

## Spring 2015 Newsletter

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## Letter from Department Head

Happy Spring from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics (DAEE)! It has been another great year in the DAEE as we continue our tradition of excellence in research, teaching, outreach, and service.

Research highlights include outstanding faculty publications in top journals in the profession on topics including medical marijuana laws and teen marijuana use, nitrogen management in wheat production in Montana, compulsory schooling laws and crime, and substance abuse and mortality.

Faculty members disseminated their research findings to students, stakeholders, and other researchers through courses, outreach presentations, and professional conferences.

Outreach highlights this year included an extensive effort to provide decision tools and education on the 2014 Farm Bill to Montana agricultural producers throughout the state and the Montana \$aves \$cavenger Hunt for Montana middle and high school age students. Teaching highlights this year included the opening of the new CHS master classroom in Linfield Hall, which provides state-of-the-art technology for connecting DAEE classes to the larger world.

DAEE students continue to be impressive scholars, including Riley Shearer who earned a Goldwater Scholarship, and Alex Paterson who earned a Truman Scholarship this year.

Students graduating from the department this year are taking attractive jobs both inside and outside Montana, as well as accepting

prestigious graduate school placements. Congratulations to all our graduates and best wishes as you head out into the "real world".

The DAEE bids farewell to a key leader of the department this year. **Myles Watts** is retiring in May after a 38-year career at MSU. We wish him well as he moves on to new challenges and opportunities.

Have a great summer!

*Wendy A. Stock*



Wendy Stock



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# Student News

## Congratulations Outstanding Seniors

Each year the DAEE faculty members choose an outstanding graduate from among the graduating seniors in two of our majors.

The DAEE faculty have selected two students as outstanding graduating seniors in the department this year: **Amber Stenson** in Economics, and **Shane Lackman** in Agricultural Business-Farm Management Option.

**Amber** is graduating with a dual major in Economics and Business-Finance.

Amber interned with **Marsha Goetting**, Extension Family Economics Specialist, last summer. Marsha notes, "Amber approached me about an internship. She said she didn't need credit and "no pay" was fine...she just wanted to learn. And learn she did. Amber is competent and doesn't hesitate to take on more responsibility.

*This semester she is researching Montana law so she can develop a MontGuide for MSU Extension on the topic of Partnerships."*

After graduation, Amber plans to head to Law School.

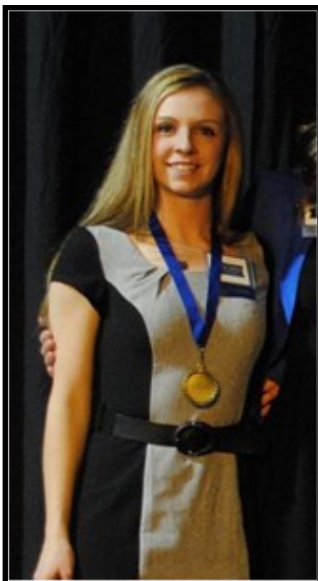
Congratulations Amber!

**Shane Lackman** is graduating in Agricultural Business Farm and Ranch Management Option. As Anton **Bekkerman** says, "Shane comes from a farming family in Hysham, MT. His family farms sugar beets, wheat, and hay, among other crops. Shane's father is an MSU alum who graduated from the university with a degree in Agricultural Education. Shane is an excellent student with a strong interest in production agriculture. He has received numerous COA and DAEE scholarships, which recognize his academic successes."

After graduation, Shane plans to return to his family farm and continue their farming operation.



Shane Lackman



Amber Stenson



## Student News, cont'd.

### 2015 Peer Leadership Students

Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, the DAEE Peer Leadership program continues to be a success in improving learning and retention for ECNS 101 and ECNS 202 students. More than 1200 students take ECNS 101, and 500 students take ECNS 202 each year.

Peer leaders teach ECNS 105: Study Economic Way of Thinking and ECNS 206: Study Principles of Macroeconomics. These small enrollment classes meet weekly review ECNS 101 and ECNS 202 concepts, gain additional practice with economic problems and complete in-class problem sets.

Thank you to this spring's peer leaders and Congratulations to next fall's Peer Leadership group:

- Fall 2015 ECNS 105 Peer Leaders: Montana Wilson, Dylan Grubb, Max Schneider, Alex Paterson, Beau Bridgeman, and Andy Bush
- Fall 2015 ECNS 206 Peer Leaders: Sean Downey, Erik Rupert, Jacob Ebersole, and Ryan R. Davies



Spring 2015 ECNS 105 Peer Leaders: Montana Wilson, Sina Sandholdt, Beau Bridgeman, Travis Kimm, and Alex Paterson



Spring 2015 ECNS 206 Peer Leaders: Evan Rodick, Erik Rupert, Hannah Wilson, Sean Downey, and Jake Ebersole

