Happy Holidays from the School of Economic Sciences!

This year, Washington State University, along with universities around the nation, celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, legislation signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 that provided lands to be used by the states and territories to create institutions of higher learning. Washington State University, founded in 1890, is one of those “land-grant” universities. The vision for creating higher education institutions accessible to all is one that has lasted through the times and one from which we all benefit in so many ways.

This has been an extraordinary year for alumni, students, faculty, and staff of the School of Economic Sciences (SES). As you will read in these pages, members of the SES family have accomplished much and been recognized with numerous awards and honors. Many of these recognitions are the result of years of continuous effort and excellence by the individuals receiving them. It is these efforts and the sustained academic achievements of all members of the SES community that make SES a special place where discovery, learning, and service are part of the fabric of each day.

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. These 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.

This year, our Graduate Student Association (GSA) put in a tremendous effort to raise funds to assist our graduate students to attend the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) professional meetings held in Seattle. To prepare for the meetings, SES graduate students organized seminars for paper and poster preparation and held contests to judge work completed. As a result of these efforts, many of our graduate student scholars had papers and posters accepted for presentation at the AAEA meetings. Colleagues from around the nation complimented WSU on the number and quality of our graduate students represented in these professional activities.

The School of Economic Sciences had a good year in 2012 and continues to thrive. You are all part of its many successes. We much enjoy keeping up with the lives and careers of all of our friends. Please be sure to include your email and address when you write to us with news. If you are in Pullman, you are very 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.

Wishing you Happy Holidays! May the New Year bring you many successes and much joy! Go Cougs!

H. Alan Love, Professor and Director
Alumni and Friends Weekend was September 21, 2012, during Homecoming. Alumni and emeriti interacted with SES students, staff, and faculty the evening before kickoff of the WSU–Colorado football game. An entertaining auction as well as silent auctions generated $5,846. Graduate students donated certificates for student labor for auction. They entertained the audience and demonstrated their work experience. Other graduate students donated items for auction, and explained what the items were. Jared Woolstenhulme, last year’s SES Graduate Student Association president, outlined all the opportunities our graduate students were able to take advantage of last year because of the success of this event. Thank you to all of those that participated. Next year’s event will again be during Homecoming. Check our website for information.

New Associate Director Named

Professor Vicki A. McCracken has been selected as associate director in the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University. She spent over 13 years in various leadership positions in the college and university before returning to her faculty position in SES in 2008. She currently teaches courses in quantitative methods, applied marketing analysis, and international trade and finance. Her research and extension interests are broad-based, ranging from analyzing social and economic issues of importance in agricultural production to alternative agricultural markets and human health. Current research projects include valuing breeding traits for Rosaceae crops, identifying factors impacting consumers’ willingness to pay for organic and functional food and apparel, analyzing profitability of canola in rotations and for biofuel production, studying the potential benefits of farmers markets from producer, consumer, and community perspectives, integrating social and economic considerations into a decision tool used for water quality policies, and identifying determinants of student academic success.

New Faculty

Dr. Michael Brady, Assistant Professor

Michael Brady was appointed to the position of assistant professor and extension economist in 2012. Brady’s extension program focuses on issues related to specialty crops in Washington. He also has an active research interest in water use and irrigated agriculture, climate change, integrated modeling, land use change, and land values. He teaches the advanced farm and ranch management course that brings together students from across CAHNRS. Previously, Mike was an assistant research professor at WSU from 2009 to 2011, and was a research economist at the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in Washington, D.C. from 2007 to 2009. He earned his doctorate from the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics at Ohio State University. He also holds a master’s degree from the London School of Economics and a bachelor’s degree from Miami University.
Dr. Marketa Halova, Assistant Professor
Marketa Halova joined SES as an assistant professor in summer 2012. She earned her doctorate in economics at Boston College. Prior to her doctorate, Marketa worked in the investment banking and energy industries for almost ten years. Marketa’s teaching and research interests are in macroeconomics, energy economics, and international economics/finance. Her current research focuses on crude oil and natural gas markets. Marketa is originally from the Czech Republic and looks forward to exploring the outdoors in Washington with her husband and a very active 2-year-old daughter.

Research Associates

Martin Ma, Instructor
Martin Ma was hired as a full-time instructor in August 2012. He is a doctoral candidate in SES and expects to finish his dissertation this summer. Martin came to WSU in 2007 after completing his bachelor’s degree at BYU. His dissertation considers factors that influence rates of intermarriage. His dissertation co-chairs are Ben Cowan and Vicki McCracken. He and his wife, Amanda, have two young children.

