As I write this, there is a stiff breeze blowing through the WSU campus. The trees are bright orange, yellow, and red. Leaves and football are in the air. Students are wearing crimson and gray under their coats. Fall has come to Pullman. What a lovely time of year and what a great time to be on campus!

This has been a great year for the alumni, students, faculty, and staff of the School of Economic Sciences. In the pages ahead, you will learn about the many accomplishments of the SES family. Many of these achievements are the result of years of continuous effort and excellence by the individuals and groups recognized. But it is important to know that it is the shared vision for excellence and the sustained efforts of all members of the SES family that make the School of Economic Sciences the special place it is where discovery, learning, and service are part of the fabric of each day.

The school contributes to student learning and success across the entire campus. The introductory sequence of microeconomics and macroeconomics now serves nearly four thousand students per year. Our faculty are continually bringing experiential learning into our classes through team projects, travel abroad studies, and active learning. Our enrollment continues to be high at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This year SES graduated 82 students with bachelor’s degrees and 21 students with graduate degrees.

Many of you contributed financially and in other ways to the School of Economic Sciences this year, and I want to express our deep appreciation. Your gifts are extremely important to the school. They provide scholarships for students, support our teaching and scholarly work through professorships and endowed chairs, and facilitate the acquisition of software and other materials for both research and instruction. These funds enable SES to enrich the intellectual conversation by allowing us to bring in speakers to present cutting edge research that challenges our faculty and students. Contributions also support student recruitment and retention and permit our students and faculty to travel, conduct research, and present research ideas and findings. Your contributions to SES are greatly appreciated. Our SES Friends committee has done an outstanding job leading the way and I especially want to thank Monte Marti for his many years of service and support as chair of that committee.

This year, our Graduate Student Association had another great year supporting research competitions, student activities and seminars, and student travel to professional conferences, through funds raised mainly at the Annual SES Friends Dinner and fundraiser held on campus each October. As a result of these efforts, many of our graduate students present papers and posters at various professional meetings. Colleagues from around the nation complimented WSU on the number and quality of our graduate students represented in these professional activities. Thanks to all who contributed to make this possible.

We’ve had some other changes at SES as well. This year, CAHNRS Dean Dan Bernardo stepped in as Interim Provost and Ron Mittelhammer, SES Director Emeritus and Regents Professor, has moved forward to lead CAHNRS as Interim Dean.

Sadly, we also lost some of the SES family this year. Jim Nielson, the retired Department Chair of Agricultural Economics, Emeritus Professor David Holland, former Professor Dirk Dirtwiler, and Tesfaye Deboch, fourth year graduate student, passed away. With the winter holidays approaching, we take a moment to remember these members of our SES family and all that their lives meant.

You are all part of the school’s many successes. We much enjoy keeping up with the lives and careers of all of our friends. Please send a note from time to time to let us know about your adventures in life. Please be sure to include your email and address when you write to us with news. If you are in Pullman, you are welcome to visit us in Hulbert Hall. Please come by my office for a chat. I would enjoy meeting you and learning more about you and your experiences while at WSU and beyond.

As we look ahead to 2014, please let me wish you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday season. May the New Year bring you many successes and much joy!

Go Cougs!

H. Alan Love, Professor and Director
This year, the Alumni and Friends Weekend was held October 11, 2013, during Dad’s Weekend. Alumni and emeriti interacted with SES graduate and undergraduate students (and their families), faculty, and staff. It was a banner year. The auction was entertaining with Monte Marti and “Vanna” (Bruce Prenguber) auctioning off baskets, graduate student labor, and food. This was the best year thus far, and thanks to everyone who participated—we raised over $10,000, approximately half of which went to the graduate students who did a wonderful job providing baskets, painting, labor, and food. The rest went into the Tesfaye Girma Deboch Fellowship, SES Excellence Fund, and the Wallace “Wally” Rehberg Scholarship. The students and faculty who donated items for auction shared what was in store for the successful bidder, and this often led to a highly competitive auction. If you check our Facebook page at facebook.com/pages/School-of-Economic-Sciences-Washington-State-University/101888003259005 you can see photos of the event. Please watch our website for upcoming details about next years’ event. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to our annual event. It was great to see you.

