

Department of Applied Economics Annual Alumni Newsletter

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

January 2015



Gifted Hands & Minds

Welcome to the annual department newsletter! Over the years many students and faculty have graced the halls of Ballard and left a legacy of research and scholarship that influenced local and global communities beyond the walls of the classroom. After reading this issue of our alumni newsletter, I think that you will find that we have continued this legacy with each new cohort of students and with our current faculty and staff. We are excited to share the achievements of the many gifted hands and minds of our department this year.

We send this newsletter in hopes that we can provide you with our department's most important news, events, and research. We invite you to also peruse [our website](#) for current department updates, and if you would like to provide a personal note for our next newsletter or a picture of your time at OSU, please e-mail mary.pleasant@oregonstate.edu.

We hope that you can join us for our graduation reception on Friday, June 12 from 3-5pm on the 2nd floor of Ballard Extension Hall.

Dr. Susan Capalbo, Department Head

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Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Department Updates



Undergraduate Programs

Both the Agricultural Business Management (ABM) and Environmental, Economics and Policy (EEP) undergraduate degree programs advance student success, and promote experiential learning. The ABM degree continues to maintain high enrollment. The on-campus EEP degree has more than doubled

24 ABM and EEP students held internships in 2014

and the Ecampus EEP degree has more than quadrupled in enrollment since 2011! The faculty and staff are working to continue these positive trends in 2015.

Graduate Program

Throughout 2014, the faculty continued to provide graduate training in economics with a broad focus on applications to policy and quantitative analysis of issues related to sustainable development and international trade, the environment and natural resources, agriculture and food systems, rural

development, and energy and transportation. Check out the successes of the department's graduate students by clicking [here](#).

The department is excited to announce a new addition to the AEC graduate program offerings: a **4+1 program** designed for innovative OSU undergraduate students. Students accepted into the program will complete both a BS/BA degree and Master's degree in Applied Economics in five years. How is this possible? Nine credits of 500 level courses that 4+1 students take during their senior year will be also counted toward their MS degree; a research paper and additional applied economics classes will complete their fifth year at OSU. For more information, check for [website](#) updates or contact [Christy Anderson Brekken](#).

Extension, Engagement & Ecampus

This past year, the department's extension and outreach faculty provided decision support tools, impact assessment, and innovative classes to stakeholders and residents throughout Oregon and beyond. AgBIX Logic, and associated AgTools™ modules, offer opportunities for farmers across Oregon's landscape to virtually compare impacts of alternative production, and land use and input changes on short and long-term net returns. Bruce Sorte's IMPLAN work provides assessments of economic resilience in smaller, rural communities, and the department's Ecampus

efforts have gained recognition for program-wide excellence and individual class delivery. For Example, *Natural Resource Economics and Policy*, an

online course taught by David Haim, was recognized by Quality Matters (an independent certifier that peer reviews online course design) for the course's novel methods of engaging students.

EEP Ecampus students are located across 15 states, and 2 foreign countries



The Department by the Numbers in 2014

\$728,458 External funds awarded

25 Doctoral students

19 Masters students

189 Undergraduate students

Faculty & Student Highlights



Position Changes

Farewell to influential employees:

Brianna Beene, the department's former Ecampus Advisor, is continuing her career at OSU's Continuing and Professional Education Program Manager in the College of Forestry.

Munisamy Gopinath was on leave and decided to remain at ERS/USDA in his current position as Director, Market and Trade Economics Division.

The department wishes the best of luck and a continued satisfying professional career to Brianna and Dr. Gopinath!

New positions and promotions:

Robin Cross was promoted from a Research Associate to Assistant Professor, Senior Researcher.

Christy Anderson Brekken took on new roles as an Instructor, Research Associate, and Ecampus Mentor.

Penny Diebel, a faculty member in the AEC department, was appointed Assistant Dean for Academic Programs for the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Mary Pleasant joined as the department's professional faculty as a Research Program Administrator and Project Coordinator.

New faces, new commitments. The department is seeking to fill two new faculty positions in Sustainable Development and Marine/Coastal Ecosystems economics. Both positions will focus on research/outreach innovations and student success. In line with the land grant mission, these positions support the department's commitment to fundamental investments in people and places and in the natural capital that sustains quality of life.

