

Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics

Fall 2020 Newsletter

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& Economics

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Greetings from Greg Gilpin, Department Head

It is my pleasure to introduce the Fall 2020 newsletter and highlight some of the incredible individuals and events occurring in the DAEE.

Congratulations to our 12 fall graduating students for their hard work and perseverance in achieving their degrees through this pandemic. The DAEE recognizes the two outstanding seniors honored this fall: Brian Jagers (Agricultural Business) and Ben Moscona-Remnitz (Economics). They have demonstrated excellence in their studies and we are very proud of them.

This fall, our graduate students were recognized for their excellence.

Master's in Applied Economics graduate Molly DeCurto earned second-place honors in the AEEA Graduate Student Extension Research Competition and Andrew Swanson earned the AAEA Outstanding Master's Thesis Award. We also recognize the creation of the Economics Club with officers Alexandria Poe, Dylan Granum, Nick Cornwall, and Whitney Barr. Additionally, this fall we have five Ag Ambassadors: Erin Brush, Sarah Kiser, Tyler Noyes, Zach Stoltz, and Sierra Swank.

It is with condolences that I announce the passing of Dr. Doug Young, Emeritus Professor of Economics. Doug joined the DAEE in 1977, thus beginning a 33-year career. He leaves behind a legacy of building next-generation economists who were greatly impacted by his excellent instruction, exacting standards, and his genuine interest in helping them realize their full potential. Please consider a donation in his honor to the Doug Young Memorial Scholarship through MSUAF.

Faculty highlights include Dr. Brock Smith's 2019 Mundell Prize for his paper 'Dutch Disease and the Oil Boom and Bust' by the Canadian Economics Association, and Dr. Marsha Goetting being awarded the 2020 Iowa State College of Human Sciences Alumni Achievement Award. Dr. Kate Fuller and Dr. Andrew Hill were both awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professors. Congratulations!

Outreach presentations continued remotely through the pandemic with substantial information being provided on COVID-19. Economist Christina Romer was the IRAEA Distinguished Lecturer this fall and also provided insights on fiscal policy and the pandemic. Dr. Wendy Stock also hosted a workshop this summer on the economic perspectives on LGBTQ+ discrimination policy.

We wish a fond farewell to Wanda McCarthy, our Business Operations Manager, and extend a warm welcome to our two new faculty members, Dr. Nick Hagerty and Dr. Yang Yu, who will begin teaching in the spring. Dr. Hagerty will instruct Economics of Ag Business and Dr. Yu will instruct Honors Economics. We also welcome IRAEA visiting scholar Erik Hembre, and postdoctoral researchers Pamela Meyerhofer and Zach Fone.

Our students, faculty, and staff rose up to meet big challenges this fall, and inspired me with their grit. I am so proud of them!



Dr. Gregory Gilpin

Outstanding Senior: Brian Jagers

Hometown: Palo Alto, California

Major: Agribusiness Management

Minors: Economics and Finance

MSU Activities: Economics Club, National Society for Leadership and Success, National Conference on Undergraduate Research, DAEE Fiscal Challenge Team

MSU Honors: Dean's List since Fall 2018; Honors graduate, DAEE Outstanding Student

Why did you chose your major and Montana State University?

I chose agricultural business to pursue my interests in agriculture and natural resources.

Before coming to MSU, I looked into the faculty in the DAEE and saw that the department has a fantastic roster of economists and professors.

Also, I love snowboarding, and Bozeman is obviously a great place for outdoor activities all year.

What classes were among your favorites?

Ag Finance and Credit, and Farm and Ranch Management were definitely among my favorites. Dr. Atwood is a fantastic professor.

What are your post-graduation goals?

I want to enter the financial industry with a focus on agriculture and natural resources.

What advice would you share with incoming freshman?

Freshman, organization and discipline will help you enormously in college. Keep a calendar and use an organization system that works for you.

And of course, maintain a reasonable work/study/life balance. Don't drive yourself crazy reading economics textbooks all day (this is very easy to do).

Lastly, build and maintain relationships with your professors.



**Six-word MSU story:
Taking advantage of Mountains and Minds**

Outstanding Senior: Ben Moscona-Remnitz

Hometown: Aspen, Colorado

Major: Economics

MSU Activities: Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program

Honors: DAEE Outstanding Student

Why did you choose your major and Montana State University?

Growing up in Aspen, Colorado, I always felt a strong connection to the surrounding mountains, forests, and rivers.

When I first started college, I wanted to major in Environmental Science. After a couple semesters of classes, I realized that my interests were most aligned with human-environmental interactions, and that economics provides a fantastic lens through which to understand human behavior.

I chose MSU because I had great interactions with the faculty when I visited, especially my advisor, Dr. Wendy Stock. Also, Bozeman is not a bad place to be as a passionate skier and trail runner.

What classes were among your favorites?

My favorite classes at MSU were Undergraduate Research with Dr. Dan Bigelow and Dr. Carly Urban. Having the opportunity to sharpen my data analysis and coding skills last summer, working on an agricultural economics project with Dr. Bigelow gave me a look into the data sleuthing involved in economics research. Having the opportunity to work on a research project with faculty for credit is a huge benefit of attending MSU.

What advice would you share with incoming freshman?

My advice to incoming freshmen is to set short and long-term goals.

Before attending MSU, I went to Colorado College. I was set on pursuing a career as an adventure photographer and filmmaker. I had no goals associated with school, and as a result, I seriously lacked motivation. I left after two years to pursue my creative career. Three years later, I had attained the goals I had set for myself in photography and I decided to go back to college at MSU.

My time at MSU has been fulfilling because I have had a reason for being here. This mentality has emboldened me to really try to learn from my professors and make the most out of my time here.

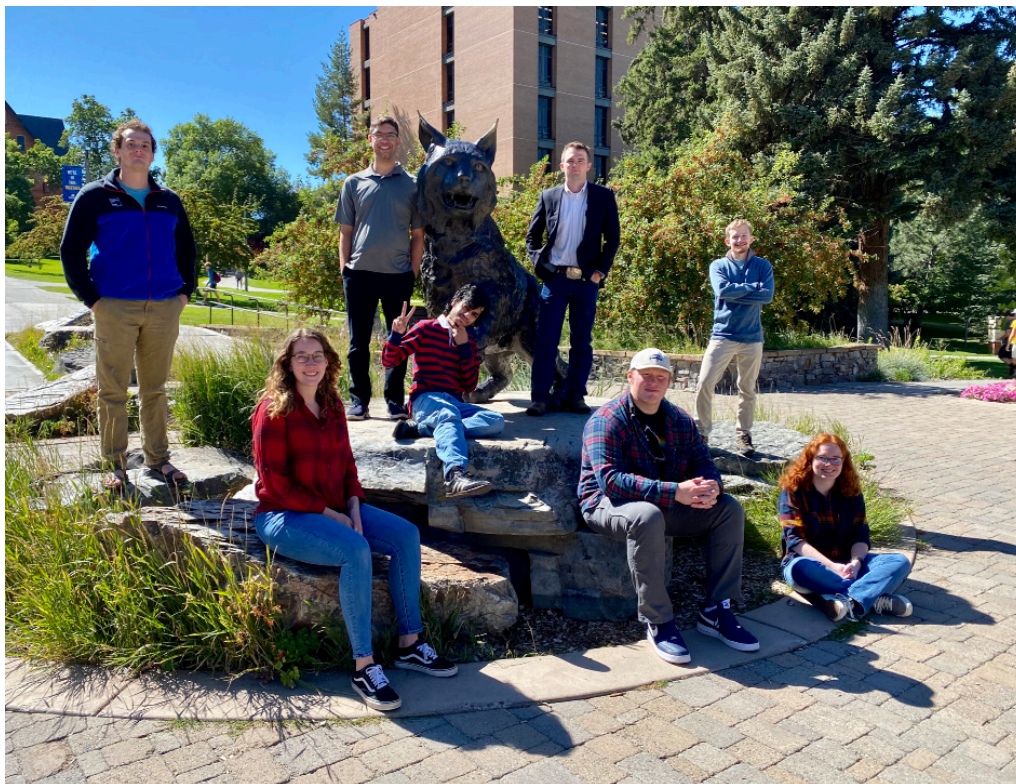


What are your post-graduation goals?

I have a few goals for myself post-graduation. First, I hope to find meaningful employment directly related to water resources, renewable energy, or supply chain sustainability. Second, especially if goal No. 1 does not work out, is to raise funding for and direct a feature-length documentary on the socio-environmental history of mining in Colorado.

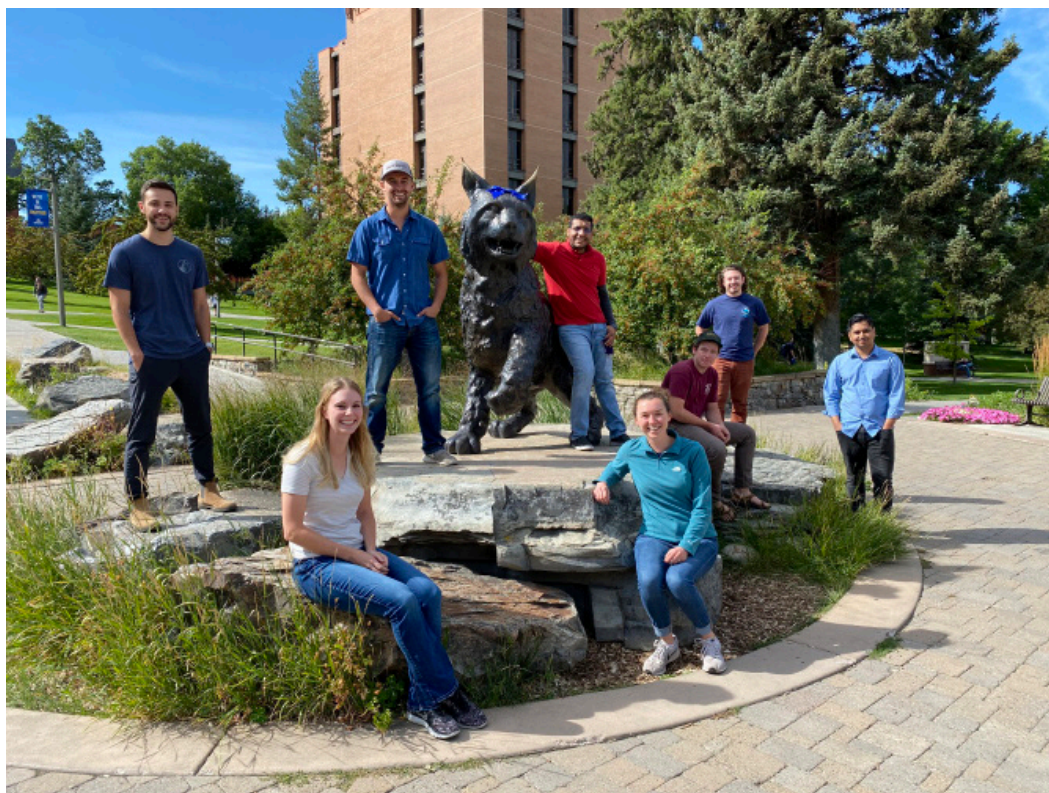
Six-word MSU story:
A way to expand my curiosities

FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS



Standing, from left: Will Robinson, Ian Callen, Connor McCollum, Ridge Peterson
Seated, from left: Hannah Wing, Anish Mitra, Anthony Clark, Quinn Anderson

SECOND-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS



Standing, from left: Gunnar Schultz, Tanner Bollum, Faisal AlSaad, Joseph Baan, Tahmeed Hossain
Seated, from left: Rebecca Kaiser, Laina Raisler, Mitch Harris

Fall 20 DAEE Peer Leaders

The DAEE offers two one-credit courses designed to offer additional instruction to its ECNS 101 and ECNS 202 students. These courses are led by undergraduate students who show an aptitude for economics and tutoring. During class, peer leaders administer quizzes, review class material and assign homework. Peer leaders also hold office hours for one-on-one tutoring.

ECNS 105 Peer Leaders

Under the direction of **Andrew Hill**, peer leaders offer support to students enrolled in Principles of Microeconomics courses instructed by Hill, as well as to students instructed by **Jerome Patton** and **Chris Stoddard**.