Gail Cramer Receives Award

Louisiana State University Professor and Department Head Gail L. Cramer, Ph.D., was recently honored with the Washington State University Alumni Association (WSUAA) Alumni Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to agricultural policy, research, and global agribusiness. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Washington State University in 1963 and a master of science degree from Michigan State University the following year. He earned his doctorate from Oregon State University in 1968. Dr. Cramer has been recognized with numerous awards and honors in his field. In 2004, he received the prestigious Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture International Award. He was honored with the Sustainable Agriculture Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002. In 1989, he was appointed to the White House Agribusiness Commission.

New Staff

**Tom Dahl**

Tom became an official member of the School of Economic Sciences staff. His official title is now Secretary and he works half time for the school. He and his wife enjoy the outdoors, fishing, picnicking, barbequing, and spending their Saturdays at Lake Chacolet near Plummer, Idaho.

**Rich Hoeft**

Rich comes to us from the Food Science/Clark Hall Business Center. Rich is our Budget Finance Manager. He has been on campus for 23 years at VCAPP, the Water Research Center, and the School of Food Science previous to the business center. He lives with his wife and the youngest of their five children in Moscow.
Visitors

**Dustin Pendell**
In November 2012, Dr. Dustin Pendell finalized and began planning for his sabbatical for spring 2013. After arriving on January 6 in Pullman, he was in the classroom the following day.

Transitioning to Pullman was much easier than his transition to Wageningen, Netherlands, the previous semester as everything was in English, his mode of transportation had more than two wheels, and there was a McDonald’s only a couple blocks away! During his five months at WSU, his activities included two presentations, four submitted peer-reviewed journal articles, a peer-reviewed white paper, and two submitted and funded grant proposals. Dustin also taught EconS 352, business management economics, to 58 students.

**Fenghu Wang**
Dr. Wang received a grant in China to support him in visiting WSU and working with Dr. Jia Yan. They are completing a project on measuring bank performance using data that was compiled by Dr. Wang.

Visitor on the Palouse
This is what it’s like driving to work/class on the Palouse.
Faculty and Staff Honors and Awards

Daniel Bernardo, CAHNRS Dean and Professor, was appointed Interim Provost for WSU.

Ken Casavant, Director of the Transportation Research Group, was appointed to the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) of the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Hayley Chouinard, Associate Professor, was elected as a Director of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

Randy Fortenbery, Tom Mick Endowed Chair and Professor, was appointed Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the national regulatory agency for U.S. derivatives markets.

Tom Marsh, Director of IMPACT and Professor, is the President-Elect of the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

Ron Mittelhammer, Regents Professor, was appointed as Interim Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

Robby Rosenman, Professor, was elected Chair of the Faculty Senate and as Faculty Legislative Representative.

Richard Shumway, Professor, was appointed Distinguished Professor in Agricultural and Resource Economics.

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

William Greene, Robert Stansky Professor of Economics and Toyota Motor Corp. Professor of Economics in the Stern School of Business, New York University. The Leigh Lecture is a university-wide lecture made possible by a generous gift from the family of Duane Leigh, Chair Emeritus of the Department of Economics at Washington State University. William Greene of NYU’s Stern School of Business gave the 2013 Leigh Lecture, “Modeling Health Care Outcomes.” Professor Greene discussed the relatively poor ranking of the U.S. care system and policy makers’ arguments about why the world’s most expensive health care system isn’t the world’s best. He also discussed empirical research projects related to health care outcomes.