Student Awards

- Briana Tanaka received the Western Agricultural Economic Association's Outstanding Senior Award.
- Roz Patrick, Gerald Hosler, Tyler Knapp, Rich Manuli and Elaine Jordan (pictured below) participated in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Academic Quiz Bowl while attending the national conference.
- 2013-14 Leadership Academy Fellows:
Brett Harrison, ABM
Roz Patrick, EEP
Kasey Erm, ABM
Catie Coleman, ABM
- 2013-14 Ambassadors:
Ashley Grucza, ABM
Briana Tanaka, ABM
- 2014-15 Ambassadors:
Christine Mapes, ABM and EEP
Roz Patrick, EEP
- 2013-2014 Registry of Distinguished Students:
Kelsey Burkman, EEP
Briana Tanaka, ABM

Faculty Awards

- James Sterns was recognized by the students of the CAS as 2014 best new teacher.
- Penny Diebel won the WAEA Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award which recognizes an association member who has made outstanding contributions to teaching.
- Starr McMullen received the Transportation Research Forum Herbert O. Whitten Service Award.
- Rolf Färe was selected for the W. W. Cooper Lifetime Contribution to Data Envelopment Analysis Society Award.
- Clark Seavert was honored as the Professor of the Year by students in CAS. Students voted for a professor that has had a positive impact on undergraduate education, teaches to the best of their abilities, and promotes higher education.



Roz Patrick, Gerald Hosler, Tyler Knapp, Rich Manuli and Elaine Jordan (pictured left to right) traveled to Minneapolis, MN to participate in the AAEA's Academic Quiz Bowl.

Department Spotlight on...

Student Highlights

Undergraduate student highlights

Brytann Busick was selected for Agriculture Future of America's (AFA) National Student Advisory Team for the 2014-15 year. Throughout her time of service, she interacted with agribusiness leaders, campus faculty and fellow students, travelling to Kansas City one weekend a month to fulfill her duties. Though she concedes the time commitment was a challenge, Busick commented that she "felt honored to serve in the capacity that I did and to give back to an organization that has had such a strong impact on my life." Busick also spent two terms studying abroad in Australia. While taking a full course load, she was able to explore the country's beaches, zoos, and wildlife, which was an invaluable and memorable experience for her. During her junior year she interned at Congressman Greg Walden's Washington D.C. office.



Martin Sanchez is a first generation Mexican American, and he has been involved in the production of beef ever since he could remember. Martin's background and current achievements in both ABM and International Studies degree programs made him a distinguished candidate for the USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program. This program is designed to expose students to contemporary agribusiness, future trends, scientific research, and agricultural policy in today's real world environment. Martin was one of the nation's 30 students accepted into the 2015 program. To apply for this program, he wrote an essay about his family's "lifelong experience in the industry, and how agriculture has provided millions of immigrants the opportunity to live their American Dream." Martin believes participation in this program will give him "great exposure to the numerous opportunities that exist within agriculture."

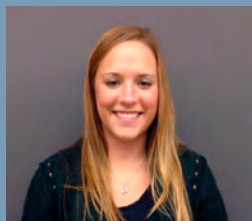


The AEC department values **STUDENT SUCCESS**, and prepares students for the **JOB MARKET** in a variety of capacities, including:

- Providing the opportunity for undergraduate students to complete **INTERNSHIPS**, learn more [here](#);
- Involving top undergraduate students in **RESEARCH** projects;
- Giving **STUDY ABROAD** options while working towards degree completion;
- Offering an intensive **MATH BOOT CAMP** to prepare students going into our graduate programs; and
- Encouraging graduate students to host **PUBLIC SEMINARS** about their research.

Master's student highlight

Jenna Way received her EEP degree in 2014, but hadn't thought much about pursuing a graduate degree until she began working with Clark Seavert. "Seavert asked me to assist him in adding an environmental component to his capital investment



analysis software, AgTools™," said Way, which then turned into her graduate research project. She was accepted into the Masters program this past fall. Way admits that she hadn't seen herself being a graduate student, but she has consistently risen to the

challenges that come along with graduate school. She also realized that the department has helped widen her perspective on potential career paths, and she is looking forward to learning about even more opportunities.