Jennifer Ringwood, Research Associate
Jenny Ringwood graduated from WSU in August 2012 with a master’s degree in applied economics. She is working as a research associate with Dr. Vicki McCracken. Jenny’s current research projects include the impact of farmers markets in Washington state, marketing strategies and opportunities for Washington small-scale cut flower growers, and potential economic returns to canola rotations in eastern Washington.

Dr. Jeremy Sage, Research Associate
Jeremy Sage joined SES faculty as a research associate and assistant director of the Freight Policy Transportation Institute in the Transportation Research Group in 2012. He recently received an interdisciplinary doctorate from Washington State University with major fields in agricultural economics, geography, and rural sociology. Prior to pursuing a doctorate, Jeremy developed a specialty in spatial analysis and geographic information systems (GIS) through his work with industry as well as county and tribal governments. This specialty has since been enhanced to facilitate his research interests in regional and transportation economics, disciplines that are inherently spatial in nature. His main research agenda includes collaborations with regional and national transportation agencies and commodity groups to assess regional economic impacts stemming from improved multi-modal commodity movement, effects of weather-related catastrophes on transportation infrastructure and goods movement, and reliability of freight system networks.

Dr. Peter Tozer, Research Associate
Peter Tozer joined SES in November of 2012 as a research associate in the IMPACT Center located in SES. Peter has been recently self-employed as an agricultural and natural resource economics research consultant in Australia. He has previously held faculty positions at Pennsylvania State University, Curtin University of Technology (Perth, Australia), and the University of New England (Armidale, Australia). Peter’s research work at WSU will be examining factors affecting the competitiveness of agricultural industries within Washington and other agricultural related issues. He and his wife Renee have two children. Peter is no stranger to Pullman and WSU, as he completed his doctorate in what was then the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1998.
Faculty and Staff Honors and Awards

Ken Casavant, professor and director of the Freight Policy Transportation Institute, was awarded the Superior Service Award from the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service for a study of rural transportation issues, mandated by the last farm bill from Congress. Ken was the author of five of the chapters in the report and served as team leader for economics.

Andrew Cassey, assistant professor, won the Springer Award for Best Paper by an Early Scholar at the 15th Annual Regional Science Association meetings. His award-winning paper is titled “Agglomeration of Exporters by Destination.” He was also selected as a finalist for the CAHNRS Faculty Excellence in Extension award.

Hayley Chouinard, associate professor, was named co-editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. She also received the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for faculty with less than 10 years experience from the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA). She excels in the classroom and currently serves as chair of the graduate studies committee. She co-organizes the SES semester-long, faculty-led study abroad program, Global Resources: Italian Style.

Danielle Engelhardt, principal assistant and graduate coordinator, received the 2012 CAHNRS Administrative Professional Staff Excellence Award. She provides invaluable support to the director and associate director and supervises the classified staff in SES. In her capacity as graduate coordinator, she works with students to help them file their program of study and streamlines the review process for the faculty. In addition to taking care of a plethora of time-sensitive and confidential support duties, Danielle supports development activities in SES. She was instrumental in the CAHNRS Sharing Tree, and served on the University Work Life Committee. She is also active in outreach and public support through the Garfield Grange and Council on Aging Caregiver Conference.

T. Randal Fortenbery, professor and Tom Mick Endowed Chair in Small Grains Economics, was named to the editorial council of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, and also to the WAEA’s executive council.

Greg Galinato was promoted with tenure to associate professor and was named co-editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Karina Gallardo, assistant professor, received the Sylvia Lane Mentorship Fellowship from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). Her mentor was David Zilberman, professor at the University of California, Berkeley. She traveled to Berkeley to work with Zilberman on the economics of technology adoption with applications to mechanical harvesting.

Karla Makus, undergraduate academic coordinator, received the 2012 CAHNRS Excellence in Advising Award. She provides invaluable guidance to almost 300...
undergraduate students in the school, including those students pursuing a degree in the college-wide agricultural and food business economics major. Karla invests a lot of time and energy in each of her advisees, using a personalized approach. She is always accessible to the students and provides indispensable advice on career planning and tips on problem solving. She receives great satisfaction from helping reinstated students on their time management skills and on developing a personal plan of study.

