

Department of Applied Economics Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Welcome to the Department of Applied Economics' annual alumni newsletter! In this issue we highlight achievements and events from 2016-2017 and celebrate the accomplishments of our community. The department prides itself on offering two undergraduate degrees and two graduate degrees that provide skills to help us understand people's decisions, identify the causes of environmental and social problems, and design policies to support the sustainability of our agricultural, natural resource, and environmental assets.

The AEC faculty, staff, and students, in conjunction with our alumni and friends, create a vibrant community that 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 stories included in this newsletter; others can be found on our website.

As you might know, I am new to AEC. I arrived here in July, after spending eight years on the faculty of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to that, I held faculty positions at the University of San Francisco and the University of Montana. My research focuses on understanding the causes of land use change and policies to reduce deforestation, the impacts of forced migration on communities that host the displaced, and the economic history of land tenure and land use. Most of my work is focused on Mexico, but I have also published research on China, Kenya, Sudan, and Eastern Europe. I am thrilled to join AEC and am excited to play a role in supporting the strong intellectual tradition of the department.

It is a wonderful time of year here in Corvallis. The leaves are announcing the beginning of fall, and the students have filled our hallways with their enthusiasm and energy. All my best for a terrific fall wherever you reside,

Jennifer Alix-Garcia
Professor and Department Head



Jennifer Alix-Garcia

Quiz Bowl Team



One of the many ways students become involved in the department is by joining the AEC Academic Quiz Bowl team. The team meets weekly during the winter and spring terms in order to prepare for an annual national tournament held each summer at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's meetings. The tournament typically has 30 to 35 teams entered from universities from throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 2017, the team traveled to Chicago, IL to compete in the Academic Bowl. Team members included, from left to right, Adan Avila, Tess O'Leary, Ben Rietmann, Scout Sutton, Nick Teubel, and Bennett Wahl. Not pictured – Elaine Jordan, a team member who was not able to travel to Chicago, and James Sterns, faculty advisor for the team.

Undergraduate Student Profiles



Bennett Wahl

Bennett is from the small coastal community of Langlois, Oregon – population less than 200 – where she grew up on a sheep ranch. She is majoring in Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP), with a minor in business and entrepreneurship. In addition to being on our Quiz Bowl team and the Agricultural Executive Council (a governing and promotional body for students and clubs within the college of Agricultural Sciences), Bennett has been active with local philanthropies, focusing on the Make-A-Wish foundation with her Chi Omega sorority sisters, as well as the annual Red Cross Blood Drive and Girls on the Run. Bennett has long been interested in the environment, and her major has allowed her to explore this: her senior project is on wetland preservation and she also works with Professor Clark Seavert on the environment module (tools to measure carbon emissions) for Ag Biz logic.

Bennett has loved that her studies have allowed her to study environment, agriculture and the law. She is graduating after this quarter, completing OSU in just over 3 years. After going back to the ranch, she is considering attending law school where she wants to focus either on environmental law or the issues around the generational transfer of ranches.

Ben Rietmann

Ben grew up on a cattle and wheat ranch 20 miles outside of Condon, Oregon. Coming to OSU was a big adjustment for Ben after being part of a high school graduating class of just 14 students! But Ben jumped head first into life here and joined all sorts of activities: Quiz Bowl, Collegiate 4H, International Agriculture Club, the Agricultural Executive Council, the Leadership Academy for the College of Agricultural Science, and as a campus tour guide. Last summer, Ben had a wonderful opportunity for an internship at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in Washington, DC – part of the USDA. Ben worked in the Office of Congressional and Stakeholder Affairs, which allowed him to be part of exciting events including numerous trips to Capital Hill to meet with Congressional staffers, meeting with the president of the National Farm Bureau, and participating (along with USDA Secretary) in a National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) data release, which involves the preparation and dissemination of market-sensitive agricultural reports compiled and issued under special security conditions known as Lockup. Ben loves to travel and was fortunate to be able to participate in a 4H exchange in Japan the summer before starting OSU, as well as a study abroad program in Chile (he is also getting a minor in Spanish). After Ben finishes at OSU next year, he is considering joining the Peace Corps before continuing his studies in graduate school. However, the lure of life back on the ranch is strong and Ben expects to eventually return to Condon.



