, secretary.

The Econ Club met with Nobel Laureate **Robert Lucas** and **Jeffrey Franks** ('86 B.A.), mission chief to Romania for the IMF. Many SES faculty members met with the club to discuss current economic issues during their meetings: **Mykel Taylor** on agricultural production in Washington, **Felix Munoz** on the role of game theory in economics, **Seung Choi** and **Trent Smith** on the economics of consumption habits and obesity, **Robby Rosenman** on health care reform, **Mark Gibson** on the economic crisis, and **Philip Wandschneider** on energy and biofuels.

UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Undergraduate **Joshua Nelson** wrote a senior project examining the effect of the King County, Washington, mandatory calorie posting law on demand for specific menu items at TacoTime restaurants for Professor **Phil Wandschneider's** senior capstone course using sales data from 14 restaurants. Professor **Jill McCluskey** supervised the project and continued to work with Joshua over the summer. He estimated demand regressions for a number of menu items, which included an indicator variable for when the calorie posting law was in effect. Consistent with previous studies, he found that the impact of calorie posting on consumer demand has had mixed results—sometimes there is a shift and sometimes there is no significant impact. Joshua completed his bachelor's degree in August 2010. After graduation, Joshua went to work for his father Steve Nelson, who owns TacoTime restaurants in western Washington.



Joshua Nelson presenting his research in Germany.

McCluskey was invited to present research at the first Joint EAAE/AAEA Seminar "The Economics of Food, Food Choice and Health," in Freising, Germany in September 2010, which was co-organized by Professor **Jutta Roosen** ('95 M.A.). McCluskey discussed the opportunity with Joshua and submitted an abstract based on his undergraduate research project. Joshua represented SES well in his presentation and interactions at the conference in Germany. He presented to an international audience of mostly academic researchers and government policy makers.

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UNDERGRADUATE KUDOS

Congratulations to several SES undergraduates who took home awards from the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences 51st Annual Awards Banquet in May.

Family and Consumer Scientist of the Year Award

Mauricio Cifuentes-Soto, B.S. Economic Sciences, December 2009. He entered graduate school at Texas A&M in the Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Aggie of the Year Award

Derik LeFave, B.S. in Agricultural Economics and Management (double major with crop science), May 2010. Derik has a position with Simplot in Quincy, working as a crop advisor.

Outstanding Junior in Human Sciences

Lauryn Ringwood, economics with an emphasis in international development. Lauryn spent spring 2009 with Italy Abroad, studied in Peru this summer, and is in the Honors College at WSU.

SES AWARDS

Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Economics and Management

Derik LeFave (see also *Aggie of the Year Award* above)

Outstanding Senior in Economics

Marat Shaimardanov. He returned to his home country of Kazakhstan after May graduation with a B.S. in Economic Sciences with a financial markets option.

Wall Street Journal Award

Michael Johnson. Michael graduated in May 2010 with a B.S. in Economic Sciences with an environmental and resource economics option. He has a position with NASS in Helena, Montana.

Congratulations also to **Bryan Sherman** who was awarded the Western Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Senior Award at WSU.

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Graduate Student Highlights

The school enrolled 20 new doctoral students for fall 2010 for a total of about 70 students. Typically, about 40% of SES doctoral students are from the United States. The other students come from several countries, including Armenia, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The school is enriched from this diversity. At the master's level, eight new students enrolled from countries including China, Libya, Madagascar, South Africa, and the United States.

SES GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA)

The SES-GSA has had a successful year filled with fun and learning experiences. The first SES-GSA poster competition was held in February. Twenty-six SES graduate students presented posters. Five students were awarded cash prizes.



SES graduate students present their research in the poster competition.

GSA students were privileged to meet two Nobel Laureates: Edward Prescott (Nobel Prize 2004) and Robert Lucas (Nobel Prize 1994) in the spring semester.



SES graduate students with Nobel Laureate Ed Prescott.