Jill McCluskey, professor, was appointed associate editor of the *European Review of Agricultural Economics*. She received the Best Paper Award at the American Association of Wine Economists Annual Meeting in Princeton, New Jersey, for her paper on establishing new reputations for wine with her Cornell University colleague Brad Rickard.

Vicki McCracken, associate director and professor, was awarded the Superior Service Award from the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service for contributions to USDA’s study of rural transportation issues.

Ron Mittelhammer, Regents Professor, was named a fellow of AAEA for his substantial, continual, and lasting contributions in scholarship, service, and graduate teaching and mentoring. This is the highest honor awarded by the association. He was also named a fellow of the *Journal of Econometrics* for productivity and published contributions in econometrics. In addition, Ron was inducted into the Washington Academy of Sciences based on the importance of his research contributions to the state.

Shannon Neibergs, associate professor, was named director of the WSU Extension Western Center for Risk Management Education. He is continuing his research and extension programs on the efficiency of livestock production, including improving cattle disease management, analyzing the economics of anaerobic digestion, and the economics of using expiring CRP grasslands as a grazing resource. WSU Extension programs focusing on livestock were recently recognized with a national award by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. He was also awarded tenure in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Unit.

Robert Rosenman was named co-editor of *Economic Inquiry*. He also received the university-wide Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award for Leadership in recognition of his leadership contributions at all levels of the university, as well as external leadership. His contributions include service as chair of the Department of Economics, associate director and interim director of SES, and faculty senate leadership positions, including chairing committees and serving as the current incoming chair of the faculty senate. He serves on the advisory board of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy. He also received the Honors College Award for Outstanding Thesis Advisor.

Jia Yan, assistant professor, was named associate editor of the *Journal of Air Transport Management*.

Jon Yoder was promoted to professor and was named a Lone Mountain Fellow by the Property and Environment Research Center at Montana State University.

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 Department of Economics at Washington State University. The 2012 lecture was given by Matthew Rabin, Edward G. and Nancy S. Jordon Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, director of the Program in Psychological Economics, and a member of the Russell Sage Foundation Behavioral Economics Roundtable. Professor Rabin’s lecture was titled “Incorporating More Realistic Psychology into Economics.” He described recent efforts to combine the substance, techniques, and
goals of standard economics with psychological factors previously underemphasized by economists. He discussed findings that call for modifying economic theory to include such phenomena as people mispredicting their own tastes or suffering from self-control problems and explained how economists are beginning to use this research to change and improve economics. He received his doctorate from MIT in 1989. His honors include a MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Fellowship, Econometric Society fellow, John Bates Clark Medal from the American Economic Association, fellow of American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Alfred P. Sloan research fellow, Graduate Economics Association Outstanding Teaching Award, and the John von Neumann Award. The 2013 Leigh Lecture will be given by Bill Greene, New York University, on March 21, 2013. Please join us if you are able.

Featured External Speakers

Guest speakers included David Zilberman, University of California, Berkeley; Steve Cook, University of Idaho; Ryan Herzog, Gonzaga University; Randy Rucker, Montana State University; Oksana Leukhina, University of Washington; Steve Puller, Texas A&M University; Linda Calvin, ERS, USDA; and Suparna Chakroborty, CUNY Baruch.

Faculty Highlights

Jill McCluskey’s Sabbatical at Cornell

Jill McCluskey was a visiting professor at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, working with Professors David Just, Bradley Rickard, and Brian Wansink. She studied behavioral economics of food choice with Just and Wansink. With Bradley, Jill conducted economic experiments designed to understand how reputations are formed for new wine-producing regions.

Greater Seattle Economic Outlook Survey—Andrew Cassey

The Greater Seattle Economic Outlook Survey, begun in July 2008, gathers information on general business conditions specific to the greater Seattle area and how national and international events and policies affect those conditions. The survey covers current business conditions and outlook in each questionnaire, along with one-time questions on current events. Survey results provide local businesses, government officials, and the media with information about current and potential future business issues. Results and archives are posted to impact.wsu.edu/survey/EconomicOutlook.html. The survey is the result of a cooperative effort between the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University, the IMPACT Center in the School of Economic Sciences, and the Seattle Executives Association (SEA). Because the survey has been regularly given since 2008, it documents the fall and rise in the business outlook during the great recession and subsequent slow recovery. Recent surveys have seen an increase in sales over previous years, but employment has not increased. Survey respondents indicate that economic uncertainty has been and continues to be by far the largest concern to the greater Seattle business community.
Transportation in the School of Economic Sciences

