## **Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics**



### Fall 2018 Newsletter

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### Letter from Department Head

It is my pleasure to present the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics (DAEE) fall newsletter that recognizes our students' achievements, milestones, and strides within the department. As you read through this newsletter, I think you will agree that the DAEE supports the fulfillment of the University's teaching, scholarship, and service mission in the areas of agricultural business, economics, and financial engineering, ascribes to the highest academic standards, and is dedicated to education which develops human capital.

The Roy E. Huffman Special Collections Library was dedicated during Ag. Appreciation Weekend. The department appreciates and recognizes the Huffman's commitment to Agricultural Economics and MSU. We also recognize the Beans for their substantial donation.

This year our undergraduate students were recognized for their excellence by being awarded over \$113,000 in scholarships through the Colleges of Agriculture and Letters and Science. I would like to highlight, Meghan Brence, one of our top graduates who is majoring in agricultural business. Meghan's accomplishments are quite staggering and encompass diverse activities such as being a livestock judge to being on the search committee for the Dean of the College of Agriculture. Meghan is one of our College of Agriculture Ambassadors and was the recipient of the College of Agriculture Outstanding Undergraduate Leadership Award. Next fall Meghan hopes to attend Kansas State University to earn an M.S. in Agricultural Economics.

Faculty highlights include several research publications and presentations at

professional and community events. The diversity of topics explored is incredible with faculty researching bee colony collapse, how to nudge individuals to exercise more,



Greg Gilpin

medical marijuana laws and workforce fatalities, traffic cameras and vehicular accidents, rural poverty, school lunch quality and academic performance, concealed-carry legislation, child access prevention laws, paid parental leave laws on labor supply, and agricultural policy. Additionally, substantial outreach occurred during the annual Extension hosted Fall Conference bringing together agricultural producers, Extension Agents, and alumni to discuss agricultural commodities and rural issues.

I would like to highlight the continued success of the *Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis* directed by Vince Smith and Wendy Stock. This fall they initiated the Distinguished Lecture Program with Sir Angus Deaton, Princeton University professor and Nobel Prize Winner in Economics, as their inaugural speaker. Sir Deaton provided a public lecture titled the 'Death of Despair' and outlined evidence of rising U.S. death rates of those with a high school degree or less that may be attributable to global competitiveness.

I would like to recognize our 18 fall graduates for their hard work and perseverance in achieving their degrees. Job well done!

I'm honored to share the departmental news with you. Feel free to drop me a line 406-994-5628 or gregory.gilpin@montana.edu.

Greg Gilpín

## **Celebrate Ag! Weekend**

### Agriculture and Political Uncertainty

#### www.ampc.montana.edu/fallconference

MSU Extension and the DAEE hosted the 12th annual outlook conference on November 9th as part of Celebrate Agriculture weekend.

This year's conference had a record attendance and was nearly sold out in the Procrastinator Theater.

The conference featured speakers discussing Montana agriculture, grain markets, farm labor, the new farm bill, drought impacts on forage production, and weather insurance for ranchers. The conference also hosted two guest speakers addressing trade issues. Dr. Amanda Countryman, Colorado State University, presented "Trade and Agriculture: Where are we and how did we get here?" That was followed by this year's M.L. Wilson lecture. The lecture was provided by Dr. Randy Fortenbery from Washington State University. He discussed his research on "Trade in an Uncertain Political Environment". The DAEE faculty members who contributed to presentations this year were **Kate Fuller, Anton Bekkerman, Diane Charlton, George Haynes, Randy Rucker,** and **Eric Belasco**. MSU Extension Forage Specialist Emily Meccage, from the Department of Animal and Range Sciences also discussed her research as part of the conference.

M.L. Wilson speaker, Randy Fortenbery, presenting his lecture.



Joel Schumacher talking with DAEE Emeritus Faculty member, Doug Young



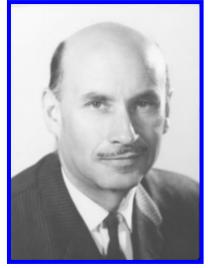
Kate Fuller talking with producer.



A large crowd for the event.

## **Roy E Huffman Library Dedication**

On November 8 the DAEE dedicated the Roy E. Huffman Library in Linfield Hall, Room 406. The invited guests included the Huffman family, faculty, emeritus, and staff. The project began in the summer of 2017.



Roy E. Huffman

Roy Huffman devoted his entire career to serving Montana State College and later Montana State University. He was a Bobcat from the day he entered the college as a freshman in 1934 until his death 60 years later. Roy was an assistant professor at Montana State College (now Montana State University) from 1946-1950; associate professor from 1950-1953; and from 1953 to 1958 he was professor and Department Head of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Economics and Sociology. In 1958 he became the Dean of Agriculture and

Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. In 1965 he was appointed as the university's first Vice President for Research. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1976. Concurrent with the Vice Presidency he was **Executive Director of the Endowment** and Research Foundation (1965-1976), Director of the Montana University Joint Water Resources Research Center (1965-69, 1973-74), Acting Dean of Graduate Studies (1975-76) and Interim Director of the Museum of the Rockies (1977-1978).



Jim Huffman

Roy Huffman was a prolific writer with over 100 titles to his credit. Among many awards, he received the Montana State University Blue and Gold Award for Distinguished Service in 1975.



Roy loved books and had a large collection of books relating to agriculture. agricultural economics, natural resources economics and public

policy in general. This collection is now housed in the Roy E. Huffman library, along with books on related topics donated by Roy's son James L. Huffman.



The library currently has approximately 2,000 books and journals.

The project was funded by a donation from James and Leslie Huffman, Roy's son and daughter-in-law. Brad and Jacqueline Bean generously donated a 12 foot conference table to the library.



## **New Faculty Spotlights**

### Justin Gallagher, Assistant Professor

## When and what brought you to the DAEE?

I did my graduate work at UC Berkeley and had my first faculty job at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. There are several factors that brought me to MSU. I was excited about working in a larger, research active department that included graduate students. I am also an avid skier and the prospect of living in Bozeman was exciting.

#### What are your current research topics of interest?

My research focus is broadly speaking on topics related to environmental risk. Specific research projects include examining how individuals update their views of the risk they face, how experiencing a disaster affects individual finances, and what the respective roles of the federal government, private banks, and insurance markets are in coping with the impact of environmental disaster.

## What led you to environmental and public economics?

I grew up in Maine and I have always had an affinity towards the natural environment. As long as I can remember I have been interested in evidence-based public policy (although I would not have labeled it as such in middle and high school). I actually received a MA in Public Policy prior to graduate school in Economics. While in the MA program it became clear to me that most of the best public policy researchers had a graduate degree in Economics.

## Over the years, which is your favorite class to teach and why?

My favorite classes to teach are probably the methods classes (econometrics). There are a few reasons for this. First, correctly understanding data and the core statistical techniques that economists use to answer research questions can really open a lot of doors for students academically and professionally. The heart of my interest in the material is the sense of discovery I find through the process of posing a question, finding the data, and applying the model. I try to convey this sense of discovery and the power of the methods to my students.

## What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I spend most of my time outside of work with my two young kids. It is really fun and rewarding being a dad. My biggest hobby is downhill skiing. In fact, I almost went down the career path as professional ski instructor and guide (I worked for two years as a ski instructor after college in Jackson, WY). I am hoping to do a lot more skiing now that I am back living near the mountains.

## What advice do you have for students that would help them succeed?

I would advise students to focus their studies by going "deeper" in a topic or academic area and not "broader". There are great rewards personally and professionally of having a deeper understanding of one topic or academic area, rather than a more cursory understanding of many topics. Also, get more sleep! It is amazing how much better the brain works with 8 hours of sleep. This is something I did not fully appreciate until after graduating from college.



Justin Gallagher

## New Faculty Spotlights, cont'd.

### Mariana Carrera, Assistant Professor

## When and what brought you to the DAEE?

I arrived in August after seven years in Cleveland working at Case Western Reserve University. I'm excited to be living in such a beautiful place.

## What are your current research topics of interest?

My research fields are health economics and behavioral economics. I study topics including principal-agent problems in the healthcare system, how consumers respond to new information about their health, and how behavioral economics can be used to promote healthy behaviors such as exercise.

## What led you to health and behavioral economics?

I find health behavior and healthcare decisions really interesting because they involve uncertainty on so many dimensions—the science of medicine is continually changing, doctors prescribe treatments without knowing if a patient will comply, treatments that work for some might not work for others, and patients may question their doctors' orders for both well-founded and illfounded reasons. An entirely separate challenge is that our plans to engage in healthy behaviors, such as getting a flu shot and exercising regularly, are often in conflict with our short-term desires and temptations. I've enjoyed testing different interventions to help people go to the gym more often.

## Over the years, which is your favorite class to teach and why?

Behavioral economics is definitely my favorite class to teach. Students love learning about the quirks of human behavior that violate the strict rules they learned in their core micro classes, that people are fully rational in pursuit of their own self-interest. I think it's somewhat comforting to see that a model can explain why you make mistakes such as procrastinating on homework until the night before it's due!