Graduate Student Profiles

Laura Marshall

After graduating from the University of Oregon and working for an investment company in the Portland area, Laura was excited to get back to school and study public policy. She was so excited that she decided to get two masters degrees – in Applied Economics and in the Water Resources Management Program. Laura's research interests fit nicely with her school work. She is doing an econometric analysis of dam removal data (she has complete data since 1911) and applying her findings to the Lower Snake River in Washington. Laura likes the multi-disciplinary approach her dual degrees offers her and she is excited to be assisting in organizing the Economics of Water seminar series currently underway. Laura also is an avid yogi, and after years of training, she is almost certified as a yoga teacher. After finishing at OSU, Laura hopes to apply her knowledge in Economic Policy Consulting.



Jian Shi

Jian Shi is a 3rd year PhD student focusing her studies on environmental economics. She won the top second year paper with her paper on crop insurance. 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. Since she came to Corvallis from Beijing, the adjustment to a much smaller city was quite a shock! Jian misses the big city life, so she has made a point to travel to cities here including Seattle, LA, Chicago, and San Francisco. Recently Jian was visiting some friends in Florida and unfortunately got to experience a hurricane first-hand! She hope to get a job in academia after finishing at OSU, preferably back in China.



Jason Beasley

Jason Beasley is a 3rd year PhD student interested in land use changes, spatial effects, environmental amenities and public health. But it wasn't always the case. After doing his undergraduate work at Georgia Tech, Jason worked for ten years in management consulting and business analytics. Then he became interested in environmental economics and went back to Georgia Tech for a Masters of Economics before coming to OSU. At OSU, Jason has enjoyed being part of a NOAA grant focusing on coastal development. Jason has also enjoyed teaching a class for undergraduates. He taught AEC 250, Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy, on campus over the summer. In his free time, you can often find Jason playing basketball at Dixon Recreation Center. After OSU, he is interested in continuing in an academic position.



Faculty Profiles

Bill recently wrapped up his work on Willamette Water 2100, a six year project to develop an integrated model include natural systems and human systems. Bill was co-Principal Investigator and lead on the human systems side of the project. Researchers developed a computer model called Willamette Envision to represent the fine-level interactions between the basin's natural water supply and the human system's water demands.

As part of his work on Willamette Water 2100, Bill was a co-author of a study titled "Finding Water Scarcity Amid Abundance Using Human-Natural System Models," recently published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The study illustrates the essential role that economics plays in understanding water scarcity. In modeling the effects of climate change, the researchers found that the human components of the model, such as economic realities and society's laws and institutions that can create or block opportunities, make a big difference in where, when, and how severely the impacts of water scarcity will be felt.

Bill had a sabbatical last winter and spent 4 months at the European University Institute just outside of Florence Italy as a Visiting Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. Bill was able to leverage his experience from OSU to work on climate change policy with colleagues from across Europe.

In addition, Bill continues to teach AEC 551, Applications of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. This class gives our graduate students a chance to apply what they have learned in earlier classes and test out their quickly evolving "economics intuition."



Bill Jaeger

Mallory Rahe is a Community Extension Economist in our department. In addition to teaching and research, Mallory is actively involved with outreach and extension activities throughout the state and region. Mallory was a core member of a partnership with Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) to bring WealthWorks, a strategic planning approach to rural economic development developed and funded by the Ford Foundation, to Oregon. Although the program had been developed elsewhere, extensive effort was spent customizing and framing the concepts for Oregon. In addition, Mallory brings her WealthWorks examples into both of the courses she teaches for the department as a way to give students an holistic view of the assets offered across communities.

In addition, Mallory has been working with USDA on an input/output model for the local foods sector in Central Oregon. USDA released a special toolkit to model this challenging sector, and Mallory is using the project to get participants and community members to think about what kind of growth and what sort of jobs are desired for their community.

One of Mallory's special interests is in helping individuals and communities to better understand and use data. As part of this effort, she has been working with the Oregon Community Food Systems Network, a collaboration of more than 40 nonprofit organizations – including OSU Extension – dedicated to strengthening local and regional food systems to deliver better economic, social, health, and environmental outcomes across the state, to add the Community Food System Indicators collection to Oregon State University Extension's Rural Communities Explorer.



