

Oregon State University || College of Agricultural Sciences

Department of Applied Economics

Newsletter



Susan Capalbo

Welcome to the Applied Economics department's annual alumni newsletter highlighting people and events from 2015-2016 and celebrating the accomplishments of our community. The department prides itself on offering two undergraduate degrees and two graduate degrees which provide skills to positively impact the welfare and quality of life for Oregonians and the sustainability of our rural, agricultural, natural resource, and environmental assets. The AEC faculty, staff, and students, in conjunction with our alumni and friends, create a vibrant community which offers many opportunities for learning, research, professional development, and public engagement in an inclusive and supportive environment. Many of these activities are highlighted in the pages and stories that are included in this newsletter; others can be found on our website. Enjoy!

We invite and strongly encourage you to provide conversations and personal notes that we can include in the next annual newsletter. During 2016-17, we are hoping to complete an historical chronology of our PhD graduates since the inception of the program and create a stronger sense of community among the graduates. Thus an extra plea is extended to all of you who might possess photos and stories about this program. Please send to richard.sandler@oregonstate.edu. For those of you working in Portland, Salem, Seattle, DC and wherever, please send us pics and tweets of any "alumni-centric" gatherings. We are also hiring a student to help provide a stronger AEC presence on social media.

The 2016 fall term is about to begin, and we look forward to new students mingling around the second floor of Ballard Hall. Starting October 1, I am transitioning to Kerr Admin to become the Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, a position similar to the "Dean of Faculty" in previous decades. I will focus on the University's efforts toward greater faculty success and faculty excellence, and oversee academic program development. I have truly enjoyed sharing in the professional and personal developments of AEC community for the past 8+ years. Larry Lev has been appointed interim Department Head, so I am stepping aside with the luxury of knowing that the department is in very, very capable hands. Thanks Larry!

All my best for a wonderful Fall wherever you reside,

Susan Capalbo, Department Head

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Capalbo".

Bruce Weber Retirement

The Applied Economics Department gathered family, colleagues, and current and former students from OSU and across the state to commemorate Bruce Weber's 40 plus years of service at Oregon State University. A short program started with remarks by current department head Susan Capalbo and former department head Bill Boggess. Colleagues shared short stories and anecdotes in a lighthearted spirit to celebrate Bruce beyond his many academic achievements. Bruce took the podium to offer a short reflection on his career and to thank the many people who had supported and championed his efforts over the years. Afterwards, his children Rachel, Peter, and Mike presented a retirement surprise – using their collective musical talents to lead the room in an arrangement of "All I Have To Do Is Dream" that included lyrics tailored to reflect on his career. Bruce officially retired in November 2015 but in his new emeritus status, he will continue to work on existing grant contracts, mentor students, and teach two courses: Introduction to Rural Studies and Rural Poverty and the Social Safety Net.



Undergraduate Student Profiles



Tess O'Leary

Tess began in the Department of Applied Economics in the fall of 2013, and at the same time she walked onto the OSU rowing team (with no prior experience in the sport). Tess was a very good athlete in high school - she lettered four times each in volleyball, basketball and track & field, and she was all-league in each sport, won eight district and four state track individual titles, and was all-state four times. But having never rowed before coming to Corvallis, Tess was pleasantly surprised to be named team captain. And Tess was recently named a 2016 Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) National Scholar-Athlete.

Tess is pursuing an Agricultural Business Management degree, with a minor in Communications. She grew up on her family's fourth generation cattle ranch near Paisley, Oregon and she often returns home to help hay and do cow work. Tess is leaning towards pursuing a career in agricultural commodity and cattle marketing upon graduating, indicating she wants to be a "voice for farmers and ranchers." This ties in nicely with her role as Oregon Beef Council Student Representative.

Tess's favorite classes at OSU have been Agriculture Law and Business Law, and her favorite aspect of the department are her fellow students. She competes on the AAEE Quiz Bowl team, representing OSU last year in San Francisco and this year in Boston. In her limited free time, she enjoys working with kids and animals, cooking, reading, and cheering on her fellow Beaver athletes!