## What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love to travel and explore other cultures. I speak Spanish fluently and have many relatives in Peru. I enjoy hiking and photography, and I am really looking forward to visiting Yellowstone and more of Bozeman's beautiful surroundings.

## What advice do you have for students that would help them succeed?

Talk to your professors. Don't be too shy to go to their office hours when you don't understand a homework assignment, or want feedback on your paper idea. Share your interests with them and ask them to let you know if they hear of any related opportunities. The summer is a great time to explore different jobs and internships. If you search broadly and creatively, you may find great opportunities that align with your interests.



Mariana Carerra

## **New Staff Spotlight**

### Liezl Cosentino, Student Success Coordinator

#### What is your role in the DAEE?

I am the new Student Success Coordinator.

## What is the weirdest request so far in the DAEE?

Nothing weird so far! I try to help out in whatever way I can and withhold judgement.

#### What drew you to your position?

I had plans to move from Burlington, Vermont to Bozeman and knew I wanted to work at MSU. I consider myself lucky to have landed a position with the DAEE! I was particularly drawn to the opportunity to work as a liaison between students and faculty. Meeting with students has been my favorite aspect of my role so far.

#### How do you define success?

I think success is largely defined by happiness. If you are fulfilled by the work that you do and have the opportunity to pursue your interests and passions, you are successful in my eyes.

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love to ski! I am greatly looking forward to skiing at Bridger Bowl this winter and

exploring what the rest of the Bozeman area has to offer.



Liezl Cosentino

## **Research and Publications**

# Colony Collapse and the Consequences of Bee Disease: Market Adaptation to Environment Change

**Randy Rucker** with co-authors Wally Thurman (North Carolina State University) and Michael Burgett (Oregon State University) had their paper titled "Colony Collapse and the Consequences of Bee Disease: Market Adaptation to Environmental Change," accepted at the Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.

This paper examined the economic impacts of Colony Collapse Disorder (or CCD), which is the affliction that resulted in substantially increased honey bee winter mortality rates beginning in the winter of 2006/2007. The researchers analyzed economic indicators of input and output markets related to managed honey bee operations, looking for effects from CCD.

The paper found strong evidence of adaptation in these markets and remarkably little to suggest dramatic and widespread economic effects from CCD. Found in the study, the only discernable impact on consumers is that they now pay about 10 cents more for a onepound can of Blue Diamond almonds than they would have prior to the appearance of CCD.



Randy Rucker

#### FALL 2018 DAEE NEWSLETTER

Research and Publications, cont'd.

### The Limits of Simple Implementation Intentions: Evidence from a Field Experiment on Making Plans

#### www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30336306

Marianna Carrera, Heather Royer, Mark Stehr, Justin Syndor and Dmitry Taubinsky have published "The Limits of Simple Implementation Intentions: Evidence from a Field Experiment on Making Plans to Exercise", *Journal of Health Economics* 62 (2018) pp. 95-104.

This paper investigates the effect of a simple scalable planning intervention on a repeated behavior using a randomized design involving 877 subjects at a private gym. Subjects were randomized into (1) a treatment group who selected the days and times they intended to attend the gym over the next two weeks or (2) a control group who instead recorded their days of exercise in the prior two weeks.

The paper found that the planning intervention did not have a positive effect on behavior, and it observed a tightly estimated null effect even though the majority of subjects believed that planning is helpful and despite clear evidence that they engaged with the planning process.



Marianna Carrera

A Teacher Who Knows Me: The Academic Benefits of Repeat Student-Teacher Matches

www.sciencedirect.com/science /article/pii/S0272775717306 635

Andrew Hill with Daniel B. Jones, published "A Teacher Who Knows Me: The Academic Benefits of Repeat Student-Teacher Matches." *Economics of Education Review* 64 (2018): 1-12.

This publication provided new empirical evidence that increased studentteacher familiarity improves academic achievement.

# Estimating Treatment Effects of Unit-Based Pricing on Household Solid Waste Disposal

www.cambridge.org/core/journals/agricultural-and-resource-economics-review/article/estimating-treatment-effects-ofunitbased-pricing-of-household-solid-waste-disposal/BCB860759B12645C695E1C519B61AB9E

**Christopher Wright** with John M. Halstead and Ju-Chin Huang published a paper online titled "Estimating Treatment Effects of Unit-Based Pricing on Household Solid Waste Disposal" in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Review in May 2018.

This paper demonstrated the use of propensity score matching to evaluate the average treatment effect of unitbased pricing of household trash for reducing municipal solid waste disposal. Based on different model specifications, the average treatment effect of the treated (ATET) for 34 New Hampshire towns ranged from minimum reduction of 631 pounds of trash per household per year to a maximum reduction of 823 pounds of trash per household per year. This outcome represents a reduction of 42 to 54 percent of household trash from an annual average of 1530 pounds for those households residing in a town that did not adopt municipal waste fees.



**Christopher Wright** 

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## Research and Publications, cont'd.

### Medical Marijuana Laws and Workforce Fatalities in the United States

#### www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395918301968

Mark Anderson with Daniel Rees (University of Colorado Denver) and Erdal Tekin (American University) published an article on "Medical Marijuana Laws and Workplace Fatalities in the United States" in the International Journal of Drug Policy (2018) 60: 33-39.

The aim of this research was to determine the association between legalizing medical marijuana and workplace fatalities. The design of this publication was repeated crosssectional data on workplace fatalities at the state-year level were analyzed using a multivariate Poisson regression. To date, 29 states and the District of Columbia have legalized the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Although there is increasing concern that legalizing medical marijuana will make workplaces more dangerous, little is known about the relationship between medical marijuana laws (MMLs) and workplace fatalities. The participants involved all 50 states and the District of Columbia

for the period 1992-2015. The workplace fatalities were measured by state and year and were obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regression models were adjusted for state demographics, the unemployment rate, state fixed effects, and year fixed effects.



Mark Anderson

This paper found legalizing medical marijuana was associated with a 19.5% reduction in the expected number of workplace fatalities among workers aged 25-44 (incident rate ratio [IRR], .805; 95% Cl, .662-.979). The association between legalizing medical marijuana and workplace fatalities among workers aged 16-24, although negative, was not statistically significant at conventional levels. The association between legalizing medical marijuana and workplace fatalities among workers aged 25-44 grew stronger over time. Five years after coming into effect, MMLs were associated with a 41.1% reduction in the expected number of workplace fatalities (IRR, .663; 95% Cl, .482-.912). MMLs that listed pain as a qualifying condition or allowed collective cultivation were associated with larger reductions in fatalities among workers aged 25-44 than those that did not.

This paper provides evidence that legalizing medical marijuana improved workplace safety for workers aged 25-44. Further investigation is required to determine whether this result is attributable to reductions in the consumption of alcohol and other substances that impair cognitive function, memory, and motor skills.

# Criminal Deterrence when there are Offsetting Risks: Traffic Cameras, Vehicular Accidents, and Public Safety

Justin Gallagher published an Op Ed in The Conversation summarizing a current working paper "Criminal Deterrence when there are Offsetting Risks: Traffic Cameras, Vehicular Accidents, and Public Safety" (coauthored with Paul J. Fisher).

The Op Ed discusses why the conventional wisdom that red light traffic cameras necessarily reduces the number of vehicle accidents is wrong and that the previous methods used to study these programs are often flawed.

Justin's research shows that in Houston the cameras had no effect on reducing the total number of accidents or accident-related injuries.

The Op Ed was republished by *The Houston Chronicle, Philly Voice,* and *Scientific American.*  The research has also been covered in the media by: *ABC*, *CBS*, *NPR*, and *Pew Charitable Trusts*.



Justin Gallagher

## Research and Publications, cont'd.

### Left in the Dark? Oil and Rural Poverty

#### www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/698512

**Brock Smith** published "Left in the Dark? Oil and Rural Poverty (coauthored with Samuel Wills) in the Journal of Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (2018), (5)4: 865-904.

The paper measured rural poverty by counting people who live in darkness at night: combining high-resolution global satellite data on night-time lights and population from 2000 to 2013.

The authors developed a measure that accurately identifies 74% of households as above or below the

extreme poverty line when compared to over 600,000 household surveys.

The paper shows that both high oil prices and new discoveries increase illumination and GDP nationally. However, they also promote regional inequality because the increases are limited to towns and cities with no evidence that they benefit the rural poor.



Brock Smith

#### How do visual representations influence survey responses?

#### www.sciencedirect.com/scienc e/article/pii/S092180091830 1009

**Richard Ready** with Yau-Huo (Jimmy) Shr, Brian Orland and Stuart Echols published "How do visual representations influence survey responses? Evidence from a choice experiment on landscape attributes of green infrastructure." This article was published in *Ecological Economics* (2019) 156: 375-386.

### School Lunch Quality and Academic Performance

#### www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272718301816

Justin Gallagher published "School Lunch Quality and Academic Performance (coauthored with Michael L. Anderson and Elizabeth Ramirez Ritchie) in the Journal of Public Economics (2018) 168: 81-93.

