

AREcho & Alumni Directory

Department News:

- ▶ It's official! We are now the *Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.
- ▶ New BS degree in Environmental and Resource Economics and Management.
- ▶ New MA area of specialization in Water Resource Policy.
- ▶ Five new faculty.
- ▶ Alumni recollections and directory included in this issue.

Undergraduate Program

- *Kelli Myers* was selected as the department's Outstanding Senior in Agribusiness and as CAHE's Aggie of the Year. She also served as national president of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) Undergraduate Student Section.
- *Neil Appel* was selected as the department's Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Economics.

New Degree Program

Final approval for the new BS degree in Environmental and Resource Economics and Management is expected when the Regents meet September 6. It will be a unique degree in the Northwest. Classes in environmental and resource economics, policy, law and management will be hallmarks of the degree. Students will explore special interests by focusing electives on complementary minors such as pre-law, forestry, range management, and sustainable development. Future environmental and resource economists and managers will learn to make decisions while carefully weighing the trade-offs between protecting, restoring, developing, and allocating natural resources for the greatest benefits to society.

Student Recruitment

Maria Rodriguez will join the department this fall as the Undergraduate Student Recruitment Coordinator. With a BS in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M, an MS in Agribusiness from the University of Missouri as well as teaching and marketing experience, she will lead the department's 1-year campaign to jumpstart the new degree and increase number of majors in both Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

Graduate Program

The dissertation by *Rafic Fahs* (2001) was selected by the AAEA for Honorable Mention in the Outstanding PhD Dissertation competition. *Wen Du* (PhD candidate) received the AAEA Sylvia Lane Fellowship for 2002-03. *Kristine Grimsrud* (PhD 2002) received the 2002 Harriett B. Rigas Award for Outstanding Woman Doctoral Candidate at WSU. She was also selected Outstanding PhD Student and *Toby Ripplinger* was selected Outstanding MA Student in the Department of Agricultural Economics for 2001-02. *Tauhid Rahman* is the national president of the AAEA Graduate Student Section.

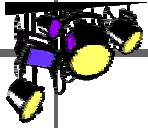
Where They Went: Nine students completed their graduate degrees this past year. Three took university teaching positions and the rest went to private industry. 17 new graduate students are expected to join the department this fall, bringing the number of enrolled graduate students to 46.

New Area of Specialization

At the request of the Army Corps of Engineers, the department will offer an MA area of specialization in Water Resources Policy. Corps employees accepted into the program will take 1 semester of intensive coursework on campus and a semester of local and distance education courses near their places of employment.



2002



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW FACULTY

Fabio Chaddad, Assistant Professor, will teach an introductory level course in agribusiness management and a graduate class in microeconomic theory. His research activities focus on the economics of user-owned and controlled organizations, including agricultural cooperatives, credit unions, and mutual banks. Fabio is also interested in the organization and performance of agribusiness networks and chains applying new institutional and organization economics.

Originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil, Fabio has been in the U.S. since August 1996, when he started his Ph.D. program at the University of Missouri. After receiving his doctoral degree in 2001, Fabio joined the Agribusiness Research Institute and the Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership at Missouri as a post-doctoral fellow.

Away from his office, Fabio enjoys swimming, cooking, and spending time with his wife, Maria, and their 3-year-old son, Rodrigo.

Hayley Chouinard, Assistant Professor, received her PhD from the University of California-Berkeley in 2002. She holds an MS in Applied Economics from Montana State University, and a B.S. in Business-Finance from Montana State University. Dr. Chouinard will teach and conduct research in agricultural policy, marketing, and resource economics.

Hayley and her husband, Steve, greatly enjoy the West. Fly fishing, hiking, and skiing are favorite pastimes for them. They look forward to exploring the Palouse and discovering the people and nature of the area.

Jonathan Yoder, Assistant Professor, came to the department from Oklahoma State University where he had been an assistant professor since 2000. He received a PhD in Economics from North Carolina State University in 1999, and has a MS in Applied Economics from Montana State University and a BA in Biology, Journalism, and African Studies from Indiana University.

Dr. Yoder's research and teaching duties are in resource and environmental economics and econometrics. His recent research has focused on topics such as wildlife management on private land, the economics of wildfire and prescribed fire management, and water quality issues relating to agriculture.