Ecampus student highlight

Tiffany Bennett graduated from the

department with a degree in EEP in Fall of 2014, and already has a job offer in the Department of Energy in Washington D.C. As an Ecampus student, she was able to attend OSU while living in Virginia, and her typical school day began after she had put the kids to bed. The flexibility that Ecampus offered allowed her to take care of her family and complete her degree, however with that flexibility came the "serious need for being able to time manage, stay organized, be familiar with computers, scanners, the Internet, and most of all be able to communicate in various ways with classmates, professors, and administrative staff," said Bennett. As advice to potential students enrolling in our Ecampus program, she said, "It is easy to feel entirely disconnected with the school when learning from a distance, but in my experience everyone at OSU Ecampus has been friendly, encouraging, and extremely helpful in any situation. So, reach out!"



Faculty Highlights

Bart Eleveld

Bart Eleveld has worked in the AEC department for over 30 years as an extension specialist in farm/ranch financial management, experiential learning coordinator, and an instructor for undergraduate courses. As an extension specialist, he currently collaborates with the Austin Family Business Program to host Farm Succession workshops. This USDA-funded project aims to help farm/ranch families plan for the transition of business management and ownership to the next generation or other aspiring successors by offering in-person workshops throughout the state. Previous efforts have focused on the legal process involved with estate planning and transition



of ownership. He also facilitates the Oregon Agricultural Enterprise Budgets website which provides a decision-making tool to producers to estimate the costs and returns from producing an agricultural product.

Dr. Eleveld's commitment to student success is evident in his coordination of the experiential learning component of undergraduate studies. All undergraduate students in the department are given the opportunity to earn credit for completing a 200 hour internship, use a special project to develop a new enterprise or business plan, participate in a study abroad program, or work on research with a faculty member. These students then give a comprehensive report and oral presentation about how they met their predefined and negotiated learning objectives. Eleveld recently developed a course to prepare students to undertake the experiential learning component of the curriculum with success, and to prepare them for the job market with resume and communication skills development.

How should students prepare for a successful life after graduation?
“Develop networks with faculty members and other students during your time here, and go beyond the minimum.”

Eleveld has mentored many students through internships and projects, and continues to push students to improve their

communication skills in order to prepare for a successful life after graduation. In addition, he tells students to develop networks with faculty members and other students. “These networks,” says Eleveld, “will be useful for the rest of their careers and lives.”

Christy Anderson Brekken

Christy Anderson Brekken seeks to act as a springboard for student success in all her research and instructional endeavors. She serves as a mentor for both undergraduate and graduate students on-campus and in Ecampus. In her efforts here, she aims to combine her skills in law and economics to look at the big picture, tying together the department's area of expertise in both agriculture and the environment. As such, her courses incorporate the disciplines of both agricultural and environmental law, and this year, she will be teaching Food Systems – a course designed to help students span disciplines, scales and policy solutions for systemic problems. In the future, Brekken hopes to write a textbook on agricultural law that incorporates specialized topics, such as climate change.

Courses like Brekken's are not common at the undergraduate level. According to her former student Thomas Griffin, Brekken's classes “gave me a clear competitive advantage in being hired in the U.S. House of Representatives. They continue to give me an advantage in performing my job duties as a legislative advisor and will undoubtedly be useful if I choose to attend law school in the future.”

Brekken hopes that students will gain valuable communication skills during their time here. “Today's jobs require you to communicate in writing, whether you are writing a full technical report or just a quick note to your employer or client,” says Brekken. “Your good ideas deserve to be communicated clearly and cleanly. At OSU you are surrounded by professors who want to help you become an effective communicator, so take this opportunity to hone your writing skills.”



How should students prepare for a successful life after graduation?

“One of the most important skills you should practice in college is clear and careful writing. Your good ideas deserve to be communicated clearly and cleanly.”

James Sterns

James Sterns is all things Agribusiness. He teaches courses in agribusiness, coordinates the ABM undergraduate program, develops strategic initiatives for Masters level courses in agribusiness, and instructs an intensive management course in an Executive MBA program in Ecuador. In addition, his future research goals include developing case studies of agribusiness firms in the Pacific Northwest and abroad.



Dr. Sterns was recently awarded the 2014 CAS Best New Teacher Award, an honor bestowed by students of the college. When asked what about his teaching style speaks to students, Sterns said he engages students by fostering an atmosphere in which the “classroom is meant to be a dialogue and not a lecture.” In addition, he said that he maintains high expectations and levels of respect for his students who he says are “hungry for a challenge.” Lastly, Sterns adds a personal touch to his classroom, making sure to learn every student’s name, whether he has 20 students or 100.