Andrew Miles

Andrew recently returned to Corvallis after spending three months working on a grass seed farm in New Zealand. Andrew is no stranger to farm life, having grown up on an alfalfa farm in Silver Lake, Oregon. He learned many lessons in New Zealand that he hopes to apply back on his family farm that he runs with his brother - he makes the 5 hour trip home to help on the farm every few weeks.

Andrew graduated from a tiny high school - there were only 13 students in his graduating class. But he made the transition to Oregon State University rather easily, which he credits in large part to getting very involved with activities. Andrew joined the Young Cattlemen's Club, became a College of Agriculture Ambassador, and was accepted into the College of Agriculture Leadership Academy. In addition, Andrew competes on the AAEE Quiz Bowl team, representing OSU last year in San Francisco and this year in Boston.

Andrew recently graduated in 3 years with a degree in Agricultural Business Management, but he is not done with Corvallis yet. Andrew is back this fall, pursuing a Masters in Agriculture Education. After graduation with his master's degree, Andrew hopes to go back to Silver Lake and teach high school agriculture, while continuing to work on the family farm.

Graduate Student Profiles



Matt Sloggy

Matt Sloggy is a 3rd year PhD student originally from Chico, CA, studying forest mortality and the economic climate. Specifically, he studies how to improve the representation of the timber harvest in the community land model. Matt has an undergraduate degree in economics from Chico State and a masters in economics from UCSB. He recently presented in Boulder, CO at the CESM (Community Earth System Model) Winter Working Meeting and he is invited to talk at the Winter Simulation Conference in December. Matt also gave two talks in May at the Western Forest Economists Conference: one on his dissertation and another on carbon markets and contract duration. Matt is published in the Journal of Forestry on the effects of Internet adoption on printing paper and newsprint. Matt is currently finished with his classwork and is now focusing on completing his dissertation. After graduation, he hopes to get a research job in academia.



Grant Zimmerman

Grant Zimmerman is a 2nd year master's student focusing his studies on water economics and water markets in the Western US, stemming from an interest in water in and around his hometown of Ouray, Colorado. Grant is currently working on a project with the Oregon Department of Transportation, which focuses on developing ROI for the advanced technologies that ODOT uses around Oregon. Grant did his undergraduate studies at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana where he graduated in 2014 with three degrees: a BS in Economics, a BA in Political Science with a focus in International Relations, as well as an Honors Baccalaureate. Grant is an avid bicycle racer, and currently serves as treasurer for OSU's Cycling Club Team.



Yukkiko Hashida

Yukkiko Hashida is a 3rd year PhD student studying environmental and natural resource economics, where her research focus is on eco-system services, specifically dealing with forest ownership and tree species. After getting her masters in applied economics from the University of Michigan, Yukkiko worked for ICF International as an international renewable energy consultant, where she analyzed renewable energy deployment opportunities for utility companies, as well as formulated the greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies for corporate clients. Yukkiko recently taught AEC 250, Introduction to Environmental and Economic Policy, and she presented at the June 2016 Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Summer Conference in Breckenridge, Colorado on Adaptation to Climate Change in Forestry – An Empirical Analysis of Harvest and Replanting Decisions under Climate Change in the Western U.S.

New Faculty Profiles



Steve Dundas

Steve spent 7 years working as an environmental consultant after graduating with a degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Delaware. But decided that he wanted a career in which he was able to make more of an impact so he went back to graduate school. First back to the University of Delaware for a masters in Agriculture and Resource Economics and then to North Carolina State University for a PhD in Economics. His dissertation on “Quantifying the Welfare Effects of Adaptation to Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss in Coastal Environments” recently was named the 2016 Gerald A. Carlson Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award at NC State University.