Madison Bohling



Scott Bymaster



Francis Kawalski, Head Peer Leader



Amber Nabity



Allison Onoszko



Alison Petracek

ECNS 206 Peer Leaders

Under the instruction of **Melissa LoPalo** and **Greg Gilpin**, peer leaders offer support to students in Principles of Macroeconomics.



Brian Jagers, Head Peer Leader



Hannah Brauch



Brandon Holsen



Madi Schriefer

Molly DelCurto earns second-place honors in AAEA competition

Molly DelCurto, who earned her master's degree in the DAEE's Applied Economics program this spring, was the runner-up in the Agriculture and Applied Economics Association's Graduate Student Extension Competition.

The competition asks graduate students to develop programs related to extension and outreach based on their research. The top three students receive cash awards.

DelCurto's graduate research focused on a new element of federal crop insurance called the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Designed for ranchers and producers of forage and hay, the program insures rangeland acreage against low rainfall conditions and seeks to provide more financial stability to those producers who rely upon forages as feed for cattle and other livestock.

"Livestock producers have historically not used crop insurance, in part because it's been targeted at larger commodity crops like wheat and corn," said **Kate Fuller**, DelCurto's mentor and an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics. "It's an index insurance, which means you insure based on a rainfall index that isn't tied to your specific piece of property. We don't have a lot of index insurance products in the U.S., which is what makes it so unique and complex."

DelCurto's thesis evaluated the PRF program and changes that have been made since its inception. For the AAEA competition, however, there was an additional element. She also created an educational program designed to help ranchers and producers around Montana understand and best utilize the insurance.

"This competition was a pretty neat opportunity," DelCurto said. "The program gives grad students the chance to develop a plan to address a specific audience on an issue they've identified. You then build a program addressing that issue." DelCurto's research into the PRF program uncovered a need for increased communication with producers who may benefit from the insurance.

"Because the PRF program is so new, one of the problems that has been found is that people just don't know it's available," she said. "We wanted to be sure we got this information out there as much as we could."

DelCurto worked with Fuller, who is also an MSU Extension specialist, to create and present educational materials to producers around Montana about the PRF program and how to best implement in real-life situations. She then presented her project, "To Insure or Not Insure? Spreading Awareness of the



Molly DelCurto, a 2020 master's graduate in Applied Economics, earned second-place honors in the AAEA Graduate Student Extension Competition and is the first MSU student to place in the top three.

Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance Program," to a panel of judges from the AAEA, and was awarded second place in the nationwide competition earlier this month.

DelCurto is the first MSU graduate student to place in the top three of the competition. The winner was Katie Wilts from the University of Minnesota and the third place recipient was Jose Enrique Velasco Ortiz of Purdue.

In addition to earning her recognition from the AAEA, Fuller said DelCurto's work is a valuable resource for MSU Extension and regional producers. After earning her master's, DelCurto accepted a position as a data analyst for the state of Montana's Legislative Fiscal Division.

"Molly really became an expert on PRF and how it works," said Fuller. "She's reached a place where she can answer really technical, specific questions about the program while also being able to present a PRF 101 crash course for people who are really just getting started with thinking about insurance. She has become a really good resource for MSU Extension and for people around the state to answer questions, interface and educate the public on an important topic."

-- Reagan Colyer, MSU News Service

Andrew Swanson earns AAEA Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

A Montana State University graduate was recognized by one of the nation's largest agricultural economics organizations for his research on the interaction of tax codes and agricultural commodity prices in the Midwest.

Andrew Swanson, who received a master's degree in applied economics from MSU's Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics in the College of Agriculture and the College of Letters and Science in 2019, received the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

He was one of three graduate researchers in the country recognized by the AAEA.

Swanson, originally from Nebraska, has been interested in economics and marketing from a young age. His master's thesis explored the impact of Section 199 — a tax law passed in 2004 — on local grain prices.

Swanson collaborated with researchers at MSU and Kansas State University, where he explored and synthesized decades of agricultural prices. Examining that data over time allowed him to illuminate the influence of the Section 199 regulations on the larger market.

Adjustments to Section 199 by the IRS in 2008 allowed tax breaks received by agricultural cooperatives to be shared with the grain producers themselves, something that previously had not been an option.

"The idea is that if they were giving these extra benefits to farmers, that gives the farmers an incentive to sell more grain to cooperatives," said Swanson.

"What we found is that the IRS rulings had a negative impact on local wheat prices. Cooperatives have limited storage capacity, so if the IRS rulings incentivize farmers to sell more wheat to cooperatives, then the co-ops have to lower the price they pay for the product to ensure they don't get overrun."

Cooperatives have been around for more than 200 years and account for over \$200 billion in business in the United States, said **Carly Urban**, a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics who nominated Swanson for the honor.

Though they account for such a large piece of industry, she said, little was known about the economic impacts of Section 199 on commodity prices.



Andrew Swanson, a 2019 master's graduate in Applied Economics, earned the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award from the AAEA. He was one of three graduate researchers in the country recognized by the AAEA.

"Andrew's thesis is one of the best that I've seen," said Anton Bekkerman, who chaired Swanson's thesis committee. "His goal was to answer questions that can help a wide range of stakeholders in the U.S. agricultural industry be more informed. He succeeded."

Swanson's thesis was recognized along with students from Texas Tech and the University of Minnesota.

After receiving his master's from MSU in 2019, Swanson moved on to a doctoral program in the College of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California Davis. He said he feels his time at MSU was an ideal preparation for his next steps.

"I think what I really appreciated about Montana State was the hands-on learning with my professors," he said. "My master's thesis was the first time I'd ever done a major research project, and they were just great people and fantastic mentors, and that mentorship was a really big help in preparing me for a Ph.D."

-- Reagan Colyer, MSU News Service

DAEE kicks off Economics Club

This fall, a group of students came together to organize Montana State's first Economics Club. The purpose of the Economics Club is to provide students with a chance to further develop their understanding of economic and business issues and how they relate to the world at large. Members of the club plan to accomplish this goal through meetings, debates and other public events.

The club is a social environment among economics majors and minors, as well as with students from other majors. Members can also help students with economics homework, providing a more interactive environment than other tutoring avenues, said **Mariah Stoppolecamp**, club adviser and DAEE student success coordinator.

Recently, the club selected its 2020-2021 officers. They are: **Lexi Poe** (President), **Whitney Barr** (Vice-President), **Nick Cornwall** (Treasurer) and **Dylan Granum** (Secretary).

A junior sociology major with an economics minor, club president Lexi Poe said she is thrilled to be part of the first board of offices who get to shape the direction of the club.

"I hope to use Econ Club as a way to bring both undergraduates and faculty together, in many different facets — anything from study groups to seminars and faculty lectures to current events meetings, and even a potential book club," she said. "I can't wait to see what these next few semesters have in store for the Economics Club."

For more information about the Economics Club, email: msu.economicsclub@gmail.com.



Economics Club officers are (clockwise from bottom left): Alexandria Poe (president), Dylan Granum (secretary), Nick Cornwall (treasurer), Whitney Barr (vice-president)

Five DAEE students among 2020-2021 Ag Ambassadors

Congratulations to the five DAEE students who were selected as Ag Ambassadors for the College of Agriculture! The mission of the Ambassadors is to recruit and retain students in MSU's College of Agriculture while fostering a lifelong appreciation for agriculture and natural resources in current and prospective students. Ambassadors offer individual or group tours of agricultural facilities on and off campus, meet with prospective students, and are available for presentations on career and college topics relating to agricultural sciences. They work to support and mentor incoming students in the CoA and represent the college at numerous events including Celebrate Ag Weekend, MSU Fridays, and the State FFA Convention, among others.

DAEE Ag Ambassadors, majors and hometown are:

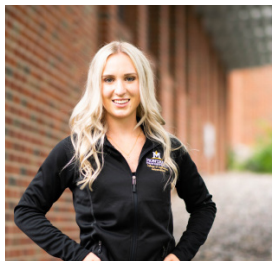
Erin Brush, Agribusiness Management; Norris, Montana

Sarah Kiser, Agricultural Business; Sonoma, California

Tyler Noyes, Agricultural Business and Agricultural Education; Toston, Montana

Zach Stoltz, Agricultural Business; Volier, Montana

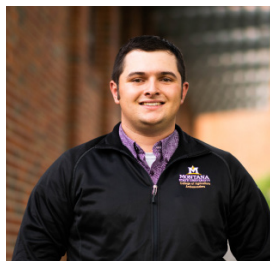
Sierra Swank, Agricultural Business; Chinook, Montana



Erin Brush



Sarah Kiser



Tyler Noyes



Zach Stoltz



Sierra Swank

Dave Buschena Memorial Scholarship awarded to three students

The Dave Buschena Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of **Dave Buschena**, an agricultural economics faculty member who passed away in 2010. Scholarships are awarded based on the results of the annual Undergraduate Scholarship Examination administered each fall. This year, \$5,600 was distributed among three DAEE students selected on the basis of their test scores.

Awardees are:

Dakota Terry — Financial Engineering
Siri Christopherson — Economics
Francis Kawalski — Financial Engineering

The DAEE accepts contributions to this scholarship fund in support of our students. For more information, contact the MSU Alumni Foundation at 406-994-2053 and mention Fund 927775.

Tyler Noyes selected as national education ambassador



Tyler Noyes

MSU junior **Tyler Noyes** was one of 14 ambassadors nationwide selected for the National Teach Ag Campaign, a program of the National Association of Agricultural Educators designed to promote community involvement in the agricultural industry to high school students.

Noyes, who is majoring in **agricultural business** in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics and Agricultural Education in the Department of Agriculture and Technology Education, will serve

a one-year term, engaging with high school students around the region and helping to promote agricultural education.

Noyes grew up in Toston on his family’s farm, helping with the planting and harvesting of alfalfa hay, barley and spring wheat. He was involved in 4-H from an early age and was a founding member of the Broadwater FFA chapter. When he heard about the National Teach Ag Campaign, he knew it would be the perfect opportunity to share his passion for agriculture and hone his skills as an educator.

“The campaign’s goal is to teach the importance of agriculture to students in the hopes of both recruiting future teachers and encouraging people to stay in the agricultural industry in one way or another,” said Noyes. “Our job as ambassadors is to be a relatable face for those students and be advocates for our industry.”

Ambassadors trained over the summer in preparation to represent the National Teach Ag Campaign at events in their home states as

well as larger events, such as the annual National FFA Convention. Noyes will also be responsible for creating and leading additional workshops for local students and developing content that can then be used by other educators. That is what excites him the most.

“One of the big things I’m looking forward to is working with students,” he said. “This position is right up my alley since I’m studying to be an agricultural teacher. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn where my strengths lie as a teacher before having two more years of developing my skills to be the best educator I can be.”

His instructors at MSU believe he’s well on his way to becoming just that.

“When I think of ambassadors, I picture an individual who is knowledgeable about the people and the groups they represent, an individual who has a passion for a cause or purpose, and an individual who is truly relatable to others in sharing the knowledge and the passion,” said department head Carl Igo. “In his first two years at MSU, Tyler has proven he has all those qualities, and I am excited to see how he uses them to advance and improve agricultural education, not only at MSU and in Montana, but across our nation and world.”

For Noyes, who feels a deep connection to his home state, the hope is to encourage students to follow his example in pursuing their passion and giving back to their communities and a critical industry.

“I’m looking forward to seeing what I can do, working with students here in Montana,” he said. “I want to help them figure out where their interests lie. And just maybe, I’ll inspire some students to be ag teachers, or study agricultural communications. Not many people get this kind of experience.”

Kyle Rutten awarded prestigious Cameron Presidential Scholarship

DAEE student and IRAEA undergraduate researcher **Kyle Rutten** was among six high-achieving Montana State University students to receive the 2020 Cameron Presidential Scholarships. The scholarships, awarded to MSU students in the Honors College, were made possible by an endowment made in 2017 by the Cameron family, according to Ilse-Mari Lee, dean of the MSU Honors College.

Kyle is a junior majoring in mathematics, with a focus on statistics, and with minors in computer science, data science and economics. He is an Eagle Scout, Lockheed Martin STEM scholar and a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Mu Epsilon honor societies.