Sterns is a strong proponent of studying abroad as it provides ample opportunities for students to get outside their comfort zones every day. In the coming years, he is planning to take students to Paris, France to study European and French agri-food systems through the CAS *Exploring World Agriculture* course. His various experiences

abroad merit his development of these opportunities. He was in the Peace Corps, led student trips to France while he worked at the University of Florida, and took a year long sabbatical in Ecuador and has taught there every year since 2008.

Sterns hopes that students can “figure out what they want to do and then figure out how to get paid to do it” during their time in the department. Sterns himself is a paragon of living this motto. He likes to “read, think, and figure out how to make the world a better place” and that, he says, is what he gets paid to do in the AEC department.

How should students prepare for a successful life after graduation?

“Purposefully seek out situations that take you outside of your comfort zone, and figure out what you want to do and how to get paid to do it.”

Jeff Reimer

Jeff Reimer has been with the department for nearly a decade, and during his time here has focused his research and teaching on topics in international trade, agricultural economics, and applied general equilibrium modeling.

Dr. Reimer, along with PhD student Xiaojuan Zheng and Mark Gehlhar, won the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*’ 2014 Outstanding Journal Article of the Year for their article *Export Demand Elasticity Estimation for Major US Crops*. The researchers estimated the responsiveness of foreign buyers to changes in the selling prices of U.S. crops. Reimer found that for certain exports, e.g., Oregon wheat, international demand is inelastic, implying that the U.S. has market power. The results can be used to predict how exports will be affected by changes to U.S. farm policies.

Reimer has recently been studying the relationship between international trade and water, including how trade liberalization affects water use around the world, and how trade can help nations adjust to changing water supplies. This year, Reimer received funding from the USDA to study the impact of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on the national economy. SNAP is a federal program that provides low-income families with access to food. Working with PhD student Senal Weerasooriya, he will investigate the effects of this program in rural and urban counties in Oregon. In the future, Reimer hopes to develop better methodologies for modeling problems in the agricultural and natural resource sectors, and the broader economy.



How should students prepare for a successful life after graduation?

“Learn to think like an economist: a healthy dose of skepticism, critical thinking, and write things down in math when possible because math forces you to be clear about your assumptions.”

International Connections

- *January:* JunJie Wu visited the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia under the Sir Frederick McMaster Fellowships Program.
- *January:* Susan Capalbo and John Antle travelled to Chile to participate in OSU/CAS study abroad program.
- *June:* Robert Valdivia and John Antle held a TOA-MD workshop in Ethiopia.
- *July:* James Sterns taught a MBA course on strategic management in Ecuador.
- *July:* Ann Shriver directed the International Institute of Fisheries, Economics and Trade (IIFET) conference in Australia.
- *May:* John Antle participated in an international panel to review how the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research will help ensure food security.
- *October:* Robert Valdivia co-organized the Agriculture Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project workshop in Peru.
- *November:* John Antle presented a keynote lecture on climate change and food security at the TradeM International Workshop in Norway.
- *December:* Japan's Hokkaido University visited AEC to discuss developing a possible student exchange program.



OSU and the AEC department emphasize making international connections and communicating research through academic and stakeholder outreach. Listed here are some examples of the breadth of the department's research dissemination in 2014.

National Invited Presentations

- *May:* **David Lewis** presented "Does the Conservation of Land Provide a Net Habitat Gain in the Presence of Land Market Feedbacks?" at the Land Use and Ecosystem Services Workshop at UC Santa Barbara.
- *July:* **Jeff Reimer** presented "Economic Analysis of Modern Maize Varieties in Malawi," at the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- *July:* **John Antle** and **Susan Capalbo** discussed research on integrated climate change assessment as it relates to trade-off analysis and international agricultural development at the Climate Change Impacts and Integrated Assessment Workshop in Colorado.
- *October:* **Jeff Reimer** presented "Policy Options for Development of a Regional Supply Chain for Biofuels" at the USDA-NIFA AFRI Sustainable Bioenergy Annual Project Director Meeting, Washington DC.
- *December:* **Susan Capalbo** presented "Adopting public policies and priorities to encourage climate-smart agricultural practices" at Washington DC's Renewable Natural Resources Foundation's Congress on Adapting Food Production to a Changing Climate.
- *December:* **Joe Kerkvliet** presented his research "Attributes of Forest Service Contracts in Montana and Implications for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects" to the Southwest Crown of the Continent Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration annual monitoring team in Montana.