Steve was hired at OSU to be part of the new Marine Studies Initiative, as his research efforts are focused on the non-market valuation for coastal eco-system services. He is part of a team (along with Applied Economics faculty Dave Lewis and David Kling) that recently received a large NOAA grant to study, in part, salt marsh and other habitat restoration.

In his first year (2015-16), Steve taught masters level environmental and natural resource economics and undergraduate level environmental economics and policy. Steve was recently honored with the Distinguished New Professor of the Year for the College of Agricultural Sciences.



Kassahun Melesse

Kassahun grew up outside Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and attended Addis Ababa University where he majored in economics. After college, he worked for the National Bank of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute before coming to the United States to continue his education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Kassahun received his master's degree and focused his research project on “Transforming the Agricultural Sector in Ethiopia.”

Kassahun received his PhD from the University of California, Davis where he focused on development economics. Specifically, his research employs economic theory, advanced statistical, and numerical methods to analyze development problems aimed at informing public policy to raise standard of living and reduce global poverty. His dissertation focused on the microeconomics of technology adoption in developing economies under credit and insurance market imperfections. In particular, he explores how changes in property rights regimes influence the adoption of new technology by transforming the contractual structure in agriculture.

Kassahun is adjusting nicely to Corvallis, focusing initially on teaching courses to graduate students and publishing papers from his dissertation. In 2015-16, he has taught Microeconomics for PhD students and Advanced Topics in Development, also for PhD students.

More New Faculty for 2016-17



Nadia Streletskaya

Nadia has just joined the department as an assistant professor after obtaining her PhD from Cornell University. Her areas of expertise include behavioral and experimental economics, consumer preferences, labeling, nutrition, and marketing. Nadia's dissertation included a focus on Status Signaling, Guilt, and Social Presence Effects on Purchasing Behavior (she looked at purchase decisions in a wine store). Nadia has an international background: she was born in San Francisco, lived in Switzerland, and spent much of her life living in Moscow, where she studied international economics at the Moscow State Institute of International. In her free time, Nadia competes in competitive dressage (equestrian) and loves reading historical and fantasy fiction.



Sam Bell

Sam also just joined the department as an assistant professor - senior researcher. Sam has significant experience in the carbon markets including climate finance and the design and registration of a number of offset programs across Africa (primarily Zambia), and he has contributed to the climate policy agenda at an international and national level. He conducts research on the provision of environmental services, climate adaption, and food security in developing nations using randomized control trials and other cutting-edge research methodologies, and he has extensive expertise in monitoring and evaluation. Sam has his PhD in Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, and holds Bachelor degrees in Economics and Commerce from the Australian National University.

Outreach and Engagement

AgBiz Logic

Applied Economics developed AgBiz Logic, which is a suite of farm-scale economic, financial, and environmental decision tools for businesses that grow, harvest, package, add value, and sell agricultural products. It provides snapshots for producers to simulate how net returns may be impacted by climate change, price and policy changes, and environmental regulations. <http://www.agbizlogic.com/>

Student-Engaged Business Assessment

The Student-Engaged Business Assessment (SEBA) program provides Applied Economics students with an innovative and creative link to the world of agricultural business in the Pacific Northwest. The students work with real-time situations as they conduct and collaborate on economic and financial analyses for owners of agribusinesses. <http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/appliedecon/student-engaged-business-assessment-program>

Regional Approaches to Climate Change for Pacific Northwest Agriculture

Applied Economics hosts Regional Approaches to Climate Change for Pacific Northwest Agriculture (REACCH) program interns each summer. REACCH is a USDA Agricultural Research Services funded program to train a new generation of scientists with knowledge of both interdisciplinary research and the importance of extension and outreach. <https://www.reacchpna.org/>

New Applied Economics Course Highlights

Introduction to Agricultural and Food Economics – AEC 251

This new course taught by James Stearns is a college-wide introductory economic training for all majors in the College of Agriculture.