Rutten is currently employed as an undergraduate researcher in economics with professor **Wendy Stock**.

Among his activities, Rutten served as an MSU Queer Straight Alliance representative and currently is a president of the oSTEM chapter at MSU. He has also served as a Math Learning Center tutor and Honors Texts and Critics fellow.

Originally from Great Falls, Rutten graduated with an International Baccalaureate diploma from the American Community High School in Abu Dhabi. His parents are Bill and Deanna Rutten.



Kyle Rutten was awarded the prestigious Cameron Presidential Scholarship.

Lee said the students were selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, demonstrated leadership and exemplary public service. Each Cameron Presidential scholar will receive generous financial support during his or her undergraduate career at MSU if they maintain a superior academic standing.

"It is an honor to present these awards to such outstanding students," Lee said. "We are deeply grateful to the Cameron family for endowing the Cameron Presidential Scholarships."

Ben Moscona-Remnitz shares research on AgEconMT

Research from **Ben Moscona-Remnitz**, a senior economics major and IRAEA Undergraduate Scholar, is the basis for a blog post on AgEconMT. "Foreign ownership of Montana's agricultural land has increased, but remains low," was posted Oct. 2 by **Dan Bigelow**, under whose direction Ben conducted his research through IRAEA.

From the post: Foreign-owned agricultural acreage has risen substantially over the past two decades, but still accounts for a very small share of total US farmland. As of the end of 2018, there are 31.6 million acres of foreign-held farmland and forestland in the US, accounting for approximately 3.5% of all US farmland. Note that this is also likely an overestimate of the percentage of farmland owned by foreign entities, since most forestland is not found in farms. In Montana, 697,590 acres (1.2%) of land is owned by foreign entities, indicating that foreign ownership of agricultural land is relatively less common here than in the broader US.

To read the post, visit: <http://ageconmt.com/foreign-ownership-of-montanas-agricultural-land-has-increased-but-remains-low/>.

Caroline Roeder recognized by National FFA

Caroline Roeder, a sophomore agricultural business major from Choteau and a 2019 MSU presidential scholar, was recently recognized at two national FFA events.

In September, the National FFA organization announced Caroline, who serves as the Montana FFA president, earned the prestige of being a national proficiency gold award winner and a finalist for the outstanding member in the nation in the area of sheep production.



Caroline Roeder

At the Virtual National FFA Convention in October, Caroline was one of just 39 FFA members in the country to earn the American FFA Degree, the highest degree that can be bestowed upon a member. The degree requires individuals to meet a certain financial plateau from their work-based learning project, as well as be an active participant in their local chapter and community.

Spring 20 Financial Engineering Capstone Class

The DAEE would like to acknowledge the Spring 2020 Financial Engineering capstone class whose photos were unavailable at newsletter press time last spring. Shown top row, from left: Erin Cook, Kolten Williams, John Dickson, Francis Kawalski. Shown bottom row, from left: Jessica Rosa, Harry Schwem, Bradley Hoss, Jake Bassett, Quenton Jatkowski. Not shown: Wyatt Germann. Congratulations on your achievement!



Alumni Spotlight

Logan Hendrix joins First Interstate Bank

Logan Hendrix, a 2018 graduate in the DAEE Master of Science in Applied Economics program, accepted a position at First Interstate Bank, where he joined a team that serves as in-house consultants to help with decision support analysis.

Hendrix was an IRAEA graduate research assistant for **Wendy Stock** during his master's program. Under Stock's direction, Hendrix researched the impact of increased access to public health insurance in childhood on later-life criminal outcomes. The research is undergoing peer review at the Journal of Human Resources.

Hendrix presented their paper titled, "Investing in Health and Public Safety: Childhood Medicaid Eligibility and Later Life Criminal Behavior" in November 2019 at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference held in Denver.



Logan Hendrix has accepted a position at First Interstate Bank, where he will be part of a team that serves as in-house consultants to help with decision support analysis.

Nick Hagerty joins DAEE faculty

The DAEE is pleased to welcome **Nick Hagerty** to its faculty! Dr. Hagerty, who joined the department as an assistant professor in August, is an agricultural, environmental, and natural resource economist. His research studies the role of water and other natural resources in how societies cope with environmental change, and how policy design can help people to better adapt. Most of his projects study agriculture in the western United States, combining remote sensing data with modern econometric methods to measure causal relationships.

Before coming to Montana State, Dr. Hagerty completed a Ph.D. at MIT and a Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowship at The University of California, Berkeley.

He grew up in Oregon and said he is glad to again be surrounded by mountains, conifers, and hiking trails.

What brought you to the DAEE?

The strong research community, the great people, the chance to influence lots of different students, and the amazing scenery

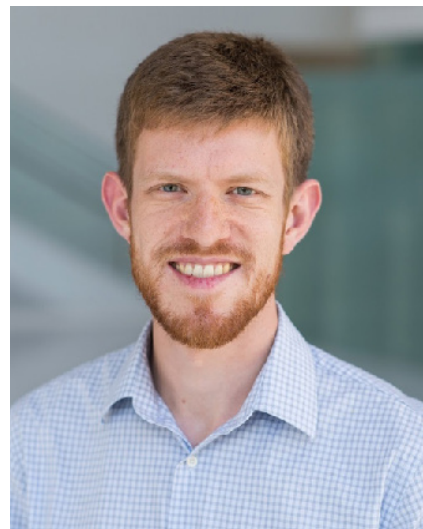
What are you looking forward to here?

Professionally, I'm looking forward to learning more about natural resource issues in Montana and getting to know the stakeholders here.

Recreationally, I enjoy hiking fast and trail running slowly; and am planning to get more into downhill and cross-country skiing here. I'm also looking forward to playing board games and classical music again after the pandemic.

Nick Hagerty will instruct AGBE 210: Economics of Ag Business in Spring 21.

He can be reached at:
nicholas.hagerty@montana.edu.



Dr. Nick Hagerty

Yang Yu joins DAEE faculty

The DAEE is pleased to welcome **Yang Yu** to its faculty! Dr. Yu, who joined the DAEE as an assistant professor in September, studies the economics of the food market with a focus on consumer behavior and market structure. His dissertation provides several new approaches to measuring household-level food waste and what factors drive unnecessary waste. His current and future research projects will explore the trade-offs between reducing food waste and achieving healthy eating, and the roles of regulation and food assistance programs.

Before joining MSU, Dr. Yu received his Ph.D. from Penn State University in 2020, where he also earned the Outstanding Dissertation Award from its College of Agriculture. He holds an M.A. in Economics from Boston University, and a B.A. in Economics from Wuhan University. He is co-author of two newly published academic articles on food waste, and the lead researcher on a USDA-NIFA competitive grant, as well as on a cooperative agreement with USDA-ERS on food waste.

What brought you to the DAEE?

During my MSU visit in January, I was very impressed by the vibrant faculty, the potential for research collaborations, and the opportunities to work with the graduate students. Plus, Bozeman is such a great place to live. I am excited to join the DAEE faculty and looking forward to my new adventure here.

How do you spend your free time?

There are many things to love in Bozeman: the natural landscape, the mountains, and so many outdoor activities. I have enjoyed several wonderful hikes, including the trails at Fairy Lake, Sacagawea Peak, Hell Roaring, and Palisade Falls. I recently bought my first pair of snowshoes and am ready to do some winter hiking. Born and raised in a small town on China's east coast where there was not much snow, I have always dreamed of skiing on snow-covered mountains and plan to take a ski course this winter. I also love to travel and experience new cultures and food, watch movies with my wife, and learning photography.



Dr. Yang Yu

Yang Yu will instruct ECNS 251: Honors Economics in Spring 21. He can be reached at: yang.yu6@montana.edu

Wanda McCarthy moves on to new challenge



Wanda McCarthy

The DAEE said farewell this fall to **Wanda McCarthy**, executive assistant and office manager, who accepted a position as the Fiscal and Business Manager in the Office of Sponsored Programs. In the four years she was with the DAEE, Wanda made her mark as organizer of the all things, offering support to faculty, staff and students.

"I can't express my gratitude enough for Wanda," said DAEE Department Head **Greg Gilpin**. "She has been my right hand and someone that I have fully relied on and who has my full trust. I am happy to see Wanda move into a role where she will grow, and I thank her for her excellence in service these past four years."

A note from Wanda about what she will miss most about the DAEE:

I'll miss the students. I enjoyed meeting the new master's students each year, seeing students studying in the lobby, catching up with our graduates, and the energy the students brought to the department.

One of my favorite activities in the department was organizing trips for the Agriculture in a Global Context course. I traveled with the students to England and China and it was a fantastic opportunity for me to learn more about the different cultures and agricultural practices.

I will also miss working alongside the great team of faculty and staff. I have made many friends in the department that I will miss seeing every day, but thankfully Montana Hall isn't very far away and I'll be able to easily stay in touch.



Wanda McCarthy (holding teapot) organized a weekly tea for students who attended the Ag in a Global Context trip to China. The students met to share photos and memories of the trip they took in May 2019.

The DAEE welcomes new student worker

The new friendly face around the DAEE belongs to student worker, **Rowen Tracy**.

Rowen is senior from Victor, Montana, in the Bitterroot Valley, who is majoring in Financial Engineering with a minor in Economics.

Since beginning his DAEE position, Rowen has been instrumental in helping reorganize the department and in offering suggestions to increase efficiency and student support. At MSU, in addition to his studies, he is a member of the MSU Triathlon Club.

What do you do for fun?

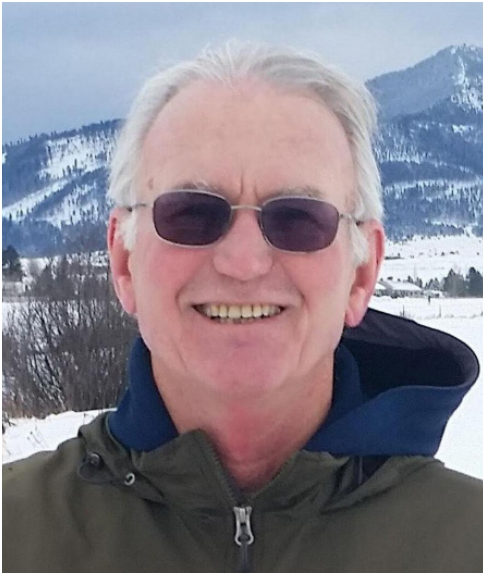
I enjoy baking, biking, pottery and interior design.

What led you to choose Financial Engineering as your major?

I have always wanted to be an engineer, however; as I got into high school I started to enjoy the finance world more and more. Once I found Financial Engineering I knew it would be a degree that would challenge me as well as keep me engaged in the content. Then, after taking ECNS 251 with Dr. Stock, I chose to add on an economics minor.



DAEE faculty shares memories of Doug Young, Professor Emeritus



The DAEE lost a beloved member of its faculty on Oct. 28. Professor Emeritus Doug Young joined the DAEE faculty in 1977, beginning what would be a 33-year career educating DAEE students. His research interests were public finance, international economics and alcohol policy.

Dr. Young will be greatly missed by the DAEE faculty and staff and the many colleagues who had the honor of calling him "friend." With his passing, he leaves behind a legacy of building next-generation economists who were greatly impacted by his excellent instruction, exacting standards, and his genuine interest in helping them realize their full potential.

The DAEE sends its deepest condolences to Dr. Young's wife, Laura, daughters Allison and Nikki, grandson Ruben, sisters Dallas and Melissa, and all family and friends.

Donations to a scholarship fund in memory of Dr. Young can be sent to:
Doug Young Memorial Scholarship, attn. MSUAF, POB 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717.

To read more about Doug Young's well-lived life, visit:
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bozemandailychronicle/obituary.aspx?n=douglas-jyoung&pid=197029173>

Randy Rucker

I have only the fondest memories of Doug Young, having known him for over 40 years. I first came to know Doug in Linfield 109 in 1977, where the Macroeconomic Theory course for MSU's Master's students was held twice a week. I was a graduate student, and he was teaching the class for the first time. Four students in that class went on to get Ph.D.'s and have successful academic careers – myself, George Haynes (currently a DAEE faculty member), Tom Miller (now on the business faculty at Mississippi State University), and Jeff LaFrance (whose career included stints as a faculty member at several major universities, before he recently retired). Doug's warmth and sense of humor were evident every day in that class, as was his potential to be the outstanding teacher he became over the course of his career.