The Transportation Research Group (TRG) in SES, led by Director Ken Casavant and Assistant Director Jeremy Sage, has had a flurry of activity responding to state and national issues. These requests have resulted in nine different research grants/contracts totaling about $2.5 million in awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Oregon State Department of Transportation. These research efforts have resulted in four papers being accepted for the national Transportation Research Board annual meeting in Washington, D.C., and several journal articles being published. Additionally, the Freight Policy Transportation Institute (FPTI), newly formed within the TRG, sponsored a graduate student job search and market at the Transportation Research Forum’s annual meeting in Florida. FPTI also sponsored six graduate students and faculty from SES to present research findings at the Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference. Of particular interest is the cost of congestion for freight-dependent industries study recently completed that has garnered requests for information on findings and approaches from agencies and the staff of Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. And, as Ken says, “we are still having fun.”

IMPACT CENTER Highlights 2012

IMPACT Center researchers were active in the policy arena at the national and state levels. Thomas Marsh (professor, IMPACT director) is currently on sabbatical at North Carolina State University for fall semester 2012.

Dr. Marsh’s research includes market reactions to food safety events, invasive species and trade, and spatial price analysis of capital equipment. He coauthored the economic assessment of a congressionally mandated report on the Updated Site-Specific Biosafety and Biosecurity Mitigation Risk Assessment: National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility for the Department of Homeland Security. IMPACT is also collaborating on other continuing research projects that focus on non-tariff barriers to trade, animal and plant disease/pest control, biodegradable plastics, and commodity analysis. In addition, new research collaborations for hops and pears were funded. Suzette Galinato (research associate) continues to develop crop enterprise budgets, including studies on Honeycrisp apples, peppermint, tomatoes, and head lettuce. She is also part of the research team from the School of Economic Sciences that obtained a three-year USDA-NIFA grant to examine the effectiveness of implementing a revenue-neutral carbon tax in the Pacific Northwest given the existing federal biofuel policy. Yunfei Zhao (postdoctoral research associate) worked with Andrew Cassey (SES assistant professor) on the Export Assistance Program, in collaboration with the Washington Small Business Development Center and Washington State Department of Agriculture. He provided direct assistance to potential agricultural exporters, coauthored reports to promote export, and contributed to the development of online resources including the (Agricultural) Exporters Toolkit and Washington Agricultural Trade Barriers Database. Meanwhile, Doug Young, Suzette Galinato, and Tom Marsh completed a report on the feasibility of camelina as a biofuels feedstock in Washington.

A condensed version of this report was published in Wheat Life (June 2012 issue).
Officers of the Econ Club are President Jon Driver, Vice President Corey Malone, and Secretary Nick Colby. Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Felix Munoz-Garcia are the club’s advisors. Econ Club activities during the 2011-2012 academic year included:

- September 28, 2011  What You Need to Know about Graduate School
- October 12, 2011  Labor Market I: Obama’s Plan to Create Jobs
- October 26, 2011  Social Security Reform I
- November 9, 2011  Social Security Reform II
- November 30, 2011  Labor Market II: Health Care Reform
- January 25, 2012  Transportation in the United States
- February 8, 2012  Agricultural Business Economics
- February 29, 2012  School Systems in the United States
- March 21, 2012  U.S. National Debt
- April 4, 2012  The Presidential Race

For more information about Econ Club activities visit cahnrs-cms.wsu.edu/ses/undergrad/pages/econclub.aspx.

Undergraduate Kudos

Several SES undergraduates took home awards from the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences 53rd Annual Awards Banquet in May.

**SES Outstanding Senior in Economic Sciences**

Daniel Renz has been studying in Harbin, China, this past year taking courses in Chinese (no English allowed). He graduated in August 2012 with a bachelor of science in economic sciences, policy option.

**AFS Outstanding Senior in Agricultural and Food Business Economics**

Brady Irwin began a master’s program at the University of British Columbia in fall 2012 in food and resource economics.
Profiles of Undergraduate Students

Tristan Hanon is a junior studying economics, with the agricultural economics option. His interests include biofuels, energy, and the impacts of policy on food prices. Hanon first became interested in studying economics after researching the negative aspects of corn-based ethanol for a prepared speech in high school. He is also very involved in ASWSU, working in the position of director of legislative affairs. In this position Tristan works on registering students to vote, educating them about the issues on this year’s ballot, and encouraging them to vote. Tristan will also be representing the students of WSU in front of the State Legislature in Olympia this spring.

