



Montana State University
Department of Agricultural Economics & Economics

NEWSLETTER | Spring 2023

In This Issue...

03	Student News	22	Outreach & Engagement
14	Alumni News	24	Research & Publications
18	In Memoriam	27	IRAEA
20	Farewell	28	MCEE
21	Honors & Awards	30	MSU Extension



Greetings from Greg Gilpin, Department Head



I am pleased to introduce the Spring 2023 Newsletter and highlight some incredible individuals and events within the DAEE.

Congratulations to our graduates for their hard work and perseverance in achieving their degrees! The dedication and grit they show continues to impress me. Each year, the DAEE honors outstanding undergraduate seniors who

demonstrate excellence in their discipline. Congratulations to our department winners:

- **Siri Christopherson** (Economics)
- **Grace Pannell** (Economics)
- **Caroline Roeder** (Agricultural Business)
- **Connor MacRitchie** (Financial Engineering)

Students excelled during the semester both inside and outside the classroom. Our second-year master's students completed their thesis defenses, with **Jadon Buzzard** winning the department's Outstanding Thesis Award. EFIN senior **Landon Sielaff** participated in and placed second in the Montana AgTech Innovation and Investment Summit.

This issue includes two alumni features: **Andie Creel** (Economics, 2018) and **Casey Palmer** (Agricultural

Business, 2016). It is exciting to see the ways in which our former students have put their degrees to work both by pursuing higher education and by entering industries such as ranching and finance.

Faculty enjoyed a productive semester, continuing to publish and present high-quality research. **George Haynes** was nominated for a Pure Gold Award by Dean of Agriculture Sreekala Bajwa. The department has been preparing to host a large number of guest presenters this June at the MSU Applied Economics Summer Conference. Extension and outreach faculty continue to produce workshops and webinars.

The Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (IRAEA) continues to produce research, engage students, and disseminate valuable information. This semester, the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) sponsored and hosted two statewide competitive learning opportunities for Montana high school students.

There have been a number of departures and arrivals in the department this semester. We mourn the tragic loss of economics senior **AJ Brahmstadt** with his family and friends. His parents will accept his degree at the spring commencement ceremony. Former department head **Dr. Bruce Beattie** also passed away early this year. We honor his memory. In March, **Dr. Vincent Smith** stepped into a well-earned retirement after thirty-five years of service at MSU. In December, **Monica Martinez**, our former student success coordinator, moved onto new opportunities. But we are excited to welcome our new student success coordinator, **Kellie Christensen**, to the department!

Connect with Us!

📧 @msuagecon

📘 @msudae

🐦 @agecon_econ



Congratulations to our Bachelor's Degree Graduates!

Agricultural Business

Tanner Balda*
James Bock*
Reece Chadwick*
Nathan Eggena**
Karly Gills*
Grady Gilpatrick
Louis Ingalls*
Garrett Jones*
Maggie Jorgensen**
Hannah Konen**
Hunter Krogedal*
Lane Lerum*
Caleb Meeks*
Caroline Roeder**
Max Schumacher
Austin Wheeler
Alexander Young*

Economics

Thomas Austin**
Anthony Brahmstadt
Siri Christopherson**
Hank Frank
Dylan Granum
John Holbrook**
Ryan Kemm*
Jonathan Krivec*
Jordyn Lucier**
Max Magers**
Zachary Miller
Grace Pannell**
Derek Smith
Nicholas Van Dinter

Financial Engineering

Kade Aldrich*
Conor MacRitchie**
Samuel Metzger
Braden Molvig*
Benjamin Munkers*
Landon Sielaff*
Raymond Trudeau*

*Graduated with honors

**Graduated with highest honors

Congratulations to our MASTERS of APPLIED ECONOMICS



Hannah Brauch

“The Impact of Algorithmic Risk Assessment Tool Legislation on Racial Disparities in Criminal Sentencing”

Committee:
Wendy Stock (Chair), Chris Stoddard, Greg Gilpin



Jadon Buzzard

“Is Sharing Really Caring? Estimating the Effects of Federal Asset Forfeiture Revenue Sharing on Local Policing Outcomes”

Committee:
Isaac Swensen (Chair), Brock Smith, Wendy Stock



Taurey Carr

“The Water Quality Impacts of Critical Habitat Designation for Endangered Species”

Committee:
Melissa Lopalo (Chair), Nick Hagerty, Justin Gallagher



Katie D'Amour Flavin

“To Comply or Not to Comply: A Study of Compliance with the 2021 Hospital Price Transparency Mandate”

Committee:
Mariana Carrera (Chair), Wendy Stock, Joseph Atwood



Olivia Hayes

“An Analysis of Montana Rangeland Insured by the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Program”

Committee:
Eric Belasco (Chair)

Graduating Fall 2023



Brock O'Brien

“Impacts of Species Protections on Wind Turbine Development: Evidence from Golden Eagle Protections”

Committee:
Diane Charlton (Chair), Brock Smith, Andrew Hill, Nick Hagerty



Justin Reis-Henrie

“Mitigation of Labor Shortages: Investigating the Efficacy of Return to Work Programs”

Committee:
Yang Yu (Chair), Melissa LoPalo, Gregory Gilpin



Sadiq Salimi Rad

“Saving Children? Antitoxin and Childhood’s Deadly Scourge”

Committee:
Mark Anderson (Chair), Isaac Swensen, Christiana Stoddard, Daniel Rees



Laura Sikoski

“Blood and Black Gold: Natural Resource Extraction and Violent Crime on American Indian Reservations”

Committee:

Wendy Stock (Chair), Diane Charlton, D. Mark Anderson, and Nick Hagerty



Trevor Vogel

“Does Direct Primary Care Affect Medicare Opt-out Rates? Evidence from State Business of Insurance Legislation”

Committee:

Mariana Carrera (Chair), Isaac Swensen, and Chris Stoddard

Graduated Fall 2022



Eleanor Buzzard

“How Much is Too Much? The Effects of Milk Overconsumption in Infants”

Parents:

Jadon and Amelia Buzzard



Everett Flavin

“Sitting is The New Smoking: Benefits of Constant Movement in Caregivers”

Parents:

Katie and Daniel Flavin



Outstanding Thesis Award: Jadon Buzzard

I'm from Joliet, Illinois, where I grew up in a large family (oldest of eight!). I got my BA in Economics from Hillsdale College in 2021 before coming to Bozeman. After competing in debate all through college, I became the owner of Ethos Debate Communications, a coaching company, and I've been managing it during my time here at MSU. In my freetime, I enjoy trying desperately to make my newborn daughter laugh (hasn't worked yet), listening to podcasts, going on walks, playing video games, and telling myself I should read more books.

Broadly, my research interests center in the areas of applied microeconomics, crime, risky behavior, labor, and poverty. My thesis estimates the causal impact of asset forfeiture revenue on measures of crime and police effort. Asset forfeiture is a practice whereby police can confiscate and retain the value of assets they've uncovered through their policing activity--lots of it goes back to their own department budgets. This is fairly controversial, so my project attempts to identify whether there are any benefits to this practice. I'm very thankful to my chair **Isaac Swensen**, who helped me think through my identification strategy, as well as my panel members **Wendy Stock** and **Brock Smith**.

This fall, I'll be pursuing my PhD in Economics at Cornell University with admission and funding fellowship through the Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy. The quantitative economics training I received here at Montana State is what made my PhD placement possible! As a first-generation student, I have been blessed beyond belief, and I'm very thankful for all of the opportunities and challenges I've had in getting to this point.

Outstanding Senior: Siri Christopherson

Hometown: Renton, WA

Majors: Economics and Environmental Studies

Hobbies: Exploring in the woods, camping, singing, dancing, cooking with friends, and climbing mountains

Honors: Graduating with Honors, Presidential Scholarship, Dean's List, DAEE Scholarship Exam 2nd place 2020, 1st place 2022



Why did you choose your major?

I chose MSU because I wanted to ski, I wanted to get out of Washington, and the Presidential Scholarship made it the most sensible choice. I left for AmeriCorps after studying engineering freshman year, and came back with only a vague interest in understanding how humans interact with one another and our environment. My dad, who is an economics professor, told me that econ was that and more. I figured it was good enough to major in, and over the years I've come to appreciate it as a useful way to understand the systems we have in place. I later added on environmental studies.

Which classes were your favorites?

My favorite class by far at MSU was Acting for Non-Majors! I learned to appreciate acting as a uniquely intimate and physical form of storytelling, and I met some amazing fellow students. Economics of Natural Resources taught me how to apply a cost-benefit approach to some of the most pertinent environmental issues today. Geography of Energy Resources was a fascinating overview of the political, economic, and sociologic forces at play in the complex global energy sphere. Field Ornithology involved hiking (crutching for me) around various sites with binoculars and learning bird calls. Lastly, Death Becomes Us: The Mystery of Mortality and the Need for Meaning was

profoundly thought-provoking. The name speaks for itself, but if you're curious, go read *The Worm at the Core*.