This is an introductory applied microeconomics course focused on the unique challenges of agricultural and food systems. Topics include rational choice theory, models of supply and demand, and price formation, with particular attention on markets for agricultural and food products. Additional topics include market interdependencies, government policy, the behavior of firms, and market structure within agricultural and food systems.



Conservation on Private Land – AEC 453/553

This course, taught by Joe Kerkvliet, explores the increasingly popular phenomenon of conservation on private land. This exploration includes the explosive growth of land trusts and the use of conservation easements to restrict the use of private land and to promote ecological and social goals. The course looks at the reasons behind the growth, the major tools used for private land conservation, how land trusts select land for conservation efforts, land stewardship, and some of the major trade-offs faced by land trusts. It also looks at some of the issues in private land conservation that have emerged in the popular press and the academic literatures. Students in this course have the opportunity to speak with practitioners of private land conservation and to obtain on-the-ground experience during a field visit to several land trust properties near Corvallis.

In addition, the course explores tools increasing used by federal, state, and local governments and private land owners to align private land use with biodiversity conservation. Authorized by amendments to the Endangered Species Act, these tools are Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, Candidate Conservation Agreements, and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances.



Rural Economics of Place and People – AEC 240

AEC 240 Rural Economics of Place and People, taught by Mallory Rahe, provides perspective on issues influencing rural communities and economic development in rural America. People, places and natural resources of rural communities play a vital role in economic vitality of the West, yet rural landscapes are changing faster than many urban counterparts. Students focus on digging deep into the demographics and economics profiles for various small communities around the state.

Faculty Highlights



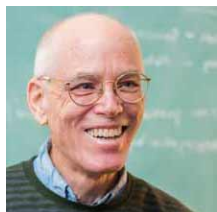
- Professor **JunJie Wu** named AAEA Fellow. Each year, AAEA (Agriculture and Applied Economics Association) recognizes a small group of professionals who have made outstanding continuous contributions to the profession. They are named AAEA Fellows and this is AAEA's most prestigious honor. For 2016, our colleague JunJie Wu, the Emery N. Castle Endowed Chair in Resource and Rural Economics, was given this honor.



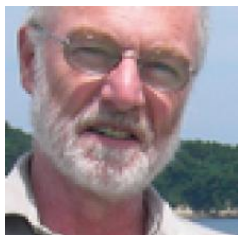
- Professor **John Antle** honored with the F.E. Price/Agricultural Research Foundation Award for Excellence in Research. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to agriculture through research and development activities associated with the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at the College of Agricultural Sciences.



- Professor **Gil Sylvia** honored with the Briskey Award for Faculty Excellence. The award recognizes faculty achievement within the College of Agricultural Sciences.



- Professor Emeritus **Steve Buccola** was honored by AAEA for co-authoring the outstanding Choices article during the past year.



- Professor Emeritus **Richard Johnston** was named to the Diamond Pioneer Registry of Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences for 2015. This registry honors individuals whose lifetime contributions to agriculture, natural resources, and the people of Oregon and/or Oregon State University have been significant, and who have contributed to the well-being of their community, industry, or state.



- Assistant Professor **Steve Dundas** honored with the Distinguished New Professor of the Year for the College of Agricultural Sciences. Steve was also awarded the 2016 Gerald A. Carlson Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award at NC State University in Raleigh, NC in April 2016.

USDA Abraham Lincoln Honor Award for Increasing Global Food Security

Professor **John Antle** is part of a team receiving the USDA Abraham Lincoln Honor Award for Increasing Global Food Security from Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. The award is for a report, entitled Climate Change, Global Food Security and the U.S. Food System and co-written by Prof. Antle, that identifies the risks that climate change poses to global food security and the challenges facing farmers and consumers in adapting to changing climate conditions. The report concludes that climate change is likely to impede progress on reducing undernourishment around the world in the decades ahead. The USDA Abraham Lincoln Honor Award is one of the most prestigious awards granted by the Secretary of Agriculture

