

# Oregon State University || College of Agricultural Sciences

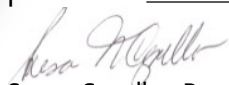
## Department of Applied Economics

### Newsletter



Susan Capalbo

Welcome to the **Applied Economics Annual Alumni & Friends Newsletter!** We hope to use this newsletter to reach out to and connect with our alumni and supporters. Please keep in mind that our website includes much more information about current events, faculty accomplishments, student awards, and the research and scholarship going on in Ballard Hall and beyond! I encourage you to access that at [appliedecon.oregonstate.edu](http://appliedecon.oregonstate.edu). Every year, we will send out a newsletter to highlight some of the events that our students, faculty, and alumni are involved in. If you would like to include a personal update of your own for the next edition of the newsletter (in January 2015), please send information and pictures to [Brianna.Beene@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Brianna.Beene@oregonstate.edu). Enjoy the newsletter!



Susan Capalbo, Department Head

### Name Change

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics has changed its name to the **Department of Applied Economics**, effective Fall 2013. While the name change represents the more holistic breadth of our academic efforts, we will continue to focus our work on applied economic topics including agricultural production, agricultural business management and food systems, natural resource and environmental economics, rural development, international and regional trade, transportation, and land use change. The land grant mission for our department is about linking science-based interdisciplinary research and education with real world issues and needs. The name change clearly embraces this mission.

## Updates!

*A lot has been going on around here...*

### Undergraduate Program

Our [undergraduate program](#) has seen a fair amount of growth in the past few years. For Fall 2013, our enrollment was 195 students (which has almost doubled since 2007!) between the two current degree programs: 128 Agricultural Business Management students, and 67 Environmental Economics & Policy students (3 of which are pursuing the degree under the former title of Environmental Economics, Policy & Management). The EEP program is also now offered online (beginning in 2011) – the Ecampus students make up about half of the total EEP student population. We hope to have the ABM program online soon.

### Graduate Program

The [graduate program](#) is still going strong! Recently, AEC made the decision to incorporate the program into the department. It is no longer administered by the Graduate School, but it remains interdisciplinary – students can choose to work with faculty in Applied Economics, Forestry, Agriculture, and/or Public Policy. Students are often given professional development opportunities and options for gaining teaching experience. Steve Buccola (pictured) was appointed as director of the program this year.



### Extension and Engagement

The [Rural Studies Program](#), just one extension activity of Applied Economics was recently re-incorporated into the department. Directed by Bruce Weber, the RSP and affiliates teach courses, conduct research and provide extended education to the community. The goal of the program is to improve environmental, economics, social, and cultural well-being in Oregon's rural communities. Staff from the RSP often presents at conferences or to the community. The RSP also has strong partnerships among multiple colleges at OSU and seeks partnerships with rural communities in Oregon. To learn more about this valuable program within AEC please visit [ruralstudies.oregonstate.edu](http://ruralstudies.oregonstate.edu).

## Student Highlight



Pictured clockwise from top left:  
Olen, Polis, Nicholson, and Wahl

### Awards:

Lin Qin received the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's prestigious Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award for the publication *The Economics of a Research Program: Knowledge Production, Cost, and Technical Efficiency*.

Beau Olen (MS in AEC, 2012) received the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's Honorable Mention for Outstanding Master's Thesis for *Irrigation Choices for Major West Coast Crops: Water Scarcity and Climatic Determinants*.

Hilary Polis (EPM, 2013) received a Pac-12 Post Graduate Scholarship. Hilary was on the OSU Women's Rowing Team for her tenure as a student.

Tim Nicholson (ABM, 2013) was featured at the 2013 Commencement Student Spotlight for his great academic and personal achievements. Tim began law school at Stanford this past Fall.

Cora Wahl received the Excellence in Family Business Student Award for her stellar performance in BA 463: Family Business Management.

## Appraisal Course Revived to Meet Student Needs

After Greg Perry left in 2011 to pursue an opportunity at Colorado State University, students were lacking in opportunities to gain experience with appraisal in an agricultural setting. This past fall, a department alumni (who had taken the class and worked with Dr. Perry in her time as a student) revived the course. Ashley Lacer (ABM, 2007) teamed up with Stacy Hasson (another OSU alumni, 2007) to bring AREC 382: Farm and Ranch Appraisal back to the department and to the students of OSU. The course is an introduction to appraisal of rural real estate, including methods of valuing property, different types of appraisals, and preparation and interpretation of an appraisal report. A small group of students took it this past Fall. We hope to offer it again in the future so that all students in the department can benefit from the knowledge and experience of Ashley and Stacy.



A few photos from the Fall 2012 AREC 121 Industry Tour.