IIFET Conference Australia 2014



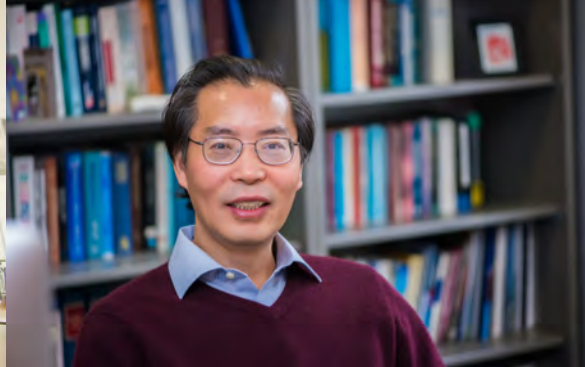
AgMIP Peru



TOA-MD Workshop Ethiopia



Clockwise, beginning with top left:
Paul W. Barkley
Laurie Houston
JunJie Wu
John Antle



Research Highlights

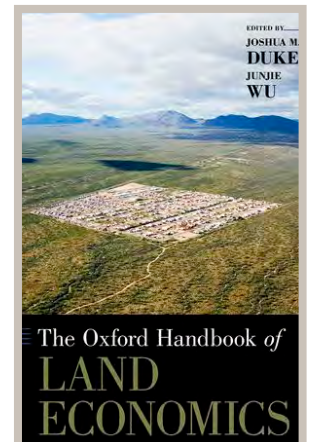
John Antle and Laurie Houston

John Antle and Laurie Houston have been selected to receive the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's prestigious Outstanding Choices Article Award for *A Regional Look at the Distribution of Farm Program Payments and How It May Change with a New Farm Bill*. The award was presented to them at the AAEA Awards and Fellows Recognition Ceremony that was held July 28th in Minneapolis, MN.



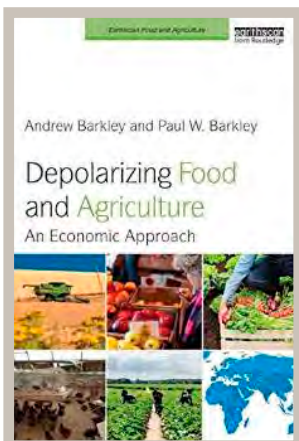
JunJie Wu

JunJie Wu was one of the editors of the recently published The Oxford Handbook of Land Economics, a book that describes the latest developments in the fields of economics through examining land, including natural resource economics, environmental economics, regional science, and urban economics. By providing a comprehensive survey of land-related work in several fields, this handbook provides the basic tools needed for economists to redefine the scope and focus of their work to better incorporate the contemporary thinking from other fields and to push out the frontiers of land economics.



Paul W. Barkley

Paul W. Barkley teamed with his son Andrew Barkley to coauthor Depolarizing Food and Agriculture: An Economic Approach. The Barkleys' book presents contemporary, polarizing issues in food and agriculture through an economic lens providing the reader a balanced understanding of the costs and benefits of several arguments with a concerted effort to purge biases and value judgments from the decision-making process. The Barkleys suggest that applying economic theory to dichotomous issues in the field of agricultural business may help to alleviate some tensions and reduce inefficiencies in the industry.



Alumni Highlights



Bill and Karla Chambers and family at Stahlbush Island Farms in Willamette Valley, Oregon.



The department would like to congratulate William (Bill) and Karla Chambers for being selected for the 2014 Dean's Family Business Leadership Award by the Austin Family Business Program. The Excellence in Family Business Awards Program has recognized the achievements of "family businesses for their innovation, entrepreneurship, commitment, and heart" since 1988 ([Austin Family Business Program](#), 2014). The Chambers family has incorporated cutting-edge sustainable practices at their family-owned Stahlbush Island Farm in the Willamette Valley in a variety of ways including drip irrigation, crop rotation, low-impact tractors, and planting cover crops. In 1997, Stahlbush Island Farms became the first farm to be certified sustainable by the Food Alliance. In 2009, they became energy independent, using bio-gas made from vegetable waste to provide electric and thermal energy to their farm operations. In 2013, they released their new 100% biodegradable freezer packaging. The Chambers are continually planning to incorporate additional innovative practices to make their farm even more sustainable. Bill conjectures that they



Stahlbush biodegradable packaging. Artwork by Karla Chambers.

may try to find a way to use agricultural by-products to make motor fuel to power their trucks and tractors. To find out more about Stahlbush Island Family Farms, visit their [website](#).