What advice would you share with incoming freshmen?

Practice being alone and pay attention to what feels right for you. We spend so much of our lives abiding by others' agendas, and in doing so, we neglect ourselves. It takes time and patience to learn to keep a finger on the pulse of your internal desires and passions. In doing so, you discover how to trust yourself, you learn to love others authentically, and you stop feeling so lost. People say all kinds of things about what's important, what you "should" be doing, or what is "right," but you get to decide on your own set of rules as they ring true for you.

What are your post-graduation goals?

I'm applying to work either as a field technician or in a community-environment engagement role. Long-term, I want to help facilitate a more scientifically-literate and critically-thinking populace, so the next steps for me are to see how that's being done already before finding my niche.

Outstanding Senior: Grace Pannell

Hometown: Bozeman, MT

Majors: Economics and French and Francophone Studies

Hobbies: Cross-country skiing, baking, traveling, and curling up with a cup of tea and a good book

Honors: Premier Scholarship Recipient, Dean's List and President's List, Graduating Suma Cum Laude, Honors Baccalaureate: Highest Honors, Summa Cum Laude, IRAEA Undergraduate Scholar



Why did you choose your major?

I chose economics after talking with **Dr. Isaac Swensen** in high school. I had no idea how broad the field is and the kind of research you can do with an economics degree. I solidified my decision after taking Honors Economics freshman year. I enjoyed using math to study decision making and learning how markets functioned.

I grew up in Bozeman, so I started taking classes at MSU when I was still in high school. This made the transition easy, because I already knew some of the professors and the MSU system. I was super lucky to have a university with great professors in both my areas of interest in my hometown (and the in-state tuition didn't hurt either).

Which classes were your favorites?

Some of my favorite classes in the Economics department were Labor Economics, Behavioral and Experimental Economics, and Intro to Econometrics. I really liked Labor Economics because it gave me a better understanding of how things like unemployment, taxes, and the minimum wage affect the labor market. I thought Behavioral and Experimental Economics was an interesting combination of economics and psychology, and I enjoyed learning about why people don't always follow rational models. I also really enjoyed running my own experiment for my final project and doing research with **Dr. Mariana Carrera** afterwards. Intro to Econometrics taught me more about statistics, and I thought reading about how different statistical models are used in research was super interesting.

What advice would you share with incoming freshmen?

Take advantage of the resources available! Talk to your professors, ask for help when you need it, and get involved on campus.

What are your post-graduation goals?

I'm hoping to work in France next year. Afterwards, I plan on attending grad school for economics.

Connect with Us!  @msuagecon

 @msudae

 @agecon_econ

Outstanding Senior: Caroline Roeder



Honors

- Award for Student Excellence, Montana State University Alumni Foundation, 2023
- 4th High Individual, Collegiate Wool Evaluation, National Western Stock Show, 2023
- Homecoming Ambassador Candidate, Leadership Pillar, Montana State University, 2022
- Montana Delegate, Western Governors' Foundation Leadership Institute, 2022
- Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 2022-Present
- 3rd High Individual, Collegiate Extemporaneous Speaking, Society for Range Management, 2022
- Gold Award and Finalist, Sheep Proficiency, National FFA, 2020
- American Degree, National FFA, 2020
- President's Honor Roll, Montana State University, 2019-Present
- Presidential Scholar, Montana State University, 2019-Present
- Graduating with Highest Distinction, Honors College

Hometown: Choteau, MT

Majors: Agricultural Business, Agribusiness Management concentration (Minor: Natural Resources and Rangeland Ecology)

Hobbies: Much of my free time in college has been dedicated to student organizations, but off campus I enjoy cooking, reading, and most any outdoor activity. Student organizations I have been engaged with include Sigma Alpha Sorority (treasurer and leadership chair), Range Management Club (president, treasurer, and plant identification team member), Collegiate Wool Growers (wool judging team member), and the Associated Students of Montana State University (College of Agriculture senator).

Why did you choose your major?

Graduating high school, I was intrigued by the relationship policy has with agriculture and natural resource management, and as a result, I made it my goal to attend law school. So, I needed a degree that would help prepare me for law school but would also make me readily employable if I chose not to attend law school.

More so, I grew up on a small sheep ranch and have seen how critical financial knowledge can be in personal life or a small business. The ag business program was attractive because I wanted an agriculture oriented degree, it provides practical skills, and I had friends already in the program. Because my grandfather, parents, and older brother attended MSU, I didn't really consider other universities and have found it rewarding to continue their legacy.

Which classes were your favorites?

My favorite classes include Ag Law with **Terry Schaplow**, Ag Finance and Credit Analysis with **Dr. Joe Atwood**, and an undergraduate research course developing a grazing management plan with Dr. Clayton Marlow.

What advice would you share with incoming freshmen?

College is what you make of it. The mentality that I get to do things rather than I have to do things has been powerful for me.

This distinction is important because as soon as I started thinking of every commitment as an opportunity rather than an obligation, I was able to make the best of it - even if I was struggling to muster motivation. The more I grew in this area, the more judicious I was with my commitments.

I started picking opportunities because they made me happy, allowed me to serve others, or furthered my goals rather than, for example, meeting what I thought others' expectations were for a successful student. Each day of college is an opportunity to have a good day. I've found I can make it that way by adjusting my perspective and by putting myself in environments which are positive for me.

What are your post-graduation goals?

This summer, I will be completing an internship with AgWest Farm Credit. In the fall, I will begin our very own MSU DAEE Applied Economics M.S. program! While I planned to attend law school as a high school senior, I shifted pathways because I'm excited to develop economic understanding useful for informing policy, rather than exploring the legal arguments of policy.

Outstanding Senior: Conor MacRitchie



Hometown: Fort Collins, CO

Majors: Financial Engineering (Minor in Data Science)

Hobbies: Music, Sports, Reading

Honors: Graduating with an Honors degree Cum Laude, President's List for 6 semesters, Dean's List for 1 semester, member of Phi Kappa Phi

Why did you choose your major?

I chose Montana State University because I like Bozeman and the surrounding area. I chose to major in financial engineering because I thought it offered an interesting combination of courses that focused on the more technical side of finance.

Which classes were your favorites?

Some of my favorite classes were Intro to Differential Equations (M 274), Engineering & Economic Financial Management I (EFIN 301), Production

Inventory Cost Analysis (EIND 373), and Database Systems (CSCI 440)

What advice would you share with incoming freshmen?

When registering for classes, plan ahead what you want to take each year to ensure you get the classes you want and graduate on time.

What are your post-graduation goals?

I plan to pursue a job working in financial risk management or financial derivatives.

Student News

Caroline Roeder Recognized at 41st Annual Founders Day



On Thursday, February 16th, a crowd of 255 faculty, staff, students, and their supporters gathered in the Strand Union Ballrooms for the 41st Annual Founders Day Awards for Student Excellence ceremony. Not only did the ceremony recognize the achievements of the students—it also honored the faculty members who have poured into their lives. The College of Agriculture recognized five students and their mentors. The DAEE was represented by Agricultural Business senior **Caroline Roeder** and her selected mentor, **Dr. Joe Atwood**.

Dr. Atwood said, “I am fortunate to have known Caroline for about four years as her advisor and as an instructor. In our interactions and discussions Caroline has always impressed me with her humility, maturity and the depth of her perception and insightfulness. She is a talented and excellent student who has maintained an excellent grade point average while having been very heavily involved in student, campus, community, state, and national service. Caroline is well deserving of this award.”

Caroline commented, "Dr. Atwood consistently challenges his students by presenting them with real world content while supporting them with kindness and generosity. While Dr. Atwood cares that we learn, he cares more that we are good people who will be equipped with skills to be successful and fulfilled in whatever we do. For these reasons, he is very worthy of this recognition."

Peer Leaders



The DAEE offers two one-credit review courses led by undergraduate students who show an aptitude for economics and tutoring. During class, peer leaders hold discussions, review class material, and assign homework. They also hold one-on-one office hours. To learn more or apply for this paid position, follow the QR code.



ECNS 105 Leaders: Caden Freeborn, Grace Pannell, Ryan Schaefer (not pictured: Dacey Robertson, Jonathan Krivec, Ella Pace)



ECNS 206 Leaders: Dylan, Max (not pictured: Jonas Kahila)

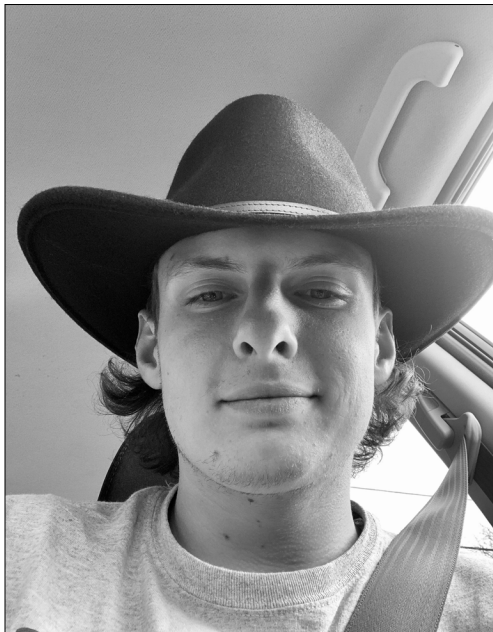
EFIN Club under New Leadership



The EFIN Club has recently come under new leadership: **Garrett Streit** (President) and **McKenna Fobes** (VP). The club's introductory meeting attracted a mixture of majors and curious underclassmen. Club president Garrett Streit presented a comprehensive and informative overview of the major, as well as the aims of the club: to “bridge the gap between the abstract academic and the professional ‘real’ world.” In pursuit of these aims, they welcomed an unprecedented number of guest speakers this semester, including representatives of

Deloitte Consulting, PwC, Atrium, CoCreate Financial, and Bridgewater Associates. They also virtually attended the AI/ML Seminar Series hosted by UC Irvine.