The research investigates whether offering healthier meals affects student achievement as measured by test scores by using a five-year sample of test scores and public meal providers for all California public school students. Students at schools that contract with a healthy school vendor score higher on California state achievement test. The test score gains, while modest in magnitude, come at very low cost.

The research has also been highlighted in the media by: The Atlantic, The Brookings Institution, Education Digest, The NBER Digest, NPR, and The New York Times.



Justin Gallagher

#### FALL 2018 DAEE NEWSLETTER

## Research and Publications, cont'd.

### The Decision to Carry: The Effect of Crime on Concealed-Carry Applications

#### http://jhr.uwpress.org/content/early/2018/04/02/jhr.54.4.1016.8287R2.abstract

**Isaac Swensen** published a paper in *Journal of Human Resources*.

Despite persistent debate on the role of concealedcarry legislation, decisions to legally carry concealed handguns are not well understood. Using detailed data on concealed-carry permit applications, we explore whether individuals apply for concealed-carry permits in response to crime. We find that recent homicides increase applications in areas relatively near to the incident. The effects are

driven by gun-related homicides and are more pronounced for white, male, and Republican applicants. We also find suggestive evidence that applicants are more responsive when they share a demographic characteristic with the homicide victim.

The results further indicate that applications after recent homicides are more likely to be renewed, consistent with persistent precautionary behaviors. Our findings provide causal evidence that crime risk influences individual decisions regarding legal gun use.



Isaac Swensen

#### NOAA National Marine Fisheries

Joe Atwood visited the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Falmouth/Woods Hole, Massachusetts from June 21-30.

Joe worked with several NMFS staff on issues of common interest including the potential applicability of Joe's recent research in NMFS efforts. Dr. John Walden from the NMFS visited MSU from Sept. 17-21 to continue work started during the June trip. While at MSU, Dr. Walden also presented an overview of some of NMFS's regulatory and oversight responsibilities.

### Child Access Prevention Laws, Youth Gun Carrying, and School Shootings

Mark Anderson with Joseph Sabia (San Diego State University) has a paper forthcoming at *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Despite public interest in keeping guns out of schools, little is know about the effects of gun control on youth carrying or school violence. Using date from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS) for the period 1993-2013, we examine the relationship between child access prevention (CAP) laws and gun carrying among high school students.

Our results suggest that CAP laws lead to an 18.5 percent decrease in the rate

of gun carrying and a 19 percent decrease in the rate of which students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

The results are concentrated among minors, for whom CAP laws are most likely to bind. To supplement our YRBS analysis, we assemble a data set on school shooting deaths for the period 1991-2013. The authors found little evidence that CAP laws deter schoolassociated shooting deaths, but these estimates are insufficiently precise to reach a policy conclusion.



Mark Anderson

## Research and Publications, cont'd.

### Agricultural Policy in Disarray Volumes I and II

Vincent Smith is the lead editor of a new two-volume set of studies on agricultural policy in the United States.

The volumes provide comprehensive analyses of the direct subsidy program, the federal crop insurance program, conservation and environmental policies, the renewable fuels standards, agricultural research and development funding, the food stamp program, the sugar and dairy programs, and the role of GMO technologies.

The impacts of agricultural subsidies on poverty, U.S. agricultural trade relations and exports are also examined. The eighteen studies included in the volumes are authored by Dr. Smith, his coeditors Barry Goodwin and Joseph Glauber, and twelve other nationally recognized agricultural economists from across the nation, including scholars at the University of California, Davis, the University of Minnesota, Cornell University, North Carolina State University, Kansas State University, the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, and, in addition to Smith, **Anton Bekkerman** and **Eric Belasco** from Montana State University.

The studies included in the two volumes, published by the American Enterprise

Institute, are already being used by instructors in agricultural policy courses offered by leading universities



Vincent Smith

### Economic Effects and Responses to Changes in Honey Bee Health quoted on blog post

In August, the USDA and ERS, published the Economic Research Report, (March 2018) Number 246, written by **Randy Rucker**, Peyton Ferrier (USDA/ERS), Walter Thurman (North Carolina State University, and Michael Burgett (Oregon State University) and titled "Economic Effects and Responses to Changes in Honey Bee Health" was quoted extensively in *Timothy Taylor's Conversable Economist* blog post at https:// conversableeconomist. blogspot.com/2018/08/a-bee-industry -update-colony-collapse.html. A primary point of the blog discussion is to reinforce the author's findings that the sudden and dramatic onset of Colony Collapse Disorder (the affliction that has resulted in a doubling of winter mortality rates in recent years for managed honey bees) has resulted in very little measurable effects on consumers.

The research found that beekeepers are savvy businessmen who have responded to CCD in such a way as to almost completely mitigate any impacts on consumers.



Randy Rucker

## **Outreach and Presentations**

# 2018 APPAM Fall Research Conference in Washington, D.C.

Greg Gilpin presented "Licensure Provisions, Teen Licensing, and Vehicular Fatalities" at the 2018 APPAM Fall Research Conference in Washington, D.C. in November. This research studies the 47% decline in vehicular fatalities per capita involving 16- to 20-year-old drivers. During the last twenty years, states enacted licensure provisions in an á la carte fashion, now collectively referred to as graduated driver licensing (GDL) programs.

While the literature demonstrates that 'good' GDL programs reduce teen licensing and fatalities, how these reductions occur remains open.

In this study, individual GDL provisions and No-Pass-No-Drive laws are studied to understand reduction mechanisms.

The results consistently find that four of the seven GDL provisions and No-Pass-No-Drive laws impact 16- and 17-year-old drivers and all effects dissipate when provisions are no longer binding. Licensing provisions have little-to-no impact on fatalities per licensed driver.



Greg Gilpin

#### Presentations from Mark Anderson

#### Mark Anderson

presented a paper "Public Health Efforts and the Decline in Urban Morality" at Northern Illinois University, Florida State University, and at the Economic History Association Annual Meeting in Montreal.

He also presented "Public Health Efforts and the Decline in Urban Morality" at the Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C in November.

### Joe Atwood Presents at Kansas State University

Joe Atwood made three presentations at Kansas State University from May 16-19, 2018.

The first presentation was part of a working session with faculty and students dealing with the use of Linear Elasticities Models (LEM) in modeling the effects of potential changes in the market, policy, and regulatory environment. LEM models have been used in modeling of the interactive effects of proposed policy/regulatory shocks upon a system with vertical and horizontal interacting markets. The discussion included past and ongoing research at MSU dealing with LEM modeling -- including methods for estimating confidence intervals for welfare effects estimates.



Joe Atwood

The second was a seminar presentation on "Quantile Benchmarking with qDEA: Obtaining Quantile Efficiency Estimates for Quantile Benchmarking." DEA is a procedure whereby observed inputoutput information from decision makers and/or various organizations is used to construct comparative performance assessments. Quantile DEA (qDEQ) is a procedure for obtaining more robust efficiency parameter estimates. The presentation introduced the basic properties of qDEA as well as presenting methods for examining the statistical properties of conventional DEA and qDEA estimators.

The third presentation "nCm Bootstrapping" reviewed the concepts in subsample bootstrapping. Subsampling and "nCm" bootstrapping methods are useful when the researcher wishes to assess the performance of complicated parameter estimates whose theoretical properties are difficult to derive analytically.

## Outreach and Presentations, cont'd.

### **International Agricultural Economics Association Meetings**

Vincent Smith presented the result of a recent study with colleagues Alex de Pinto and Richard Robertson at the International Food Policy Institute entitled "The Role of Risk in the Context of Climate Change, Land Use Choices and Crop Production: Evidence from Zambia" in July at the triennial International Agricultural Economics Association meetings in Vancouver, Canada. The results, perhaps surprisingly, show that while farmers are likely to switch from planting corn to other crops like cassava and millet, the total availability of calories and nutrients does not change very much at all.



Vincent Smith

The study examines the effects of climate change on agricultural production by smallholder farmers in Zambia and food security throughout the country.

### **Western Economics Association Meetings**

Wendy Stock presented, "Longer Term Labor Market Impacts of Paid Parental Leave," at the Western Economics Association meetings in June.

The paper, co-authored with DAEE Master's graduate Myron Inglis, based on his thesis research, examines the impact of California's paid family leave law on young women's and men's labor market outcomes in aggregate and over time during the post-law decade, as well as the law's effect for groups with differing levels of education. Results indicate that the law had negligible or only shortterm impacts on young women's labor force participation, unemployment duration, and earnings, but persistent small negative impacts on relative employment among collegeeducated women.

The law had no consistent discernable impacts on labor market outcomes among less educated women.



Wendy Stock

#### Southern Economic Association Meetings

Vincent Smith presented the paper, "We're Not in Kansas Anymore: Farm Subsidies Revisited" at the Southern Economic Association meetings in Washington, DC on November 18.

The study, based on recent papers by Vince, **Anton Bekkerman**, **Eric Belasco**, Joe Glauber, IFPRI, and Barry Goodwin, North Carolina State University, examined the impacts on crop insurance and other agricultural subsidies on small and large farm businesses.