Castle Scholarships in Applied Economics

Four students have been selected to receive Emery Castle Scholarships for AY16-17. These scholarships provide awards to graduate students working toward a degree in any field of applied economics who have demonstrated academic excellence. Scholarships are awarded to outstanding students working toward a MS or PhD in Applied Economics. The Castle Scholarship award recipients for AY 16-17 are:

Cassie Finer, PhD candidate in Applied Economics

Cassie received her BA from University of Colorado – Boulder, where her Undergraduate Honors Theses was on "Infrastructure Preference and Value among Transportation Cyclists in the U.S." She is currently in the third year of her PhD in the department of Applied Economics. Her major advisor is Dave Lewis and her research focuses is on the capitalization of climate change risk in forest and coastal land markets.

Christopher Mihiar, PhD candidate in Applied Economics

Chris is a third-year PhD student originally from Los Angeles, CA. This first-generation college graduate earned a BS in Economics from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, after not starting college until the age of 27. His research focuses on climate change and natural resource management, with an emphasis on land use, forestry, and water rights. He currently teaches classes in environmental policy and environmental law, and he plans to finish his PhD in 2018.

Jian Shi, PhD candidate in Applied Economics

Jian originally comes from Nantong, a lovely city with its unique vibrant tone in China's Jiangsu Province. She earned a Master's Degree in Population, Resources and Environmental Economics from Renmin University of China in Beijing, where her research focused on water economics, including water rights trade, water price, water pollution control and treatment. She is now a first year PhD student in the Applied Economics Department at Oregon State University. She is currently exploring research topics in the realm of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics.

Grant Zimmerman, MS candidate in Applied Economics

Originally from the small mountain town of Ouray, Colorado, Grant did his undergraduate studies at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. He graduated in 2014 with three degrees, a BS in Economics, a BA in Political Science with a focus in International Relations, as well as an Honors Baccalaureate. (He also graduated with four minors: International Business, Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Business Administration, and French.) His research interests are generally Environmental Economics, with a lesser emphasis on Natural Resource Economics, more specifically in Water Economics (water scarcity & instream flows).

AY2016-2017 AEC graduate scholarships

We would like to congratulate the recipients of the AY2015-2016 AEC graduate scholarships and fellowships. For the Emery Castle Scholarship in Economics: Cassie Finer, Christopher Mihiar, Jian Shi, and Grant Zimmerman; for the D. Barton DeLoach Distinguished Graduate Awards: Matt Sloggy and Yukiko Hashida; and for the Robert Johnson Fellowship: Dede Long.

Recent Graduate Student Awards

- Yukiko Hashida was awarded a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship from USDA for her study of adaptation to climate change in forestry - an empirical analysis of harvest and replanting decisions under climate change in the western U.S.
- Roshan Adhikari was awarded an Oregon Sylff Fellowship for International Research.
- Cassie Finer is a National Marine Fisheries Service - SeaGrant Marine Resource Economics Fellow in Oregon State University's Applied Economics Department.

Alumni Updates

Brooke Cyphers (EEP, 2014) is working as a marketing and research intern for SixPlus in New York City.

Jennifer (Terrien) Reid (ABM, 2002) is a Farm Account Underwriter at COUNTRY Financial.

"I wouldn't have been able to apply for an underwriting position without my OSU degree. Having the farm background & my ABM degree has helped me provide better advice to our financial reps who can then in turn provide better financial security to our clients."



Karen Withers (BS, 1997) is an export manager for Pennington Seed in Turner, OR.



Ashley (Ritchie) Dorland (ABM, 2009) is a credit officer for Northwest Farm Credit Services in Roseburg, OR.



Bruce Bechtel (BS in 1988 and MS in 1991) is Senior Director of Innovation for Diamond Foods (formerly Kettle Foods).