This summer Tristan had the opportunity to study at the London School of Economics for six weeks. He was able to study trade, development, and the environment as well as the economics of European integration. After graduating from WSU, Hanon plans to attend graduate school and eventually work in agricultural policy. He hopes to work on solving the world’s hunger and energy problems through economics.

Lauryn Ringwood graduated in December 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in economic sciences, international development option, and was also in the Honors College. Currently Lauryn is working for AmeriCorps in northern California. She is involved with the Rural Health Corp Alliance, coordinating youth development with health and nutrition. Ringwood received several outstanding achievements including the 2011-2012 Auvil Scholars Fellow (Dr. Robby Rosenman, faculty mentor), Gray Award, 2012 University College Undergraduate Research Showcase (SURCA) Poster on “Economics, Culture, and Obesity,” and the 2012 Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Scholarship in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences.

Connie Ng is a senior studying economics, business economics option, with a minor in Chinese. In the future she plans to earn an MBA, work in business strategy, and develop operations on the foundations of ethical business standards. During her time at WSU, Connie has enjoyed participating as a member of Delta Sigma Pi and a member of the WSU Hawaii Club. She also tutors in economics through CAMP and Multicultural Student Services.

Fall 2012 is her last semester at WSU. She had the opportunity to study abroad in Beijing, China, last year, where she was able to gain a firm understanding of her heritage and culture. While in Beijing, she saw first-hand the developing economy, deep divide between classes, and political and cultural values that define its people and the country. It was an experience she will never forget and one that made her grateful for living in the United States.
Elisabeth Fournier is from Ontario, Canada, and started at WSU in the fall of 2008. She graduated in May 2012 with a bachelor of science degree in economic sciences, graduate school preparation option. Besides being a bright and driven student, her first love is tennis. She was a four-year letter varsity tennis player at WSU. As a member of the WSU team, she received the MVP Award in 2009 and 2010, Strength and Conditioning Award in 2011, and the Academic Excellence Award in 2010 and 2011. She broke the WSU record for the most singles wins in a season, with 31 wins. This allowed her to compete in the Individual NCAA Championships in May 2010. In the fall of 2010, she reached her career-high singles ranking of 43 in the nation. She received the Pac-12 player of the week award twice her senior spring season and in January 2012 broke the all-time record in WSU tennis for the most career singles wins.

She has also won significant academic awards from the NCAA, including 2009-2010 Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Scholar Athlete, 2009-2010 Pac-10 All-Academic First Team Tennis, 2010 COSIDA Academic All-District Second Team, 2009-2010 Cougar Academic Top 50 Scholar Athlete, and 2008-2012 WSU Athletics All-Academic Team. She was named one of WSU’s 2012 Big Ten Seniors. Elisabeth is in Europe playing professional tennis for one year before starting law school.

SES UNDERGRADUATES

(December 2011, May 2012, August 2012)

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS
Brett Costanzo and Dain Grimmer

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRIBUSINESS
Jacob Walkenhauer

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS – AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD BUSINESS ECONOMICS
Brady Irwin (Cum Laude)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES
Travis Abramson, Colin Adams, Tyler Aliment, Luis “Danny” Arciniega, Erik Arstein, Naoki Asakura, Travis Austin, Dmitry Babayev, Bryce Bach, Thomas Bahta, Luis Campos, Ting Cao, Ka-Ki “Rishley” Chan, Xiaomeng “Amy” Chen, James Clawson, Reese Cloyd, Nicholas Cooper, Kristine Cortez, Ryan Coumont, Tom Creighton (Magna Cum Laude), Joseph Cuanan, Samantha Cullen, Graham Dart (Summa Cum Laude), Brian Doherty, Forrest Duba, Chun Fong, Ryan Forsyth, Elisabeth Fournier (Magna Cum Laude), Kathryn Frawley, Juan Fuentes, Joseph Gance, Jason Glyn, Alyssa Gunderson, Matthew Hafenbrack, Trevor Harper, Nicholas Hemphill, Jingjing Hua, Judi Jackson, Chen Jin (Summa Cum Laude), Kyle Johnson, Zachary Kiefer (Magna Cum Laude), Sungduck Kim, Jess Korthuis (Cum Laude), Dane Lawson (Magna Cum Laude), Nhat Le, Cory Leatham, Fuk Wang Lee, Huazi Li, Weicheng Li, Wen Chieh Lin, Ben Loewen, Jacob Logar, Matthew Long, Taylor Lutz, William “Bill” Mace, Jared Major, Sean Matson, Tara McCallum, Gabby McDannold, Brian Moore, Jonathan Morris, Bryce Mudroch-Zieske, Adam Nance, Taylor Nuccitelli, Hoseung “Jacob” Oh, Conner Packard, Lindey Palmer, Ian Parkison, Christopher Patrick, David Pavolka, Benjamin Peters, Siu-Chung Pong, Eric Putnam, Daniel Renz, Dong-Jun Rew, David Rice, Joel Rieck, Haydn Ritter (Cum Laude), Amara Rodriguez, Lina Romero-Liberos, Curtis Roy (Cum Laude), Kangping Ruan (Summa Cum Laude), Danny Sayah, Alan Scott, Marcus Shaw, Tyler Smalley, Howard Sun, Risa Suzuki, Tomoka Takimoto, Jessica Theiss, Joe Thompson, Kelsey Twitchell, Chelsea Vanos, Joseph Villarreal, Nicholas Warren, Jessica Watson, Sean Weber, Adrian White, Anthony Wilson, Ki Wong, Hue Xiong, You Zhou (Magna Cum Laude), Chengcheng Hong, Cory Irwin, Donald Petersen, Lauryn Ringwood (Summa Cum Laude), and Steven Turi (Magna Cum Laude)
Graduate Student Highlights