## Outreach and Presentations, cont'd.

The North American Productivity Workshop

Joe Atwood presented the paper "Robust Benchmarking and Efficiency Estimation Using QuantileDEA (qDEA): Methodology and Statistical Properties" at the international meeting of the North American Productivity Workshop in Miami, Florida, June 2018.

The presentation discussed original results with respect to procedures for more "efficiently" estimating the statistical properties of qDEA efficiency estimates and other complicated statistics.

### **Outreach presentations for Randy Rucker**

Randy Rucker presented at the following seminars:

On May 18, Randy gave a presentation titled "An Economic Analysis of the Wild Horse and Burro Program" at the Institute for Humane Studies conference in Bozeman titled *Resolving Competing Uses for Western Resources and Wildlife Habitats*.

In the presentation, Randy discussed the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program, under which roughly 50,000 horses are currently held in long-term pasture at a projected cost to taxpayers of about \$1 billion over the horses' lifetimes.

On August 25, Randy presented "The Rise and Fall of a Government-Created Asset: Competition



Randy Rucker

for Rents and Uber's Destruction of Taxi Medallion Markets" at a department seminar.

The seminar was based on a preliminary draft of a working paper being developed from Maggie O'Donnell's 2017 Master's thesis in the Applied Economics program at MSU.

The presentation discussed the historical development of taxi medallion systems in several large U.S. cities and, among other findings, the authors estimate that the aggregate impact of Uber's entry and expansion in New York City has been to cause taxi medallion values to fall by more than \$12 billion.

On November 9, Randy gave a presentation titled "Markets for Pollination, Pollinator Health, and the Economic Impacts of Colony Collapse Disorder" at the department's fall conference on Agricultural and Political Uncertainty.

The message of the presentation is that U.S. commercial beekeepers have seemingly responded quickly and effectively to pollinator health issues that have been receiving attention in the media.

### International Workshop on Internet for Financial Collective

**Carly Urban** traveled to the University of Glasgow to give a seminar entitled "Youth Bank Accounts and Later-in-Life Financial and Economic Outcomes" to the Finance Department.

On the same visit, she was invited to participate in the International Workshop on the Internet for Financial Collective Awareness & Intelligence, where she presented work on "Financial Wellbeing over the Life Course." Her work teases out effects of policies aimed at improving financial decision making for Americans, and her participation in this conference helped researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in Europe improve their understanding of the research.



Carly Urban

## Outreach and Presentations, cont'd.

### ICID–Sites–IFAD Conference on International Development

Vincent Smith gave a keynote address at the ICID–SITES–IFAD Conference on International Development, at the invitation of the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development on October 3 in Rome, Italy.

The keynote address "Agricultural Insurance for Smallholder Farmers: An Exercise in Futility?" examined the feasibility and potential impacts of index insurance on the wellbeing of small holder farmers in developing countries. The evidence indicates that, absent substantial subsidies, smallholder farmers would use other ways to manage their risks that are less costly and that government and aid resources are likely to yield higher benefits if used to give direct access to improved technologies, or for irrigation and other infrastructure initiatives.



Vincent Smith

## Awards and Accomplishments

#### CFEC Grant

**Carly Urban** obtained a grant from the CFEC, sponsored by BBVA, engaging her participation in their second annual EduFin (Financial Education) conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Carly studies the causal link between bank account access for youth (15-17 year olds) and account ownership.

She will explore the link between early account ownership and downstream financial behaviors, such as credit scores and delinguency rates.

# Team Geometric, including Eric Belasco, takes third place in the Ranch Run

Team Geometric Brownian Motion takes third place in the Ranch Run, hosted by the Montana Cattle Women on August 25th.

The course is a 25-mile run through three multigeneration ranches and U.S. National Forest land.

The run is intended to "introduce you to the beauty of Montana's farms and ranches as well as educate the running community about the importance of agriculture and land stewardship."



Pictured left to right: Tommy Bass, Livestock Environment Associate Specialist in Animal and Range Sciences; Tracy Dougher, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture; **Eric Belasco**, Associate Professor in Agricultural Economics and Economics; Carl Yeoman, Associate Professor in Animal and Range Sciences and Jarrett Payne, instructor in Animal and Range Sciences. Photo courtesy of Tracy Dougher.

## Awards and Accomplishments, cont'd.

### **Social Security Administration Grant**

**Carly Urban**, along with co-PI Dr. Erik Hembre of the University of Illinois at Chicago, was awarded a \$135,000 grant from the Social Security Administration to study the effects of housing subsidies on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) participation.

While other researchers have explored the interaction of safety net programs, such as food stamps (SNAP), the Earned Income Tax Credit, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), no one has incorporated housing assistance into a model of SSI take-up. In addition, it is often the case that public housing authorities prioritize the disabled when decided who on the (often long) waitlist for public housing should receive a voucher.

In the next year, Carly and Erik will collect extensive data directly from local public housing authorities to determine which areas prioritize the disabled and will seek to explore whether or not relatively more generous public housing vouchers induce individuals to claim disability when they were not before.



Carly Urban



**EXTENSION** 

www.montana.edu/extensionecon

## **MSU Extension Update**

### Marsha is a Recipient of the 2018 AFCPE Mary O'Neill Mini Grant

https://afcpe.org/resource-center/funding-and-recognition/grants/mini-grant-recipients

Marsha Goetting is the recipient of the 2018 AFCPE Mary O'Neill Mini grant from the Association for Financial Planning and Counseling Educators (AFCPE).

The \$2,500 award is for the development and implementation of an innovative, high-impact financial education project. She will be spear heading the program "Double Estate/ Legacy Planning: For persons with Alzheimer's/Other Dementia and their Caregivers" with Roubie Younkin, Valley County Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent.



Marsha Goetting receiving her award at the 2018 AFCPE Research and Training Symposium in Norfolk, VA



### EXTENSION

## MSU Extension Update, cont'd.

# Marsha Goetting selected as recipient of "Extraordinary Women of MSU"

www.montana.edu/president/universitywomen/extraordinary

Marsha Goetting was selected and recognized as one of the "Extraordinary Women of MSU". Joel Schumacher, Extension Economics Associate Specialist, and Jane Wolery, Teton County Extension Family Consumer Sciences Agent nominated Marsha for this prestigious award.

Since the university's creation 125 years ago, the women of Montana State University have made remarkable contributions to the status of women at the institution, in the state, and across the country.

There was a celebration luncheon on Friday, November 2nd on the MSU Bozeman Campus.

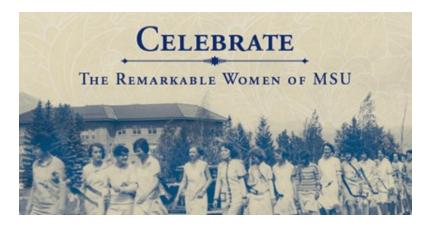
Marsha Goetting began her career with Montana State University Extension in April 1977 as an assistant professor and consumer education specialist. As a professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist, she has presented 1,500 workshops reaching more than 40,000 Montanans with financial and estate planning information and authored more than 75 MontGuides. She has had an impact on citizens of this state from budgeting and basic money management to transfers of agricultural operations to the next generation.

Marsha's efforts have garnered her many awards including Epsilon Sigma Phi's Distinguished Service Award, Western Region Excellence in Extension Award and MSU President's Excellence in Extension Award. She has served as a director for the Federal Reserve Board of Minneapolis - Helena Branch, has been an educator, guide and mentor, and her enthusiasm and professionalism are an inspiration.



Marsha Goetting receiving her award,

She was one of the first female faculty members in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics and has been the gold standard for her devotion to the mission of MSU Extension and the land-grant university system.



## MSU Extension Update, cont'd.

# Marsha received the Fall 2018 Outreach and Engagement Council Seed Grant

Marsha Goetting received the Fall 2018 Outreach and Engagement Council Seed Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

The project "Financial and Legal Tools for Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Facing "Double Planning" goal is to partner with several organizations to develop an in-depth program for caregivers of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease. The project will help caregivers complete two specific documents: financial power of attorney and health care power of attorney – not only for themselves, but also for the loved one with Alzheimer's disease. The program model for Valley County could then be used for other communities that want to provide legal and financial education for the

approximately 50,000 caregivers across Montana.

Organizations partnering with MSU Extension on the project include the Senior and Long-term Care Aging Services Bureau, Montana Department of Health and Human Services, AARP-Montana, the Montana Geriatric Education Center, the University of Montana and the Alzheimer's Association-Montana Chapter.

The project also involves high school and MSU students. Valley County 4-H members will examine a 4-H curriculum that helps youth better communicate with a grandparent or other relative who has Alzheimer's disease. These students will also help publicize the workshops in their communities. MSU students who are working toward their gerontology certificate will also participate, some of whom work at a Valley County longterm care facility during the summer.



Marsha Goetting

#### Ending Term with Federal Reserve Board of Minneapolis

Marsha Goetting will be ending her term with the Helena Branch of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Board in December 2018. Two functions recognizing her service were held as a part of the Town Hall conducted by Neel Kashkari, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, on the MSU Campus and a dinner that evening attended by members of the board.