Featured External Speakers

Guest speakers included: Starr McMullen, OrSU; Ellen McGrattan, FRB-Minneapolis; R. Garth Taylor, UI; Chetan Dave, NYU-Abu Dhabi; Joseph Cook, UW; Paul Glewwe, UM; Wesley Wilson, UO; Fabio Ghironi, UW; Jeff Dorfman, UGA; Dawn Thilmany, CSU; Noam Gruber, Dartmouth; Dustin Pendell, CSU; Yong Chen, OrSU; Bernard Sinclair-Desgagne, HEC Montreal; William Greene, NYU; Tauhidur Rahman, UA; Timothy Beatty, UMN; Emmanuel Larkey, CSU Fullerton; Eric Stuen, UI; Norm Whittlesey and Walt Butcher, Emeriti SES; Christopher Gibbs, UO; Fang Yang, SUNY-Albany; Devrim Demirel, CU; Mark Partridge, OSU; and Chris O’Donnell, Queensland.
Faculty Highlights

Tom Marsh’s Sabbatical

Dr. Tom Marsh spent the 2012–2013 academic year on sabbatical in North Carolina and abroad. In fall 2012, Dr. Marsh was a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University. Dr. Marsh was hosted by Dr. Nick Piggott and other gracious members of the NCSU faculty. He worked on publications and proposals on issues related to agricultural demand and marketing. Dr. Marsh gave several invited seminars, including workshops at North Carolina State University on the economic effects of food safety and at USDA-APHIS on the economics of disease management in agriculture. He also attended numerous other seminars and conferences throughout the southeast.

In spring 2013 Dr. Marsh travelled to Africa and Australia for research projects and conference presentations. In January 2013, Dr. Marsh gave an invited presentation at the University of London on livestock vaccine use. He also engaged with the WSU Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health on campus and in Kenya working on new research proposals with the CDC and the University of Washington.

Dr. Marsh and the IMPACT Center, along with SES, hosted Dr. Dustin Pendell from Colorado State in spring 2013. Dr. Pendell taught one class and worked on papers related to animal health economics (FMD and Rift Valley Fever).

Understanding the Affordable Health Care Act

Bidisha Mandal, Michael Brady, and Karina Gallardo

How will the Affordable Care Act affect health coverage, employment, and profitability in the agricultural industry in the state of Washington? Extension economists Bidisha Mandal, Michael Brady, and Karina Gallardo are working together to answer just that!

Agriculture, a critical driver of Washington’s economy, generates a diverse array of employment opportunities in the state through agricultural support industries, fruit and vegetable harvesting, and food packing and processing. There is a lack of understanding of the impact of the new health care regulations on revenues and competitiveness across agricultural operations because many of these jobs are seasonal and many of the businesses are small to medium in size. While Washington is one of a handful of states to operate its own health exchange and to expand Medicaid, current information on access to health care facilities in rural areas and use of health care among migrant workers is ambiguous at best. The lack of such information complicates an analysis of the impact of the new mandate on workers and employers. Professors Mandal, Brady, and Gallardo expect to address this problem. They will explore the potential effects of the Affordable Care Act on production costs and profitability from downstream food packing and processing operations to upstream agricultural support industries. They will also document the demand for medical care among agricultural workers in Washington before and after the implementation of the new law. Through their outreach activities the researchers will deliver their findings to various stakeholder groups across the state.
The Columbia River Treaty between Canada and the United States has had a profound effect on life in the Pacific Northwest since it was signed into law in the early 1960s. It led to the construction of large storage reservoirs in Canada and developed a plan for the two countries to jointly manage the flow of the Columbia River. Starting on January 1, 2014, either country can give a ten-year notice of pulling out of the treaty, which could lead either to no joint management or the renegotiation of a new treaty. The current treaty focuses primarily on managing flows for flood control and hydropower generation, which reflects the stakeholder interests at the time it was developed. However, since the treaty was established, the demands on the river’s flows have increased substantially and groups with interests related to irrigated agriculture, fisheries management, recreation, and municipalities are much more active than they were fifty years ago. Michael Brady, Assistant Professor, and Jon Yoder, Professor, in the School of Economic Sciences received a grant from the Washington State Water Resources Center to analyze the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty. The objective is to understand whether it is likely either country would benefit from exiting the existing treaty and, if so, what a renegotiated treaty could possibly look like. The objective of the project is to improve planning in Washington state and increase the benefits that those living in the Pacific Northwest receive from the bountiful resources of the Columbia River.