In more recent years, Karla Chambers has begun to paint with great success. Her artwork is featured on the Stahlbush packaging, and has been shown in several galleries including: Arnot Gallery in New York, NY, Gallery 444 in San Francisco, CA, Galerie du Soleil in Naples, FL, and Lara Sydney Gallery in Portland, OR. In addition, Karla was recently named as **Food and Wine** Magazine's Top 25 Innovative Women in Food and Drink. About her newly found passion, Karla says, "It's a blessing to be able to share my memories and my love for agriculture through vibrant colors, textures, and shapes." To find out more about Karla Chamber's artwork, visit her [website](#).



"The Art of Perfect Pumpkin" by Karla Chambers.

Vanessa Prileson

Year Graduated: 2006

Degree: EEPM

Current location: McNeal, AZ

Current occupation: 47 Ranch/Sky Island Brand meats, Apprentice Ranch Manager for a grass-fed beef, lamb, goat and pork operation



Vanessa's story:

"I have always been in pursuit of making a living raising and marketing grass-fed meat on semi-arid grasslands and rangelands. Somehow, I now find myself learning how to do exactly that! However, the journey to get here was long, interesting, challenging and took me many places. I was able to complete ranch internships, experience having a "real" job with a federal agency, and even accomplish a goal of participating in rangeland research in Argentina via the pursuit of a Master's degree at New Mexico State University. Looking back over the last 8 years since my graduation, I feel I have used what I learned at OSU in many different ways."

How has your degree from our department helped you reach your personal and professional goals?

"The EEPM degree (in conjunction with Rangeland Ecology & Mgt, Spanish minors) have helped me get where I am today because within each degree learning experience, I was encouraged to get excited about what I love and talk about it (network!) with lots of different people across many age groups. Sustainable agriculture, local food production and speaking another language are the main topics I love to talk about. Policy and Law Society introduced me to the world of environmental and water law and taught me to be a little more outgoing with students in the AREC department. As a result, I made new friends, mentors and colleagues that share the same passion for natural resources and sustainable agriculture. One of those mentors was Dr. Fred Obermiller, whom I will always remember and taught me with never-ending patience all sides of environmental issues. I wish he could see all the work I have been able to accomplish with the Forest Service, and that memorizing all those water laws was more than worth it now that I am a food producer! The fact that the department was relatively small also helped. I was able to connect very well with all my colleagues and professors so that they knew exactly who I wanted to become even before I did!"

Josh Wenzel

Year Graduated: 2011

Degree: ABM

Current location: Oregon
City, OR

Current occupation:
Bob's Red Mill - Sales
Administrative Assistant



How has your degree from our department helped you reach your personal and professional goals?

"I have worked for Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods Inc. since 2013 and plan on being here until retirement. Joining the company was a perfect fit for me and my interests in agriculture business. It also was a perfect fit for the company since my education and job experience fit with their goal of educating people about the benefits of whole grains and making them available all around the world. When I first applied at Bob's Red Mill, they were impressed with my degree from OSU in Agriculture Business Management and immediately saw the value I could bring them in numerous capacities. The opportunities for me here have no cap and it is a blessing to work for a company that cares for their employees and customers and creates products that make the world a healthier place."

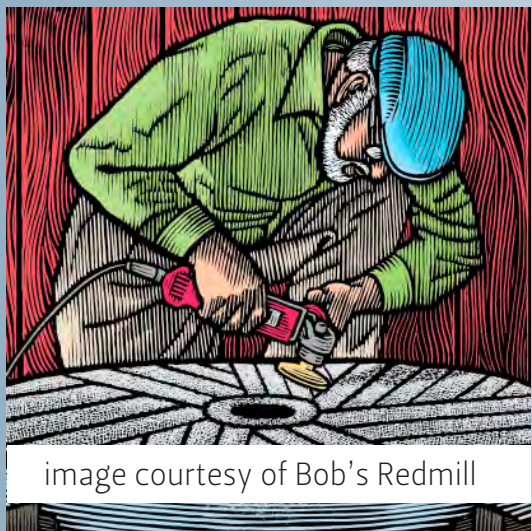


image courtesy of Bob's Redmill

A Look Back...

How has your degree from our department helped you reach your personal and professional goals?