# NEW MSU Extension MontGuides

Marsha Goetting has recently published the following New MSU Extension MontGuides:

- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) describes special accounts that allow a disable person to save money while still maintaining access to SSI and Medicaid.
- Montana Endowment Tax Credit (METC) explains how a person can save money on Montana Income taxes with a deferred gift annuity.

These MontGuides can be downloaded at www.montana.edu/ estateplanning and click on Estate Planning Publications.



## MSU Extension Update, cont'd.

# Concerned About Memory Loss? Montana Legal and Financial Resources

#### http://alzheimers.msuextension.org

Marsha Goetting has teamed up with the Montana Alzheimer's Workgroup and the Department of Public Health and Human Services to offer a free packet of information with Montanaspecific information for caregivers and others concerned about memory loss called "Concerned About Memory Loss? Montana Legal and Financial Resources"

The packet includes fact sheets called MontGuides about financial powers of attorney, wills, letters of last instruction, Medicaid and long term care costs, Provider's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment and more.

The Montana Alzheimer's Association has provided three



brochures and information about its 24/7 helpline. And, Montana AARP has included an explanation about the Montana Caregiver Act.

The purpose of this project is to provide resources for those with Alzheimer's and related dementias, and their family caregivers have access to Montanaspecific materials about legal and financial alternatives.

The packet of resources has been prepared for those without computers or access to Internet services. As of November 2018, 88 packets have been mailed across the state. To order the packet, contact Keri Hayes at 406-994-3511 or email khayes@montana.edu.

The materials are also available online at: alzheimers.msuextension.org.

Notebooks have been made available to Montana Libraries across the state. So far 40 Libraries have requested the notebook.

## Student Awards/Accomplishments

### Benni Lyche, Economics major, won the giant slalom title in the 2017 NCAA Skiing Championship

Benni Lyche, an economics major, is the fourth Bobcat to win the NCAA skiing title. What most impressed MSU head alpine coach Kevin Francis about Benedicte "Benni" Lyche's performance in the 2017 NCAA Skiing Championships was the way the Bobcat racer persevered despite a rocky start to her second run.

The skier ahead of her had hit a rut in the course, lost a ski and hit the fence with a lot of speed. Benni was held in the starting gate, a condition racers call "getting iced in the start." Right out of the gate, Lyche was in for a thrilling race. She hit a series of icy ruts that threw her off balance, and she nearly skied off course. But, she regained control – without sacrificing speed – and ended up finishing her two giant slalom runs in a combined time of 2 minutes, 17.58 seconds.

The time earned Lyche the title of the top collegiate giant slalom racer in the United States and helped MSU's alpine team become one of the top three collegiate squads in the nation.

Congratulations Benni!



MSU downhill ski racer Benni Lyche won the giant slalom title in the 2017 NCAA Skiing Championships.

## Student Awards/Accomplishments

### **College of Agriculture Awards**

The College of Agriculture has started a new tradition by highlighting students during our Celebrate Agriculture weekend for three distinct undergraduate awards; engagement, leadership and research.

The Dean's Office called for nominations for each category this fall. The nominations were many, each filled with impressive accomplishments of diverse students and disciplines. Nominations were written by faculty members who are enthusiastic and motivated to mentor and provide opportunities for our students. Congratulations to:

 Meghan Brence, Outstanding Undergraduate Leadership Award (major: DAEE, Agricultural Business)



Meghan Brence

 Laura Ippolito, Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award (LRES, SFBS Agroecology & DAEE,



Laura Ippolito

### **College of Agriculture Ambassadors**

The mission of the CoA Ambassadors is to recruit and retain students in MSU's College of Agriculture while instilling a life-long appreciation for agriculture and natural resources within current and prospective students.

The CoA Ambassadors offer individual or group tours of agricultural facilities on-campus and at the Bozeman Area Research Teaching (BART) Farm.

They also meet with prospective students on campus and are available for off-campus presentations on career and college topics relating to agricultural sciences.

The Ambassadors represent the College of Agriculture at numerous events including: Celebrate Agriculture Weekend, MSU Friday, the Jobs for Montana Graduates Career Fair, the Young Ag Leaders Conference and many more!

The 2018–2019 Ambassadors from the DAEE are:

- Meghan Brence, Miles City, MT, Agribusiness Management
- Monica Brown, Wolf Point, MT, Agricultural Business and Farm and Ranch Management



2018-2019 College of Agriculture Ambassadors

- Mariah Stopplecamp, Littleton, CO, Agricultural Business
- Sabrina Winger, Denver, CO, Agricultural Business

## Student Awards/Accomplishments

### **Peer Leadership Students**

Students who become Peer Leaders are top-level students, leading both ECNS 105 and ECNS 206 courses. Their responsibilities entail preparing and delivering a weekly 50-minute class, grading students' lab work, and being ready to answer student questions on the course material. Students are receiving small-class individual assistance and expanding their knowledge in his/her ECNS 101 and ECNS 202 class.



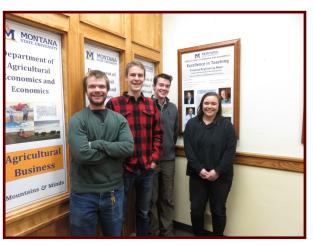
Fall 18 ECNS 105 Peer Leaders: Top Row: Keane Stewart, Micah McFeely, Kenny Evans Front Row: Francis Kawalski, Dustin Hofer, Samantha Cleary, Julie Tripp, Dr. Andrew Hill Absent: Sami Willets

### **First-Year Graduate Students**

The DAEE is happy to welcome this year's new crop of Master's students in our Applied Economics program. These students were selected from a very strong pool of applicants.



First-Year Graduate Students: From left to right: Molly DelCurto, Katherine Salemo, Chase Walker, Sam Bridgewater, Trey Worley, III, Scott Lantz



Fall 18 ECNS 206 Peer Leaders: From left to right: Jake Kaminetzky, Peter Pfankuch, Alex Houtz, Kristen Willich

### **Second-Year Graduate Students**

We also acknowledge the hard work, contributions, and progress made by our second year students, who are nearing the end of their time at Montana State University.



Second-Year Graduate Students: From left to right: Nick Holom, Samyam Shrestha. Kyle Musser, Caleb Dahl. Lev Parker, Eric Wert, Andrew Swanson, Conner Dwinell

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## Student Awards/Accomplishments, cont'd.

### **Student Scholarships Academic Year 2018-2019**

DAEE student received the following scholarships totaling over \$113,000 for the academic year 2018-2019.

Name	Major(s)	Award
Tanner Bollum	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, James and Margie Robertson Memorial
Bryce Bott	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, James and Margie Robertson Memorial
Meghan Brence	Agricultural Business	CHS University Scholarship, College of Agriculture Scholarship, Ralph Parker Memorial Scholarship
Whitney Bristol	Agricultural Business Pre-Nursing	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship
Monica Brown	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, Earl and Pauline Webb Memorial Scholarship, Wagner Heritage Scholarship
Mikayla Comes	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, Charlie and Wietkse Jarrett Scholarship
Caleb Dahl	Masters in Applied Economics	Gilbert Giebink Memorial Scholarship
Blake Dokken	Economics	James Van Winkle Memorial
Samantha Fellman	Agricultural Business	Gilbert Giebink Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth French	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, Thomas D. Campbell Memorial Scholarship
Kylee Goroski	Agricultural Business	James and Florence Keith Alpha Zeta Scholarship
Austin Grazier	Agricultural Business, Animal Science	Michael J. McLoughlin Scholarship
Graham Grubb	Agricultural Business	Ag Econ Opportunity Scholarship, College of Agriculture Student Assistance Scholarship, Joe Somers Memorial
Evan Haughian	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, George Heide Memorial Scholarship
Camryn Hood	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship
Alexander Houtz	Economics	Carl Rostad Memorial
Rye Kern	Agricultural Business	Ralph Parker Memorial Scholarship
Ethan Kliewer	Agricultural Business	LeRoy and Agnes Luft Scholarship, Wagner Heritage Scholarship
Albert Koenig	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, Gallatin Beef Producers Association Scholarship

continued on next page ....