## Faculty Highlight

- **Steve Buccola** was appointed to the National Research Council (National Academies) Committee to review the USDA's Agricultural & Food Research Initiative. He was also appointed the Director of the AEC Graduate Program.
- **Susan Capalbo** was appointed to a three-year term on the National Academy of Sciences Board on Agricultural and Natural Resources. [More about the Board on Agricultural and Natural Resources.](#)
- **Penny Diebel** received the Western Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. Also, Penny has moved into College Administration- she accepted a position as the Assistant Dean of Academic Programs for the College of Agricultural Sciences. She will continue to teach a few AEC courses.
- **Lauren Gwin** was appointed Associate Director of the Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems.
- **Christian Langpap** was promoted to Associate Professor and was granted tenure at OSU.
- **Starr McMullen** received the Herbert O. Whitten Service Award from the Transportation Research Forum.
- **Bruce Sorte, Bart Eleveld, and Jeff Reimer** were all featured in articles related to value-added agricultural products.
- **JunJie Wu** was appointed the editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

### Oregon Small Farms Program

AEC faculty member **Lauren Gwin** helps to coordinate the [Oregon Small Farms Program](#) (a program of the Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems). The OSFP is dedicated to providing the most up to date information regarding Crops, Grains, Livestock, Pastures, Soil, and Marketing to farmers with small plots of land all over Oregon. Each year, the OSFP hosts the [Small Farms Conference](#) at Oregon State University. This daylong event is geared toward farmers, agriculture professionals, food policy advocates, students, and managers of farmers markets. Sessions will be offered on a variety of topics relevant to small farmers in Oregon. This year there will be a session track in Spanish. Speakers will include farmers, OSU Extension faculty, agribusiness, and more.



### AgTools™

AEC faculty member **Clark Seavert** is the co-creator of the suite of programs that make up [AgTools™](#). The mission for AgTools™ is to develop tools and offer information that will provide value to agribusinesses that result in increased profitability and global competitiveness. The program came about through a collaboration between OSU, Washington State University, University of Arizona, University of Idaho, and the University of California-Davis. U.S. users can access the risk management tools for free. AgProfit™ and AgLease™ are licensed programs and so require users to register for with AgTools™ to be able to use them. Many farmers (and students in the AEC department!) have benefitted from these useful and easy-to-use tools.



## Meet the New Faculty and Researchers in Applied Economics

David Kling



- Natural Resources
- Bioeconomics
- Marine Resource Economics & Policy
- Ecosystem Services

David Lewis



- Natural Resources
- Spatial Modeling
- Non-market Valuation
- Microeconomic and GIS Applications

Mallory Rahe



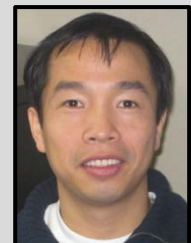
- Local and Rural development decision-making
- Economic impact of state & local policies

James Sterns



- Agribusiness Marketing
- Agribusiness Management

Nam Tran



- Agricultural Economics
- Computational Economics
- Crop Insurance programs



## Program Highlight – Center for Agricultural & Environmental Policy

The [Center for Agricultural & Environmental Policy](#) (CAEP) is a USDA funded program whose mission is “To improve public and private decision making by providing objective economic analysis of public policy issues concerning agriculture, natural resources, energy, food systems, technology, and the environment.” The Center’s work will help policy makers design policies related to land, oceans, water, air and ecosystems.

OreCal (a partnership affiliated with the CAEP) is a collaboration between the CAEP at OSU and the University of California Agricultural Issues Center. This partnership analyzes critical public policy issues concerning agriculture, food systems, natural resources, rural communities, and the environment. OreCal releases Issues Briefs related to their research. Links to the most recent Issues Briefs are listed below. For more issues briefs, please see the [Publications Page](#) of the [OreCal Website](#).

- [Did Rapid Growth of Ethanol Production in the US Affect Global Food Price Volatility?](#)
- [How Does the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Affect the United States Economy?](#)
- [A Regional Look at the Distribution of Farm Program Payments and How It May Change with a New Farm Bill](#)



## Publication Highlight –

### *Toward a formal definition of water scarcity in natural-human dimensions*

AEC Faculty members William Jaeger and JunJie Wu collaborated with faculty from across the university (and even some from other universities) to write the paper titled [Toward a formal definition of water scarcity in natural-human dimensions](#). Here is a snippet from the abstract:

“The uncertain effects of future climate change on water scarcity add to the need for clarity on the concept of water scarcity. Starting with a simple but robust definition –the marginal value of a unit of water– we highlight key aspects of water scarcity and illustrate its many biophysical and socioeconomic determinants. We make four central observations. First, water scarcity varies greatly across location, time, and a multitude of uses that are valued either directly or indirectly by society. Second, water scarcity is fundamentally a normative, anthropocentric concept and, thus, can and should be distinguished from the related, purely descriptive notion of water deficit. While such an anthropocentric perspective may seem limiting, it has the potential to encompass the vast range of interests that society has in water. Third, our ability to understand and anticipate changes in water scarcity requires distinguishing between the factors that affect the value or benefits of water from those affecting the costs of transforming water in space, time and form. Finally, this robust and rigorous definition of water scarcity will facilitate better communication and understanding for both policymakers and scientists.”