RosBREED—
Vicki McCracken and Karina Gallardo

Improving the accuracy and efficiency of breeding and commercializing rosaceous crops (plants in the rose family) can accelerate the development of new rosaceous cultivars with improved horticultural performance and market potential, benefiting all supply chain members. Marker-assisted-breeding has proven successful in crop improvement programs. However, the development and use of genetic-based information requires extensive genetic knowledge, trained personnel, and sufficient financial resources. It is crucial for breeders to focus on the traits of maximum value to the whole supply chain. Systematically identifying these traits is challenging and very few studies of crop plants, including Rosacea, have evaluated the importance of traits to all supply chain members.

As a result, in 2009 the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture funded a multi-year, multi-state, multi-institutional project dedicated to genetic improvement of rosaceous crops (through the Specialty Crops Research Initiative with federal and matching funds). A key team in this RosBREED project is the socioeconomics team, which includes SES Economists Karina Gallardo and Vicki McCracken, University of Minnesota Economist Chengyan Yue, Pome Breeder Jim Luby, and WSU Tree Fruit Research Center Manager Jim McFerson. The team has identified the relative importance of traits for apple, peach, strawberry, and sweet and tart cherry breeding programs. In addition, the socioeconomics team is estimating the marginal values of targeted traits of the crops for growers, marketing intermediaries, and consumers.
Greetings to all our SES undergraduates! We would like to welcome the Econ Club officers for the 2013–2014 academic year: Troy Carpenter (President), Nina Smoni (Vice President), and CJ Hyland (Secretary).

This year we have organized a very interesting agenda in which graduate students, faculty, and undergraduate students jointly discuss current economic problems. In addition, CAHNRS has awarded our club with funds to invite up to two speakers during spring semester. We are extremely thankful to Dr. Kim Kidwell, CAHNRS Executive Associate Dean, for her encouragement and support. We invite everybody to join our discussions every other Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. in Hulbert 3. Our agenda for this fall semester was:

- Wednesday, September 11: Graduate School. Discussant: Dr. Felix Munoz
- Wednesday, September 25: Applied Econometrics. Discussant: Tristan Skolrud
- Wednesday, October 9: Sport Economics. Discussant: Jadrion Wooten
- Wednesday, October 23: Recycling and Economics. Discussant: Tongzhe Li
- Wednesday, November 6: Economic Outlook. Discussant: Dr. Mark Gibson
- Wednesday, November 20: TBA. Discussant: Troy Carpenter

You can learn more about our Econ Club activities at cahnrs-cms.wsu.edu/ses/undergrad/Pages/econclub.aspx.

Ana Espinola-Arrendo and Felix Munoz-Garcia, Econ Club Advisors

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Cheyenne Pace was awarded the spring 2013 Krautkraemer “Pay It Forward” Scholarship.

Dr. Jeff Krautkraemer was a Professor in the WSU School of Economic Sciences who passed away in December of 2004. He was known for his scholarly achievements in the field of natural resource economics, but also for his generous and kind spirit. He loved inspiring and challenging students to do their best and to care for the planet in a sustainable manner, and felt deeply that receiving the privilege of higher education implied a responsibility to give back in some manner to assist others.

In that spirit, this award is funded by friends, family, and students of Dr. Krautkraemer. The scholarship is premised on the idea that while we can’t always pay back the people who have enabled us to get where we are today, we just might be able to pay it forward to others we meet, and thus inspire a new round of giving and aspiration for good. Its recipient is chosen for his or her potential to carry on Dr. Krautkraemer’s vision of volunteerism and involvement in community projects, either currently or in the future.
Jesse Fosse was awarded the SES Outstanding Senior in Economic Sciences.

Jon Paul Driver was awarded the Agribusiness Economics and Management Outstanding Senior.

Jordyn Hutton was recognized as the Agricultural and Food Business Economics Outstanding Senior.

Rachael Barrett was chosen as the SES Western Agricultural Economics Association 2013 Outstanding Senior.

Hayley Hohman is a sophomore pursuing a bachelor’s in economic sciences, quantitative economics option, with minors in mathematics and political science. She is also in the Honors College. She is a Cougar Connector, a member of the Cougar Lobby Team, and an ASWSU Senator. As the Senator representing the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, she supports the ASWSU Senate passing legislation to help students, host events, and volunteer at events on campus. Hayley is currently developing a scholarship fair for students next semester. She is headed to Rwanda next summer, with a CAHNRS team, to study the economics of the Rwanda coffee industry, which will be the basis of her honors thesis. She also has a black belt in Taekwondo.