## Student Awards/Accomplishments, cont'd.

## Student Scholarships Academic Year 2018-2019, cont'd.

Name	Major(s)	Award
Ashley Koenig	Agricultural Business	Anthony C. Gaffke Scholarship, BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, Gallatin Cattlewomen Scholarship
Ethan Malo	Economics Minor	David Buschena Memorial Scholarship
Tyler Noyes	Agricultural Business, Agriculture Education	Koebel Family Scholarship
Laina Raisler	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, James and Margie Robertson Memorial
Somer Reidle	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, James and Margie Robertson Memorial
Jarod Schweighardt	Agricultural Business	Thomas D. Campbell Memorial Scholarship
Frankie Sindelar	Agricultural Business, Animal Science	John H. Stratford Memorial Agriculture Scholarship
Watson Snyder	Agricultural Business	Koebel Family Scholarship
Jessica Stelzner	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, James and Margie Robertson Memorial, Myrick Scholarship
Zachary Stoltz	Agricultural Business	College of Agriculture Honors Scholarship
Sierra Swank	Agricultural Business	CHS University Scholarship
Ryan Trefethen	Financial Engineering	David Buschena Memorial Scholarship
Codey Veltkamp	Agricultural Business	Gallatin Beef Producers Association Scholarship
Cheyenne Wallace	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, James and Margie Robertson Memorial
Michael Walsh	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, James and Margie Robertson Memorial, Montana Winter Fair Agriculture Scholarship
Sabrina Winger	Agricultural Business	CHS University Scholarship, College of Agriculture Scholarship, Ralph Parker Memorial Scholarship, Steve Stauber Scholarship, Thomas D. Campbell Memorial Scholarship
Zachary Works	Agricultural Business	BMCF Agricultural Business Scholarship, First Security Bank of Belgrade Scholarship
Zachary Zimmerman	Agricultural Business	College of Agriculture Recruitment Scholarship



## **Student News**

## Agriculture in a Global Context: Ag Systems under Major Policy Change: United Kingdom-Spring 2018

www.montana.edu/econ/globalcourseexperiences.html

A group of 20 students participated in the DAEE course Agriculture in the Global Context. The course is an experiential-based class that investigates topics on grain and cattle supply chains, government and trade policies, and research methodologies. At the end of 16 weeks of seminars, students traveled to the United Kingdom (May 6-16) to learn about the impact of historical and on-going agricultural and trade policies. The trip offered unique opportunities to obtain hands-on knowledge about the impacts of Brexit on the agricultural sector.

Students (Doug Bosworth, Meghan Brence, Taylor Broyles, McKray Faxon, Katelynn Hess, Camryn Hood, Laura Ippolito, Kari Jarvis, Tanner Jorgensen, Albert Koenig, Ashley Koenig, Laina Raisler, Mariah Stopplecamp, Katharine Taylor, Ryan Temple, Nick TeSelle, Michael Walsh, Keely Weisbeck, Sabrina Winger, and Tanner Works) in this year's course were from a diverse set of departments including Agricultural Business, Agricultural Education, Computer Science, and Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems. Students attended a weekly lecture, conducted group research projects, and met to discuss agricultural policy issues with MSU faculty and Montana's agricultural industry representatives.



Meeting with Professors at University of Sheffield



Discussing livestock management

Topics and guest speakers for the course include:

- Randy Rucker, "Overview of Agricultural Policy"
- Anton Bekkerman, "Writing an Effective Paper"
- Eric Belasco, "Overview of U.S. Cattle Sector"
- Vince Smith, "Overview of International Trade"
- Joe Janzen, "Overview of U.S. Wheat Market"
- Collin Watters (Executive Vice President, Montana Wheat & Barley Committee), "U.S. Grains Promotion in International Markets"
- Errol Rice (Executive Vice President, Montana Stockgrowers Association), "How the JD.com Deal was Made"
- John Youngberg (Executive Vice President, Montana Farm Federation), "How Agricultural Policy is Formed"
- Greg Gilpin, "Overview of International Financial Markets"



Right: Hall Farm's farm manager discussing impacts of agri-environmental management, Stainton, UK

## Student News, cont'd.

## Agriculture in a Global Context: Ag Systems under Major Policy Change: United Kingdom-Spring 2018



MSU students with Velcourt regional and farm managers in rapeseed field, Lincolnshire, UK

#### **Places Visited**

- Royal Agricultural Society
- National Farmers Union
- Agricultural and Horticultural
- Development Board
- Cambridge University
- George Farm, Lincolnshire
- (Velcourt Ltd)
- Hall Farm, Stainton Le Vale
- University of Sheffield
- Yorkshire Dales
- Monkridge Hill Farm, Newcastle upon Tyne
- Chillingham Castle & Wild Cattle Ranch
- Broome Park Farms
- Scotland's Rural College, Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Dairy Farm
- Hill and Mountain Research Centre, Loch Lomond National Park



Innovative Wagyu cattle operation, Newcastle, UK

The course was led by **Anton Bekkerman**, other faculty and staff included **Greg Gilpin**, **Diane Charlton**, and **Wanda McCarthy**. External funding to support student participation came from the BMCS Foundation and Northwest Farm Credit Services.



Tour of commercial Angus cattle operation at Broome Park Farm, Alnwick, UK



Edinburgh Dairy farm manager with MSU students

## Student News, cont'd.

## **Congratulations Fall 2018 Graduates**

\* Graduating with Honors **\*\*** Graduating with Highest Honors

## **Economics**

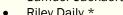
- Zachary Dunning
- Caroline Hardy \*
- Jesse Knapp \*
- Liqi Shao
- Jacqueline Stearns
- Kristen Willich \*\*
- Zachary Wolfe

## **Financial Engineering**

- Samuel Caekaert \*
- Riley Daily \*
- Andrew Hodapp

## **Agricultural Business**

- Tanner Bollum \*
- Meghan Brence \*
- Madison Collins \*
- Ian Glennie
- Tanner Jorgensen
- **Robert Woods**



- Jiahui Ma \*



## **Graduating Master's Students**

Kyle Musser, "The Effect of Air Pollution on Exam Performance: A Case Study Using California Public High Schools," Committee Chair: Brock Smith



## **Student Spotlights**

#### **Meghan Brence** *Major:* Agricultural Business, Agribusiness Management; *Minor*: Economics

#### What brought you to MSU?

Growing up a Bobcat and child of an Extension Administrator, the campus of MSU felt like home. So, as I neared high school graduation I was about to accept an offer from Casper College to be on their Livestock Judging Team on a full ride, until I was elected to State FFA Office. There was no way that I could have done both things from Wyoming, so it was fate that brought me to MSU.

#### While at MSU, what activities, organizations, etc. have you been involved in?

- 2018 College of Agriculture
  Outstanding Student in Leadership
- ECNS 309 TA
- Ag in a Global Context Trip to England
- College of Ag Ambassadors
- College of Ag Ambassador Celebrate Agriculture Chair
- MSU Livestock Judging Team
- Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers
- Collegiate FFA
- Collegiate Stockgrowers
- College of Ag Student Council
- Sigma Alpha Pi Honor Society
- Alpha Zeta Agricultural Honor Society
- 2018 College of Ag Dean Search Committee

## What have you enjoyed most about your time at MSU?

I have most enjoyed getting to learn in a competitive and challenging environment. Sure the skiing has been awesome and I do love a good night with friends, but I came here to get an education. Our professors are excellent in pushing you to find your true potential and to fully grasp the concepts that they teach. I have found that I perform best in that type of an environment and I am very thankful to say that I pushed myself here.

## What have you enjoyed most about studying agricultural business?

The part I have enjoyed most about studying agricultural business is taking my learning from the classroom to the field and vice versa. I took Dr. Atwood's Ag Finance class and that following summer interned for Northwest Farm Credit Services where I understand loan terms and how different types of payments worked. When I interned for CHS Farmer's Elevator the summer after my freshman year I was able to sit with the elevator's grain hedger and learn how to buy and sell contracts to protect the company from risk. Soon I was learning how to calculate profits in class and was already ahead of the game in learning the concepts for Ag Marketing. Some people might thing that some of the things you learn in college do not apply to the real world, but this is not what I have found to be the case.

#### What was your favorite class?

I know this is much to the surprise of my classmates, but AGBE 451 Economics of Ag Policy has been my favorite class. It has challenged me to be more critical of economic issues and specific federal programs.

#### What are your post-graduation plans?

Post-graduation I got a job with Fort Keogh in Miles City to be their spring night-calver and I will farm for them for the summer. Next fall, I hope to be moving to Manhattan, KS to attend Kansas State University to earn a M.S. in Agricultural Economics. After I earn a Master's degree, I plan on returning to Montana either as an ag lender or grain buyer to serve the producers of the Big Sky State.

#### What is your advice for incoming Ag. Econ. & Econ. Students?

Do not be afraid to work hard, it will get rewarded. As a sophomore it might be easier to slack in the easier courses but your hard work will get noticed by the professor and it may offer you teaching assistant opportunities that might not only provide you with some grocery money, but with an experience to sharpen your skills. After all, do you really understand a concept if you are not able to teach it?



## **Student Spotlights**

## **Kristen Willich**

Major: Economics

#### What brought you to MSU?

I have always loved Bozeman! I am originally from Kalispell, MT and I did not have a desire to leave Montana. MSU is a great school with a great reputation. I had the chance to get an education while not being too far away from home.

# While at MSU, what activities, organizations, etc. have you been involved in?

When I first came to MSU I got involved in CRU for a couple years. I have spent the remainder of my time at MSU serving at/with Fresh Life Church which has been a blast! I have also gotten many opportunities to be a peer instructor on campus with different departments including physics, biology, and economics.

## What have you enjoyed most about your time at MSU?

I have learned a lot about myself and my interests through my time in college. I had no idea when I started that I would be interested in economics! Discovering my interest in economics opened up different paths for my life that I had never thought of. I have enjoyed growing as a person and gaining a variety of knowledge, and I cannot wait to see what is in store for the future!