The 2010 SES-GSA annual fall BBQ was held at Wawawai Park. Over 60 students attended this event filled with food, games, and fun. The event created a great opportunity for interactions between continuing and new students and their families. The special activity for the event was a tug of war between continuing and new graduate students. In the first round, the new students won. However, the continuing students applied their knowledge and experience from game theory, statistics, econometrics, and research to coordinate and find the best way to win. The continuing students won in the second and third rounds, showing their great experience and strength of team work.



SES graduate students go for a hike at beautiful Wawawai Park.

The organization, jointly with the department, has purchased a new printer and a scanner for the graduate student computer laboratory. The GSA raised \$1,400

for the second poster competition, which will be held in the spring semester.

Thank you to all who made this year a great success for the SES-GSA. We are really grateful for your help and support!

SES GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

The new officers for 2010-2011 are **Fafanyo Asiseh**, president, **Aysin Tekindor**, vice president, and **Andrey Zaiken**, treasurer.

NEW FULBRIGHT FELLOWS



Lyliana Gayoso Gomez was selected as a participant in the Fulbright Faculty Development Program from Paraguay. She has a master's degree in international trade and cooperation from Kyung Hee University and an undergraduate degree in economics from Universidad Nacional de Asuncion. She was a faculty member at the Universidad Autonoma de Asuncion and a junior economist at the World Bank. After completing her degree, Lyliana plans to return to her university to implement innovative teaching practices to improve understanding of the discipline among students and faculty.



Sifiso Mhlaba was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study for a master's degree. He received a bachelor's degree with distinction in 2009 from North West University in South Africa. Sifiso's interests focus on developing countries in the areas of agricultural business management and renewable energy economics.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS AND KUDOS

Jude Bayham received the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's prestigious Outstanding Master's Thesis Award (Honorable Mention) in Denver for his thesis "A General Equilibrium Analysis of Biofuel Market Policies." Jude also received the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award (Honorable Mention) from the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

Doctoral student **Jeff Luckstead** won the award for Outstanding Journal Article in the *JAAE* for 2009.

The Graduate and Professional Students Association (GPSA) selected **Hayk Khachatryan** to receive the 2009-2010 award for Excellence in the Role of Research Assistant at Washington State University.



Award-winning doctoral students **Jeff Luckstead** (left) and **Jude Bayham** (right) with their master's advisor, Steve Devadoss of the University of Idaho.

AAEA Travel Grants were awarded to **Mark Holmgren**, **Hainan Wang**, and **Nan Yang**.

DOCTORAL GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Mongeon completed his doctorate in economics in May 2010, and joined the University of New Haven (UNH) as an assistant professor in the management of sports industries program in the College of Business. Mongeon's research interests include the effects of indirect substitutes on professional leagues and determining the economic value of professional hockey players. Kevin has specialized in industrial organization and econometrics and is a principal owner of The Sports Analytics Institute, which uses economics, statistics, and data mining to model underlying processes of sporting events. Originally from Canada, Mongeon earned his MBA from Windsor University in Windsor, Ontario, and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Kevin continues the strong tradition of sports economics at WSU. **Jason Winfree** ('02 Ph.D.), an associate professor at the University of Michigan in sports management, served as a member of Kevin's doctoral committee.



SES GRADUATES

(December 2009, May 2010, August 2010)



Doctoral students awaiting the hooding ceremony (left to right): **Huifang Zhang** (now analyst for Dell Computers), **Kevin Mongeon** (now assistant professor, University of New Haven), **Rashmita Basu** (now health research scientist, Texas A&M School of Medicine), and **Hayk Khachatryan** (assistant professor, University of Florida).

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Rashmita Basu, *Healthy Lifestyle, Disease Prevention and Healthcare Utilization: A Case Study for Dementia*. Major Advisor: Rosenman.

Kelley Cullen, *Analyzing the Determinants of College and Health Care Provider Choice*. Major Advisor: McCluskey.

Scott Goates, *Topics in Health Economics: Prevention, Measurement and Fraud*. Major Advisor: Rosenman.

Mark Holmgren, *Three Essays Identifying Consumer Behavior by Groups*. Major Advisor: McCracken.

Seungchul Lee, *Three Essays on Health Economics*. Major Advisor: Rosenman.