Andrew Compton, bachelor in economic sciences, graduate school preparation option, and minor in mathematics, graduated in May 2013. Andrew is currently pursuing his doctorate in economics at Purdue University while teaching two weekly recitations for an introductory economics course. As a graduate of our most challenging option in economics, his high GPA and strong GRE scores enabled him to skip straight to a doctoral program at a prestigious university following graduation with his bachelor’s degree.
Rodrigo Bonilla is pursuing a bachelor’s in agricultural and food business economics and will graduate in May 2015. He is a first generation college student success story. He is the recipient of multiple scholarships, and has been accepted into the McNair Program, a federal TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of the program is to increase graduate degree awards for students from underrepresented segments of society. Rodrigo will pursue a doctorate following his graduation in May 2015. Rodrigo maintains an outstanding GPA, works part time at WSU, participates in various clubs and activities across campus, serves as a mentor for Multicultural Student Services, is a CAHNRS Ambassador, member of the Latinos in Agriculture Conference, and member of the WSU Sociology Club. He participated in a study abroad in Brazil during summer 2013.

Tristan Hanon is a senior studying agricultural economics and planning to graduate in May 2014. In the summer of 2012, Tristan traveled to London to study at the prestigious London School of Economics. Tristan gained a great deal from the classes he took in Economics of the European Union and Trade, Development, and the Environment. He was also involved in ASWSU and spent spring semester 2013 working in Olympia as a student lobbyist, representing students before the Washington State Legislature and meeting with legislators to discuss issues relevant to students. Throughout the legislative session Tristan had a part in the development and passage of several key pieces of legislation, including the institution of a tuition freeze for this academic year. After graduation Tristan hopes to continue working in the policy arena and providing economic analysis for agricultural policy. WSU has provided him with the elements and the contacts needed to be successful in the future.
Undergraduate Highlights continued

SES UNDERGRADUATES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS

December 2012
Chiafeng Chang, Hok Shing “Davis” Cheung, Vance Creekpaum (Summa Cum Laude), Cliff Erwin, Jesse Fosse (Summa Cum Laude), Christopher Geil, Isaac Hamilton (Magna Cum Laude), Samuel Hunt, Donald Hurst, Derek Jordan, Satoshi Katagiri, Alex Kerslake, Melody Kezar, Robel Kidanu, Dillon Luebber, David Lutz, Connie Ng (Summa Cum Laude), Kyle Norton, Ronald Ovechka, Michael Paige, Caitlin Roberts, Travis Schuster, Elyot Whitney, Hoi-Ting Wong, Tsz-Lung Wong

May 2013
Rachid Badini, Rachael Barrett, Kelsey Bartholomew, Stephen Benoit, Braedan Binkiewicz, Kyle Blore, Brett Boyer, Kyle Carstens, Andrew Compton (Magna Cum Laude), Yong Hao Deng, Deye Du, Tucker Edwards-King, Thomas Emmett, Youshu Guo, Levi Hagert, Simonique Hart-Stallworth, Michael Holmes, Jordyn Hutton, Denan Jia, Ethan Johnson, Justin Karnitz, Alayna Kramme, Matthew Kunish, Matthew Landen, Yung-Hsien “Charlie” Lee, Lars Leland, Ran Li, Corey Malone, Aman Manhas (Magna Cum Laude), Lisa Modin (Cum Laude), Ryan Olson, Joseph Pierri (Cum Laude), Jason Richter, Ben Shelton, Alexander Smith, Paul Spolar, Robert Swann (Cum Laude), Zach Vanlandingham (Magna Cum Laude), Lara Weaver (Cum Laude), August Wegdahl, Stuart Whitmire, Daniel Wright, Chun Kit Yang

August 2013
Maithem Alali Wai, Vincent Cheung, Wei-Hsuan “Wilson” Chien, Jon Driver, David Lewis, Chun Sy, Phoiban “Venice” Truong, Yuchen Wang, Jason Weigelt, Chantel White, Rui Xue, Lei Ye, Yuhua Zhou (Magna Cum Laude)

Graduate Student Highlights

William Warfel, left, a master’s student in applied economics, at the summit of Kilimanjaro with his mother and a guide. Go Cougs!
Current Graduate Students

The school enrolled 18 new doctoral students and three new master’s students in fall 2013. The school is enriched by students from throughout the world, including China, India, Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe, and many U.S. states.