AJ Brahmstadt to be Awarded Posthumous MSU Economics Degree



Anthony Joseph (AJ) Brahmstadt, a senior in economics who passed away March 12, 2023, will be posthumously awarded his bachelor's degree in economics during the Spring 2023 commencement ceremony set for May 12, 2023.

AJ, son of Mark and Kalli Brahmstadt and brother to Nathan, Tyler and Reese, was cherished by friends and family. Originally from Oregon, AJ moved to Montana and enrolled at Montana State University, first as an engineering major, then economics major. AJ loved Montana's recreation opportunities like hunting, fishing and hiking, and especially loved attending MSU Bobcat football games. It was obvious to his family that Brahmstadt had made a home in Bozeman, MT and at MSU. He had planned to graduate this Fall 2023.

AJ's parents will accept his Economics bachelor's degree during the upcoming spring commencement ceremony. The family is currently working on a scholarship fund to honor AJ's academic achievements and legacy.

DAEE Students Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society

Phi Kappa Phi prides itself on being “the nation’s oldest, most selective, and most prestigious all-discipline honor society.” MSU’s chapter, founded in 1921, is one of the oldest in the country. This semester, five DAEE students were selected for membership: **Lucy Lantz** (Economics, Mathematics, Honors College), **Ethan Gilpin** (Economics, Political Science, Honors College), **Gavin Thorson** (Chemistry, Economics, Honors College), **Steven Ohms** (Financial Engineering), and **Jadon Buzzard** (M.S. Applied Economics).

The induction ceremony was held on Thursday, February 9 in the Strand Union Ballrooms. The students enjoyed a pleasant dinner with their families and supporters, followed by a talk by keynote speaker David Quammen on his newest bestseller, *Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus*. New members were then invited up to the stage to receive pins with the society’s insignia.



Native Student Spotlight: Bowen Tryon, Agribusiness Management Major



Bowen Tryon, a sophomore studying Agribusiness Management, grew up in St. Ignatius, Montana and attended Charlo High School. His father is a farmer, and his mother is a faculty member at the Salish Kootenai College, a land-grant community college located on the Flathead Reservation and serving the Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreilles tribes.

Bowen is a descendant of the Salish-Kootenai tribe through his father's side of the family. Interestingly, due to a change in blood quantum requirements in the 1960s, his uncle is a tribe member, while his father is not.

Although he did not grow up with much awareness of his ancestral roots, Bowen said, "It became more important as I got older."

His senior year, he joined a committee at his high school that aimed to introduce more American Indian history and culture into the curriculum. Only the tribally run schools were teaching such topics at the time. Upon entering university, he was impressed by American Indian Hall and the initiatives of the American Indian Council. He thinks there are fewer students of indigenous descent in the agricultural business program simply because many come to MSU for its strong Native American Studies program.

"I think it's great what MSU has done to make those strides," Bowen said.

Now, as a student, he is an active member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and looks forward to using his degree to help farming families like his own by becoming a farm services agent.

Department Welcomes New Student Success Coordinator, Kellie Christensen



Hello! My name is **Kellie** and I am the new Student Success Coordinator for the DAEE. I am so excited to be part of the team and I look forward to helping promote student success within the department.

I am originally from a small town in Northern California called Grass Valley but I now call Bozeman home. I graduated from MSU in 2020 with a B.A. in Liberal Studies (emphasis in Environmental Studies) and a Minor in Psychology. During my undergrad I worked at the Writing Center and the Museum of the Rockies so I am excited to be back on campus working with students and the community. I plan on pursuing a graduate degree here at MSU but I haven't quite landed on which one.

In my free time, I like to hike, craft, and listen to podcasts. One of my favorite hobbies is exploring Montana ghost towns because there are just so many! My favorite so far was Coolidge but I have so many more to explore.



EFIN Senior's Team Places Second in AgTech Competition

Two Montana State University teams found success at the Montana AgTech Innovation and Investment Summit in Great Falls last month, where representatives across the fields of business, entrepreneurship, agriculture and technology networked and presented ideas to expand their reach. The inaugural event was organized by the Montana Agricultural Business Association and the Montana Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the MSU College of Agriculture.

Capping off the daylong event was the Montana Agricultural Speed-Pitch Competition, which is designed to recognize and help fund innovative ideas in agriculture. Each selected project was described in a one-minute presentation, and winners were judged and voted on by the summit's attendees. The top three projects were awarded funding of \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively.

Coming in second place at the summit was a team from Aizy Tech, a robotics company founded by MSU mechanical engineering student Morteza Hosseinnejad. Business management student Emily Adams serves as the company's business development manager, senior financial engineering student **Landon Sielaff** is the business sales manager, and Yoni Shchemelinin, who received his master's in mechanical engineering in December from MSU, is the company's engineer.

The team presented its first product at the summit: a drone called the Whitehawk, designed for precision agriculture, which is slated for production this summer.

"We're really trying to provide services around crop analytics, cattle management and fertilizers, working with farmers, ranchers and agronomists to help Montana producers better manage their farms and ranches," said Sielaff, who helped design the company's business plan and its one-minute pitch for the competition. "The biggest thing for us was just talking to potential customers. Who is someone who would use this? What are issues and pain points that they're experiencing currently? How can we better work with them to create a product and a solution that meets their needs?"

The Blackstone LaunchPad also played an integral part in Aizy Tech's project by first connecting Sielaff with the company's founder, Hosseinnejad. The introduction to Aizy Tech felt like a kismet for Sielaff, who grew up seeing how

aviation is applied in precision agriculture. His uncle was a helicopter pilot who worked in the commercial agriculture industry, and Sielaff said he was mesmerized after flying with him.

"It's how I got interested in flying and grew to love agriculture," he said. "When I got introduced to Morteza, I knew this was an opportunity I had to take advantage of"

Sielaff said the \$15,000 prize for the team's second-place finish will be applied to the first phases of the Whitehawk's production. He hopes it will be the first step of a successful launch.

For a company that spans scientific realms, Sielaff noted, the AgTech Innovation Summit was crucial in helping create connections. It provided the team an opportunity to present its idea to more potential users, as well as a forum for teaching others about the business and learning from active agriculturalists and entrepreneurs about the voids that need to be filled in the field of precision agriculture. Some of the connections initiated at the event fostered relationships with departments back home at MSU.

"At the conference, we connected with professors in the College of Agriculture who I'd never met," said Sielaff. "The precision agriculture projects here are huge, and that's one resource that we're excited to use."

Excerpted from: <https://www.montana.edu/news/22654/montana-state-teams-place-first-and-second-at-agriculture-technology-summit> (original article by Reagan Colyer)



Manager Emily Adams, Founder Morteza Hosseinnejad, and Landon Sielaff

Alumni

Alumni on the Move

M.S. in Applied Economics

- 2014, **David Elsea**, Senior Research Associate at Curta in Las Vegas, NV
- 2018, **Erika (Refsland) Croy**, Credit Portfolio Strategy & Analytics Manager at First Interstate in Billings
- 2020, **Chase Walker**, Research Manager at JG Research and Evaluation in Bozeman, MT

B.S. in Economics

- 2019, **Micah McFeely**, Research Assistant at Evans School Policy Analysis and Research Group in Seattle, WA
- 2022, **Travis Russell**, M.S. in Innovation and Management at Montana State University
- 2022, **Martin Smith**, Account Manager at Greentech Renewables in Bozeman, MT

B.S. in Agricultural Business

- 2019, **Stryker Blue Anderson**, Rancher at Hayhook Ranch in Livingston, MT
- 2021, **Troy Andersen**, Linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons
- 2022, **Caleb Berquist**, Employee at Rock Creek Cattle Company in Lacrosse, WA & Pro Rodeo competitor

B.S. in Financial Engineering

- 2021, **Amber Nabity**, Operations Business Analyst at First Interstate Bank in Billings, MT
- 2021, **Morgan Lamb**, Data Migration Specialist at Foundant Technologies in Bozeman, MT
- 2022, **Dakota Terry**, Financial Examiner / Analyst, Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance in Helena, MT



On the Job with Andie Creel, PhD Student

Andie Creel graduated MSU in Spring 2018 with a B.S. in Economics and a minor in Computer Science. She is currently a graduate student at the Yale School of the Environment. Her research considers how to evaluate and manage natural resources as a capital asset to achieve non-declining welfare for future generations. Additionally, she has a growing interest in how natural resources are distributed across different demographic groups in the present day.