William Lindsay, *Law Enforcement Performance Standards and Wages: A Test of the Efficiency Wage Hypothesis*. Major Professor: Inaba.

Kevin Mongeon, *Essays in Sports Economics*. Major Advisor: McCluskey.

Evgeniy Perevodchikov, *Essays on Economics of Invasive Species Outbreaks and Spatial Information Theoretic Estimation*. Major Advisor: Marsh.

Srinivasa Ponnaluru, *Empirical Analysis of Used Construction Equipment and Auction House Revenues*. Major Advisor: Marsh.

Nan Yang, *Quality Differentiation in Wine Market*. Major Advisor: McCluskey.

Qiujie Zheng, *Biofuel Feedstock Supply and Risk*. Major Advisor: McCracken.

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MASTER'S DEGREES

Andrew Erickson. Major Advisor: Munoz.
Kevin Graham. Major Advisor: McCluskey.
Hayk Khachatryan. Major Advisor: Casavant.
Stephen Komadina. Major Advisor: Smith.
Xiaohan Ma. Major Advisor: Choi.
Roger Miller. Major Advisor: Aharonovitz.
Nicolas Sheets. Major Advisor: Yoder.
Chris Singh. Major Advisor: McCluskey.
Yu-Chien Wang. Major Advisor: Steele.
Brandon Ware. Major Advisor: Galinato.
Holi Weaver. Major Advisor: Aharonovitz.
Qiao Xiao. Major Advisor: Yan.
Sy-Wei You-Chen. Major Advisor: Rosenman.

SES UNDERGRADUATES

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Eric Biersner, Jesse Burnet, John Burns, Mauricio Cifuentes-Soto (Cum Laude),
Allison Crostic, David Cutrell, Caleb Deam, Mandeep Dhaliwal, Thanh-Thao Do, Matthew Geyer, Joel Hewitt, Kyle Jones, Dongkyu Kum (Dean's Honor Roll, Magna Cum Laude), **Jered Kumm, Richard Liberda, Zhan Lin, Michael Linn, Ty Martin, Phillip Murr, Feruza Nabiyeva, Skyler Nakashima, Josh Nelson, Ayako Ota, Stacy Schuck, Shun In Sham, Mark Soleta, Shannon Tenney, Kathy Tong, Justin Wang, Brandon Wolking, Kelly Wiggins, Jack Wynn**

Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness

Dane Youngren (Magna Cum Laude)

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and Management

Brett Calhoun, Derik LeFave (Summa Cum Laude), **Keeley Nolan, Derek Schneidmiller**

Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics and Management

Jenny Ringwood (Summa Cum Laude), **Hau Yin Tracy Tam**

Bachelor of Science in Economic Sciences

Alexander Booker, Ken Chaichanavong (Cum Laude), **Nicolas Cone, Anthony Gong** (Magna Cum Laude), **Michael Johnson** (Magna Cum Laude), **Benjamin Routier, Sengkham Jason Sengdara** (Cum Laude), **Marat Shaimardanov** (Magna Cum Laude), **Ryan Sherry, Dominic Smargiassi, Megan Smersh, Tsik Tsui, Ka-Wai Yu, Qianni Zhang**

Alumni News

Michael Baumgartner ('99 B.A. Econ) is a candidate for Washington State Senate and won the primary 53.3% to 46.7% over the incumbent. Michael and Ele (Eleanor) were married October 10 in Spokane. Congratulations to you both!

Joshua Berning ('08 Ph.D. Econ) is an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut.

Glen Booth ('94 M.A. AgEcon) is a federal power marketer for the BPA in Portland.

Ray Bower ('70 B.A. AgEcon) is the owner of a business management consulting company.

Cindy Kaseberg Brown ('85 M.A. AgEcon) is a coordinator with TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling in The Dalles, Oregon. She is "happily married since 1984 with three great sons."

Michael Buckley ('82 B.A. Econ) is a marketing manager for Safeco Insurance in Seattle.

Curtis Cavalletto ('05 B.S. AgEcon) is an attorney specializing in estate planning and workers' compensation with David Justin Lynch & Assoc. in Palm Springs, California. "Celebrating my passing of the California State Bar on my first time and representing WSU in Southern California! Go Cougs!"