Mallory Rahe

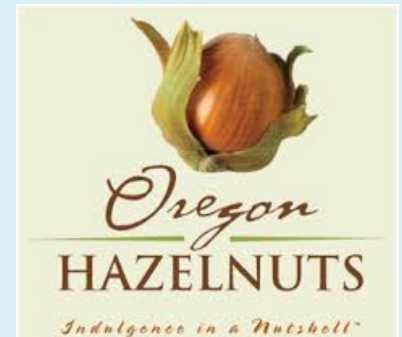
Outreach and Engagement

Climate Change Awareness

Senior Faculty Researcher Laurie Houston has been developing teaching materials for faculty to use to increase awareness of climate change. There are currently three modules for use: the science; impacts, adaption, and mitigation; and the role of economics. These are available at <https://appliedecon.oregonstate.edu/applied-economics/climate-change-awareness>.

AgBiz Logic

Professor Clark Seavert has led the development of 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. The goal of AgBiz Logic is to provide online web-based decision tools to empower farmers, growers, and land use managers to: use data unique to their specific farming operations to develop management pathways that best fits their operations under a changing climate; understand how decisions about new programs, management options, and technologies/varieties may impact their net returns and livelihoods; and better envision which actions farmers can take to build resilience to a changing climate. You can find AgBiz Logic at <https://www.agbizlogic.com/>.



Regional Approaches to Climate Change for Pacific Northwest Agriculture

The Applied Economics department 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.

Hazelnut Outreach

This summer we had an intern work jointly with researchers in climate science, agricultural and natural resource economics, and horticulture to identify important weather and climate variables that influence hazelnut production in Oregon (where 99% of commercial hazelnuts produced in the US are grown). These variables were used to create a suitability index to be applied on the landscape to identify how suitable hazelnut growing regions in the area may change under a changing climate, as well as identify desirable traits for future varieties of hazelnuts.

Applied Economics Course Highlights



Global Poverty and Sustainable Development – AEC 243

This brand new course taught by John Antle and Kassahun Melesse will be offered for the first time in the Spring of 2018. The class will introduce students to economic concepts by focusing on the real world problems of poverty and sustainable development, and will require that students write policy memos and solve problem sets using actual data.

The course will require that students consider the challenges of eradicating extreme poverty and achieving sustainable economic development in the world. Additional topics include: the measurement of poverty and inequality; analysis of food security and agricultural development; and the role of health and education in economic development.

The class is based upon similar and very popular classes that Professor Melesse was involved with at Harvard and UC Davis.

Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy – AEC 250

This core course, taught by Dave Lewis, teaches the basics principles of microeconomics through the lens of the environment. Examples include energy markets, agriculture, and climate change. Simple game theory is covered, culminating with students negotiating an international climate agreement much like the Paris accord. While this class is required for our Environmental and Economic Policy majors, the class attracts students from all over campus.

Starting this winter, AEC 250 will become a hybrid course, meaning the lectures will be online and class meetings can then focus on classroom experiments, group problem solving, and current events discussions.

Introduction to Behavioral and Experimental Economics – AEC 699

This new graduate level course will be taught for the first time by Nadia Streletskaya for the first time this winter quarter. The class, which will include some guest lectures from leaders in this field, will first teach students the necessary concepts and methods in this growing field, and then students will apply what they learned with hands on data collection in our brand new experiential lab. The class will include examples from food and consumer behavior as well as environmental and resource economics.

Faculty Highlights



Professor David Lewis was the recipient of the 2016 Savery Outstanding Young Faculty Award from College of Agricultural Sciences. He was recognized at the CAS Faculty and Staff Day Luncheon in October 2016.



Professor emeritus Bruce Weber testified in front of the US Senate Agricultural Committee in May 2017 on the health of rural communities. His testimony, available [here](#), stressed the important role that USDA Rural Development (RD) plays in rural communities, as well as the importance of the SNAP program to the farm economy.



At this year's annual meeting of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, Professor James Sterns, received the Association's "Undergraduate Teaching Award with more than ten years of experience." In addition, Dr. Sterns was recognized by the College of Agricultural Sciences with the 2017 R. M. Wade Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Graduate Student Award Winners

All PhD students complete a research project during their second year in the program, with prizes awarded for the best papers. In 2016-17, the best Second Year Paper was "Assessing Effects of Federal Crop Insurance Supply on Acreage and Yield of Specialty Crops" by Jian Shi, and an Honorable Mention went to "The Determinants of Coastal Armoring: Estimating influential drivers of parcel-level riprap installation" by Jason Beasley.

Other Award winners for graduate students in the past year: for the *D. Barton DeLoach Distinguished Graduate Awards*: **Matt Sloggy** and **Yukiko Hashida**; for the *Robert Johnson Fellowship*: **Dede Long**; and for the *Susanne Szentandrasí Fellowship*: **Tu Nguyen**. In addition, **Roshan Adhikari** was awarded an *Oregon Sylff Fellowship for International Research*.