Describe a typical work day.

I am in the second year of my Ph.D., so I balance coursework, teaching requirements, and advancing my own research. My time constraint binds every day, and I attempt to optimize the amount of energy I give to every task while knowing that there is always more that I could do.

This year I am a teaching fellow, so I prepare my own review material for a course called "Nature as Capital." It is a master's level, which is enjoyable because I learn from the students in the course, many of which have relevant job experience.



I have ongoing research projects with collaborators at Resources for the Future in Washington D.C., Colorado State University, and other Ph.D. students at the School of the Environment. The projects are at various stages, so my research obligations these days switch between data cleaning in Python, analysis in R, and writing.

What are the challenges of your job?

The first year of the Ph.D. was the most challenging and I am proud of myself for completing the core economics course sequence.

However, I think that the culture of Ph.D. programs – particularly around the core economic course sequence – can be harmful and exclusive. Setting up a program where finding success requires jumping over cultural hurdles that are not indicative of someone's ability to advance the field weeds out potential scholars.

Last year, I jumped over many hurdles. My study group was eight people, and I was the only woman. Problem sets during the first year required staying on campus past midnight and I had to accept that I would go home in the middle of the night alone. A derogatory quote was written on a chalkboard until I asked my professor to erase it halfway through class. Despite being in my eighth semester at Yale, I still have not had a female professor.

As the field of economics grapples with the lack of gender, racial, and class diversity, we must talk about how the culture of Ph.D. programs can change and no longer overburden underrepresented students, which is not a threat to its remaining rigorous. I am optimistic about shifts in the culture and conversations becoming more public, but lots of work remains.

What are the perks of your job?

One perk of being a Ph.D. student is being surrounded by brilliant and passionate people. I am constantly inspired by my peers, professors, and mentors. I enjoy attending talks from researchers who are pushing the boundaries of my field, then being able to reflect on those insights with my friends and fellow Ph.D. students over a beer.

Of course, another perk of being a Ph.D. student is getting five years to pursue my own research ideas. One of my favorite moments is when I first get a result. At that moment, I am the only person that knows something new about the world.

How has your time at MSU impacted your life?

Carly Urban, Mark Anderson, and Monique Dutkowsky were incredible mentors to me during my time at MSU and afterward. Monique had an early impact on me by allowing me to be a teaching assistant for Microeconomics starting my freshman year. I ultimately changed my major

to Economics largely because of this experience.

Carly and Mark invested in me during my later years so that I could take advantage of coursework abroad and research opportunities which eventually led me to Yale. Each of them also gave me a tremendous amount of their own time, which I do not think I fully appreciated until my own schedule became busier! My interactions with both left me feeling encouraged that my research ideas were interesting and worth pursuing.

Despite graduating from Montana State nearly five years ago, I still remember all their early faith in me on days when I question myself.



Andie working on a microeconomics problem set in the Marsh Hall copula, which was constructed in 1876.

What is your advice for DAEE students looking for future success in the job market?

This one is short and sweet: learn how to code in R or Python! You will not regret it, whether you pursue academia or go directly into a job post-graduation.

What are your career goals moving forward?

I plan to be on the job market for tenure-track professor jobs in three years. Hopefully, DAEE may be looking for an environmental economist then!

On the Job with Casey Palmer, Rancher at Palmer Farm & Ranch

Casey Palmer graduated in Spring 2016 with a B.S. in Agricultural Business. After graduating, he returned to his family's ranch in Northeastern Montana to work with his parents Dean and Shannon and his older brother Sean. The operation consists of dryland farmland where they grow spring wheat, barley, canola, and alfalfa and raise black angus cattle and sheep.



Describe a typical work day.

Working on a farm and ranch, we never really have a typical day. Our days are a constantly changing battle. Spring-time we are attending to calving and lambing and seeding. Summer we are scouting crops and taking care of livestock, which consists of moving to different pastures, checking waters, fixing fence. Fall we are harvest crops, working

cattle and calves, and then we wean. Winter we are in the heart of feeding the livestock. Throughout the year, we are marketing our crops. Calves and lambs usually sell between January and March. Crops sell throughout the year.

What are the challenges of your job?

We have a few challenges that make our job difficult.

Timing is one. We try to make a game plan on getting projects done. My best example is when we are in the heart of calving lambing and seeding. Yes—we are doing all three at once. On a good day, we can accomplish all three of those tasks. But one breakdown with equipment or a problem with cow calving or ewe lambing can cause a disruption. This shuts down one of those tasks if not all.

The other biggest challenge in our operation (since we are dryland) is Mother Nature. It's hard to guess what the year will bring for moisture. If we get a normal average on rainfall, we are usually set for the year for decent crops, enough hay to feed livestock, and enough grass for the livestock. A dry year can bring more costs to the operation. The last few years we have been dealing with drought. Our crop yields have been low. We have insurance that will cover us, but we would rather see moisture and cut a crop that is average or above average. On the pasture side, we are moving through our systems faster because of the lack of growth. In our area, we have also been dealing with grasshoppers. You try to keep ahead of them before they eat everything. We have been buying feed to help supplement due to the drought conditions. In the summer we buy mineral tubs to help boost what the livestock or grazing on, which is not much. The cost side is not always fun, but we want to have our livestock go into the winter months looking the best possible.

What are the perks of your job?

The biggest perk I get is to work alongside my family. I get to spend more time with family while we accomplish goals, making our operation better. It's not an easy task some days. We do get into heated discussion, but we end up getting the job done or the problem taken care of. Not everyone gets that opportunity to be with family at the workplace, so it has to be one of the biggest perks of doing what we do.

How has your time at MSU impacted your life?

Getting the degree was a smart move for me. Getting a degree was a requirement by our parents for coming back to the family operation. Farming and ranching is a tough job, and in case it fails, we have our degrees to fall back onto.

Kadeem Noray, M.S. in Applied Economics '17

I have used my degree on our operation more than I would have realized while I was attending college.

When I had an opportunity to rent a neighbor's farmland, this really opened how much my degree is worth, and it has been priceless so far. Going in for operating money with banks from FSA and our local bank, it gave me a boost on proving how we planned to use the funds. It made the conversations with the banker a lot easier because it gave me understanding on both sides of the conversation.

What is your advice for DAEE students looking for future success in the job market?

The best advice I can give to you is: Get to know your department. Getting to know everyone that makes your department work might give you an advantage down the road. They become someone you can rely on down the road if you need help. This could be something simple like asking for a letter of recommendation or needing some advice for your job. It helps to have more minds together than just your own.

A lot of my instructors have moved away for other opportunities, but I am grateful for them still to this day and I wish them best of luck at their new jobs. I know there are great minds there to learn from. You are going to be in good hands. Then, when you graduate, they are no longer your professors or teachers. They become mentors or friends.

To this day, I still get emails from **Jane Boyd** just to keep in touch about what is happening in the College of Ag and what I have been up to in my job. It actually makes my day getting a simple email from our department. They all wish you the best and will help you out in any way.

So, if you are having a problem in one your classes, go grab a cup of coffee, and sit down with your instructor. Get to know them. It will be the best thing you ever do.



As he completes his PhD in Public Policy at Harvard University, **Kadeem Noray** has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a research position at Opportunity Insights during the 2023-2024 academic year. He is currently a graduate scholar in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy and a consulting researcher at Schmidt Futures.

Erin Brush, B.S. in Agribusiness Management '22



"Agriculture is facing battles today which require more specific tools to fight. We need more people to be zealous advocates for those in production."

Erin Brush
UM Law Student



Recent graduate **Erin Brush** is currently pursuing her law degree at the University of Montana. Follow the QR code to read a feature on why she chose this path: "Rancher Goes to Law School to Protect Family Land" (UM News).

Graphic from
K96FM

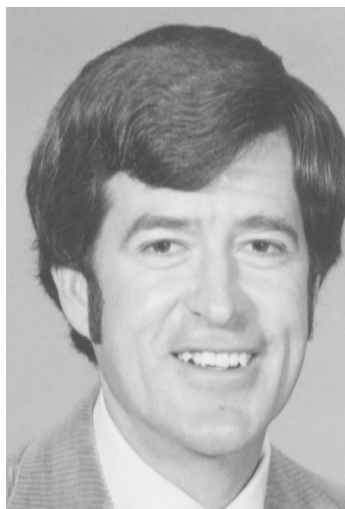
Neil Silveus, M.S. in Applied Economics '17



DAEE master's graduate **Neil Silveus** recently accepted an assistant professor position at Hope College. He is currently finishing his PhD in economics at the University of Pittsburgh and will begin his new position in the fall. One of Neil's latest papers is a collaboration with DAEE faculty, "Partisan Gerrymandering and Turnout," forthcoming in the Journal of Law and Economics, was co-authored with Dr. Carly Urban (along with Dr. Daniel B. Jones of U Pitt).