Current Graduate Students

The school enrolled 17 new doctoral students and 3 new master’s students in fall 2012. The school is enriched by students from many parts of the world, including Armenia, China, Columbia, Ghana, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Nepal, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe.

Graduate Student Awards

Daniel Toro-Gonzalez (’12 PhD) was selected as the 2012 recipient of the Food Distribution Research Society’s National Appelbaum Award for Best Dissertation (Committee members left to right: Ron Mittelhammer, member; Jill McCluskey, Chair; Daniel Toro-Gonzalez; Karina Gallardo, member; and Jia Yan, member.)

Andrey Zaikin (’12 PhD) was the recipient of the Jeff Krautkraemer “Pay It Forward” Award, given to a SES student who excels academically and demonstrates a commitment to sustainable use of environmental resources or maintaining public goods for equitable use by all people (Committee: Co-Chairs Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Jill McCluskey, and Ron Mittelhammer).

Rashmita Basu (’12 PhD) was selected for honorable mention of the 2012 James G. Zimmer New Investigator Research Award for her manuscript “Onset Versus Progression of Chronic Health Problems: Role of Life-long Socioeconomic Position and Health Behavior” (Committee: Chair Robert Rosenman, Bidisha Mandal, and Trent Smith).
SES Graduate Student Association Officers

Ryan Bain (president) is a third-year doctoral student working with Dr. Fortenbery to improve the quality of wheat marketing. This is his second year with the GSA and he plans to continue working to enhance the graduate student experience in the School of Economic Sciences.

Paul Ervin (vice president) completed his bachelor’s degree in German and business from Clemson University in 2006 and then worked at Bosch in Stuttgart, Germany, and Zeus Inc. in Orangeburg, South Carolina, as a market analyst until 2009. He completed his master’s degree in economics at WSU in 2011 and entered the doctorate program. Now in his second year, his interests are in development, production, and consumption economics and trade. As vice president of the GSA, in addition to supporting previous SES-GSA events, he seeks to implement seminars and meetings that will encourage fellow graduate students to present their current research and discuss future research ideas and goals.

Lyliana Gayoso Gomez (treasurer) grew up in Asuncion, Paraguay, and enjoys traveling and getting to know new cultures. She is a third-year doctoral student interested in the fields of labor economics and econometrics.

Pavan Kumar Dhanireddy (secretary) grew up in Proddatur, a small town in south India, and is a third-year doctoral student with interest in international trade and development economics.

Our Plans for SES GSA

This year the SES-GSA is excited to again offer travel support to two regional conferences, the WEAI and PNREC in Seattle and Spokane, for those presenting. Additionally, we will host the fourth annual poster competition and institute a series of brown bag lunch forums. The aim of the lunch series is to aid and foster graduate research by creating a forum where graduate students may present their research, at every stage, to peers and relevant faculty for criticism and additional perspectives. We hope this will fulfill our longstanding constitutional commitment “to create an atmosphere to explore and research new and innovative topics.”

Doctoral Degrees

Spring 2012

Christopher Densmore, Intertemporal Dynamics of Market and Production Characteristics. Major Advisor: Dr. Jill McCluskey.