1970 Alan Randall

"Oregon State AgEc grad program (in those days) was very much ahead of the competition in broadening the field to include resource economics and economic development, and was among the first (along with UC-Berkeley) to require a rigorous course in welfare economics. We came out with a head start relative to PhD grads of most competing programs.

Oregon State also succeeded in nurturing a vertical as well as horizontal network of PhD alumni. Grads of the program have friendly mentors among grads from 10-15 years earlier, as well as a supportive peer group of contemporaries."

1994 Edward Waters

"I would not be able to maintain my current workload and client base without the training and credentials I received from AREC."

1997 Karen (Frank) Withers

"My degree in AREC was focused heavily on International issues. My study abroad and language skills helped me solidify my agricultural background to work in the field I do. I thoroughly love working in the seed industry and have made many life long friends and have the opportunity to travel around the world."

1999 Leigh Sharp

"It helps me communicate with agricultural landowners and better understand their business and resource conservation interests. This in turn helps me better develop voluntary resource conservation programs for agricultural landowners that are beneficial for the environment and cost effective for the participants."

2003 Michael Lorenzen

"I started at the very bottom at Simplot. I built a customer base from scratch and today I am Simplot's top selling Crop Advisor in the Willamette Valley. In 2013 I received the Crop Advisor of the Year award for my area. My degree gave me critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze and interpret data and the ability to communicate that data to my customers with success."

2007 Dannele Peck

"By earning a PhD in Agricultural & Resource Economics from Oregon State University, I was able to secure a tenure-track faculty position at the University of Wyoming. The friendly and collaborative atmosphere, especially among graduate students within the Department, enhanced my learning tremendously."

2012 Braeton Smith

"My MS from OSU has helped me succeed in my current PhD program by giving me valuable research experience, the background necessary to get more out of classes, and the ability to propose interesting research topics. The classes were of high quality and several are not offered by my current program, which has allowed me to bring a somewhat unique perspective to certain problems. It has also helped me to advance through the program at a faster rate. At my job with Sandia Labs, the degree has given me more credibility and increased standing. In combination with my current degree program, the degree has helped me become the "go-to" economist for energy and natural resource issues within my organization."

2004 Steve Vaughn

"I came to OSU from California, and I intended to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering, however I wasn't as excited in the curriculum as I thought I would be after the first few terms. I took some time off to gain residency and followed an ad in the Barometer for "Help on our family farm." The "family farm" turned out to be the largest custom cutter in the Willamette Valley operating a fleet of straw baling equipment and transportation and storage logistics for Oregon's 600,000 ton export straw business. After a year sitting on a baler this **'city kid'** began to understand the connection between Oregon and Agriculture. Driving to Corvallis the first time, heck, even the third, fourth, and tenth time I never knew why there were just open fields on either side of Hwy 34. Honestly, growing up where I did I didn't have an understanding of large scale agriculture. After a year sitting in a very uncomfortable cab with moderate to no air conditioning, I decided that I'd pursue a degree in Agriculture. I joined the program with two years of prerequisites under my belt and felt a little like an outsider in some courses as I wasn't a **'farm kid.'**

After graduating, I continued my employment with the harvest company, at this point however I was leading a **8 person crew** around the valley coordinating the raking / baling and stacking of straw. After the harvest, I worked with them implementing inventory control measures, quality grading and endophyte protocols which ensure a safe and high quality product from our company. It was great to be able to return to campus and work with Dr. Morrie Craig in the **endophyte testing lab** and help develop the supplier submission process that is probably still being used today for forage testing across the country.

I had the opportunity to attend the first annual Agricultural Carrier Fair as a representative of Anderson Hay and Grain which turned to be a significant event in my life. Our booth was located directly across from the **Wilbur-Ellis Company** booth which is where I work today and I was able to hire a few endophyte samplers for summer work collecting quality samples, one of which I would marry a few years later. In my current career with Wilbur-Ellis, I have been involved with so many aspects of **Oregon agriculture**. Over the last 5 years I have worked with the dairy, beef, ostrich, tree fruit, grain producers, food processing facilities, breweries and brewing industry, animal rendering and byproducts, pet food manufacture, large scale feed manufacturing, local farm/garden stores marketing organic fertilizers, import of products from multiple countries, exporting products to Asian destinations, forage and hay processing and more opportunities every day. Without the knowledge and background gained from **Oregon State University** I would never have been able to grow and be involved to the point which I am in the industry."



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