Ron Mittelhammer and his class wearing econometrics shirts

Graduate Student Awards

Earlier this year it was decided that we would honor our Dr. Jeffrey Krautkraemer’s “Pay It Forward” Scholarship winners at our Alumni/Friends annual event in the fall. Paul Ervin and Pitchayaporn (Peach) Tantihkarnchana were the recipients of the fall 2013 “Pay It Forward” Scholarship. The scholarship is premised on the idea that while we can’t always pay back the people who have enabled us to get where we are today, we just might be able to pay it forward to others whom we meet, and thus inspire a new round of giving and aspiration for good.

Earlier this fall Jadrian Wooten received third place in Cengage Learning’s 2013 Economist Educators Best in Class Award. The winning entries focused on engaging students through game/role playing and tweeting.
SES Graduate Student Association Officers

**Jadrian Wooten** (President) is a fourth-year doctoral candidate specializing in applied microeconomics, specifically in the field of sports economics. Jadrian currently teaches economics of sports for both the School of Economic Sciences and the Sport Management program at WSU. He’ll enter the job market this January seeking a position in academia.

**Boying Liu** (Vice President) grew up in China and completed her master’s degree in regional economics at China Agricultural University. She is now a fourth-year doctoral student interested in environmental and natural resource economics and econometrics.

**Pitchayaporn (Peach) Tantihkarnchana** (Secretary) grew up in Bangkok, Thailand, and is a second-year doctoral student interested in environmental and resource economics. She loves painting and doing anything outdoors. Her dream is to visit every national park in the United States.

**Dustin White** (Treasurer) is a second-year doctoral student studying industrial organization and econometrics. He would choose pizza over any other food. His favorite pastime is playing with his new baby daughter, Lily.

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Doctoral Degrees

**Fall 2012**


**Spring 2013**


**Martin Ma**, *Essays on Participation in Intercultural Marriages, Political Partisanship, and Patterns in Dialysis Center Efficiency*. Major Advisor: Dr. Vicki McCracken. Placement: Clinical Assistant Professor, Washington State University.


**Qianqian Wang**, *Exporters in Cross Section Stock Markets and Willingness to Pay for Pesticides Environmental Features*. Major Advisors: Dr. Mark Gibson and Dr. Andrew Cassey. Placement: Assistant Professor, Henan University, China.

**Summer 2013**

**Tricia Andrew-Nusius**, *Essays on regulation policy, wildlife quality, and excel demand*. Major Advisors: Dr. Jill McCluskey and Dr. Ana Espinola; Placement: Assistant Director, Royal Malaysian Customs Agency.

**Lilian Carrillo**, *Essays on Consumer Preferences for Foods*. Major Advisor: Dr. Jill McCluskey. Placement: Assistant Professor, School of Economic and Management Sciences, Universidad Autonoma de Occidente, Cali-Colombia.


**Jingze Jiang**, *Economics of Environmental and Sustainable Choices: Plastics and Biodegradable Products*. Major Advisors: Dr. Tom Marsh and Dr. Jill McCluskey. Placement: Assistant Professor, Edinboro University.