Jon and wife, Holly, have 2 children, Ian (9 yrs) and Katie (6 yrs). He enjoys kayaking, cross-country and downhill skiing, and mountaineering. Dr. Yoder received the *Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award* from the American Agricultural Economics Association in 2000.

Eric Jessup (WSU PhD 1998), formerly with American Express Corporation, is an Assistant Research Professor. He is the Director for the Strategic Freight Transportation Analysis (SFTA) project and is conducting research in transportation economics and marketing. He will teach agricultural marketing. Eric is an avid mountain biker and hiker and occasionally performs at "open mic" night at Ricos, playing guitar and singing.

Thomas Heckeley (WSU PhD 1995), formerly at the University of Bonn in Germany, is an Assistant Professor in the IMPACT Center with teaching responsibilities in Agricultural and Resource Economics. His research is in international trade of food, agricultural policy analysis and econometrics. His wife Sabine and their three boys, Jonas, David, and Simon are still in Germany, but will come to Pullman next year. When Thomas doesn't work or travel across the Atlantic Ocean, he likes to play team sports like basketball, soccer, and volleyball. He also hopes to get in a few rounds of golf before the ground is covered with snow again.

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics hosted its **First Annual Alumni Weekend** as the Washington State University Cougars battled their cross-border rival, the University of Idaho Vandals, on **September 7, 2002**. Organized by the Friends of the Department and the Social Committee, events included golf, tailgate party and barbeque lunch, and WSU/University of Idaho football game.

Check the departmental web site in the spring (www.arec.wsu.edu) for an announcement of the Second Annual Alumni Weekend scheduled for Fall 2003.

Continuing a History of Excellence

We want to express appreciation to all who have contributed to the endowment campaign to provide distinguished professorships, graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships in Agricultural and Resource Economics during fiscal year 2001-02. Thank you all for your generous donations. If we missed listing you, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight.

Sustaining and Tower Club Members (\$0-\$499)		
Judith Albrecht	Rex Harder	Susan Melhart
Malchus & Linda Baker	Nickolas & Diana Hein	Ray & Virginia Nelson
James & Mirriam Barron	Fred & Mary Hughes	James & Beverly Nielson
Mildred Bloomfield	Susan Knoll	Wilma Peterson
Nancy Boettcher	Kevin & Erin Knox	Laura Riggs
Owen & Alice Brough	Byron & Virginia Knutsen	Ronald & Eileen Roe
William & Robin Carter	Holly Maclure	Alanna Saunders
Clifford Curry & H. Delight Stone	Jeffrey Maclure	Blake Saunders
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We would also like to thank those who have given a lifetime cumulative of \$100,000 to \$999,999 to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics and who generously included the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in their gifting: Grady Auvil, Lilli Auvil, Beulah Wilke, and the Motorola Corporation.		

The attached envelope can be used to make your contribution or pledge this year or you can go to our contribution web page at <http://www.arec.wsu.edu> and click on ***I Want to Give***

Is helping to assure high-quality Agricultural and Resource Economics programs at WSU in your estate plan?

If you did not receive the Alumni Directory, please contact Sharon Baum (baum@wsu.edu) for a copy. Also if you were not included in the directory, please visit our website http://www.arec.wsu.edu/announcements/Alumni/please_sign_our_guestbook.htm And fill out the information and we will include you in the directory.

1899 College Yell
(from the 1st *Chinook* of Washington Agricultural College
of School of Science)

Ruh! Rah! Ruh! Rah! Ruh! Rah! Ree!
Washington! Washington! W.A.C.!

Ruh! Rah! Ruh! Rah! Ruh! Rah! Ree!
Washington! Washington! W.A.C.!

Farmers! Hayseeds! Pumpkins! Squash!
W.A.C. By Gosh!