### Graduating Master's Students

- Kirkwood Donavin, "The Welfare Impacts of Engineers Without Borders in Western Kenya"  
**Chair:** Sarah Janzen
- Michael Tarrant "The Effects of Anti-Price Gouging Laws in the Wake of a Hurricane"  
**Chair:** Randal R. Rucker
- Christian Cox "Campaign Contributions and Government Grants"  
**Chair:** Carly Urban
- Gabriel Bunek "Characterizing the Effect of USDA Report Announcements in the Winter Wheat Futures using Realized Volatility" **Chair:** Joseph Janzen
- Seth Simonds "Impact of Copula Modeling on Multiple Peril Crop Insurance Rates"  
**Co-Chairs:** Vincent Smith & Joseph Atwood
- Ethan Wilkes "Redshirting and Academic Performance: Evidence from NCAA Student-Athletes"  
**Chair:** Randal R. Rucker
- Gordon Case Stiglbauer "North Dakota Natural Gas: The Decision to Flare"  
**Chair:** Timothy Fitzgerald

# Student News, cont'd.

## Congratulations Graduating Seniors

### Economics

#### Spring 2015 & Summer 2015

- Emily Allen
- Ryland Babcock
- Shane Barry
- Kelly Bryan
- Dane Christensen
- Hannah Downey
- Kyle Florence
- Phillip Alex Fry
- Joseph Jasper
- Cahill Maffei
- Thomas Mitzel
- Daniel Nicolls
- Maggie O'Donnell
- Benjamin Ohman
- Amy Ostermiller
- Jacqueline Stearns
- Amber Stenson
- Madison Traucht
- Fredric Vollmer
- Holly Watson
- Katrina Wilhelm
- Hannah Wilson
- Ariel Zemlicka
- James Blair

#### Spring 2015 Minors

- Tomas DeQuech Garcia
- Kendall Green
- David Lackman
- Brit Kessner
- Jodi Lindgren
- Berthiaume Lord
- McLain Leonard
- Evan Rodrick
- Christopher Parker
- Anthony Taylor

### Agricultural Business

#### Spring 2015 & Summer 2015

- Damon Alm
- Tracy Eklund
- Tomas DeQuech Garcia
- Kendall Green
- Jordan Haynie
- David Lackman
- Shane Lackman
- Luke Larson
- Anna Merchen
- John Milesnick
- Brian Nelson
- Hunter Riddle
- Jordan Stilson
- Robert Todd
- Holly Watson
- Amanda Wiley
- Fan Xiao

#### Spring 2015 Minors

- Callie Griffin
- Jakub Kristl
- Karissa Floerchinger

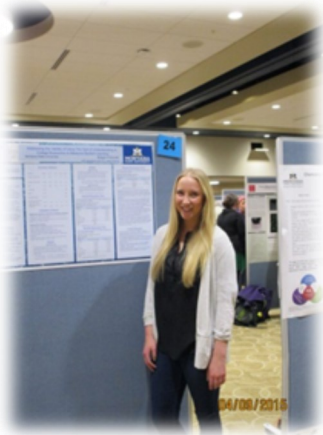




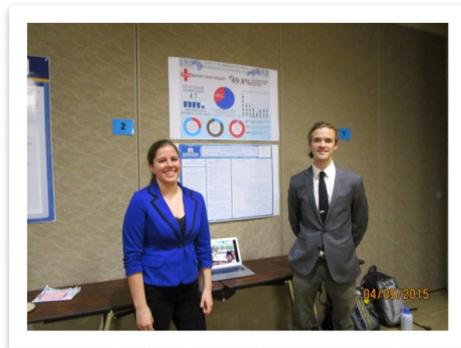
# Student News, cont'd.

## Undergraduate Research Celebration

Several DAEE students presented their research at the annual MSU Student Research Celebration held in the SUB Ballrooms in April. Great job students!



Economics Major Maggie O'Donnell presented her research on "Addressing the Validity of Using the Test of Understanding in College Economics to Measure Student Learning."



Engineering student Kelly Hendrix and DAEE Master's student Kirkwood Donavin presented the results from "Assessment of Health Outcomes from Engineers Without Borders' Water and Sanitation Projects in Khwisero, Kenya."



Economics major Alex Paterson presented the results from "Assessment of Health Outcomes from Engineers Without Borders' Water and Sanitation Projects in Khwisero, Kenya."



Economics major Fred Vollmer presented, "Creating an iOS App to Showcase Montana's Music."



Economics major Ariel Zemlicka presented, "Examining the Role of Fashion Bloggers in the Fashion Industry" and Economics minor Erik Rupert presented his research stemming from his internship.



Economics major Riley Shearer presented "Raw Milk and Infant Health."

# Student Awards and Honors

## Goldwater Scholarship

Congratulations to **Riley Shearer** for being awarded a **Goldwater Scholarship** this year. Riley is a junior majoring in economics, chemical engineering, and biochemistry.

As a winner of the Goldwater Scholarship, Riley will receive up to \$7,500 a year for tuition, fees, books, and room and board.

In 2014, Riley was chosen as a **Hughes Scholar**, a program that focuses on Montana State University students who are considering careers in biomedical/bioscience research or a medical/health field and who are dedicated, driven, and innovative.