This is a great example of the multi-disciplinary cooperation that many of our faculty are able to get involved in!

#### Citation:

Jaeger, W. K., et al. (2013), *Toward a formal definition of water scarcity in natural-human systems*, *Water Resour. Res.*, 49, doi:10.1002/wrcr.20249.

## Alumni Updates

**Beau Olen** (MS in Applied Economics, 2012) has been working as a Faculty Research Assistant for the Center for Agricultural and Environmental Policy (in the Department of Applied Economics at OSU).



Pauxtis-Thomas

**Kelsey Pauxtis-Thomas** (ABM, 2004) is the new Manager of Marketing and Outreach for the Camden County Joint Development Authority; an economic development agency promoting Camden County, Georgia to business and industry.

**Bryson Rutz** (ABM, 2013) has been the Precision Farming Specialist with Ag West Supply out of the Northern Willamette Valley for a year now. Rutz and **Michael Short** (ABM, 2011) head up this division at AWS.



**Sian Mooney** (PhD, Agricultural & Resource Economics, 1998) was hired as an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics (College of Business and Economics) at Boise State University in 2006, gaining full professor a few years later. In 2011 Mooney took a position as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (for 3 years). After this position, Mooney will return to Boise State. She is currently co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics.



Mooney

We want to hear from more Alumni! To include *your* personal update in the next newsletter, please send information and photos to [Brianna.Beene@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Brianna.Beene@oregonstate.edu).

## Things to Celebrate



### Dr. Emery Castle's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

In April at an event organized by Dr. Castle's daughter Cheryl Castle Rogers, about 65 people gathered to wish Emery Castle a Happy Birthday. Bruce Weber and Dick Johnston performed a lovely rendition of "Yellow Rose of Texas."

### Retirements

Starr McMullen, Bruce Sorte, and Steve Buccola have retired! We wish them the best in their next chapters!

Emery Castle



Steve Buccola



Starr McMullen



Bruce Sorte



## Invited Papers & Travel

- **Christian Langpap** traveled to New Orleans to present *Voluntary Agreements and Private Enforcement of Environmental Regulation* at Tulane. He also presented *Private Provision of Public Goods: Evidence from the Effect of Environmental Groups on Water Quality* in Banff in June.
- **John Antle** and **Robert Valdivia** organized the *AgMIP TOA-MD Economics Modeling* workshop in Dubai, UAE, from April 29<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also in attendance was graduate student Caleb Dickson.
- **Bruce Weber** traveled to Washington DC to participate in a workshop on *Research Caps and Opportunities in Child Hunger and Food Insecurity*. He presented *Food Security Across the Urban-Rural Continuum: Research Gaps and Opportunities* as an invited response. In June, he traveled to Bertinoro, Italy to participate in the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Summer Institute. Bruce traveled to Italy again in October to present about the role of rural development in rapidly urbanizing OECD Countries.
- **Lauren Gwin** presented at a *Health Care without Harm* meeting in San Francisco in October.
- **William Jaeger** presented *A Relook at the Environmental Kuznets Curve for Air Pollution* at the AERE Summer Conference in Banff in June.

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## 2013 Publications

For a more comprehensive list of publications and current research, please see the Faculty Pages of the [Applied Economics Website](#).

- **Brekken, Christy Anderson**. Can we have our (safe and local) cake and eat it too? Oregon re-crafts food safety regulations for farm direct marketed foods. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*
- **Chen, Yong**, Elena G. Irwin, and Ciriya Jayaprakash. Population Dispersion VS. Concentration in a Two-Region Migration Model with Endogenous Natural Amenities. *Journal of Regional Science*.
- **Gwin, Lauren** and Aaron Thiboumery. From Convenience to Commitment: Securing the long-term viability of local meat and poultry processing. *Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network*.
- **Jaeger, William K**. The Double Dividend Debate. In *Handbook of Research on Environmental Taxation* (Janet E. Milne and Mikael S. Anderson, Editors). Edward Elgar Publishing.
- **Jaeger, William K.**, A. Plantinga, H. Chang, K. Dello, G. Grant, D. Hulse, J. McDonnell, S. Lancaster, H. Moradkahn, A. Morzillo, P. Mote, A. Nolin, M. Santellman, and **J. Wu**. Toward a Formal Definition of Water Scarcity in Natural-Human Systems. *Water Resources Research*.
- **Lewin, Paul, Bruce Weber**, and David Holland. Core-periphery dynamics in Portland, OR, region: 1982-2006.. *The Annals of Regional Science, An International Journal of Urban, Regional, and Environmental Research & Policy*.
- **Lewis, David.**, B. Robinson, and B. Provencher. Managing Wild Resources: Institutional Choice and the Recovery of Resource Rent in Southwest China. *World Development*.