ALUMNI RECOLLECTIONS

George Curtis, BS 1946, worked as a County Extension Agent from 1947-1981. He writes that his degree “prepared me well for everything I was called upon to do in my long employment.” “I can’t think of any job (profession) I could have enjoyed more, in fact so much so I worked 4 years longer than required for retirement.” He and wife, Celesta, have 3 sons. George’s main hobby since retirement is traveling in the U.S. and Canada, one U.S. territory, and 13 foreign countries

Duane Marshall (BS 1964 and MA 1965) found the ag econ degrees with business options gave him a broad range of studies to prepare for his careers in ag lending and farming. Duane

served as the first president of the WSU Ag Alumni Association and is a recipient of the Outstanding Alum Award. Duane and Patsy have four daughters and live in Colbert, Washington. After retiring from the Spokane Farm Credit Bank, he returned to his family roots to farm the land where his father and great grandfather farmed from 1910.

Nickolas Hein, MA 1968, is a retired Global Vice President of Dow AgroSciences. Before retirement he was in charge of building a plant genetics and biotechnology business for Dow. He found his degrees in Ag Economics very helpful. Of Wally Rehberg, he states: “He was great!!! He taught the lesson well that sometimes there was no answer and you had to figure it out for yourself.” Nick and wife Diana have 3 children

Mike Funk, BS 1983, and wife Karlynn (also a WSU graduate) live in Colbert, Washington with their two children. Mike is president and CEO of Energy Flow Management, Inc. Mike remembers Dr. Rehberg’s “polite and soft spoken” way of challenging students to be successful. Mike also noted, “The degree was rewarding, but the quality of people and their ability to open young minds to the real world is what has allowed me to be successful in many different industries. Success is not about the education—it is about the people that can teach and extend real world experiences.”

Kevin Fennell, BS Ag Econ 1987, is a Division Manager and Salesman for Walco International in Sunnyside, WA. He felt the greatest value of his degree was being exposed to people in the industry and the possibilities. His fond memories of the department include Wally Rehberg’s challenge to work smart as opposed to hard, Folwell’s jovial approach to teaching, and Gayle Willett’s financial management. Kevin and Kelly have 3 children who keep Kevin busy coaching the sports in which they play.

Linda Schklar, BS 1987, stated that “I worked as an agricultural statistician for the USDA for 10 years and my degree was very important in preparing me for that career. As a horse breeder I certainly use the principles learned in the Ag Econ Department when expanding my business and selling my young stock.” Linda is the owner of Woodmont Farm in Yelm, WA.

Donald Earl Carrell, BS Ag Econ 1989, is Controller for Shields Bag & Printing Co. in Yakima. He also received an MBA from Gonzaga and has fond memories of Ag Econ: “Great faculty! Dr. Ken Casavant was a huge influence.” Don says that “many employers outside of agribusiness are excited about Ag Econ and feel comfortable hiring Ag Econ grads even though their core competency is not directly related to agriculture.” Don and Marcie have two daughters.

Dustin DeVries, BS in Agribusiness 1997, is District Manager for Novartis Animal Health in Texas. Dustin says that his daily office visits with Ray Folwell will always be remembered. “Dr. Folwell was and still is the best thing the department has going for it in terms of undergraduates. His advising and teaching philosophies are second to none and I am fortunate to have had his guidance during my time at WSU.” Dustin and wife, Lisa, travel extensively, golf, and collect fine wine.

Robert Steven Aycok, BS Agribusiness 1998, is an Operations Accounting Supervisor at Banner Bank in Walla Walla. He is a 4-H judge for Oregon and Washington and enjoyed the close relationship between student and instructor while in Ag Economics.

Faculty Honors and Activities

Paul Barkley retired after 35 years of service to the department. Paul and Lee moved to Corvallis, Oregon where Paul will continue as Editor of *Choices*.

Fabio Chaddad received the 2002 outstanding dissertation award from the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Ken Duft is serving a 2-year term as a member of the *Lewiston Morning Tribune’s* Community Advisory Council XII.

Ray Folwell has been named Interim Director of the new Enology and Viticulture Program.

Ray Huffaker is the president of the Western Agricultural Economics Assn.

Jill McCluskey is an elected director of the Western Agricultural Economics Assn.

Scott Matulich will be on professional development leave from this year, splitting his time between Alaska and Portugal.

Ron Mittelhammer received the Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award for Instruction at the April 2002 WSU Faculty Honors Convocation. This is the highest award for teaching that the University gives and is in recognition of a career of distinguished contributions to education.