We just received the sad news that Professor Emeritus Emery N. Castle, a guiding light of our department and a giant of our profession, died on October 31, 2017.

Earlier in October, Emery was given the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences Hall of Fame Award. The College bestows this award to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions through at least one or more of the broad areas covered by the College of Agricultural Sciences.

A memorial service will be held at 3-4:00 pm, November 11 2017 at the First United Methodist Church in Corvallis. Afterward, a reception/celebration of Emery's life will be held at 4:30-6:30 pm at the LaSells Stewart Center on OSU campus.

Donations in Emery's honor for the Castle Scholarships in Applied Economics (see below) can be made [here](#).

Castle Scholarships in Applied Economics

Four students have been selected to receive Emery Castle Scholarships for AY17-18. 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 17-18 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 fourth 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 fourth-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 second 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).

Alumni News

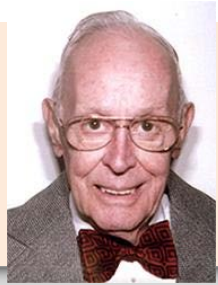


Mary Ahearn, PhD 1984, Recognized with Legacy Award

The College of Agricultural Sciences annually acknowledges the significant contributions of our distinguished alumni through the Legacy Award. The Legacy Award is a career lifetime achievement award, and it is given to an individual who has made a lasting and meritorious contribution to their chosen field, OSU, or society at large throughout their career. For 2017, the Legacy Award is bestowed to our alumnae **Mary Ahearn, PhD 1984**.

Jim and Judith Youde

Jim and Judith Youde were honored for their years of philanthropy and support of Oregon State University and their commitment to ending food insecurity demonstrated by their work with the Oregon Food Bank, Clark County Food Bank and Farmers Ending Hunger. The award for Outstanding Philanthropist pays tribute to an exceptional individual donor who generously provides a lead gift or substantially to an organization.



Alumnus Wins College of Agricultural Sciences Diamond Pioneer Award

The College of Agricultural Sciences annually honors people whose lifetime contributions to agriculture, natural resources, and the people of Oregon and/or Oregon State University have been significant. For 2017, one of the honorees is our distinguished alumnus **JD Rowell** of Sacramento, CA. Rowell received his degree from our department more than 50 years ago, prior to embarking on a career in agricultural marketing. Rowell's agricultural marketing career began with the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Arizona, Tucson. He helped with research and writing of publications to improve the marketing of Arizona's agricultural products. His second job was with the US ICA (International Cooperation Administration) in Brazil. Eventually, Rowell worked for many years in Sacramento with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, focused primarily on California marketing orders. Rowell generously supports our department with the J. D. Rowell Fellowship, offering a scholarship for graduate students studying marketing.

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.

2016-17 Graduates

Undergraduate Students

Agricultural Business Management

James Auxier
Madison Belshe
Riley Brown
Brad Carroll
Keaton Carter-Fountain
Kaitlynn Daugherty
Michael Drake
Angie Eichler
Jose Garcia
Ryley Gilbert
Matthew Gooding
Levi Graffenberger - CL
Jacob Hales
Joshua Harms
Darren Heller – CL
Makenzie Hitner
Molly Kammeyer
Austin Kraemer
Kyle Kraemer

Matthew Manitsas
Michelle McKay
Jack Merrill
Timothy Messner
Sarah Newman
Tessa O’Callahan - MCL
Theresa O’Leary - SCL
Johnpatrick Pederson
Stuart Pereira
McKenzie Searles
Parker Sherrell
Christabelle Simon
Mikala Staples
Nathan Stehler
Sydnee Stoller - CL
Nicholas Teubel - MCL
Stephen Thompson
Taylor Unger
Olivia Wichman

Environmental Economics & Policy

Nathan Biasotti - SCL
Andrew Davis
Secota Douglas
Gina Gerner
Mathew Grothe
Amila Hadziomerspahic - SCL
Elaine Jordan - MCL
Alice Jungwirth
Ben Lawrence - CL

James Miller
Andrew Provost
Brian Rudkin
Caitlin Smith - CL
Michelle Smith
Olivia Steele
Aleea Sterner
Thomas Warner - SCL
Elizabeth Wells - MCL

Codes: CL = Cum Laude, MCL = Magna Cum Laude, SCL = Summa Cum Laude