## What have you enjoyed most about studying economics?

I never thought I would be interested in research, but economic research has been my favorite part about studying economics! I really enjoy the variety of knowledge I have gained just from reading and learning about economic research papers.

#### What was your favorite class?

I really loved taking Benefit-Cost Analysis with Mark Anderson. We talked about research papers every day at the start of class which I really enjoyed. That really helped me learn and understand econometrics better as well as the importance of the research. Mark is a great professor and made the class fun even when it wasn't!

#### What are your post-graduation plans?

I would eventually like to pursue grad school. As of right now I do not have any concrete plans, so I am just looking forward to enjoying the holidays with my family.



Kristen Willich

## What is your advice for incoming Ag. Econ. & Econ. Students?

It sounds cliché, but you really do get out of it what you put into it. Hard work really pays off and you will be better for it!

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www.montana.edu/regecon

# Inaugural IRAEA Distinguished Lecture Program Attracts More than 600 Participants

www.montana.edu/regecon/angusdeaton

Nobel Prize-winning economist Sir Angus Deaton discussed the link between income inequality and increasing mortality rates as the inaugural speaker for the IRAEA Distinguished Lecture Program on August 29.

The lecture program brings worldrenowned scholars to MSU to give public lectures on current policy and regulatory topics. More than 600 people attended the free public talk in the Strand Union's Ballroom A.

Deaton, a senior scholar and professor emeritus at Princeton University, and fellow Princeton economist Anne Case identify a trend they call "deaths of despair" — deaths by drugs, alcohol and suicide apparently linked to economic decline — in their recent research paper "Mortality and Morbidity in the 21st Century," published in 2017 in the journal Brookings Papers on Economic Activity. The paper followed up on the husband-and-wife pair's findings in 2015 that death rates among middle-aged Americans have risen dramatically since 1999 — a trend reversing decades of declining mortality and morbidity rates in that group

Author of several books including *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth and the Origins of Inequality,* Deaton has spent decades studying measures of global wealth and poverty. His most recent research examines areas of poverty, inequality, health, well-being and economic development with recent research looking at determinants of health in rich and poor countries and measurement of poverty.

He received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2015 for his research into how the consumption of goods and services plays a critical role in human welfare. A native of Scotland, Deaton was knighted in 2016 by Queen Elizabeth II for his service in the fields of economics and international affairs.

The 2019 Distinguished Lecturer will be announced in the coming months.



Sir Angus Deaton presents his research about income inequality and rising mortality rates to an audience of more than 600 community members during the IRAEA inaugural Distinguished Lecture.

# IRAEA Hosted Two Workshops During the 2018 Spring and Summer Semesters

On April 26, **Eric Belasco** and **Anton Bekkerman** presented "Policy, Regulation, and Market Access," a workshop focused on the roles of existing and future public policy and regulation on the region's grains and livestock sectors.

Three highly-regarded economists with expertise in assessing the interactions of policy and market access discussed the challenges and opportunities for the northern U.S. region.

Presenters included Joseph Glauber, former chief economist with the USDA and senior research fellow with IFPRI; T. Randall Fortenbery, professor and the Thomas B. Mick Endowed Chair at Washington State University; and **Gary Brester**, professor emeritus and IRAEA's distinguished visiting scholar.

On June 25, IRAEA research fellow **Isaac Swensen** and visiting scholar Jason Lindo, of Texas A&M University, presented "Economic Perspectives on Reproductive Health Policies," a workshop that brought together a group of health economists, policymakers, and individuals well-positioned to influence reproductive health policy in Montana.

The aim was to provide a forum for researchers to present up-to-date research on these important issues and

for those on the front lines dealing with reproductive health issues to share insights that can inform future research and evaluations. Presenters included Kasey Buckles, of the University of Notre Dame, Melanie Guldi, of the University of Central Florida, as well as Swensen and Lindo. Discussions included best practices in policy evaluation and highlighted the contributions that economics research can bring to reproductive health policy.

For more information, www.montana.edu/regecon/ reproductivehealthpolicies.html



Eric Belasco introduces speakers during the IRAEA "Policy, Regulation, and Market Access" workshop held April 26.



Isaac Swensen presents during the "Economic Perspectives on Reproductive Health Policies" workshop he and IRAEA visiting scholar Jason Lindo, of Texas A&M University hosted on June 25.

### IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program Provides Research Opportunities for Students During the 2018 Summer and Fall Semesters

#### www.montana.edu/regecon/undergraduate\_research\_scholars.html

The MSU IRAEA awarded 17 Undergraduate Research Scholarships during the 2018 spring and fall semesters. The students represent a wide-range of disciplines participating in faculty-led research projects that address issues relevant to the IRAEA mission.

Summer 2018 Undergraduate Research Scholars included:

- Joe Baan (economics) under the direction of Isaac Swensen (DAEE): "State Lottery Participation and Crime Rates."
- Meghan Brence (agricultural business) under the direction of Anton Bekkerman (DAEE): "Assessing Potential Impacts of Electronic Logging Device Regulations on Cattle Prices."
- Andie Creel (economics) under the direction of Mark Anderson (DAEE): "An Evaluation of Montana's Willingness to Pay for Un-hunted Yellowstone Grizzly."
- Danielle Daley (economics) under the direction of Wendy Stock (DAEE): "Do Graduate Policies and Characteristics Affect Economists' Later Publication and Co-Authorship Rates?"
- Carolyn Egervary (biological sciences and economics) under the direction of Wendy Stock (DAEE): "Data on Trends in Enrollment and Outcomes of Students Covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and IDEA-related Special Education Teacher Certification Requirements."
- Emma Folkerts (economics, political science) under the direction of Wendy Stock

(DAEE): "Human Trafficking: The Impact of Policy on Identification and Prosecution."

- **Connor Hoffman** (biological engineering, economics, political science) under the direction of Mark Anderson (DAEE): "Assessing the Effects of Automation in Historically Labor-safe Industries."
- Laura Ippolito (sustainable foods and bioenergy systems and economics) under the direction of Anton Bekkerman (DAEE) and Bruce Maxwell (Land Resources and Environmental Sciences Department): "Toward a Marketbased Solution for Improving the Cost-Effectiveness of Enforcing the U.S. Grain Traceability Mandates."
- Sarah McKnight (statistics) under the direction of Christina Stoddard (DAEE): "Mental Health Resources in Schools, School Disciplinary Outcomes, and Youth Crime."

Fall 2018 Undergraduate Research Scholars include:

- Faisal AlSaad (business finance, economics, and mathematics) under the direction of Wendy Stock (DAEE): "Payday Lending, Crime, and Suicide."
- Danielle Antelope (sustainable food and bioenergy systems) under the direction of Kristen Ruppel (Native American Studies): "Toward Piikani Food Sovereignty: A Study of Federal Regulations, Tribal Prerogatives, and Lessons Learned for Establishing and Maintaining a Culturally Appropriate Food Distribution Program on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation."
- Noelani Boise (environmental biology and German) under the direction of Dana Skorupa

(Chemical and Biological Engineering Department): "Potential Impacts of Plastic Degradation by Thermoenzymes."

- Athena Erickson (economics, MSU Honors Program) under the direction of Vincent Smith (DAEE): "Charter Schools: The Consequences of Post Hurricane Education Policy Change in New Orleans and Puerto Rico" and "Food and Development Aid."
- Emma Folkerts (economics, political science) under the direction of Wendy Stock (DAEE): "Human Trafficking: The Impact of Policy on Identification and Prosecution."
- Dustin Hofer (economics) under the direction of Isaac Swensen (DAEE): "Post Sullivan Law Gun Regulations."
- **Connor Hoffman** (biological engineering, economics, political science) under the direction of Wendy Stock (DAEE): "Genetically Modified Food: Then, Now, and Tomorrow."
- Brody Wallace (environmental science) under the direction of William Kleindl and Tony Hartshron (Land Resources and Environmental Sciences Department): "Sensitivity Analysis of Multiple Regulatory Tools for Riparian Wetland Assessment to Disturbance Gradients within SW Montana."

Spring 2019 Undergraduate Research Scholars Program grant cycle opened November 28. Contact Wendy Stock (wstock@montana.edu) for more information. Applications must be prepared by an MSU faculty member on behalf of the undergraduate student.

### **Research Fellows Selected**

#### www.montana.edu/regecon/researchfellows

The MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis is pleased to announce the selection of the 2018-2020 Research Fellows.

Research Fellowships are available for MSU faculty members to conduct research projects related to regulation and policy. Fellows produce peerreviewed journal articles, publicly accessible white papers, policy issues papers, and other communications that provide objective, research-based information to lawmakers, policy advisers, and the general public on critical policy and regulatory issues. Fellows also organize and participate in workshops and conferences organized by IRAEA. Appointments are for a twoyear period, with the potential for renewal.

In August 2018, seven research fellows were selected through a competitive process through which applications were solicited universitywide by MSU's Vice President of Research and Economic Development office and evaluated by the IRAEA's advisory board using the National Institute of Health's criteria for excellence in research.