Dr. Bruce Beattie, Former DAEE Head

April 20, 1942 to January 13, 2023



Bruce Robert Beattie was born April 20, 1942 to Raymond and Lucille (McKinney) Beattie at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Lewistown, Montana. He passed on January 13, 2023, in Tucson, Arizona after battling rare Stage 4 Melanoma lung cancer.

Bruce was proud of his rural roots in the Roy Junction community of Central Montana. He was raised on the land his paternal grandparents homesteaded in the early 1900s. Until age eight, his home had no plumbing, electricity, or telephone, and the family was dirt poor. Yet he wrote "I cannot remember ever being anything other than very happy and optimistic, not wanting for anything."



He attended the same one-room Roy Junction elementary school as his parents, becoming the last graduate before its closure. During 7th and 8th grades, he was one of three students, Bruce, sister Peg, and brother Ruben, the teacher was his maternal Grandma Etheta, and his lunch time math tutor was his retired-teacher-Granddad Luke. He bragged "Three students and two teachers—not a shabby student-teacher ratio!"

After graduating from Fergus County High School in 1959, he obtained his BS in Agricultural Science at Bozeman's Montana State College in 1963, and his MS in Agricultural Economics at the now Montana State University in 1964. He then accepted a management trainee position with the Bank of America in Lodi, California, but quickly discovered that banking was not

a good career choice for him. He wanted to teach, so he headed for Oregon State University in Corvallis where in 1970 he obtained his Ph.D in Agricultural Economics (Fields: Production and Resource Economics). While attending MSC, Bruce fell in love with and married Gail Johnson. They had two children, Ward and Jennifer. Although their marriage ended, they remained friends throughout their lives.

Bruce spent 47 years as a professor of Ag Econ, teaching at the University of Kentucky at Lexington, Iowa State University at Ames, Texas A&M at College Station, Montana State University at Bozeman, and the University of Arizona at Tucson. He served 11 years as a department head including five years at MSU and six years at the UofA. He authored or co-authored over 100 publications and reports, and enjoyed teaching graduate students from his own published text.

He received excellence awards from the American Ag Economics Assoc (AAEA), and the Western Ag Economics Assoc (WAEA). He served as a WAEA director and as president of the WAEA, the AAEA, and the National Assoc of Ag Economics Administrators. He was named a Fellow of the AAEA in 1997. He was honored in 1993 by Montana State University as one of the hundred most distinguished alumni since 1893.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents and his step-brother, Ruben McKinney. He is survived by his children Ward (Georgina) of Tucson, and Jennifer (Rob Shallaberger) of Tucson, his sister Peggy Rae (John Proctor) of Fruitland, Idaho, and his walking pal Mollie. Bruce said it best himself: "Certainly, I've been fortunate in my lifetime—mostly having to do with wonderful parents, a small but close extended family, two children who are the source of much joy and great pride, and many good friends and colleagues. I am a lucky person." He will be greatly missed.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.neptunesociety.com/location/tucson-cremation for the Beattie family.

Reprinted with permission from: <https://obituaries.neptunesociety.com/obituaries/tucson-az/bruce-beattie-11107998>.

A Remembrance of Bruce Beattie from Dr. Randy Rucker

Bruce Beattie was an outstanding academic who had an incredibly productive career as an agricultural economist. More importantly, he was genuinely a good person. In my interactions with him, he was always thoughtful, attentive, considerate, and encouraging. I don't recall ever having a conversation with him in which he was not positive, regardless of the topic. As one gets older, one finds that friends and acquaintances die with increasing frequency. I, for one, often wish that I had made the effort to spend more time with many of those now gone. For me, Bruce Beattie is certainly one such person.

A Remembrance of Bruce Beattie from Dr. Vincent Smith

Bruce was always a kind and thoughtful colleague who did everything he could to help faculty early in their careers to become productive researchers and effective professors. He valued academic excellence and in his role as department head sought out younger scholars with great promise, recruited them in the best ways, and gave them every opportunity to become distinguished agricultural and general economists. He left a department that had become a national center of excellence in research and teaching, a legacy very few department heads can ever legitimately claim.

A Remembrance of Bruce Beattie from Dr. Gary Brester

I was a member of the first Master's student class that was recruited by Dr. Beattie during his first year as DAEE Department Head. I took Production Economics from him, and he was a phenomenal teacher.

After three-quarters of courses and at the end of spring quarter, our group took our Preliminary Examinations. Upon completion, I returned to Laurel, MT to work on our farm for the summer. I was to return in the Fall to work on my Master's Thesis. It took a couple of weeks before we heard the results of those examinations (by letter). Of course, as all those who have taken such examinations can relate, I knew I had failed. But I opened the letter and, much to my surprise, I had passed.

Later that summer, I went into our house to have lunch. My mom told me that she received a long-distance phone call from "a Bruce Beattie"

and that he wanted to talk to me. I assumed that they had re-graded my examination, and he was going to tell me that I failed. I first had to ask my mom if it was okay to make the long-distance call (in those days, it cost real money). I then called Dr. Beattie and he said that he wanted to know if I would be interested in teaching the DAEE's undergraduate agricultural marketing class the coming Fall quarter. He offered to (if I recall correctly) double my graduate student stipend for the quarter.

Well, to say I was poor at that time would be an understatement, and the thought of such a windfall was too good to pass up. He told me that my major advisor, John Marsh, thought I could handle teaching the class, and that John offered to provide advice when needed (which turned out to be daily). I was 22 years old at the time. I told Dr. Beattie that I would do it, then said "However, I think there is

a problem." He asked me what the problem was. I answered, "I don't think I am going to be very good at teaching the class." He said, "We know that, but we are desperate." And that is how my 42-year career in academia was launched. Parenthetically, we were both right.

Over the years, Bruce and I had great discussions about teaching, research, publishing, academia, and the universal foibles of university administrators. I occasionally played softball on a team with his son (who was a great player -- me? -- not so much). Bruce and I occasionally played golf together as well. Suffice it to say that not only was Bruce a great teacher, researcher, colleague, and department head, he was also a fine human being and friend. I will trump that compliment with another. He was one of the best academicians I have ever known.

Dr. Vincent Smith Steps into Retirement after 35 Years of Service



Dr. Vincent Smith has been with the Department of Agricultural Economics & Economics at Montana State University since 1988. During this time, he has authored nine books and monographs and published over one hundred articles. Now, after 35 years of scholarship and service, he is stepping into retirement.

Vince's journey into economics began in elementary school. At the time, British TV stations only broadcasted two 15-minute children's programs per day. With such limited options, Vince ended up following the general elections, which piqued his initial interest in politics. Mysterious terms like "inflation" surfaced in the debates, but it was not until he was in high school that he learned what they meant. When one of his teachers announced a new O-level class in Economics, Vince immediately enrolled, dropping woodworking, a class at which he was, in his own words, "genuinely horrible." He liked economics, and what's more, he was good at it. When the time came for university, he applied to the economics department at the University of Manchester. After finishing his bachelor's, he subsequently earned a master's in agricultural economics. In the 1980s, he earned his PhD in Economics at North Carolina State.

At the tail-end of his PhD, Vince found himself being recruited by Montana State University. At the time, MSU needed a faculty member who could teach macroeconomic theory. Though Vince was initially reluctant to move to such an isolated location, the NC State and MSU faculty convinced him to take the job. First, at a dinner at **Randy Rucker's** house, Vince recalled, "four faculty members bludgeoned me for entire evening" to make the move. When he arrived in Bozeman for an interview, **Myles Watts** took him down the gorgeous Paradise Valley to Chico Hot Springs. Vince and his wife liked mountains, and they were hooked. It took just one more circumstance to keep them in Bozeman. In the late '80's and early '90's, the World Wide Web was just becoming easily accessible, and for the first time, it was possible to collaborate with colleagues across the globe. MSU's isolated location would not impose any limitations on research. Since moving to Bozeman, Vince has co-authored papers with colleagues in Australia, England, Africa, Italy, and other countries.

Over the course of his career, Vince has contributed significantly to the quality of undergraduate education in the department. In addition to winning the 2004 Chamber of Commerce Award for Excellence in Teaching, he has been at the forefront of developing three innovative programs.

The Undergraduate Scholarship Program, a collaboration with **Myles Watts**, was the department's first initiative to reward students based on merit in the field of economics. Now known as the Dave Buschena Scholarship Exam, this competition awards the top three winners several thousand dollars in scholarship money each year. This initiative, together with the Honors Program, has helped to attract several top scholars in the last decade, including winners of the prestigious Marshall, Gates Cambridge, Fulbright, and Truman Scholarships.