Doug always had a sparkle of humor in his eyes, along with a ready smile and hearty laugh, and he was willing and able to help friends any time of the day or night. Back in the '70s, he was so kind that he accompanied me to the Scoop on several occasions for rousing pinball contests (and complementary beverages, etc., of course). When I returned to MSU almost 30 years ago, he became a valued and respected colleague. I miss him.

Chris Stoddard

Doug Young was on the committee that hired me as a new assistant professor. I remember having a spirited conversation with him and Myles Watts about one of my papers—one that was not my job market paper. It was my first taste of Doug's commitment to the department and to economics. I was impressed by both his love of a good debate and his insights about economics.

Doug was also instrumental in introducing me to policymakers in Montana. I remember driving up to Helena together for meetings and having to stop to get terrible gas station corn dogs on the way back because it was an important road trip tradition.

Wendy Stock

Doug was a great colleague and friend. I remember Doug and his wife, Laura, hosting many dinners and departmental parties at their house, and their efforts made the department feel like a family/community.

Doug and I would run together during lunch several times a week, often hashing out research-related questions in the process. In 2006, we trained for the Bridger Ridge Run and were both very proud to finish! He always had a positive attitude and a smile that made working with him a joy.

George Haynes

Doug Young rocked the DAEE when he arrived in 1977. He challenged undergraduates and graduate students alike with tough exams and high expectations; and earned the respect of faculty members in agricultural and general economics.

On the student side, Doug's students remember the day he shaved off his beard —there was this unidentified person roaming the halls of Linfield, who was only identified once he said, "hello." On the faculty side, it was rumored that Oscar Burt once told a search committee at another institution that he valued Doug because he was an MSU colleague who "made him think."

Doug brought unique insights to MSU through his many international experiences, starting with serving in Vietnam, engaging in Fulbright appointments in Botswana and China, and teaching in India, Egypt, and Morocco. He was truly a citizen of the world.

Doug was a valuable contributor to outreach efforts, especially with the Montana Legislature. It was Doug who legislators on both sides of the aisle wanted to hear from on tax-related issues. He and Pat Barkey, Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, were educating Montana legislators on economic issues through the summer of 2020; just a few months ago.

Vincent Smith

Doug Young has been my colleague and he, his wife Laura, and their two wonderful children, Nikki and Allison, have been genuine family friends for over 30 years. Since his passing, I have been privileged to talk with many of the department's emeritus faculty and colleagues who have moved to positions in other parts of the country. We all share a deep sense of loss over a friend who always went out of his way to help us in our careers and our lives beyond the university.

As with so many of my colleagues, when my Laura and I arrived in Bozeman, 2,000 miles away from our friends and family, Doug and Laura made sure we would become part of the community. They shared dinners, hikes, and barbecues, introduced us to cross-country skiing (everyone knew that downhill would be beyond the scope of someone from England) and the joys of cutting down our own Christmas trees in Hyalite Canyon.

What Doug and Laura did for me and my family, they also did for dozens of other faculty, and a phalanx of MSU's international students and the department's graduate and undergraduate students. And what made Doug so special, and why so many of his colleagues have been so moved by his loss, was his humanity and generosity of spirit that led him to see all of us as people of worth.

Within the university and the department, Doug was more than willing to give his time, intellect and energy to helping MSU deal with major challenges, especially at the Montana University System level, with respect to health care benefits. Quite literally, across Montana, over 10,000 faculty and staff in the state's higher education system ended up with better health insurance programs because of his work.

Within the department, numerous students and colleagues have had richer careers because of his contributions to their education and their work. And over two decades of state legislators have made more informed decisions about tax policy because of Doug's outreach programs. He became their "go to" person for insights about income, property and excise tax policy and the impact of the Montana tax structure on the competitiveness of the state in attracting and keeping new businesses.

No wonder, then, that those of us who know Doug Young truly will miss him, as much as we need to celebrate his career and his life.

Carly Urban

During my first year as an assistant professor, Doug was in his last year as a faculty member prior to shifting to Emeritus. Whenever my office door was open, he made a point to come by my office and say, with the biggest grin on his face, "Take the rest of the day off!" It was always before 10 a.m. and every single time, I laughed out loud. It was a regular reminder to not take everything so seriously, and it was definitely appreciated at that point in my life.

I will definitely miss seeing Doug's face around from time to time. I don't think I ever saw him in a bad mood. We bonded early because we both did our Ph.D. at Wisconsin, but his excitement for life was unparalleled among economists!



Mark Anderson

When I first started at MSU, Doug made me feel right at home. He was always happy, upbeat, and laughing about something... an exceptionally good-hearted person with born-to-think-like-an-economist intuition. Even after he was no longer teaching classes on campus, he would always show up to any talks I was hosting or any presentation I was giving myself. I always looked forward to chatting with him at those events and will really miss seeing him around.

Gary Brester

I was an undergraduate in the department when Doug joined the faculty. That was over 40 years ago.

With his long beard and longer ponytail, he was hard not to notice in those days. After a couple of years, I saw a new faculty member walking around the department. I asked a graduate student friend about that person. He said "That is Doug Young." Doug was unrecognizable to me because, for Halloween that year, he shaved his beard, got a short haircut, and put a camera around his neck. He went to a Halloween costume party as a "tourist."

I took a couple of classes from Doug back then. He was a good teacher and a good athlete. We skied together many times and played a variety of sports including racquetball and volleyball. He was not only a truly good person, but very smart, a great conversationalist, a true academic, a thinker, and a Vietnam veteran. I am happy to say that he was a friend of mine (as well as a colleague) for the past 40 years.

I am a better person and economist for knowing Doug. While we have all lost something of great value, we were also fortunate to receive so much from him.

Jim Johnson

Doug was such a great guy. Laura and Doug were a couple who always seemed to find such joy in being together. Perhaps one of my fondest memories of them was going on the trip to Chile and how helpful each of them was to the students.

Faculty Honors & Awards

Fuller, Hill earn tenure, promotion

Congratulations to **Kate Fuller** and **Andrew Hill**, who both obtained tenure with promotion this fall!

Dr. Fuller, who was promoted to an associate professor, earned her Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics at the University of California, Davis in 2012.

She joined the DAEE in 2014 as an assistant professor and Extension Specialist.

Dr. Hill, who was promoted to an associate professor, earned his Ph.D. in economics at the University of British Columbia in 2013.

A labor economist, he joined the DAEE in 2017 as an assistant professor where he instructs economics courses in addition to pursuing research.



Dr. Kate Fuller



Dr. Andrew Hill

Marsha Goetting honored by alma mater

Marsha Goetting was recognized with the 2020 Iowa State College of Human Sciences Alumni Achievement Award.

The award recognizes College of Human Sciences alumni for meritorious service and/or distinguished achievements in their field.

Dr. Goetting, who earned her Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from Iowa State University in 1996, is a professor and Extension family economics specialist whose outreach efforts on estate planning and financial management have reached tens of thousands of individuals across the state and beyond.

Awards are given to deserving individuals who have made an impact, according to the award description.

"These alums are carrying out the vision of the College of Human Sciences on an everyday basis," the description states. "Whether working in schools, government agencies, private industry, or non-profit organizations, they are expanding human potential and improving people's lives."



Dr. Marsha A. Goetting

Brock Smith wins 2019 Mundell Prize

The Canadian Economics Association recognized **Brock Smith** with the 2019 Mundell Prize for his paper, "Dutch Disease and the Oil Boom and Bust," published in May 2019.

The annual prize, worth \$2,000, is awarded to the best paper published in the Canadian Journal of Economics in the previous two calendar years, and is awarded to "young" authors, meaning those who have who earned their doctorate no more than seven years prior to the date of paper acceptance.

In his paper, Dr. Smith examines the impact of the oil price boom in the 1970s and the subsequent bust on non-oil economic activity in oil-dependent countries.

During the boom, manufacturing exports and output increased significantly relative to non-oil countries. These measures decreased gradually during the bust and subsequent period of low prices, displaying a positive relationship with oil prices.

However, exports of agricultural products sharply decreased during the boom. Imports of all types of goods displayed strong pro-cyclicality with respect to oil prices.

The results suggest that increased local demand and investment spillovers from the windfall resulted in increased manufacturing activity.

Fall 2020



Dr. Brock Smith was awarded the 2019 Mundell Prize by the Canadian Economics Association for his paper, "Dutch Disease and the Oil Boom and Bust."

The Mundell Prize is named after Robert Mundell whose most influential work was published in the Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science between 1957 and 1963 when he was a "young" economist. In 1999, Robert Mundell received the Sveriges Riksbank (Bank of Sweden) Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Melissa LoPalo's research cited in CityMonitor

Melissa LoPalo's research, "Temperature, Worker Productivity and Adaptation: Evidence from Survey Data Production," was cited in CityMonitor, an online media platform comprised of leading urban policy journalists and experts who report on transportation, infrastructure, housing, urban design, public safety, climate change, the economy and more.

The CityMonitor article, "In climate-challenged Mumbai, development patterns are adding fuel to the fire," by Patrick Sissons, is one in a series focused on how increasing numbers of high-heat days are affecting cities around the globe.

Dr. LoPalo's study 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 Survey interviewers in 46 countries, she finds that interviewers complete 14 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.

These findings are important not only because temperatures are predicted to rise significantly over the next century, but also because they shed light on how adaptation by workers to adverse conditions can be costly in ways not captured by aggregate productivity measures such as GDP.



Dr. Melissa LoPalo

Dr. LoPalo's study can be found at:
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3711044

The CityMonitor article can be found at:
<https://citymonitor.ai/government/infrastructure/mumbai-development-patterns-adding-fuel-to-climate-change>

Diane Charlton contributes ag labor expertise to CAST report

Diane Charlton contributed an essay on farm labor to the CAST report, "Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets," a collaboration between CAST and the AAEA published in July that contains insights from 31 experts.

Dr. Charlton's contribution, "50% Unauthorized and 100% Essential: Farm Labor Supply and Demand during the COVID-19 Pandemic," details the risk of farm workers contracting COVID-19 and subsequently spreading it to others, and how the pandemic could affect the food supply chain.

"Farmworkers are essential for maintaining an uninterrupted food supply to the nation, but ensuring adequate farm labor supply throughout a pandemic is tenuous," Charlton writes. "Farm employers must provide for the health and safety of their workforce, find creative methods to recruit workers during a season of restricted immigration, and adapt to major disruptions in the food supply chains by adjusting inputs and production methods."

The entire report and webinar can be found at:
<https://www.cast-science.org/publication/economic-impacts-of-covid-19-on-food-and-agricultural-markets/>.



Dr. Diane Charlton

Carly Urban partners with MT OPI to study Career and Technical Education



Dr. Carly Urban

Carly Urban is partnering with the Montana Office of Public Instruction and pairing with scholars across five different universities to study Career and Technical Education (CTE) in U.S. high schools.

The collaboration, called the CTE Lab, will use administrative data from Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Tennessee, Washington, and the Atlanta metro area to ask policy-relevant questions related to vocational schooling.

In addition to quick-turnaround analysis of questions of interest to state departments of education, the research team will conduct academic research to try to understand the causal effects of CTE on later-in-life outcomes.

The CTE lab is funded by the Smith Richardson Foundation.

Carly Urban keynote speaker at German Council for Economic Education



Dr. Carly Urban

Carly Urban was the keynote speaker at the German Council for Economic Education in Landau, Germany in February 2020.

As some areas in Germany are considering requiring personal finance to be taught in schools, Dr. Urban was asked to present her work on U.S. financial education.

She presented three papers linking state-mandated financial education in high school on postsecondary education financing, credit scores, and subjective financial well-being.

During her trip abroad, she also visited the Institute for Labor Studies (IZA) in Bonn, Germany, where she is a research fellow.