This year's Research Fellowship winners are:

- Anton Bekkerman (DAEE), who will conduct research on "Regulatory and Policy Program Impacts on the Dynamics of Agricultural Markets."
- Eric Belasco (DAEE), who will conduct research on "Rules and Regulations in the Federal Agricultural Safety Net Designed to Protect Farmers and Ranchers from Adverse Market and Production Outcomes."
- Peter Buerhaus (College of Nursing and Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies), whose research program will support and provide leadership to healthcarerelated research projects and investigators, including helping identify emerging policy issues.
- Mariana Carrera (DAEE), who will conduct research on the "U.S.

Healthcare System and Market Forces."

- Gary Caton (Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship), who will conduct research on the "Impact of Regulation on Community Banking."
- Justin Gallagher (DAEE), who will look at the "Role of Federal Policy and Bank Lending on Household Finance, Business Growth, Regional Development following a Natural Disaster."
- Isaac Swensen (DAEE), who will research "The Effects of Criminal Justice Policies and Regulations on Public Safety."

The request for proposals for 2019-2021 IRAEA Research Fellowships will be announced in the spring.

### **Research Grant Winners Selected**

#### www.montana.edu/regecon/researchgrants.html

The MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis is also pleased to announce the Research Grantees for the 2018-2019 award year:

- Graham Austin (JJCBE), who will explore "The Effects of Regulation on Montana's Craft Brewers."
- Edward Gamble (JJCBE), whose projects will research "The Impact of Certification Regulation on Hybrid Firm Signaling and Performance" and "The Impact of

Regulation on Banks and the Ventures They Loan To."

- Andrew Hill (DAEE) who will conduct research on "Team Gender Composition and Team Productivity."
- Jerry Johnson (Department of Political Science), will research "Reframing the Endangered Species Act: The Case of the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery."
- William Kleindl (Land Resources and Environmental Sciences), who

will examine the "Sensitivity Analysis of Multiple Regulatory Tools for Riparian Wetland Assessment to Disturbance Gradients within SW Montana."

### Research Grant Winners Selected, cont'd.

#### www.montana.edu/regecon/researchgrants.html

- Kristin Ruppel (Native American Studies), whose research project focuses on "Mapping Land Tenure & Wellbeing in Piikani (Blackfeet) Country."
- Lisa Yang, (JJCBE) who will conduct research on "The Impact of EIA Storage Announcements on Energy Prices and Market Uncertainty."

IRAEA research grants provide funding to support research by MSU faculty engaged in research and economic analysis of regulatory issues as applied to agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, and other related sectors. Interdisciplinary research proposals, proposals from disciplines outside economics, and proposals directed by multiple project leaders are welcome. The call for proposals for 2019-2020 IRAEA Research Grants will be announced in the spring. Contact Wendy Stock (<u>wstock@montana.edu</u>) or Vince Smith (<u>vsmith@montana.edu</u>) for more information.

Response to Economic Shock: The Impact of Recession on Rural-Urban Suicides

Danielle Carriere, IRAEA Research Associate, with Marshall, M and Binkley, J. forthcoming "Response to Economic Shock: The Impact on Rural-Urban Suicides in the U.S.," Journal of Rural Health.

### IRAEA Welcomes Krishna Regmi, Visiting Scholar for the 2018-2019 Academic Year

#### www.montana.edu/regecon/visiting\_scholars.html

**Dr. Krishna Regmi** will spend the 2018-19 academic year as a Visiting Research Scholar with the Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economics.

He is formerly an Instructor of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies at the University of Alabama.

He received his M.A. from the University of New Hampshire and his Ph.D. from Lehigh University. Krishna's primary research interests are in the areas of labor economics and applied econometrics. Dr. Regmi has published his research papers in academic journals such as B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Journal of Policy Modeling, and LABOUR. Dr. Regmi's research has been featured in media outlets including the Wall Street Journal.

As a Visiting Scholar at MSU, his work will examine U.S. public policies and regulations that affect labor market outcomes and educational attainment including unemployment insurance, the minimum wage, teacher salaries and maternity leave policies.



Dr. Krishna Regmi

### **IRAEA Appoints External Advisory Board**

www.montana.edu/regecon/advisoryboards.html

IRAEA is pleased to announce appointments to its External Advisory Board. The board, which reviews and provides feedback on the Initiative's primary activities including the volume and scope of research produced by IRAEA-funded scholars and students, consists of research scholars external to MSU who are leading academics in areas such as agriculture and natural resources, healthcare, financial economics, education economics, the economics of the criminal justice system and other policy areas.

- James Brown, Kingland MBA Professor and Chair, Department of Finance, Iowa State University
- Nick Piggot, Associate Head, Extension Leader, Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Agricultural and Resource

Economics, North Carolina State University

- Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, Margaret Walker Alexander
   Professor of Human Development and Social Policy at Northwestern
   University, Director and Faculty
   Fellow of the Program on Child,
   Adolescent, and Family Studies at
   Northwestern's Institute for Policy
   Research, Director of the Brookings
   Institution's Hamilton Project and
   Senior Fellow at the Brookings
   Institution, and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research
- Jonathan Skinner, James O. Freedman Presidential Professor in Economics, Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College

- Ann Huff Stevens, Professor of Economics and Deputy Director of the Center for Poverty Research at the University of California, Davis
- Brian Wright, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Economist with the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Berkeley

## **IRAEA** Publications

- A paper co-authored by **Firat Bilgel**, IRAEA's 2017-2018 Long-term Visiting Scholar, titled "Thirty Years of Conflict and Economic Growth in Turkey: A Synthetic Control Approach," was published in the journal Defence and Peace Economics.
- IRAEA Distinguished Visiting Scholar Gary Brester and Research Grantee Joseph Atwood's (DAEE) research titled "An Examination of the Influence of Genetic Modification Technologies on U.S. and EU Crop Yields," was published in the Journal of

Agricultural and Resource Economics.

- A paper co-authored by IRAEA Distinguished Visiting Scholar Gary Brester and Myles J. Watts (DAEE), titled "The Basel Accords, Capital Reserves, and Agricultural Lending," was published in the Agricultural Finance Review.
- IRAEA Research Grantee Edward Gamble (JJCBE) was a co-author on a paper titled "Certified B Corporations and the Growth Penalty," published in the journal Academy of Management Discoveries.
- IRAEA Research Grantee William Kleindl co-authored "Toward a Social-Ecological Theory of Forest Macrosystems for Improved Ecosystem Management," published in the journal Forest Ecology and Management.
- IRAEA Research Fellow Isaac Swensen co-authored "The Decision to Carry: The Effect of Crime on Concealed-Carry Applications," published in the Journal of Human Resources.

#### FALL 2018 DAEE NEWSLETTER

## The Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (IRAEA) News, cont'd.

### **Research Opportunities**

www.montana.edu/regecon/documents/Visiting%20Scholars%20Appointment%20Criteria%20and%20Expectations.pdf

Support is available for 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.

Please contact Wendy Stock (<u>wstock@montana.edu</u>) or Vincent Smith (<u>vsmith@montana.edu</u>) for more information.



# Research support available for undergraduate students in all disciplines

#### www.montana.edu/regecon/undergraduate\_research\_scholars.html

IRAEA funds research scholarships for undergraduate students from a widerange of disciplines to participate in faculty-led research projects that address issues relevant to the IRAEA mission. Awards are available for semester-, academic year-, and summer-length research projects. Additional support is available for student travel to regional or national conferences at which the student presents the results of the sponsored research project.

Spring 2019 Undergraduate Research Scholars Program grant cycle will opened November 28. Contact Wendy Stock (<u>wstock@montana.edu</u>) for more information.

Applications must be prepared by an MSU faculty member on behalf of the undergraduate student.



## Help Support Ag Econ & Econ

A monetary gift to the department is a great way to support faculty and student endeavors. Donations can be earmarked for the following funds:

- \_\_\_Ag Econ & Econ Memorial & Scholarship Fund 91765 Donations are used to award scholarships to deserving agricultural economics students.
  - \_\_Agricultural Global Studies Fund 92554— Funds are awarded to students participating in the Agriculture in a Global Context course and go towards student travel expenses for the international trip. This course is offered every two years and is a favorite among students.
  - \_\_Dave Buschena Memorial Scholarship Fund 92775 Scholarship awards are based on the results of the Undergraduate Scholarship Examination coordinated by the Agricultural Economics and Economics Department. Scholarships are awarded to students majoring or minoring in degrees from our Department. Dave Buschena was an agricultural economics faculty member.
- Economics Seminars TBA The DAEE runs an active seminar series in agriculture business and economics. The series is a large component of the intellectual life in the department and maintaining it 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 by sending a check made out to Montana State University Foundation, and on the memo line write 'DAEE' and the fund of choice.

Checks should be mailed to:

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



#### **Agricultural Economics & Economics**



Montana State University, the state's land-grant institution, educates students, creates knowledge and art, and serves communities by integrating learning, discovery and engagement.

#### Department of Ag Econ & Econ

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