"Agricultural economics at OSU taught me how to think critically, analyze situations, problems and formulate fact based answers. "



Oliver Pahl (EEPM, 2003) is a senior staff economist for Cardno in Pasadena, CA.

Nadine Hanhan (MS, 2015) is a utility analyst for the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon.

"Considering my thesis (cost effectiveness of residential solar) was directly applicable to my job, I would say my OSU applied economics degree has helped a lot. There were certain energy classes offered at OSU that helped me get my "feet wet" in the energy arena. I knew I wanted to study energy when I applied to OSU, so I was really grateful to my adviser, Susan Capalbo, for being so flexible in allowing me to craft a very specific path in what I wanted to study. I really enjoy my job and I am doing exactly what I went to school for. I have been really blessed."



Jim Hastie (MS in 1983 and PhD in 1987) is Supervisory Economist for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle, WA.



NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE

Jayson Hoffman (ABM, 2014) is farm manager at Hoffman Farms in Beaverton, Oregon.

"My ABM degree has helped me in my everyday life, on and off the farm. I am able to apply management skills on the farm that I learned in various courses. I am also able to apply financial techniques that I learned throughout my four years. Anywhere from basic checks and balances, to formulas that can help me gain a better grasp of the business."



We want to hear from more Alumni! To include your personal update in the next newsletter, please send information and photos to richard.sandler@oregonstate.edu.

Recent Graduates

Undergraduate Students

2015		2016	
<u>Agricultural Business Management</u>		<u>Agricultural Business Management</u>	
Anthony Delie	Teri Mc Gettigan	Jared Alves	Kyle Larkin
Patrick Gaffney	Zachary Millang	Allyn Amerongen	Jin Jin Levy
David Halliday	Stephan Mosier	Kyle Ballweber	Harrison Linsky
Brett Harrison	Kelsi Putman	Megan Boyle	Christine Mapes
Emily Jerkins	Julia Scolari	Michael Carroll	Nathan Meeks
Ben Jernstedt	Andrea Smaciarz	Micah Chase	Andrew Miles
Kerenza Martin	Rebecca Thomas	Holdan Druffel	Amanda Noble
Zachary Martinez	Rachel Van Dyke	Emma Gabriel	Alex Rasmussen
		Jacob Hales	Darby Reeder
		Kathryn Jernberg	Martin Sanchez
		Anna Jesse	Austin Say
		Micah Johnson	Nicholas Strebin
		Laura Johnston	Austin Sweeney
		Josh Kraemer	Jordan Todaro
		Charlotte Lafollette	Christa Towery
<u>Environmental Economics & Policy</u>		<u>Environmental Economics & Policy</u>	
Brytann Busick	John Nielsen	Scott Auld	William Hilton
Brenda Eppenstiner	Rysan Ouye	Gina Gerner	Andrea Ottoman
Aimee Frapped	Rozalyn Patrick	Laura Ginn	Norah Owings
Lisa Harp	Malorie Reimer	Hayden Hancock	Michael Wallace
Rhiannon Kaulitzke	Phanphisooth Saksatcha		
Arleigh Laney	Julia Steinsdoerfer		
Richard Manuli	Christopher Van Dyke		

Recent Graduates

Graduate Students

2015		2016	
<u>Masters Degree</u>		<u>Masters Degree</u>	
Joel Ainsworth	Yue Ke	Claire Cvitanovich	
Sean Cummings	Annah Latane	Jacob Davis	
Jacob Gjesdahl	Winston Oakley	Nicole Kovski	
Sam Gulpen	Tiffany Smith	Thomas Palley	
Xiaoou Han	Marielle Vena	Samuel Robison	
Nadine Hanhan	Xin Zhang	Jenna Way	
<u>PhD</u>		<u>PhD</u>	
Flavius Badau		Yunguang YG Chen	
Dan Bigelow		Chris Cusack	
Mindy Crandall		Toru Hagimoto	
Kim Hall		Hongliang Zhang	
Xiaojuan Zheng			