Master’s Degree in Applied Economics

Fall 2012
Pan Hu, MA, advised by Dr. Hayley Chouinard
Genevieve Pickart, MA, advised by Dr. Doug Young. Placement: Research Analyst, Bunge North America in St. Louis

Spring 2013
Lin Cui, MS, advised by Dr. Jill McCluskey

Summer 2013
Sattam Almodarra, MS, advised by Dr. Phil Wandschneider
Abdulrazag Etelawi, MS, advised by Dr. Keith Blatner. Pursuing doctoral degree

Alumni News

SES graduate students Paul Ervin and Lyliana Gayoso first met in class in Hulbert Hall in fall 2011. They married on March 16, 2013, in Henderson, Nevada. The wedding was in the morning followed by brunch. They were fortunate to have many friends from WSU able to make the trip to Las Vegas to celebrate with them. The picture was taken at the wedding reception. SES students, left to right: Sherzod Akhundjanov, Tesfaye Deboch, Lyliana Gayoso, Paul Ervin, Ryan Bain, and Gnel Gabrielyan.

Don P. Blayney (’88 PhD AgEcon), at right, retired this year from ERS and has taken a one-year position at New Mexico State. He comes back to Pullman every summer to sell pies and other food at the 4th of July celebration in Sunnyside Park with Ron and Linda Mittelhammer.

Ron Mittelhammer (’78 PhD AgEcon) is now the Interim Dean of CAHNRS. Ron and his wife Linda have been serving pies to the Pullman community for over twenty years. Just like being a coug fan, Ron hasn’t missed a 4th of July in twenty-five years.
In Memoriam

Tesfaye Girma Deboch, 1986–2013
Tesfaye Girma Deboch was 27 years old when he died in a swimming accident while attending a meeting with friends in Seattle, Washington, on June 30, 2013. Tesfaye earned an associate’s degree in economics in 2008 from the Western Wyoming Community College and a bachelor’s degree in economics in 2010 from the University of Wyoming. While attending the University of Wyoming he was a resident assistant and an orientation leader.

He was in his fourth year of study in the doctoral program at the WSU School of Economic Sciences at his untimely death. He received third place in the March 2013 graduate student poster completion.

Tesfaye had a strong interest in development economics. He had an immense desire to address key macroeconomic problems using his extensive economics and statistics knowledge. Specifically, he was investigating poverty related problems, agricultural issues and policies in East African countries, and the impact of microfinance on Ethiopian households. He was working on a project called “East Coast Fever (ECF) Vaccination Adoption by Kenyan Cattle Owners” with Dr. Marsh and Dr. Yoder. He identified various factors that affect the probability of ECF vaccination adoption by rural livestock owners in southwestern Kenya and discussed the implications for livestock health policy. He was the recipient of a highly competitive award from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the International Livestock Research Institute to participate in a development workshop in Kenya at the end of July 2013 and was anticipating the upcoming trip.

When Tesfaye entered the doctoral program at WSU, he explained his objectives as: “My ultimate goal for pursuing higher education is to solve the prevalent problems of poverty in the society where I come from. It is my belief that the solution for the ever increasing problems of poverty in Ethiopia is in the hands of those who have the ability and the willingness to face the challenges.” Tesfaye believed that his education and training at WSU would give him the ability to return to Ethiopia and contribute toward creating sustained economic growth in his country.

At WSU, Tesfaye not only excelled in his studies, but he also found time for many social and leadership activities. He served as a Senator for the WSU Graduate and Professional Student Association and Treasurer for the School of Economic Sciences Graduate Student Association. In addition, he enjoyed playing soccer and basketball with his friends and colleagues. He regularly participated in various activities organized by international students and local Christian groups. A gifted teacher, Tesfaye spent much of his time tutoring—not simply explaining various macroeconomic and development issues, but befriending each student he taught. Tesfaye was a wonderful teacher and student and will be missed by his professors and fellow students.

In recognition of his exceptional scholarship and academic accomplishments, he will be remembered with a posthumous Ph.D. in Economics that his family will receive at the winter graduation of 2013.

David Holland, 1941–2013
David Holland died in a scuba diving accident in Cozumel, Mexico, on February 11, 2013, while on a vacation with his wife, sister, and brother-in-law. Holland grew up in Laramie, Wyoming. Always concerned with social justice, Dave and three friends were arrested in 1963 in Montgomery, Alabama, while marching with Martin Luther King Jr. He met his life-long wife, Rita, at Colorado State University (CSU). The Hollands cherished their three children, Josh, Sarah, and Julia.