Vince helped launch the first Ag in a Global Context course in 1999 under the name "Follow the Grain." He worked with **Jim Johnson** and interim College of Agriculture **Dean Stuart Knapp** to procure a USDA grant, which covered traveling costs for a professor and significantly reduced costs for participating students. Since that inaugural trip to Taiwan, the course has taken students all over the world—to locations as far as China, Greece, England, New Zealand, and Chile. Its impact on students is incalculable. Besides offering students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore other cultures and locales, it has opened collaboration with the Fort Peck and Chief Dull Knife tribal colleges and motivated many undergraduates to continue studying economics at the graduate level.

In addition to his contributions to the university, Vince has made a lasting mark internationally in the field of agricultural economics through his seminal research on agricultural insurance. His 1995 book *The Economics of Crop Insurance and Disaster Aid* is still required reading in many university classes. Moreover, his work on international food aid reform has impacted major policy decisions, increasing the funds spent towards relieving poverty and malnutrition in developing countries. This research, besides earning publication in top-tier journals, has had the real-world impact of saving countless lives. His efforts have been recognized by multiple national organizations, including the USDA, which awarded him the Bruce Gardner Award for Outstanding Contributions to Economic Policy Analysis in 2011, and the Western Agricultural Economics Association, which awarded him the title of Distinguished Scholar in 2008.

Even at seventy-four, Vince is not ready to slow down just yet. As he puts it, "The plan for retirement is to keep on working." Beginning in March, he looks forward to spending most of his time in Washington D.C. at the American Enterprise Institute, where he has served since 2011 as Director of Agricultural Policy Studies. He is, however, taking a little break to celebrate. Following his formal retirement, he will travel to the UK to spend time with friends and family.

Terry Schaplow Shines Both in Court and on the Court



This year **Terry Schaplow** was ranked in the top 10% of lawyers nationwide in both legal ability and ethical standards by Martindale-Hubbell. Martindale-Hubbell is a company providing information services to the legal profession since 1968.

Outside of his professional career, Terry Schaplow has been well accomplished on the basketball court. He has participated in the Huntsman World Senior Games for 15 years, last October he played undefeated in two tournaments and was awarded leading scorer in the tournament.

Mariana Carrera Editor at Top Journal



Mariana Carrera accepted a prestigious position as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, a top field journal in Behavioral Economics.

Mark Anderson Honored at MSU and Beyond



Mark Anderson was awarded the 2023 College of Letters and Science Meritorious Research and Creativity Award. It is well deserved and a great recognition of his hard work!

He has also recently accepted a position on the editorial board at the *American Journal of*

Health Economics, an international journal that published peer-reviewed articles quarterly.

George Haynes Awarded "Pure Gold"



The following is a Pure Gold Award nomination submitted by George's colleague, Sreekala Bajwa.



Like a really great football coach, **George Haynes** is a steady, quiet constant on the sidelines, trusting and respectful of the players executing the moves taught and rehearsed, raising voice only when the team needs a reminder of the end goal of the game, calmly guiding distracted members back to the focal point. His expansive leadership experience made him the ideal person to gather, guide and connect all the many necessary people in the creation of the Montana

AgTech Innovation and Investment Summit held in January.

As a longtime Extension Farm Management Specialist and Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, George has applied his leadership, statewide connections to support a wide range of issues relevant to MSU and Montanans in general. He has been a key team member on projects researching the cost of childcare across the state, the tax implications of electric vehicles, the economic impact of agriculture in Montana, MSU involvement in Precision Agriculture, Agricultural Outreach Partnerships with Tribal Colleges, and support of student-athletes by serving as the Faculty Athletic Representative.

It was only natural that I asked George to assist me in laying the groundwork for a desired ag tech innovation hub in our state from which sprung forth the first summit. Creating connections is George Haynes' forte. For his invaluable assistance, I declare him to be Pure Gold.

Joe Atwood Honored by WAEA



Joe Atwood has been selected as the 2023 Western Agricultural Economics Association Fellow. This award is to recognize members making an outstanding contribution throughout their career to agricultural or other tute of applied, resource, and/or environmental economics in the western states.



The department is currently planning its second annual Applied Economics Summer Conference. During its inaugural year in 2022, the department invited seven internal faculty and three external faculty members to present their current research over two days in June. Research topics included health economics, sustainability, public health outcomes, and farm labor markets. The conference also included opportunities for socializing, including a conference picnic and a hike. Originally planned by IRAEA Research Fellow and Associate Professor, **Mariana Carrera**, this year’s conference is being planned by an internal committee including **Mariana Carrera**, **Isaac Swensen**, **Justin Gallagher**, and **Diane Charlton**.

The Department and IRAEA will be hosting the conference in Linfield Hall on June 20 and 21, 2023. The committee has received a number of working paper submissions by the mid-March deadline, from both nationally and internationally recognized institutions. The conference schedule is set to be published by the end of the spring semester.

Department faculty, staff, and students should contact the committee if they are interested in attending.

Justin Gallagher Presents at Vanderbilt University



In April, **Justin Gallagher** presented on the research project, “Retrospective Voting and Natural Disasters that Cause No Damage: Accounting for the Selective Reporting of Weather Damage” at Vanderbilt University.

Melissa LoPalo Presents at Oregon State & the PAA



In March, **Melissa LoPalo** presented on working paper, “Willingness to Pay for a Cooler Day: Evidence from the Last 60 Years of Major League Baseball Games” at Oregon State University as a part of the Applied Economics Seminars.

In April, Melissa spoke at the Population Association of America annual meeting. A premier conference with a coalition of demographers, social scientists and health scientists from across the world.

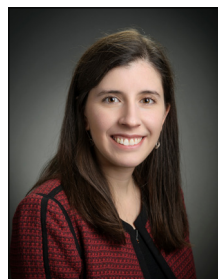
Mark Anderson Comments on Gun Buyback Programs



Mark Anderson studied programs that purchase weapons from civilians to lower crime rates. Anderson commented on these programs in March to Virginia’s Public Radio in response to a community forum. He stated that these programs appear to an effective way in reducing gun related violence, however, there

are more effective ways to prevent gun violence such as laws requiring people to lock up their weapons.

Mariana Carrera Serves As Mentor



Mariana Carrera was invited to serve as a mentor in the American Economic Association’s CSWEP CeMET Program, a 3-Day mentoring workshop for women and nonbinary junior faculty at PhD-granting Economics institutions.

Spring '23 Academic Research Seminars

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics hosts an academic research seminar series throughout the academic year that feature presentations of scholarly research on myriad economics-related topics by researchers from other universities and institutions.

Patrick Baylis from the University of British Columbia presented on his paper, “Mandated vs Voluntary Adaptation to Natural Disasters: The Case of U.S. Wildfires” on Friday, January 20, 2023.



Olga Stoddard from Brigham Young University presented on her paper, “Understanding Gender and Racial Disparities in the Labor Market; Testing Effectiveness of Interventions to Improve Outcomes for Women and Minorities” on Thursday, April 20, 2023.



Dean Lueck from Indiana University presented on his paper, “The institutional Legacy of the Mexican Rancho System in California” on Friday, February 3rd, 2023.



Alberto Ortega from Indiana University presented on his paper, “The impact of Affirmative Action Litigation on Police Killings of Civilians” on Friday, April 2023.



Michael Frakes from Duke University presented his paper, “Racial Concordance & the Quality of Medical Care: Evidence from the Military” on Friday, February 10, 2023.



Michael Farmer from Texas Tech University presented his paper, “Racial Bias in Property Taxation in Atlanta” on Friday, February 17, 2023.



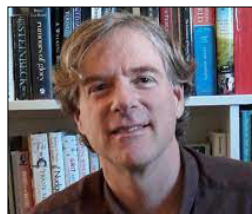
Andrew Barr from Texas A&M University presented his paper, “Which Workers Left the Labor Force Post-COVID Recession and Why” on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.



Faraz Dadgostari from MSU Industrial Engineering presented on his paper, “Agent-Based Models to stimulate COVID Spread and Study Individuals’ Choice of Protective behaviors” on Friday, April 7, 2023.



Bruce Wydick from the University of San Francisco presented on his paper, “Mortality from Nestlé’s Marketing of Infant Formula in Low and Middle-Income Countries” on Friday, April 14, 2023.



AGECONMT

The primary objective of the AgEconMT blog is to provide timely and relevant information that will enable agricultural producers in the northern Great Plains to better understand the economic issues that affect their businesses and communities.

- "Is H-2A Reform Possible? And What Would It Mean for Workers and Employers?" **Diane Charlton**
- "The Value of Clarifying Water Rights" **Nick Hagerty**
- "Montana Lease Rates Were Flat in 2022... With One Major Exception" **Kate Fuller**
- "The Inflation Reduction Act: What is It?" **Nick Hagerty**
- "Did a Robot Write This? The Future of Chatbots in Agriculture" **Nick Hagerty**

To read these posts and more, visit ageconmt.com.