Caleb Deam ('10 B.A. Econ) is an AR/AP Specialist with RJB Wholesale Inc. in Snohomish.

Yvonne Deshayes ('80 B.A. Econ) is lead tax accountant with UC-Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, California.

Brad Dobry ('82 B.S. AgEcon) owns and operates a landscaping business in Walpole, Massachusetts.

Steve Edmiston ('84 B.A. Econ) continues practicing law with Invicta Law Group, a Seattle law firm specializing in business law, intellectual property, and commercial litigation. He also continues his career as an independent feature filmmaker—his most recent film, *Crimes of the Past*, was released in April 2010 through MarVista Entertainment.

Robert Fearn ('55 M.A. Econ) is emeritus professor of economics at North Carolina State University.

Fabrizio Felloni ('00 M.A. AgEcon) returned to Italy after working for two years in New York with the UN Development Program. He is currently with the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Phil Halverson ('90 Ph.D. AgEcon) is a resource analyst with the Las Vegas Valley Water District. He writes that his lovely wife, Ewa, became a U.S. citizen on August 13, 2010.

Verne House ('71 Ph.D. AgEcon) and wife, Nancy, are in Bozeman, Montana, most of the year to be close to their three children and one grandchild. Verne misses teaching bright Armenians and Georgians, but keeps busy with gardening, fishing and sometimes catching, and carpentry. "I am forever grateful to WSU—the closest I have come to an education."

Michael Johnson ('10 B.S. Econ) is a survey statistician in agricultural commodities with the USDA National Ag Statistics Service in Montana.

Stacy Kniveton ('97 B.S. Agribus) is owner of Stavia LLC in Pasco, specializing in production agriculture.

Corey Larson ('89 B.A. Econ) is an associate attorney with Salzsieder Legal Services in Longview, specializing in estate planning and bankruptcy. "Our fifth child graduated from high school in June so we are down to three children at home. We are also going to be grandparents for the first time in December."

James Lawler ('79 B.S. AgEcon) writes, "I am in my third year as an elected Superior Court Judge in Lewis County. Our oldest son graduated from WSU in 2009 with degrees in political science and philosophy. Our middle son is currently in his third year at WSU in the architecture program."

Lindsay Loyd Berkowitz ('00 B.A. Econ) was recently promoted from senior manager to director of acquisitions strategy and planning at American Express in New York, New York. Lindsay and her husband, Adam Berkowitz, have a daughter, Marissa, born on February 5, 2010.

Thomas Lovas ('77 M.A. Econ) writes from Anchorage, Alaska: "Now a self-employed utilities economist. Enjoyed WSU, active in alumni association and support student recruitment. Married 30 years. Mary is employed as a CPA. We enjoy outdoor activities in Alaska, Hawaii in the winter."

Monte Marti ('83 M.A. AgEcon) "retired from Verizon after 25 years, only to go to work immediately as the new manager of the Snohomish Conservation District in Lake Stevens. With this move, Monte is following his passion in natural resource management which began during his years at WSU."

Perry Menard ('91 B.S. AgEcon) is vice president of investments with UBS in Tacoma.

Holly Nelson ('96 B.S. Agribus) is senior director of show and contest for the American Paint Horse Association in Fort Worth, Texas.

George Pfeiffer ('76 Ph.D. AgEcon) writes, "Nancy and I moved to Wyoming this summer following her retirement from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Life is good. Our daughter, Lisa, is a fisheries economist with NOAA in Seattle, and Katie is working on a Ph.D. in chemical engineering at UC Berkeley."

Miguel Reyna ('99 B.S. Agribus) is a customer operations specialist with ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston in Kennewick.

Wendy Scattergood ('87 B.A. Econ) is a professor at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin.

James Standaert ('80 Ph.D. AgEcon) is a legislative fiscal analyst with the State of Montana. He and Mary Jane are grandparents of seven.

Chad Steiner ('00 B.S. AgEcon) is a district manager with Syngenta Crop Protection LLC. Chad writes, "2010 brought us to California with Syngenta and 2011 will bring the first addition to our family. We'll miss Tennessee but look forward to being back in the West."