Miguel Henry-Orsorio, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. Major Advisors: Dr. Ron Mittelhammer and Dr. Vicki Mc Cracken.


Vidhura Tennekoon, Topics in Health Econometrics, Major Advisor: Dr. Robert Rosenman.

Daniel Toro-Gonzalez, Quality Differentiation and Heterogeneous Consumer Preferences. Major Advisor: Dr. Jill McCluskey.

Andrey Zaikin, Product Differentiation with Technology and Allocation of Common Pool Resources. Major Advisors: Dr. Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Dr. Jill McCluskey.


Fall 2011
Shuo Li, Behavioral Economics of Information with Applications in Advertising and Philanthropic Organizations. Major Advisor: Dr. Jill McCluskey.

Nathan Skuza, Three Essays on Experimental Auctions and Organic Products. Major Advisor: Dr. Vicki McCracken.

Spring 2011
Scott Colby, Essays in Microeconomic Theory. Major Advisor: Dr. Jeff LaFrance.

Timothy Graciano, Importing, Uncertainty, and the Costs of Trade. Major Advisors: Dr. Jeff LaFrance and Dr. Mark Gibson.

Andrew Hanks, The Economics of Information with Applications in Advertising and Philanthropic Organizations. Major Advisors: Dr. Trent Smith and Dr. Jill McCluskey.

Hainan Wang, Wine Consumption and Export Opportunities in China. Major Advisor: Dr. Jill McCluskey.

Fall 2010
Diem Nguyen, Econometric Analysis of Firm Performance and Student Success. Major Advisor: Dr. Vicki McCracken

Qiujie Zheng, Production, Consumption and Risk in Agricultural Economics. Major Advisor: Dr. Vicki McCracken.

Master’s Degree in Applied Economics
Fuad Alagsam, MS, advised by Ana Espinola-Arredondo.
Nicole Cummings, MS, advised by Vicki McCracken.
Yilin Li, MS, advised by Andrew Cassey.
Yazhe Liu, MA, advised by Jia Yan.
Adilet Maimekov, MS, advised by Ron Mittelhammer.
Sifiso Mhlaba, MS, advised by Tom Marsh.
Keegan Murphy, MA, advised by Bidisha Mandal.
Scott Peterson, MS, advised by Phil Wandschneider.
Fenosoa Rambeloson, MA, advised by Phil Wandschneider.
Mirzobobo Yormirzoev, MS, advised by Seung Choi.

Alumni News
Fabrizio Fellino (’00 M.A. Ag. Econ.) is a senior evaluation officer at the International Fund for Agricultural Development. He was delighted to visit the Pullman campus and SES in August 2012, meet with his former professors and SES staff as well as with the new director and professors, and to find them in great shape. As a consequence of the visit, he is now missing SES and WSU more than ever.

Fanny N. Roberts (’89 Ph.D. Ag. Econ.) writes, “My quantitative training at the SES (former Ag Econ Dept) has served me well throughout my career. No matter which department you end up working for, they will always need someone that has the knowledge and skills to hammer out an econometric equation/model and know what it means! Fortunately for me I have always found employment as an economist in some way, shape, or form. My most recent job has been with the WA State Department of Transportation where I have been a transportation economist and revenue forecaster.
(forecasting $2 billion dollars worth of tax revenue—about 46% of WA DOT revenues) for four years. I am now working for the Office of Financial Management (OFM) on a promotional assignment as a senior forecast analyst. Among my assignments are to contribute to written weekly briefs to be presented to the governor on the state of Washington’s economy as well as the national economy, along with five other economists in the unit. I also sit in on deliberations of the Governor’s Economic Council of Advisors (GECA); while not a member of the GECA my presence in these meetings adds depth to my job and enhances the work I do to serve the great people of the State of Washington.

One of the coolest things I got to do while at WA DOT was to revamp the econometric models we use to forecast fuel tax revenues. I was one of two key economists that led and coordinated this effort. We now have forecasts that are performing relatively well in forecasting fuel and revenue consumption in Washington State. I want to thank Ron Mittelhammer and Vicki McCracken for being such great influences in my econometrics training. Quantitative analysis was not necessarily a natural for me but I loved and still love statistics, especially applied stats. Ron stuck with me (or maybe I stuck with Ron) in his graduate level classes and got through it! This degree was the greatest investment for me and my family.

