

## Continuing a History of Excellence

Alumni and friends continue to ask us about the relationship between SES, the College of Business, and the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. Since our merger in July 2004, SES has been housed fully in CAHNRS. There is no administrative relationship between SES and the College of Business. Many alumni and friends do not realize that donations made to the College of Business do not reach SES and do not benefit SES in any way. Those funds are utilized by the College of Business for its programs and faculty. If you want your donation to benefit the School of Economic Sciences, please designate SES specifically for any donations you make. You can then be assured that your generosity will work for continued excellence for our programs and faculty in economics, agricultural economics, agribusiness, and natural resource and environmental economics. We appreciate your continued support.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the school's development fund and to the endowment campaign to provide distinguished professorships, graduate fellowships, and undergraduate scholarships in the School of Economic Sciences. Your generous donations assure continued excellence of vital programs. The following listing is for the period November 1, 2006, through October 10, 2007. If we missed listing your donation, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight.

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Have you signed our guestbook recently?

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

### Distinguished Professorship Update

Thank you for your generous support in helping to complete the Distinguished Professorship Endowment. We are now just \$20,000 away from reaching minimum endowment level (counting pledges). Once this level is achieved, the endowment will produce an annuity stream of funds that will provide support for the research program of a Distinguished Professor in Agricultural and Resource Economics in perpetuity.

### Faculty Honors

**Ken Casavant** and **Eric Jessup** received the Transportation Research Forum Best Paper in Agricultural and Rural Transportation Award.

**Hayley Chouinard** was honored as an Outstanding Mentor at WSU through the Women and Leadership Forum.

**Tom Marsh** was a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis in 2007.

**Jill McCluskey** had a chapter published in *Economics of Regulation of Agricultural Biotechnologies*. This book received the American Agricultural Economics Association Quality of Communication Award for 2007.

**Ron Mittelhammer** was elected as the first-ever president of the Econometrics Section of the AAEA.

**Jeff LaFrance**, a new faculty member, was awarded AAEA Fellow status in 2007.

### New Faculty Hires

**Mark Gibson** ('07 Ph.D. Univ. of Minnesota), Assistant Professor. Mark will teach doctorate-level international economics and macroeconomics. He studied under Tim Kehoe.

**Heather Johnson** ('00 Ph.D. Oklahoma State), Assistant Professor (non-tenure stream). Heather is a WSU

alumna with a master's in agricultural economics earned in 1996. Heather joined the IMPACT Center as a researcher and will teach an undergraduate course for SES. She previously was on the faculty at Texas Tech and worked in industry in Portland. She moved to the Palouse with her husband, Aaron Johnson, who is a new faculty member in Agricultural Economics at the University of Idaho.

**Jeff LaFrance** ('83 Ph.D. UC Berkeley), Professor. Jeff leaves a professorship at UC Berkeley to join SES. He is an internationally recognized expert in demand theory, consumer welfare, and the household impacts of food policy interventions. An award-winning researcher, he has published widely in journals such as the *Journal of Economic Theory*, *Journal of Econometrics*, and *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

**Bidisha Mandal** ('07 Ph.D. Ohio State), Assistant Professor and Health Extension Economist. Bidisha will teach health economics. Her advisor was Brian Roe.

**Jennifer Steele** ('07 Ph.D. Univ. of Texas, Austin), Assistant Professor. Jennifer will teach microeconomic theory and international trade. She conducts research in economic development. She studied under Max Stinchcombe.

**Mykel Taylor** (expected '08 Ph.D. NC State), Assistant Professor and Health Extension Economist. A native of Montana, Mykel gained experience in extension at Kansas State University. She has already published four academic journal articles. Her advisor is Nick Piggot.

**Jia Yan** ('02 Ph.D. UC Irvine) Assistant Professor. Jia was previously an assistant professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and a scientist at ChoiceStream Inc. in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Jia will teach transportation economics. A talented econometrician, Jia has authored a number of articles including one in *Econometrica*.

## Holiday Greetings

All of your friends and colleagues in the School of Economic Sciences wish you the very best this holiday season. We hope it is a wonderful and joyous time for you and your family.

Many of you continue to keep us informed of new developments in your careers and in your lives, and for that we are grateful. We very much appreciate hearing from our cherished alumni, friends, and colleagues. Receiving updates about how our alumni and friends are doing is one of the most rewarding aspects of our work. Please keep writing, and try to remember to include your e-mail address when you do. We were indeed thrilled to converse with many of you up close and personal when this year, at the School of Economic Sciences Alumni and Friends BBQ, attendance swelled to 200 alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, a 50% increase in attendance from the previous year! We have a new food menu and new activities planned for next year's BBQ, during WSU Homecoming in the newly remodeled Ensminger Pavilion, to keep giving you additional reasons to come back and visit us in Pullman! Stay tuned...

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the many of you who have contributed financially to the School of Economic Sciences this past year. Your contributions support the school and its students in many ways. Undergraduate and graduate scholarships help students purchase books as well as other academic materials and supplies needed for

their studies and, in some cases, make attendance at WSU possible for students who otherwise might not have been able to attend at all. Contributions also enhance the intellectual environment in the school by allowing us to bring many high-quality seminar speakers for the Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Distinguished Lecture in Economics, including Nobel Prize winners James Heckman (University of Chicago) this year and Dan McFadden (University of California, Berkeley), who visited last year. Donations also support high-quality teaching and scholarship, allowing the school to purchase much-needed computer software and equipment and helping to support faculty and graduate student travel for professional development and research, among a long list of other important activities. We thank you in advance for any future contributions you consider making. We have enclosed a self-addressed envelope with possible funding areas listed.

We hope you enjoy reading about the progress and accomplishments of alumni, faculty, students, and staff in this issue of SESnews. All of us in the School of Economic Sciences wish you a peaceful, joyous, and prosperous New Year. Go Cougs!

Ron C. Mittelhammer, SES Director