Dan Taylor ('82 Ph.D. AgEcon) is in his 29th year in the Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech. Daughter Claudia is a senior at the University of Pittsburg and son Alex is a senior in high school. His wife, Barbara, is at Virginia Tech's Center, continuing to teach K-12 teachers how to teach economics.

Bharat (Mani) Upadhyay ('03 Ph.D. AgEcon) has been promoted to manager, Actuarial and Analytics, Agriculture, and Financial Services Corp. in Alberta, Canada.

Rick Williams ('89 B.S. AgEcon) is a risk management specialist with USDA-Risk Management Agency.

Fatuma Yusuf ('00 Ph.D. AgEcon) is a senior economist with CH2M Hill in Colorado. She writes, "My son, Mohamed, graduated from college this past June and my daughter, Aisha, who was born in Pullman, is applying to colleges this fall. Both kids have fond memories of their time in Pullman. We hope to visit Pullman soon. On the work front, I've been involved in a lot of exciting projects throughout the USA and in Africa."

Retirement



William (Bill) Hallagan taught at WSU for 33 years. At the undergraduate level he taught international trade, capstone courses for the majors, principles, and a course on the Chinese economy. His areas of research included international development and international trade. Bill was known as a committed and outstanding teacher. Many of his students from his earlier years at WSU will remember his teaching diminishing marginal utility by feeding his dog biscuits in front of class. Unfortunately, the marginal utility of

dog biscuits decays very slowly for dogs! Bill was an excellent colleague who provided many thoughtful and insightful comments to fellow faculty and graduate students in seminars and while reading their research papers. He will be missed by students, faculty and staff. Enjoy your retirement, Bill.

In Memoriam



Albert Harrington, 92, retired professor of agricultural economics, died at home in Pullman on Sunday, July 25, 2010. Al joined the WSU faculty in 1946. During his tenure at WSU, he received two university teaching awards and two national teaching awards. After his retirement in 1990, the fourth and fifth floors of WSU's Stephenson North Hall were named the Albert H. Harrington House. The following is condensed from **Phil Wandschneider's** eulogy:

Al had a long and distinguished career as an agricultural economist. Al was a mentor to me, as to many. When I first arrived I would often find my way down to Al's corner office for wisdom, advice, interpretation, and simply decompression. Al loved teaching, both the doing of it and the profession itself. He was literally an award-winning teacher, an innovative teacher, and a fierce advocate for the teaching enterprise within the land grant university. To Al, excellence in teaching centered on inspiring and motivating students. One of his favorite sayings was that it was a mistake to try to "cover material." The teacher should uncover material in a way that inspires and motivates students to continued learning.

Al was proud of developing the class in agricultural history. We miss the broad and integrated view of education that Al propounded in many of our current narrow disciplinary worlds. Regarding administration, Al served as chair, interim chair, and even temporary interim chair, for a total of at least four, perhaps more, times. However, he was least enthusiastic about administration of all his activities. As he explained to one job candidate for chair, you have to be at least one quarter crazy to do this job.

Part of Al's work was basic research—what Al called research when no one is looking over your shoulder. But much of his extension and research activity was practical. Regarding outreach and applied research, Al was a generalist, working with many of the agricultural industries in the state including wheat, potatoes, dairy, livestock, asparagus, and, especially, fruit. He was instrumental in establishing the Washington State (later Tri-state) Outlook publications. Among other accomplishments, Al helped design and implement the regional grant system of funding land grant research across the country, helped support and inform the various agricultural industries as they formed the commodity commissions, did early analysis of the economics of the Columbia Basin project, and helped the apple, potato, and asparagus industries understand the relative economics of fresh and processed markets. Al's positive and social attitude toward people was at the heart of his love of teaching, his passion for research and extension, and, in particular, his role, at least when I arrived, as resident guru and mentor.

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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 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 assure continued excellence of vital programs. The following listing includes contributions for the period October 6, 2009, through October 9, 2010; however, the category assignments are provided by the university for fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. If we missed listing your donation, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight.

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