Effects of Federal Disaster Assistance

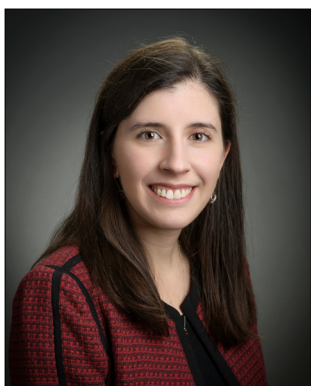


Justin Gallagher

In March, **Justin Gallagher** co-authored and published “Weathering an Unexpected Financial Shock: The Role of Federal Disaster Assistance on Household Finance and Business Survival” in the *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economics*.

In this publication, the authors document the impact of being hit by a devastating tornado on household finance and business survival. They find that the business establishment survival rate declines by 9%. Second, they provide insight on the role of federal disaster assistance, which includes direct cash assistance to disaster victims and grants to repair public infrastructure in mitigating the shock. Individuals in severely damaged blocks have 30% less credit card debt post-disaster when disaster aid is available. Disaster assistance is a place-based policy and results in 9% more establishments and 14% more employee's post-disaster in the average-damaged neighborhood. These effects are concentrated among small non-manufacturing establishments that rely on local demand.

The Over-the-Counter Drug Market



Mariana Carrera

Mariana Carrera and co-author Sofia Villas-Boa's paper “Generic Aversion and Observational Learning in the Over-the-Counter Drug Market” is accepted and forthcoming in the *American Economic Journal of Applied Economics*.

This publication was motivated by the broader question of how consumers update preferences over unfamiliar products. A field experiment was designed on a specific question: Why do so many people pay high premiums for a name-brand drug that is identical in active ingredients to a store-label generic?

The authors implemented a set of labeling interventions in the over-the-counter aisles of a national grocery retailer. They tested three hypotheses for consumer aversion to generic over the counter drugs: lack of information on the comparability of generic and brand drugs, inattention to their price differences, and uncertainty about generic quality that can be reduced with information on peer purchase rates.

They did not find evidence that consumers were unaware of the existence or the stated comparability of the generic products. They estimated a modest impact of highlighting the price difference, in percentage terms, between the brand and its equivalent generic. They find the strongest evidence for their third hypothesis: uncertainty about generic quality.

These results suggest that information on how many other customers have purchased a generic version of a product increases consumers' willingness to try it, a process economists call "observational learning." Posting labels with the percentage of the store's customers that chose each product's generic version increased the likelihood of choosing the generic among customers who had only previously purchased the name-brand version by over 20%.

Terrorism and Political Attitudes in Europe



Brock Smith

This year, **Brock Smith** has published various research on terrorism in Europe and its effects on the political outcomes.

In September, Smith published “Terrorism and Political Attitudes: Evidence from European Social Surveys” in *The Journal of Environmental Economics & Management*. Smith utilized data from the European Social Surveys (ESS) to reveal that at the national level, there is little support for the hypothesis that terror attacks influenced attitudes towards immigration or political orientation. By contrast, there is evidence of post-attack increases in satisfaction with the national government and trust in parliament among ESS respondents living in the region that was attacked.

In October, Smith published his paper, “Terror Attacks and Election Outcomes in Europe, 1970-2017,” in *Economics Letters*. Smith

analyzes data on 393 legislative elections held in 39 European countries during the period 1970–2017 to estimate the effects of terror attacks on election outcomes. His results show that terror attacks occurring shortly before an election are associated with an increase in an index of nationalist vote share.

Most recently, in March, Smith published his paper “Terrorism and Political Attitudes: Evidence from European Social Surveys” in *Regional Science & Urban Economics*. In this paper, he examines the effects terror attacks in Europe have on political attitudes and orientation by comparing within-country survey responses shortly before and after terror attacks involving at least one fatality.

Temperature, Worker Productivity, and Adaptation



Melissa LoPalo

In January, **Melissa LoPalo** published her paper “Temperature, Worker Productivity, and Adaptation: Evidence from Survey Data Production” in the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. This paper estimates the impact of daily weather on worker productivity by using household survey data to study interviewers.

Using data from over 9,000 Demographic and Health Surveys interviewers in 46 countries, Melissa found that interviewers complete 13.6 percent fewer interviews per hour on the hottest and most humid days. Workers maintain the same total output by starting earlier in the day and spending more time on each interview at the expense of spending more hours in the field with the same total pay. In addition, interviewers become differentially less productive on tasks that are less easily monitored.

Connect with Us!

 @msuagecon

 @msudaee

 @agecon_econ

Mental Health Services and SS(D)I Applications and Awards



Isaac Swensen

In April, **Isaac Swensen** and **Carly Urban** published the paper "The Effects of Expanding Access to Mental Health Services on SS(D)I Applications and Awards," in *Labor Economics*.

The growing number of individuals suffering from a serious mental illness underscores the important role of interventions such as treatment, policies, and programs to support those in need. This paper considers the degree to which access to mental health treatment services affects participation in federal disability programs including the Supplemental Security Income and the Social Security Disability Insurance (SS(D)I) programs.

The main approach uses an identification strategy that leverages county-level variation in the number of mental health treatment establishments to estimate changes in access to mental health treatment on SS(D)I program participation—measured by applications and awards. They also explore a series of event studies and heterogeneity analyses.

The results show that an increase in mental health facilities increases participation in SS(D)I programs. A 10 percent increase in a county's number of office-based mental health establishments increases the SSI application rate by 1.2 percent and the SSDI application rate by 0.7 percent. While the overall sample suggests that this does not translate to an increase in SS(D)I awards, they do find increases in awards in counties that have a higher proportion of residents below the poverty line. This suggests that increasing access to mental health resources can be a pathway through which people suffering from severe mental illness can be diagnosed and access social safety nets.



Carly Urban

Rear-Facing Child Seat Effectiveness



Mark Anderson



Ridge Peterson

Mark Anderson and MSU master's program graduate, **Ridge Peterson**, published their research in the *BMJ Journals* on March 14. Their paper, "Rear-facing Child Safety Seat Effectiveness: Evidence from Motor Vehicle Crash Data," utilizes data from the American Academy of Pediatrics car safety guidelines along with analyzed data on all MVCs involving children from ages 0-4.

This study found that rear-facing CSSs were more effective than forward-facing devices at preventing injuries among children aged 0-4 years. The protective benefit of riding rear facing was driven by children who were seated in the back outboard positions.

IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholars

The mission of the Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economics Analysis is to engage undergraduate and graduate students with faculty in academic research that will further the understanding of economic regulation and policy's impact on societal well-being. The IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholarship is a prime example of this mission in action. The scholarship provides students from a wide range of disciplines with the opportunity to work with professors one-on-one to explore academic interests outside of the classroom. IRAEA awarded five undergraduate research scholarships for spring and summer 2023:



Kincaid Calkin (Financial Engineering) working with Isaac Swensen on "Exploring the Effects of Journal Replication Policies on Research Practices in Economics."



Max Ellingson (Financial Engineering) working with Justin Gallagher on "The Impact of Urban Growth Boundaries on Housing Density and Housing Prices" and with Ian Callen on "Skill Development Disruptions and Labor Markets: Evidence from Major League Baseball."



Colin Smith (Economics) working with Mark Anderson on "Child Labor and Mortality at the Turn of the 20th Century."



Casey Stageberg (Economics) working with Isaac Swensen on "Exploring the Effects of Journal Replication Policies on Research Practices in Economics."

Labor Webinar



IRAEA Associate Director **Isaac Swensen** hosted a virtual webinar titled "The U.S. Labor Market During and After the Pandemic" featuring Jason Faberman, a Senior Economist and Economic Advisor in the Research, Policy, and Public Engagement Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The live event was viewed by over 100 participants from MSU and the local community.

Publications & Presentations

Jason M. Lindo (IRAEA Visiting Scholar), Krishna Regmi (IRAEA Visiting Scholar), and **Isaac D. Swensen** (IRAEA Associate Director) published "Stable Income, Stable Family" in the Review of Economics and Statistics 2023. They document the effect of unemployment insurance generosity on divorce and fertility. The results indicate that higher maximum benefit levels mitigate the effects of layoffs.

Wendy Stock (IRAEA Director) presented "Mentor Quality and Job Market Outcomes" at the Society of Economic Educators conference in March.

Wendy Stock (IRAEA Director) presented "Children with Disabilities, Public Health Insurance, and Special Education Outcomes" at the International Atlantic Economic Society conference in March.

Bill Kleindl, (IRAEA Research Grant Recipient), has drafted a series of papers based on his IRAEA-funded research on Ecosystem Services. In particular, he examines wetland assessment tools in Montana and has surveyed wetland managers to determine the wetland ecosystem services assessment tools they use.

Montana Council on Economic Education

The Stock Market Game



First Security Bank President Scott Burke (2nd from right) joined the winning students from Frenchtown High School to celebrate their success alongside their teacher and coach, Ryan Goris (left).

MCCEE hosted over 400 teams for the Montana Stock Market Game teaching investment education in the Fall in partnership with MSU’s Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics.