Greg Gilpin presents research at NBER Summer Institute



Dr. Gregory Gilpin

Greg Gilpin presented his research on the impact of high-speed residential Internet on youth and young adult labor force participation at the National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute in July.

Teens and young adults have experienced the most substantial decline in labor force participation since 1975. The declines appear to be widespread and universal across demographic groups.

One often-touted explanation for both is that youth are too plugged into their electronic devices.

Dr. Gilpin explores potential causes of the decline in this research.

Chris Stoddard presents sabbatical research



Dr. Chris Stoddard

Chris Stoddard, professor of economics, presented her sabbatical research via a virtual Brownbag seminar held Nov. 9 on WebEx.

Stoddard's research from her 2019-2020 sabbatical, "Higher education policies and outcomes for American Indians and Alaska Natives," examines both the effects of targeted state scholarship policies for

members of tribal nations and of the availability of tribal colleges on educational and economic outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native individuals.

During the spring 2020 semester, Stoddard conducted this research as a Visiting Fellow at the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

2020 Fall Brownbag Seminar Series

The DAEE held six Brownbag Seminars this fall.

Brownbag seminars are informal lunchtime seminars held each semester that allow faculty and postdoctoral researchers an opportunity to share in-progress research or research ideas while garnering valuable feedback from colleagues.

Seminars were held by:

Pamela Meyerhofer, IRAEA post-doctoral researcher

Greg Gilpin, DAEE department head

Zach Fone, IRAEA post-doctoral researcher

Chris Stoddard, professor of economics

Erik Hembre, IRAEA visiting scholar

Melissa LoPalo, assistant professor of economics

For more information about the Brownbag seminar series, contact Diane Charlton at: diane.charlton@montana.edu.

2020 Academic Research Seminars

Throughout the academic year, the DAEE hosts Academic Research Seminars that feature presentations delivered by MSU faculty, as well as by researchers from other universities and research institutions. Three seminars were held in October via WebEx and featured researchers from institutions around the country.

Date	Presenter/Affiliation/Host	Title	Host
Oct. 2 WebEx	Barton Willage Louisiana State University	<i>Double Whammy: Impact of Job Loss After Birth on Mother and Child</i>	Mariana Carrera
Oct. 9 WebEx	Kelly Bishop Arizona State University	<i>Hazed and Confused: The Effect of Air Pollution on Dementia</i>	Dan Bigelow
Oct. 16 WebEx	Carlos Dobkin University of California, Santa Cruz	<i>Health Insurance and Access to Care for the Near Elderly</i>	Mariana Carrera

Volunteers and recommendations are now being accepted for presenters for the spring seminar series. For more information, contact: **Dan Bigelow** at daniel.bigelow@montana.edu or **Mariana Carrera** at mariana.carrera@montana.edu.

MSU faculty, distinguished guest share insight on policies of presidential candidates

Vincent Smith's ECNS 394 course, "Policy and Economics in the 2020 Presidential Election" featured DAEE faculty and a nationally known political columnist sharing their expertise on policy and economics issues important to the 2020 presidential election.

Topics and speakers included:

Aug. 26: Where does the race stand?: Pathways to the presidency for the candidates — **Henry Olsen**, *The Washington Post*

Sept. 2: Civil rights and discrimination — **Chris Stoddard**

Sept. 9: Health care and the pandemic in the 2020 election — **Mariana Carrera**

Sept. 16: Immigration policy: Beyond the border wall debate — **Wendy Stock**

Sept. 23: Climate change and the environment — **Richard Ready**

Sept. 30: International trade policy and agriculture: Is there a difference between the candidates? — **Vincent Smith**

Oct. 7: Labor market policy issues: Unemployment — **Isaac Swensen**

Oct. 14: Education policy— **Andrew Hill**

Oct. 21: — Agricultural policy — **Eric Belasco**

Oct. 28: What will happen on Nov. 3? — A panel discussion of the presidential, house and senate races

Nov. 4: What happened yesterday?: An election review — **Vincent Smith**

Class recordings can be found at: www.montana.edu/smith/econ394



Vince Smith, left, welcomed *Washington Post* columnist Henry Olsen to speak during his ECNS 394 course: *Biden vs. Trump: Policy and Economics in the 2020 Presidential Election*.

Carly Urban wraps up visiting scholar position with CFPB



Dr. Carly Urban

Carly Urban is wrapping up a three-year (remote) visiting scholar position with the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

During this time, she advised the CFPB's Office of Financial Education on current findings in financial education research, performed literature reviews for lay audiences, helped to devise a strategy for future priority research for the agency, and presented her own research findings to federal policymakers.

One highlight was presenting to the Financial Literacy and Education Commission on her work understanding the causal effects of state-mandated personal finance coursework in high school on credit scores.

The event was sponsored (and attended) by the U.S. Secretary of Treasury, co-sponsored (and attended) by the Director of the CFPB, and attended by the heads of many other federal agencies.

Melissa LoPalo presents research at virtual events

Melissa LoPalo presented her research, "Temperature, Worker Productivity, and Adaptation: Evidence from Survey Data Production" at the Society of Labor Economists annual meeting in June



Dr. Melissa LoPalo

She presented this same research at the Online Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar in September.

Dr. LoPalo also presented her research, "Temperature, Humidity, and Human Fertility: Evidence from 58 Developing Countries," which is co-authored with Michael Geruso and Dean Spears, at the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists annual meeting in June.

Justin Gallagher presents research at two events



Dr. Justin Gallagher

Justin Gallagher presented his research "Weathering an Unexpected Financial Shock: The Role of Cash Grants on Household Finance and Business Survival" in virtual seminars this fall at two universities — San Diego State University in September and the University of Wisconsin in October.

The research, co-authored with Daniel Hartley and Shawn Rohlin, estimates the causal effect of cash grants on household finance and business survival following a natural disaster.

Find the full study at: <https://www.chicagofed.org/publications/working-papers/2019/2019-10>.

AgEconMT continues to inform about current topics and research

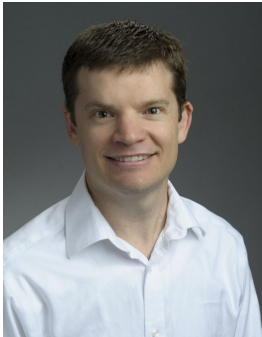


Between June and November, contributors to AgEconMT have shared more than a dozen informational posts on timely topics important to the community, stakeholders and businesses.

Recent posts include information about the future of the local food supply chain, highlights from the 2020 Montana Wheat and Barley report, what Joe Biden's election means for environmental policy, and how CFAP funds were allocated in Montana.

To read these posts and others, go to ageconmt.com.

The effect of school closings on teacher labor market outcomes and teacher effectiveness



Dr. Andrew Hill

Research from **Andrew Hill** explores how elementary school teachers in North Carolina respond to the labor market shock of school closings, which displace thousands of teachers in the U.S. every year.

"The effect of school closings on teacher labor market outcomes and teacher effectiveness," co-authored with Daniel B. Jones, University of Pittsburgh, was published in May in *Education Finance and Policy*.

After documenting that declining enrollment is a key driver of school closings in the study, Hill and Jones find that while most displaced teachers move to new schools in the same district, a considerable share leave public education altogether.

They find that the increase in the propensity to leave teaching is largest for experienced teachers. It is also marginally larger for the highest and lowest value-added teachers compared to teachers in the middle of the value-added distribution, and, strikingly, twice as large for black teachers than white teachers even from the same closing school.

Moving schools after a school closing has no impact on teacher effectiveness as measured by value-added, Hill and Jones find.

Although the primary goal of school closings is typically to move students out of declining or failing schools, school closings also affect the overall distributions of important teacher characteristics such as experience, race, and effectiveness in raising test scores.

To read the full study, go to:

www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/edfp_a_00317

Can technology compensate for a labor shortage? Effects of 287(g) immigration policies on the U.S. dairy industry

A study from **Diane Charlton** and Genti Kostandini examines dairy producers to determine whether technology can make up for a labor shortage that is the result of stricter immigration policies.

The study, "Can Technology Compensate for a Labor Shortage? Effects of 287(g) Immigration Policies on the U.S. Dairy Industry," was published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* in August.

The U.S. dairy industry relies on a large, steady supply of immigrant farm workers, making dairies particularly vulnerable to the potential negative effects on labor supply of strengthening immigration enforcement policies. According to a 2014 national survey of dairy farms, immigrants accounted for 51% of the dairy workforce, and more than one-third of dairies employed immigrant farm workers. Nevertheless, there is increasing evidence that the U.S. farm labor supply is tightening, and stricter immigration enforcement policies are further constricting the farm labor supply.

Although literature indicates that lack of sufficient workers is a primary concern confronting dairy producers, there is yet little research examining how producers adapt to labor supply shocks.

The authors leverage spatial and temporal variation in the implementation of county-level 287(g) immigration enforcement policies as a quasi-experiment to measure the effects of an inward shift in the local immigrant labor supply on U.S. dairy

operations.

The authors' findings show that 287(g) policies cause production and labor expenditures per farm to decrease and labor efficiency to increase. The primary dairy operator is more likely to have off-farm income, and dairies are more likely to use select labor-saving technologies after 287(g) is implemented.

Nevertheless, the number of dairies in operation, total milk production, and average dairy size in the county decline.

Their findings indicate that the dairy industry became more labor efficient and technologically advanced as a result of the 287(g) program. However, total production declined.

They conclude that technological gains in the dairy industry were insufficient to entirely offset the negative shock to production resulting from an inward shift in labor supply, at least in the short run.

These findings are of importance for labor-intensive industries that could potentially experience an adverse labor supply shock.

Read the study at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajae.12125>.



Dr. Diane Charlton

Rural school access and the agricultural transformation

Research from **Diane Charlton** was published in July in *Agricultural Economics*, the journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economics.

The study, "Rural school access and the agricultural transformation," was coauthored with J. Edward Taylor, University of California, Davis.

Improving children's access to primary and secondary education is a strategic goal for many global development agencies and government policymakers. Nevertheless, there is relatively little research examining how changes in rural school supply affect future labor markets.

For the study, Drs. Charlton and Taylor leverage variation in the timing and location of secondary school construction in Southern Mexico to identify the effects of school supply on labor outcomes.

They find that school construction increases expected education

for school-aged children by about 4 years and raises the share of years working in the nonagricultural sector between the ages of 18–22 by 29.8 percentage points.

The magnitude of the effects on share of years doing nonagricultural work is smaller for individuals from homes where an indigenous language is spoken.

Their findings indicate that rural school construction in less developed countries can accelerate the transformation from agricultural to nonagricultural economies, but there may be heterogeneous effects across socioeconomic groups and ethnicities.

The full study can be found at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/agec.12583>.



Dr. Diane Charlton

Occupational licensing and maternal health: Evidence from early midwifery laws



Dr. Mark Anderson

A study from **Mark Anderson** examines the correlation between requiring midwives to be licensed and infant mortality. The paper is forthcoming in *Journal of Political Economy*. Co-authors on the study are Ryan Brown, Kerwin Kofi Charles and Daniel Rees.

Exploiting variation across states and municipalities in the timing and details of midwifery laws introduced during the period 1900–1940, and using data assembled from various primary sources, the researchers find that requiring midwives to be licensed reduced maternal mortality by 7–8 percent and may have led to modest reductions in infant mortality.

These estimates represent the strongest evidence to date that licensing restrictions can improve the health of consumers and are directly relevant to ongoing policy debates on the merits of licensing midwives.

The full abstract can be found at: http://dmarkanderson.com/Midwifery_Laws_and_Maternal_Mortality_03_15_20_JPE.pdf

A tale of two borders

Research from **Dan Bigelow** and Todd Kuethe examines the degree to which Use-Value Assessment affects land development and farm investment.

The study, "A Tale of Two Borders: Use-Value Assessment, Land Development, and Irrigation Investment" was published in June in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

Since 1960, all 50 states in the US have adopted some form of preferential tax treatment for farmland. These provisions often take the form of use-value assessment, where farmland is taxed on the basis of its value in agricultural production, as opposed to its full market value.

While the main goal of use-value assessment is to slow the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses, other channels of influence are also possible, such as those stemming from reinvestment of foregone tax expenses. Despite its wide-spread nature, there is little empirical evidence pertaining to the influence of use-value assessment on land-use or investment decisions.