Holland received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economics at CSU and an agricultural economics doctorate from Oklahoma State University. He served on the faculty of the University of Kentucky during the 1972–73 academic year and was at Washington State University from 1974 to 2007. Holland was one of a handful of experts on general equilibrium modeling, which traces the impacts on employment and income by sector as an economic change ripples through the economy. As examples, he analyzed the effects of various levels of mad cow disease on the United States and of a federal Canadian softwood lumber tariff on the Washington state economy. He shared his expertise with neighboring states examining economic impacts of property tax limitations on both the Idaho and Oregon economies. Holland showed that closure of federal military bases in Washington would have relatively small economic impacts. This was not the result desired by state legislators who wished to parade big losses to lobby against the closures. He did not shy away from potentially controversial work such as changing policy for private grazing in national forests, curtailing burning of grass fields to promote air quality, or logging restrictions to protect endangered spotted owls.

Holland also promoted economic development internationally. He served on a WSU/USAID project in Lesotho, Africa, for four years and provided advice to other developing countries. He spent a year in Chile on a Fulbright professorship.
James Nielson, 1921–2013

Jim Nielson grew up on a farm in Kansas. He interrupted work toward a degree in economics at Kansas State University during World War II to serve as an officer in an aviation truck company in the Southwest Pacific. He completed his bachelor’s degree at KSU after the war. Jim married Beverly Howe in Tacoma in 1947. His first civilian job was serving two years as a county extension agent in Kansas. He then enrolled at Harvard University, completing master’s and doctoral degrees in economics.

Nielson spent 14 years on the faculty at Michigan State University as an active researcher and instructor. From 1965 to 1971 Jim was at Washington State University as the Chair of the agricultural economics department. During the six years he was Chair, Jim remade the department hiring 17 faculty members, many net new hires, including Norm Whittlesey, Walt Butcher, Mike Wirth, Dennis Oldenstadt, Dirck Ditwiler, Paul Barkley, LeRoy Rogers, Ken Duft, Bruce Florea, Lee Blakeslee, Jim Barron, Ray Folwell, Dick Dailey, Marlen Miller, Smith Greig, Des O’Rourke, and Ken Casavant. This was a distinguished group including two AAEA Fellows, four Department Chairs, and the Founding Director of the IMPACT Center. He put his high level of energy and great leadership skills to move WSU toward one of the top departments in the country. Next Jim became Director of the WSU Agricultural Research Center. While at WSU, he served as a member of the Governor’s Economic Advisory Council. Jim provided service to the profession as President of the American and Western Agricultural Economics Associations and as Editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

In 1977, Nielson moved to Washington, DC, as USDA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research, and Education. He then became chief of a research division in the Agency for International Development. In 1983 Jim and Beverly moved to Seattle where they lived for 15 years. During a “phase-out” period, he worked as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, Winrock International, and several domestic organizations. Following retirement they lived in Gig Harbor and Panorama, Washington. Before and during retirement, Jim and Beverly enjoyed traveling, volunteering, and hiking in the Cascades and Olympics.

C. Dirck Ditwiler, 1933–2013

C. Dirck Ditwiler died January 15, 2013, from complications of a New Year’s Day fall from a ladder at his home in Westcliffe, Colorado. He received his bachelor’s degree in 1958 and his master’s degree in 1963 from the University of California, Davis, followed by his doctorate in 1966 from the University of California, Berkeley. He specialized in the economics of land and water conservation and development and the economics of environmental quality. Ditwiler served on the agricultural economics faculty at Washington State University from 1966 to 1976. He published work on water supplies in Washington, water transfers in Washington, institutional and legal framework for water use in Washington, and institutional constraints to economically optimal water use in the state. Former colleague Jim Barron reported it took him three weeks to edit and review one of Ditwiler’s bulletins. Dirck was so happy with the result that he rewarded Jim with a large bottle of bourbon.

In 1976 Ditwiler joined the faculty at Murdoch University in Perth, Australia. He subsequently worked in Queensland, Australia; Nigeria; and New York. He is survived by his son, Eric Ditwiler, and his daughters, Julie Lutz and Marleigh Flanigan, as well as six grandchildren.

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