The Stock Market Game fees were sponsored by Glacier Bancorp and its family of six Montana Banks: First Security Bank–Bozeman, Western Security Bank–Billings, Valley Bank of Helena, First Security Bank of Missoula, Glacier Bank and First Bank of Montana. The simulation continues to grow in popularity for both students and teachers and the sponsorship removes any barriers to participation. Winning teams win cash prizes.

Student teams start with a portfolio of \$100,000 where they make decisions on stocks, bonds and mutual funds to purchase that apply to the real markets. The program not only provides the basic tools of investing and measuring risk, but it also directly ties stock performance to cultural and current affairs where events worldwide can impact stocks in the U.S. in today’s global economy.

Using The Stock Market Game, students explore the fundamentals of personal finance and investing, while practicing content and skills in math, English Language Arts, economics, social studies, and other subjects. Working together to build and manage an investment portfolio in a real-world, dynamic marketplace, students analyze and make decisions, explore the consequences of choices, and seek new ways to strategize for success. The simulation helps teach critical problem solving and money management while competing with teams across the state.

“With the help of MSU, the mission at our Council is to improve economic and financial literacy for Montana’s youth and it takes partners to meet this mission,” said Dax Schieffer, MCEE Executive Director. “We know that when we provide the foundation of knowledge in finance, business, investing and economics, students not only gain the tools for success for themselves and their families, but also contribute to the success of their communities and ultimately Montana.”

Top teams and their coaches were recognized at both a high school and junior high division.

High School Division		
\$127,813.65	Hellgate High School	Klimkiewicz, Steven
\$122,099.49	Laurel High School	Condon, Lisa
\$121,276.07	Frenchtown High School	Goris, Ryan
\$118,702.63	Laurel High School	Kimmet, Matt
\$117,789.08	Sidney High School	Biniek, Russell
\$113,398.77	Laurel High School	Kimmet, Matt
\$113,103.36	Frenchtown High School	Goris, Ryan
\$112,139.93	Laurel High School	Leinwand, Jeannie
\$111,604.18	Frenchtown High School	Goris, Ryan
\$111,367.87	Manhattan High School	Adams, Kay
Junior High Division		
\$114,837.20	Dillon Middle School	Anderson, Jeremy
\$112,380.25	Washington Middle School	Stickel, Lisa
\$110,239.63	Dillon Middle School	Anderson, Jeremy
\$109,147.49	Dillon Middle School	Anderson, Jeremy
\$108,032.62	Dillon Middle School	Anderson, Jeremy
\$105,124.78	Dillon Middle School	Anderson, Jeremy
\$104,946.48	Dillon Middle School	Anderson, Jeremy
\$104,595.45	Dillon Middle School	Anderson, Jeremy
\$104,401.43	Dillon Middle School	Anderson, Jeremy
\$104,269.77	Washington Middle School	Stickel, Lisa

The Big Sky Biz Sim



1st Place – Kassadee Olson



2nd Place – Whitney Van Hook, Colton Dahl, and David Bartelson



3rd Place – Halle Hart and Emma Walter

The Montana Council for Economic Education, a partner program with the MSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, recognizes the winning teams for the Fall 2022 Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate Bank.

The Big Sky Biz Sim is Montana's premier business simulation that is offered each semester across Montana schools where over 200 teams competed over an eight-week period to make business and economic decisions to maximize sales, minimize expenses and drive the strongest stock price.

Students are put in the driver's seat to manage a manufacturing company to make decisions on production, quality management and advertising to drive demand for their widgets going to market. Decisions must incorporate how to maintain a healthy balance sheet and P&L to keep income and equity ahead of expenses and liabilities. But just like the business world, the competition is trying to corner market share so the winning strategy not only drives a profit, but creates returns above those in your industry. Beyond the 10 decision inputs each quarter that drive business strategy, mini-cases are also introduced to navigate H.R., branding, and ethics questions.

"Business and economics are about choices and by hosting an experiential business simulation, we provide the framework for students to work as teams to make business choices that provides results reflected in their companies stock price," said MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer. "While fundamentals in pricing, income, expenses are important, the real learning opportunities occur when they must adapt to different market conditions or recover from challenging results in a supported environment."

MCEE recognized the top three winning teams coming from Sidney and coached by Russel Biniek, first place winning \$500. Each industry winner was recognized as well with prizes provided by First Interstate Bank.

Industry Winning Schools & Their Coaches:

- Industry A – East Helena High School – Angela Huschka
- Industry B – Glacier High – Josh Munro
- Industry C – Laurel High School – Lisa Condon
- Industry D – Laurel High School – Lisa Condon
- Industry E – Sidney High School – Russel Biniek
- Industry F – Sidney High School – Russel Biniek
- Industry G – Heritage Christian School – Bethany Alberda
- Industry H – Three Forks Schools – Jessica Oehmcke
- Industry I – Helena Capital High School – Terri Norman
- Industry J – Corvallis – Alyce Leonard
- Industry K – Skyview High School – Molly Barta

MSU Extension Economics

Ag Diversity Partners



Keri Hayes has joined as the interim representative for the DAEE on the Ag Diversity Partner with the College of Agriculture. This is a group that meets once a month to be apart of the Diversity and Inclusion at MSU. It involves giving feedback to the DAEE in regards to the growth and excellence through diversity and inclusion with students, faculty and staff.

In-Person Workshops & Webinars

From January 1, 2023–March 31 **Marsha Goetting**, Professor and MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist, presented 34 live and 9 virtual programs in the various areas of estate planning, reaching over 1,506 Montanans.

Marsha Goetting was also included in the 2023 Golden Triangle Cropping Systems program, in which she presented 10 programs in 9 counties in 5 days.

Fabulous Fridays

A six-part webinar series was presented by **Marsha Goetting**, Professor and MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist, and **Mandie Reed**, MSU Wheatland County Extension Agent for 442 Montanans January – March 2023. Special Guests included Jane Wolery, the new Montana 4-H Foundation Executive Director and several 4-H Alumni Guests, all grown up and making their mark in society. The webinar can be found at <https://www.montana.edu/estateplanning/fabulousfridays/>.



Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist, was an invited webinar speaker for University of Minnesota Extension. She presented “Double Estate Legacy Planning for Caregivers.” The participants learned the list of tools estate caregivers could use for double estate planning and learned the difference between a health care power of attorney and financial power of attorney. The link to the webinar is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inr-Gqd3UQ>.



- Health Care Power of Attorney and Related Documents for Montanans (Reprint April 2023)
- Schedule of Non-Monthly Living Expenses (Revised April 2023)
- Blended Families: Making Financial Decisions (Revised March 2023)
- Fiduciary Access to Electronic Communications and Digital Assets (New March 2023)
- Premarital Agreement Contracts in Montana: Financial and Legal Aspects (Revised March 2023)
- Transferring Your Farm or Ranch to Next Generation (Reprint March 2023)
- What Are Your Rights Over Your Remains?(Revised March 2023)
- Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate: Transferring Non-Titled Property (Revised March 2023)
- Wills (Revised March 2023)



Invest in Our Faculty & Students Through Donations & Scholarships

Your support is critical to the continued growth and success of the Department of Economics. From helping Montana kids afford an education to funding department growth, every donation makes a difference. Below, you will find a list of a few of our funds that are open to donations. If you are interested in opening an endowment under your name or would like help planning a gift, contact 406-994-2053 or email gifts@msuaf.org.

DAEE General Support

This general fund contributes to the needs of the department at the discretion of the department head.

Agricultural Economics Memorial & Scholarship

This fund awards scholarships to deserving DAEE students.

Agricultural Economics Excellence

This fund awards scholarships to deserving DAEE students.

Agricultural Global Studies Fund

Funds go towards student travel expenses for Ag in a Global Context. Offered every two years, this course is a student and faculty favorite.

BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship

This fund awards scholarships to deserving agricultural business students.

Ag Econ Opportunity Scholarship

This fund supports students in non-traditional circumstances who require financial assistance. Circumstances may include dependent children, injury, and return to civilian life after extended military service, among others.

Dave Buschena Memorial Scholarship

Based on the results of the annual DAEE Undergraduate Scholarship Examination, scholarships are awarded to DAEE students in memory of Professor Dave Buschena.



To donate, just hold your phone camera up to the QR code to access an online form that includes these funds and more. You can also send a check with 'DAEE' and the fund name of choice written on the memo line. Donations can be mailed to:

MSU Alumni Foundation
1501 South 11th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715



**Department of Agricultural
Economics & Economics**

Montana State University, P.O. Box 172920
Bozeman, MT 59717-2920

Tel: 406-994-3701

Email: agecon@montana.edu

Location: 306 Linfield Hall
montana.edu/econ



Scan to
Connect or
Donate!

Connect with Us!

 [@msuagecon](https://www.instagram.com/msuagecon)

 [@msudae](https://www.facebook.com/msudae)

 [@agecon_econ](https://twitter.com/agecon_econ)