Using a postmatching difference-in-differences framework, Drs. Bigelow and Kuethe exploit the temporal and spatial discontinuities surrounding the adoption of use-value assessment in Kansas in 1989 to measure how use-value assessment affected plot-level land development and irrigation investment decisions.

Find the study at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajae.12086>



Dr. Dan Bigelow

Hedonic farmland valuation using sales prices versus self-reported values

Research from **Dan Bigelow** examines the degree to which market transaction prices and self-reported market value estimates provide complementary information on farmland values and the implicit prices of nonpriced market factors.



Dr. Dan Bigelow

The study, "Following the Market? Hedonic Farmland Valuation Using Sales Prices Versus Self-Reported Values," was published in August in the journal, *Land Economics*. Co-authors of the study are Jennifer Ifft and Todd Kueth.

Many farmland valuation studies rely on survey estimates to form the dependent variable in a first-stage hedonic model. This study, based in New York State, provides a microscale comparison of transaction prices and producers' market value estimates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's June Area Survey.

Although the authors find similar weighted value distributions, regression results identify differences in marginal effect estimates and illustrate how market thinness plays a role in the comparability of observed transaction prices and self-reported values.

The findings have implications for future hedonic studies, including insights into behavioral differences concerning how farmers and market participants perceive the value of farmland.

Read the full study at: <http://le.uwpress.org/content/96/3/418.abstract>.

Marriage equality laws and youth mental health



Dr. Mark Anderson

A study by **Mark Anderson** that examines whether the legalization of same-sex marriage leads to positive mental health benefits among LGBTQ-identifying youth is forthcoming in the *Journal of Law and Economics*. Co-authors of the study, "Marriage equality laws and youth mental health," are Kyutaro Matsuzawa and Joseph Sabia.

From the abstract: Since the landmark ruling in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* in 2004, the legalization of same-sex marriage (SSM) has proliferated throughout the United States via either legislative action or court order. Advocates of SSM laws argue that marriage equality will generate important health benefits not only for adult same-sex couples, but also for LGBTQ-identifying youths.

Using data from the State Youth Risk Behavior Surveys for the period 1999-2017, the authors explore the relationship between marriage equality and suicidal behaviors among LGBTQ-identifying youths. They find little evidence that SSM laws have reduced suicide attempts among teen sexual minorities, nor have they decreased the likelihood of suicide planning, suicide ideation, or depression. Instead, they find some evidence that SSM legalization via judicial mandate is associated with worse mental health for these individuals.

Read the study at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3503769.

Fracking and risky sexual activity



Dr. Brock Smith

Research from **Brock Smith** examines the impact of the U.S. fracking boom on local sexually transmitted infection transmission rates and prostitution activity as measured by online prostitution review counts.

The study, "Fracking and risky sexual activity," was published in the *Journal of Health Economics* in July.

But, they find no evidence that fracking increases prostitution when using their national data, suggesting sex work may not be the principal mechanism linking fracking to gonorrhea growth.

To explore mechanisms, they then focus on remote, high-fracking production areas that experienced large increases in sex ratios due to male in-migration. For this restricted sample, they find enhanced gonorrhea transmission effects and moderate evidence of extensive margin effects on prostitution markets.

This study highlights public health concerns relating to economic shocks and occupational conditions that alter the local demographic composition.

To read the full study, visit: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0167629619308513>

For their research, Smith and coauthors Scott Cunningham and Gregory DeAngelo first document significant and robust positive effects on gonorrhea rates in fracking counties at the national level.

Research & Publications

The phenomenon of summer diarrhea and its waning, 1910-1930

A study by **Mark Anderson** considers whether municipal public health interventions contributed to the waning of summer diarrhea in the mid 1900s. The study, "The Phenomenon of Summer Diarrhea and its waning, 1910-1930," is forthcoming in Explorations in Economic History. Daniel Rees and Tianyi Wang are co-authors of the study.



Dr. Mark Anderson

During the first two decades of the 20th century, diarrheal deaths among American infants and children surged every summer. Although what pathogen (or pathogens) caused this phenomenon is still unknown, the consensus view is that it was eventually controlled through public health efforts at the municipal level.

Using data from 26 major American cities for the period 1910-1930, the researchers document the phenomenon of summer diarrhea and explore its dissipation. They find that water filtration is associated with a 15 percent reduction in diarrheal mortality among children under the age of 2 during the non-summer months, but does not seem to have had an effect on diarrheal mortality during the summer.

In general, they find little evidence to suggest that public health interventions undertaken at the municipal level contributed to the dissipation of summer diarrhea.

Find the study at: http://dmarkanderson.com/Summer_Diarrhea_06_10_20_v3.pdf

Geographic dispersion of economic shocks



Dr. Brock Smith

Research from **Brock Smith** with Alexander G. James was published in June in American Economic Review.

From the abstract: Feyrer, Mansur, and Sacerdote (2017) estimates the spatial dispersion of the effects of the recent shale-energy boom by unconditionally regressing income and employment on energy production at various levels of geographic aggregation.

However, producing counties tend to be located near each other and receive inward spillovers from neighboring production.

This inflates the estimated effect of own-county production and spatial aggregation does not address this. Drs. Smith and James propose an alternative estimation strategy that accounts for these spillovers and identify reduced propagation effects.

The proposed estimation strategy can be applied more generally to estimate the dispersion of multiple, simultaneously occurring economic shocks.

Read the study at: <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.20180888>

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Solid Finances seminar series continues in December

SOLID FINANCES

Solid Finances, the free financial education webinar series presented by MSU Extension (**Joel Schumacher**) in conjunction with North Dakota State University Extension (Carrie Johnson), will begin Dec. 2, continuing its tradition of offering easy-to-understand lessons on a variety of financial issues important to consumers.

To make sessions easily accessible, all Solid Finances webinars are scheduled over the lunch hour from 12:05 - 12:55 p.m.

The series will kick off with "Tips for Good Credit Management," led by Carrie Johnson, North Dakota State University Extension.

Other upcoming topics will include sessions on student loan debt, helping your kids learn about money, Medicare, what to know before you meet with an investment adviser, and the pros and cons of accessing retirement funds early.

Full descriptions of each upcoming webinar can be found on the Solid Finances webpage at:
<https://solidfinances.msuxextension.org/schedule.html>

Past recordings and resources can be found at:
<https://solidfinances.msuxextension.org/pastrecordings.html>

2020-2021 Webinar Schedule:

Dec. 2: Tips for Good Credit Management
Carrie Johnson, NDSU Extension

Dec. 9: Helping Your Kids Learn About Money
Carrie Johnson, NDSU Extension

Dec. 16: Tax Law Changes from the Stimulus Package
Joel Schumacher, MSU Extension

Jan 13: Medicare
Carrie Johnson, NDSU Extension

Jan. 20: Student Loan Debt
Carrie Johnson, NDSU Extension

Jan. 27: Student Loans and the Pandemic
Carrie Johnson, NDSU Extension

Feb. 17: Setting Good Investment Goals
Joel Schumacher, MSU Extension

Feb. 24: Accessing your Retirement Funds Early: Pros and Cons
Joel Schumacher, MSU Extension

March 3: Preparing to Meet with an Investment Advisor
Joel Schumacher, MSU Extension

Marsha Goetting provides trainings, educational outreach through fall



During September and October, **Marsha Goetting**, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist, presented two one-hour training sessions for 79 members of the Montana Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

From June through October, **Dr. Goetting** and Wendy Wedum, MSU Pondera Extension family consumer sciences and 4-H agent, released nearly two dozen newspaper articles on topics ranging from trusts to financial power of attorney to reviewing property titles. To search for these news releases, go to:
<https://www.montana.edu/news>

On Oct. 8, **Dr. Goetting** was among the speakers for the virtual Montana Healthcare Conference sponsored by the Montana Hospital Association. Together with attorney Erin McLean and Chaplain Terry Hollister, they described the model Montana Health Care Power of Attorney.



Marsha Goetting



Wendy Wedum

MSU Extension teams up with Montana AARP to offer estate planning series

MSU Extension collaborated with AARP Montana for a three-part webinar estate planning series in September. "Tuesday Tips" was presented by **Marsha A. Goetting**, Family Economics Extension Specialist, and Steve Reiter, AARP Senior Operations Specialist.

Goetting said that, for some Montanans, estate planning can be one of the most important and confusing decisions they make in their lives. It raises questions of personal legacy and how to assure the right people receive one's property after death.

Seminar participation exceeded expectations with 636 Montanans attending the live webinars. Another 202 individuals had watched the recordings as of early October.

Because not all questions could be answered during the webinars due to time constraints, Goetting created a follow-up plan to provide answers to questions that were left unanswered. A "Tuesday Tips" email will be sent to the 1,000 Montanans who originally registered for the webinars.

Webinar topics were:

Sept. 15: "Surprise! Montana Law Determines Who Receives Your Property Upon Death ... Even if You Have a Will! Yes, Really!" — When property titles, Montana's Law of Interstate

Succession and a written will are combined, there can be surprises. Goetting discussed how wording on accounts, titles or deeds determines who receives them upon the owner's death.

To view this seminar, visit:

<https://bit.ly/AARPMTEstatePlanning091520>.

Sept. 22: "Estate Planning Designations that Avoid Probate"

— Some Montanans may be unaware of tools made available by the Montana Legislature that allow individuals to avoid probate on assets after dying. Goetting covered payable-on-death accounts on financial accounts, and transfer-on-death designations on stocks, bonds, and mutual funds and transfer-on-death deeds for real property, that allow Montanans to have their assets pass to the people they choose.

To view this seminar, visit:

<https://bit.ly/AARPMTEstatePlanning092220>.

Sept. 29: "The Sometime 'Curse' of Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship Titles, plus Powers of Attorney"

— What are some of the potential consequences of holding property in joint tenancy with family members and others when an individual writes a will? Goetting examined facts surrounding joint tenancy ownership and discussed Montana's financial and health care powers of attorney. To view this seminar, visit:

<https://bit.ly/AARPMTEstatePlanning092920>.

Goetting publishes new and revised MontGuides in lieu of in-person engagements

Because **Marsha A. Goetting**, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist, was unable to present her educational programs in person to Montana communities, she focused on completing MontGuides that were in process. MontGuides are MSU Extension fact sheets in which Dr. Goetting uses applied research to provide education about Montana estate planning tools.

MontGuides completed this summer include:

Transfer on Death Deeds: Allows Montanans to avoid probate on real property without the asset going through probate.

Estate Planning for Parents with Minor and/or Children with Special Needs: Encourages parents to name guardianship and conservatorship in their wills for their minor children. A special needs trust is also described for parents with children with special needs.

Financial, Estate, and Health Care Planning Documents for Montanans Concerned About Memory Loss: Describes three couples who face Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and the legal documents recommended for each situation.

Health Care Power of Attorney and Related Documents for Montanans: A model form for a health care power of attorney

with explanations for each of the three forms developed in collaboration with the Business, Estates, Trusts, Tax and Real Property Section and Health Care Law Section of the State Bar of Montana.

Save Montana Income Taxes with a Charitable Gift Annuity: A Legacy Qualifying for the Montana Endowment Tax Credit (METC):

Explains how charitable gift annuities could be used to meet both the altruistic and tax savings goals of Montanans.

Upcoming MontGuides in publication include:

- Providers Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST)
- Livestock Brands: An important component of estate planning
- Custodial Accounts: Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act
- Quitclaim Deeds



Dr. Marsha A. Goetting

2020: COVID-19's Impact on Montana Agriculture

The DAEE and MSU Extension hosted the 2020 Annual Agricultural Economics Outlook Conference, "2020: COVID-19's Impact on Montana Agriculture" on Friday, Nov. 13. The free, public event was held virtually as part of MSU's Celebrate Agriculture Weekend. **Joel Schumacher**, Extension economics associate specialist, facilitated the conference, which drew more than 150 attendees. A recording of the event can be found at: <https://ampc.montana.edu/fallconference/MSU%20Economics%20Conference-recording.mp4>.