At OFM I continue to do a number of forecasts for Department of Licensing, Department of Financial Institutions, and OFM. I also do other economic impact analyses and am involved in working with Washington State’s input-output model.”

Lia Nogueria (’08 PhD) and Cory Walters (’08 PhD) were married in Lia’s hometown in Mexico on January 7, 2012. Lia was an assistant professor at University of Illinois, but in July 2012, she joined Cory on the faculty at the University of Kentucky. Many alumni and former staff member Charli Hochsprung attended the wedding.

Rafting on the Palouse

An unusually small group of nine SES faculty and family participated in SESRAFT, the biennial SES relaxation and float trip, on July 17 and 18 this past summer on the Vinegar Creek run of the Salmon River. The Cowan brothers took an inflatable kayak through the very first rapid, which happens to be the most difficult rapid on the run. They had superb form during their long swim after flipping their boat immediately upon entering the rapid. There were lot of first-time raft rowers, and they all handled the oar rigs like well-seasoned raft guides. As usual, the food was great all around, but Bidisha Mandal took the prize for a curry dinner on the beach that was stupendous. The picture above was not taken this trip. No one brought a camera!

Continuing Adventures in Hang Gliding

Hang glider and graduate student Peter Gray connected with Professor Emeritus Norm Whittlesey, last year’s winner of the hang gliding auction at the alumni/friends event. The flight was 400 feet above the top of Steptoe Butte in beautiful smooth air.
SES is keeping up with the times. Please visit our Facebook page by searching for “School of Economic Sciences.”
Please inform us and your fellow alumni about your activities throughout the year.

Faculty Resignations

Seung Choi accepted a position at the International Monetary Fund.

In Memoriam

John Eric Grigsby (’80 B.A. Econ.) of Bellingham, Washington, passed away on February 21, 2012. He is survived by his wife Nancy Marentette-Grigsby (’78 Comm.). He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He worked for Sports West and was president and owner of Alpine Vending in Seattle. He also worked as a wine specialist for Haggen Food and Pharmacy in Ferndale. He enjoyed golf, fishing, travel, and fine food and wine.

Dr. Reed R. Hansen, a former professor of economics and resident of Pullman, was a loving husband, dad, granddad, and great-granddad. He passed away on December 19, 2011. From the age of 14 to 24 he fished for salmon in Alaska each summer and sold newspapers in Seattle. He graduated from Ballard High School in 1935 and from the University of Washington in 1943 with a bachelor’s degree.

He held a Navy commission after several years in the Naval ROTC. In June 1945 he married Emma Jane Dakan. He completed a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. In 1956 he was appointed instructor and eventually become a professor of economics at Washington State University until he retired in 1986. Over the years he taught at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, was a visiting scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and worked for the International Monetary Fund in Liberia and Ethiopia. In 1960 he served as chief tax researcher in the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury. In 1971-72 he was a fiscal consultant to the minister of finance and tax advisor to Emperor Haile Selassi of Ethiopia. Throughout his life, Reed was devoted to issues of political and economic justice, especially tax reform. He was involved politically at the international, national, state, and local levels. He served on the Pullman City Council, was a proponent of income tax initiatives in Washington state and a lobbyist for tax reform with the state legislature, and served as a chair of the democratic party in Whitman County. In 1968 he was a delegate to the Democratic convention in Chicago. For ten years he helped to advise seniors about insurance issues as an AARP regional coordinator and member of the AARP State Legislative Council. He enjoyed traveling, boating, caring for grandchildren, and later wintering in Arizona during his retirement.

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CONTINUING A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the school’s excellence fund and to the endowment campaign to provide endowed chairs, distinguished professorships, graduate fellowships, and undergraduate scholarships in the School of Economic Sciences. Your generous donations assure continued excellence of vital programs. As you make your charitable contributions to WSU, please designate the WSU School of Economic Sciences excellence fund, the Wallace Rehberg scholarship, the Jeffrey Krautkraemer scholarship, the Richard and Janet Shumway graduate fellowship, or one of the other SES endowments for any donations you make. You can then be assured that your generosity will work for the continued excellence of programs and faculty in all areas of economics and agricultural economics. You may donate by check or credit card (go to ses.wsu.edu and click on “I Want to Give” in the upper left hand corner), by appreciated assets, or through a legacy gift (contact Ben McLuen at 509-335-4172 or benjamin_mcluen@wsu.edu). We appreciate your continued support.

The following listing of annual gifts includes contributions for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. If we missed listing your donation, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight, as this was a change from reporting past contributions.

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