Presenters and topics at the conference included:

Pat Barkey, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana, — *How COVID-19 has Transformed the Economy*

Kate Fuller, DAEE — *2020 Montana Ag Year in Review*

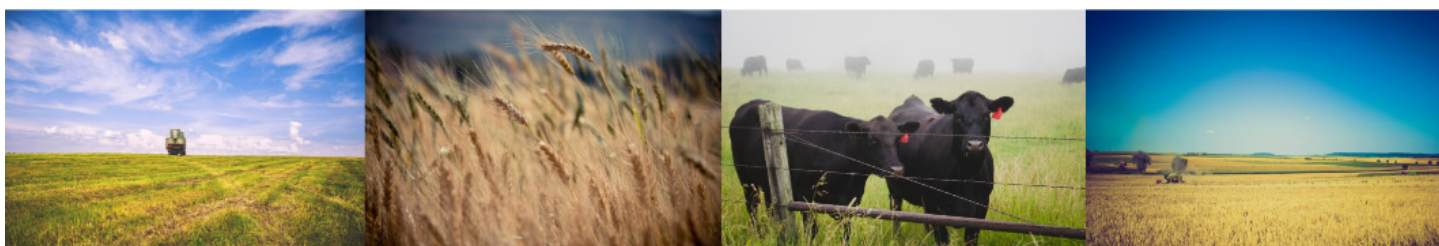
Dan Bigelow, DAEE — *Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land*

Diane Charlton, DAEE — *COVID-19 and Labor in the Food Supply Chain*

Eric Belasco, DAEE — *Where have COVID-19 Disaster Payments Gone in Montana?*

George Haynes, DAEE — *Stimulus: Grants, Loans and More*

Vince Smith, DAEE — *Where is U.S. Farm Policy Headed in 2021?*



Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis

Alumni Spotlight: Athena Erickson



Athena Erickson, economics major and IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholar, shares her reflections of the benefits of her major and her experience as an IRAEA research scholar.

In the video, she says she is thankful for having access to research opportunities as an undergraduate, and notes that the experience improved her data analysis skills, allowed her to make connections and opened many doors.

To view the video, visit: <https://vimeo.com/471166744>.

2019-2020 IRAEA Annual Report



The Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis has released its 2019-2020 annual report.

The report highlights the Initiative's scholarly research, collaborations, engagement and outreach efforts, scholarship awardees, undergraduate research and the resulting impact of its work.

To download the report, visit: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/2527e76e-9d92-45a9-9f4a-449cd829a1e4>

Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis

IRAEA host to visiting scholars

Short-term visiting scholar support is available for faculty from other institutions to visit departments across MSU for short periods during either the academic year or the summer. Proposals for short-term visiting scholars are reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Visiting Scholars Selection Committee composed of IRAEA co-directors and research fellows). Scholars work with MSU faculty members on research projects and present findings from their cutting-edge research to students and faculty.

Texas A&M Professor Jason Lindo has served as an IRAEA Distinguished Scholar since 2020. His research focuses on the impacts of violence in the media, abortion policy, and reproductive technology. His recent and ongoing work is especially focused on documenting the effects of changes in access to reproductive health care.

Tatyana Deryugina, assistant professor of Finance and Economics at the University Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is hosted by Research Fellow **Justin Gallagher** (DAEE). Deryugina's research focuses on the effect of the environment on economic outcomes and health. The two researchers are in the early stages of brainstorming joint research projects that are at the intersection of their respective research interests.

Mark C. Rains, Professor of Geology and the Director of the School of Geosciences at the University of South Florida in Tampa, worked with IRAEA Research Grantee William Kleindl (LRES) on an upcoming publication that focuses on wetland ecosystem function and service and their relations to Modern

Portfolio Theory. In addition to collaborative work on the publication, Rains gave a seminar talk on March 11 titled, "Groundwater Subsidies to Salmonid Streams: A Decade of Collaborative Science and Outcomes in Alaska," as part of the Montana State University Institute on Ecosystems.

Julian Reif, assistant professor with the departments of Finance and Economics at the University Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is hosted by Research Fellow **Mariana Carrera** (DAEE). Reif is an applied microeconomist with a focus on health economics. He is principal investigator of the Illinois Workplace Wellness Study, a large-scale field experiment conducted among University of Illinois employees to understand both selection into and causal effects of workplace wellness programs. This study aligns closely with Carrera's prior work studying the impacts of a workplace-sponsored health risk assessment on employees' health behavior at a large regional hospital. Carrera and Reif will begin work on joint projects leveraging the experience and data they have collected in different settings.

Recent and forthcoming IRAEA publications

Belasco, Eric, Joseph Cooper and **Vincent H. Smith** (2020). "The Development of a Weather-based Crop Disaster Program." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Forthcoming.

Belasco, Eric and Jeff Schahczenski (2020). "Is Organic Farming Risky? An Evaluation of WFRP in Organic and Conventional Production Systems." *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, Forthcoming.

Gamble, Edward and Peter Moroz (2020). "Business Model Innovation as a Window into Adaptive Tensions: Five Paths on the B Corp Journey." *Journal of Business Research*.

Hill, Andrew J.; and Daniel B. Jones (forthcoming). "The Effect of School Closings on Teacher Labor Market Outcomes and Teacher Effectiveness." *Education Finance & Policy*.

Jerry Johnson (2020). "Grizzly bear restoration and economic restructuring in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem." *Park Stewardship Forum*.

Kwapisz, Agnieszka (2020). "Health Insurance Coverage and Sources of Advice in Entrepreneurship: Gender Differences." *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.

Mercier, Stephanie and **Vincent H. Smith** (2020). "Cargo Preference and U.S. International Food Aid Programs." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policies*, in press.

Smith, Vincent H. (2020). The US Federal Crop Insurance Program: A Case Study in Rent Seeking." *Agricultural Finance Review*, in press.

Smith, Vincent H. and Joseph W. Glauber (2020). "Trade, policy, and food security," *Agricultural Economics*.

Smith, Vincent H.; Komarek, Adam; and Alessandro De Pinto (2020). "A review of types of risks in agriculture: What we know and what we need to know." *Agricultural Systems*.

Smith, Vincent H.; Sylvetsky, Allison C.; Hiedacavage, Audrey; Niyeti Shah; Pokorney, Paige; Baldauf, Sarah; Merrigan, Kathleen; Long, Michael W.; Black, Richard; Robien, Kim; Avena, Nicole; Gaine, Courtney; Greenberg, Danielle; Wootan, Margo G.; Talegawkar, Sameera; Colon-Ramos, Uriyoan; Leahy, Marge; Ohmes, Andrew; Mennella, Julie A.; Scheck, Jennifer; and William H. Dietz (2019). "From Biology to Behavior: A Cross-Disciplinary Seminar Series Surrounding Added Sugar and Low-calorie Sweetener Consumption." *Obesity and Science Practice*.

Economist Christina Romer delivers third annual IRAEA Distinguished Lecture

Christina Romer, renowned University of California, Berkeley economist and former chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, presented the third annual IRAEA Distinguished Lecture virtually on Sept. 17.

Romer presented “Fiscal Policy and the Pandemic: Unprecedented Action and Missed Opportunities” to a virtual audience of about 150, and a follow-up question-and-answer session to a smaller group of 40.

Earlier in the day, Romer met virtually with a group of students from the MSU Honors College.

Dr. Romer is a professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley and a former chair of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Obama Administration. After her nomination and before the Obama administration took office, Romer worked with economist Jared Bernstein to co-author the administration's plan for recovery from the 2008 recession.

Romer's early work focused on a comparison of macroeconomic volatility before and after World War II. Romer showed that much of what had appeared to be a decrease in volatility was



due to better economic data collection, although recessions have become less frequent over time.

She has also researched the causes of the Great Depression in the United States and how the U.S. recovered.

The IRAEA Distinguished Lecture program was initiated in 2017-2018. This program brings world-renowned scholars to MSU to give public lectures on current policy and regulatory issues.

To view Dr. Romer's lecture, visit:
<https://www.montana.edu/regecon/christinaromer/index.html>

IRAEA hosts virtual workshop during the 2020 summer session

The “Economic Perspectives on LGBTQ Discrimination Policy” workshop was held virtually on July 17, presented by IRAEA Co-Director **Wendy Stock**.

LGBTQ individuals and their families face unique challenges in leading healthy, safe, productive lives. These challenges include increased risk of physical violence, as well as bigotry and discrimination in employment, housing, health care, and other areas, all of which negatively impact their ability to exercise equal rights, access economic opportunities, and participate fully in society.

The last four decades have seen dramatic changes in local, state, and federal policies targeted toward LGBTQ discrimination, but only recently has a research literature developed to understand the impact of these policies.

This workshop brought together a small group of stakeholders including economists, researchers, educators, policymakers, and advocates, to share up-to-date research findings on the impacts of LGBTQ policies and to share insights that can inform future LGBTQ research and policy evaluation.

Presentation topics included causal research in policy evaluation, labor market impacts of LGBTQ protections,



economics of same sex marriage, health and health insurance access, and sexual orientation and education.

Speakers included: Kitt Carpenter, professor of economics and director of the Program in Public Policy Studies at Vanderbilt University; Marieka Klawitter, professor of economics at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy; Lee Badgett, professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; and Michael Martell, assistant professor of economics at Bard College.

Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis

IRAEA announces 2020-2021 research grant awardees

Twelve grants were awarded through the IRAEA Research Grants Program for 2020-2021, supporting the research of faculty members from several different colleges at MSU. The program provides one-year grants, facilitating research by a diverse and productive array of MSU faculty members. Awardees are:

- * **Mark Anderson**, Associate Professor, DAEE: *Hospital Desegregation and Infant Mortality in the South*.
- * **Joe Atwood**, Professor, DAEE: *Constant Dollar Financial Statements: A Sixth "C" of Credit Worthiness*.
- * **Daniel Bigelow**, Assistant Professor, DAEE: *A Comprehensive Assessment of the Comparability of Self-Reported and Observed Farmland Prices*. (Renewal)
- * **Carmen Byker-Shanks**, Associate Professor, EHHD: *Short-term Impact of COVID-19 Public Health Regulation on Consumer's Food Purchase from Grocery Stores in Gallatin County, MT*.
- * **Gregory Gilpin**, Department Head, DAEE: *Exploring Impacts of Labor Market Regulation on Youth and Young Adult Labor-Leisure Decisions*.
- * **Nick Hagerty**, Assistant Professor, DAEE: *Water Allocation Policy and Agricultural Production*.
- * **Agnieszka Kwapisz**, Assistant Professor of Management, JJCBE: *Mental Health, Later Life Self-Employment, and Health Insurance*.
- * **Colleen McMilin**, Assistant Professor, EDDH: *Investigating the Impact of State Telemedicine Regulation, including Changes Made due to the Response to COVID-19, on Dietetic Services Delivered via Telenutrition in the Outpatient or Ambulatory Care Setting*.
- * **Sally Moyce**, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing: *A Hot Debate: Are Occupational Health Policies Effective?* (Renewal)
- * **Lisa Yang**, Assistant Professor, JJCBE: *Governance and Cost of Issuing Debt*.
- * **Sean Yaw**, Assistant Professor, Gianforte School of Computing: *Quantifying the Impacts of Changing 45Q Tax Credits on National CO2 Capture and Storage Adoption*.
- * **Yang Yu**, Assistant Professor, DAEE: *Re-evaluating Food Policies and Supplemental Nutrition Programs by Modeling Rational Food Waste*.

IRAEA accepting proposals for IRAEA-supported visiting scholars

Support is available for MSU faculty members interested in hosting visiting scholars for short-term visits, either during summer or the academic year.

Proposals should include a description of the proposed scholar's intended activities during their visit, a summary of the expected research outcomes resulting from the visit (including potential journal outlets for the research), and a budget for the visit.

Proposals from MSU faculty members interested in hosting visiting scholars for short-term visits are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Contact Wendy Stock (wstock@montana.edu) or Vincent Smith (vsmith@montana.edu) for more information.

IRAEA welcomes visiting scholar Erik Hembre



Dr. Erik Hembre

Erik Hembre was appointed as the IRAEA long-term visiting scholar for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Hembre is an assistant professor of economics at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he researches labor economics, applied microeconomics, urban economics and real estate economics.

Hembre's IRAEA research projects will include financial and mortgage regulations, the interaction between tax policy and social safety net impacts, and the potential policy sources of recent declines in teenage labor force participation.

10 students awarded IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholarships

The MSU IRAEA awarded 10 undergraduate research scholarships for the 2020 fall semester, totaling \$15,000. Three additional students were funded during the 2020 summer session. The students represent a range of disciplines participating in faculty-led research projects that address issues relevant to policy and regulation.

Fall 2020 undergraduate research scholars include:

- **Norris Blossom**, Industrial Engineering: “The Impacts of Paid Leave on Retirement, Mortality, Morbidity, and Other Outcomes for Caregivers” under the direction of **Wendy Stock**, DAEE.
- **Nick Cornwall**, Finance, Economics: “A Survey of Montana Community Banks” under the direction of Gary Caton (with Time Harvey and Ed Gamble), JJCBE.
- Molly DeMarco, Education: “Impacts of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program” under the direction of **Wendy Stock**, DAEE.
- Emiliano Hernandez, Microbiology and Immunology: “Optimization of Laboratory Assays to Quantify Influenza D Virus” under the direction of Agnieszka Rynda-Apple, MBI.
- Kathryn Hilburn, Chemical Engineering: “Identifying Gaps in Intellectual Property Management in Tribal-University Agricultural Collaborations: A Case Study on the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and Montana State University Toward a Culturally Sensitive and Equitable Partnership” under the direction of Wan-Yuan Kuo, DHHD.
- Rachel Kepl, Early Childhood Education and Child Services: “Families' Experience of Transitions for their Children with Delays and Disabilities” under the direction of Kalli Decker, DHHD.
- Joseph Peoria, Geography: “Integrating Neighborhood Voice into Policies, Plans, and Regulations: A Synthesis of Bozeman’s Northeast Neighborhood Vision and City Policy” under the direction of Sarah Church, Earth Sciences.
- **Kyle Rutten**, Computer Science, Data Science, and Economics: “The Heat is On: Enforcement of Occupational Health Heat Violations” under the direction of Sally Moyce, College of Nursing.
- **Finn Vaughankraska**, Financial Engineering: “An Assessment of Potential Methodologies to Incorporating Risk Assessment and Control in Marine Fisheries Regulation” under the direction of **Joseph Atwood**, DAEE.
- **Logan Yates**, Economics and English Writing: “Telehealth and Mental Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic” under the direction of **Mariana Carrera**, DAEE.

Summer 2020 undergraduate research scholars include:

- **Norris Blossom**, Industrial Engineering: “Occupational Licensing in the Behavioral Health Industry” under the direction of **Wendy Stock**, DAEE.
- **Benjamin Moscona-Remnitz**, Economics: “Foreign Land Ownership in U.S. Farmland Markets: A Descriptive Analysis” under the direction of **Daniel Bigelow**, DAEE.
- **Kyle Rutten**, Computer Science, Data Science, and Economics: “A Hot Debate: Are Occupational Health Policies Effective?” under the direction of Sally Moyce, College of Nursing.

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program applications open in December

The Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program will accept applications for the Spring 2021 semester **beginning in December 2020**. Applications must be prepared by an MSU faculty member on behalf of the undergraduate student. IRAEA awards scholarships of \$1,500 to \$2,000 for research projects, as well as funding for student travel to regional or national conferences to gain experience presenting the results of their research.

Since its inception in 2016, the IRAEA Undergraduate Scholars Program has supported 91 students from an expansive set of majors and colleges to participate in faculty-led research, reflecting the growing interdisciplinary impact of the Initiative.

For more information about IRAEA undergraduate scholarships visit <https://montana.edu/regecon> or contact Wendy Stock at wstock@montana.edu.

Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis

Research grantee Agnieszka Kwapisz wins Best Paper Award

Agnieszka Kwapisz, an IRAEA research grantee in the Jake Jobs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, received the Best Paper Award at the European Academy of Management annual conference for her paper, "Business Accelerators and Female High Growth Ventures: Delineating the Demand for Services."



Dr. Agnieszka Kwapisz

Emily Buschini submits research

Emily Buschini, under the direction of Tina Cusker and Tricia Seifert, Department of Education, submitted her research paper, "Educational Collaborative Planning Time and its Impact on the Economy," to the Undergraduate Journal of Service Learning and Community-Based Research in June 2020.

Buschini is an elementary education major.

Buschini's NCUR presentation of her research can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QDc28EFhgs>.

Wendy Stock honored for mentorship



Dr. Wendy Stock

Initiative Co-Director **Wendy Stock**, DAEE, was awarded the esteemed Montana State University Honors College Spirit of Discovery Award in May for her outstanding mentorship of students in the Honors College.

With a record number of extraordinary nominations, Stock was among three recipients.

The selection committee noted that they were "uniformly impressed and moved" by her nomination materials.

Post-doctoral researchers join IRAEA

IRAEA appointed two post-doctoral researchers whose research programs focus on labor market regulation, workforce development, and criminal justice.

Zach Fone received his Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire and will be working on research related to labor market regulation and policy, including examining relationships between the minimum wage and crime, and the impact of the ACA dependent coverage mandate.



Dr. Zach Fone

Pamela Meyerhofer received her Ph.D. from Cornell University and will be working on research related to labor market regulation and policy, including examining the impacts of paid leave, the gender wage gap, and non-market time allocation.



Dr. Pamela Meyerhoff

IRAEA appoints associate directors

IRAEA appointed two DAEE faculty and former IRAEA research fellows as its associate directors.

Associate Professors **Eric Belasco** and **Isaac Swensen** formally assumed their roles in August.



Dr. Eric Belasco



Dr. Isaac Swensen

SAVE THE DATE: IRAEA Policy Conference set for spring

The annual IRAEA policy conference is set for April 2020, in the Strand Union's Procrastinator Theater. The conference will focus on technology regulation and its impacts on innovation in health care, agriculture, science, and engineering.

Spring 2020 Montana Economics Challenge

This spring, 22 teams of high school students from around Montana traveled to Helena to compete in the Montana Economics Challenge, hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Helena Branch. For the competition, students were tested in their knowledge of microeconomics, macroeconomics and the world economy.

The state program is the first phase of the National Economics Challenge that brings top students from around the country to New York City to compete.

There are two competition divisions: The David Ricardo quiz bowl and the Adam Smith quiz bowl. This year's winner of the David Ricardo bowl was the "Malthusians" team from Park County High School taught by Joey Lane. The Adam Smith bowl winner was Bozeman High School's "Make Money, Money Money," under Morgan Coffin and Dave Budt.

Congratulations to the winning teams! Sponsors were: First Interstate Bank, BNSF and Montana Bankers Association.



The winning team in the Adam Smith competition is from Bozeman High School, under the direction of Morgan Coffin and Dave Budt.



The winning team in the David Ricardo competition is from Park County High School, under the direction of Joey Lane.

Spring 2020 Stock Market Challenge

The MCEE congratulates the winning teams in the Spring 2020 Stock Market Challenge:

- First:** North Star High School, Rudyard
- Second:** Washington Middle School, Glendive
- Third:** Bigfork High School, Bigfork

The Stock Market Game is a nine-week simulation in which students are given a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Students must have at least five separate stocks and/or mutual funds at the end of the simulation, so research and diversification are crucial for success.

Top state winners are given cash awards thanks to the generous sponsorship of Glacier Bancorp and its Montana family of banks.

For Fall 2020, the simulation began Oct. 12 and will run through Dec. 11, 2020.



Glacier Bancorp and its Montana family of banks are sponsoring all team fees this year to encourage increased participation in programming that can better adapt to the uncertainties of remote learning.

MCEE launches Big Sky Biz Sim in partnership with First Interstate Bank



The Montana Council on Economic Education announces the launch of the Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate Bank.

This in-class business simulation allows students to make operating decisions for their business to produce, sell and distribute widgets. The decision inputs are then matched against other teams competing across Montana for the highest stock market price at the end of eight quarters (weeks, in the simulation).

With the new First Interstate Bank partnership, the game has been streamlined for teachers and modernized to better protect against potential remote-learning disruptions.

In Montana schools since 2000, the Biz Sim software and game has more than 20,000 students participating with the support

of the Montana State Chamber Foundation. It was formerly called the High School Business Challenge.

MCEE believes strongly in education through experiential learning. Students who participate learn teamwork, communication, flexibility, problem solving, critical thinking and grit. All of these are skills that will well serve students and their future employers.

When students experience the ups and downs of their profitability based on decisions they make, they are not only taught the fundamentals of managing a business, but in the setting of a competition, a spark of entrepreneurship is lit.

For more information about the Big Sky Biz Sim, visit: <https://econedmontana.org>.

MCEE moves teacher training online for summer 2020

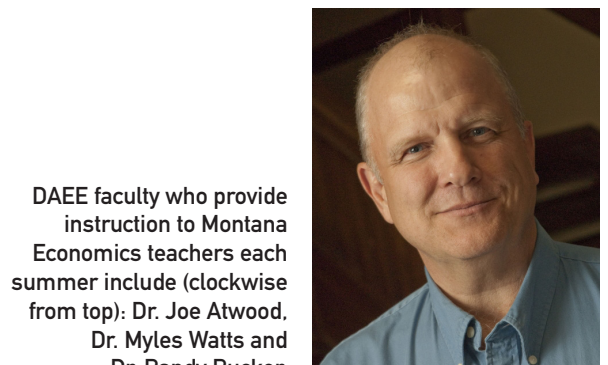
Each summer, MCEE hosts teachers on the MSU campus to provide Montana educators the necessary skills they need to present quality programming in economics and personal finance to their students. The training is accomplished with the assistance of the DAEE, specifically through instruction from professors **Randy Rucker**, **Joe Atwood** and **Myles Watts** (Emeritus).

Summer 2020 was not a typical summer, so for the safety of the team and teachers, the decision was made to shift to an online model. With the support of a grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, and the online teacher resources provided by the Council for Economic Education, MCEE was able to provide three interactive webinars in late July that covered material in microeconomics, macroeconomics and personal finance.

Teachers said they appreciated the quality instruction and the opportunity to earn renewal unit credits necessary for their licenses.

MCEE also hosted online forums to further connect the economics educators' community in Montana.

MCEE will continue to innovate to deliver critical teacher training resources for Montana teachers and looks forward to a continued partnership with MSU and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics. For more information about teacher training, visit: <https://econedmontana.org/teacher-training/>.



DAEE faculty who provide instruction to Montana Economics teachers each summer include (clockwise from top): Dr. Joe Atwood, Dr. Myles Watts and Dr. Randy Rucker.



A heartfelt message to our graduates



Congratulations, graduates!
We wish you all the best,
— DAEE Faculty and Staff

How can you support Agricultural Economics and Economics?

Your monetary gift to the department supports faculty research and next-generation economists, agricultural business owners and financial engineers through scholarships, experiential learning opportunities, seminars, research support and other educational enrichment.

Donations can be earmarked for the following funds

Agricultural Economics & Economics Memorial and Scholarship Fund (91765): Donations are used to award scholarships to deserving agricultural economics students to help offset costs of their education.

Agricultural Global Studies Fund (92554):

Funds are awarded to students participating in the Agriculture in a Global Context course and go toward student travel expenses for the international trip. This unique course is offered every two years and is a favorite among students for its exposure to agricultural practices in other countries.

Dave Buschena Memorial Scholarship Fund (92775): Students majoring or minoring in DAEE degree programs are eligible to take the annual DAEE Undergraduate Scholarship Exam. Scholarships in memory of Dave Buschena are awarded based on exam results.

Doug Young Memorial Scholarship: Attn. MSUAF, P.O. Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717.

Economics Seminars (Fund to be determined):

The DAEE runs an active seminar series in economics and agricultural business that is essential in helping the department stay current with modern research on the frontier of knowledge. Donations to this fund will help preserve this crucial part of the intellectual life in the department.

Donations to any of these funds can be made online at <https://www.msuaf.org>.

Donations can also be made with a check made out to Montana State University Alumni Foundation. To designate the donation, write 'DAEE' and the fund of choice on the memo line.

Checks should be mailed to:

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



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