Riley has been working with DAEE professor **Mark Anderson** on a project examining the relationship between raw milk sales and infant/neonatal health outcomes.

Riley worked on the research as part of a MSU Undergraduate Scholars Project and recently presented the findings at the MSU Student Research Celebration in April. Dr. Anderson notes, "We will be pursuing publication of this research in an economics journal. Given that it is the first of its kind in the economics literature, I anticipate it will publish well. Beyond Riley's scholastic achievements and his natural abilities as a researcher, he is one of the most genuine, polite, and considerate people I have ever met." After graduating from MSU, Riley

plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering or economics.

Congratulations Riley!



Riley Shearer

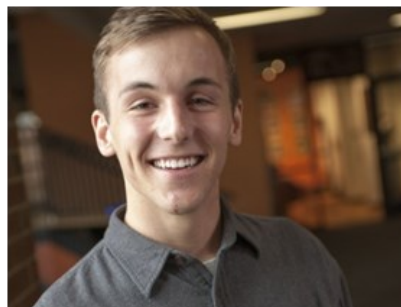
## Truman Scholar

Congratulations to **Alex Paterson** for being recently named a **Truman Scholar**. Alex is a junior majoring in economics and minoring in mathematics.

The Truman Scholarship provides \$30,000 toward graduate school as well as networking opportunities and professional development geared at helping scholars develop careers in public service leadership. Alex is no stranger to leadership and engagement activities, having served as president of MSU's Queer-Straight Alliance, as treasurer of the MSU Chapter of Engineers without Borders, with Global Giving in Washington DC as an intern, and as a volunteer with Eagle Mount (a local group that provides recreational opportunities for people with disabilities).

He also served as a Peer Leader in the DAEE, leading independent study labs

for students enrolled in Economics 101, reading academic research on effective economics pedagogy, meeting weekly with other peer leaders to coordinate and discuss teaching techniques, writing problem sets to facilitate learning in introductory economics, and conducting research on economics pedagogy.



Alex Paterson

Alex was also named as a **Newman Civic Fellow** this year, an award that goes to student leaders who have demonstrated

their commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities across the country. Newman Civic Fellowships are given in memory of Frank Newman, who dedicated his life to creating systemic change through broadening opportunities for diverse and economically challenged students.

In 2014, Alex successfully lobbied ASMSU to vocally support the Bozeman city nondiscrimination ordinance to protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He also organized a student response when members of the Westboro Baptist Church, an anti-gay hate group, demonstrated on the MSU campus.

Congratulations and keep up the great work Alex!

# Student Spotlight

## Amber Stenson

Amber is graduating with a dual major in Economics and Business-Finance. We asked her to reflect on her time in the DAEE.

### What brought you to MSU?

Both of my parents went to MSU, so it was something I had always planned on doing. I was interested in agriculture and business, and MSU allowed me to pursue both of those.

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

Probably the relationships I have made with peers and professors. I have been so fortunate to have incredible professors who have helped me both academically and professionally. I was also given incredible opportunities to travel to Japan, New Zealand, and New York.

### What have you enjoyed most about studying economics?

The classes have all been really interesting and challenging. It has given me a new perspective and allowed me to work with incredibly smart and talented students and faculty alike.

### What was your favorite class?

I'm not sure I can pick; I have really enjoyed all of my econ classes. Dr. Atwood's Ag Credit Analysis class was packed with real world applications.

Dr. Smith's micro and macro econ classes were tough but taught me a ton. I'm in Dr. Anderson's Cost Benefit Analysis right now and love his teaching style and how the class is run. I'm probably going to say a solid tie across every econ class I have taken.

### What are your post-graduation plans?

I will start law school in Missoula in August. I want to become an estate planning lawyer, focusing specifically on agriculture estate planning.

### What is your advice for incoming MSU students?

Say yes to opportunities as they present themselves. Whether it is taking a position as a research assistant, or



Amber and her boyfriend, Justin VanDyke, at the MSU Awards for Excellence Banquet this Spring.

participating in an internship or a trip, embrace every opportunity to try something new. Even if, and maybe especially if, you don't think it is something you will be interested in. Because you will never know until you try.

## Board of International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) Student Outreach

As part of the BIFAD annual meeting hosted at MSU this April, Dr. Brady Deaton, BIFAD Board Chairman and Chancellor Emeritus at the University of Missouri, met with students and faculty in DAEE to discuss his advisory role on BIFAD and his views regarding food security, resilience and agricultural development during an informal Q&A session.



Students at the BIFAD annual meeting outreach program in 406 Linfield Hall



# Alumni Spotlight

## Tony Cookson

### When did you graduate from MSU and what was your major?

I spent 7 years at MSU, graduating three times: B.S. in Economics (2004), M.S. in Applied Economics (2006), and M.S. in Statistics (2008).

### Where are you currently working, and what is your current job? How did you get to where you are now?

I am working as an Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of Colorado-Boulder Leeds School of Business. Approximately two-thirds of my job is to conduct academic research on topics in financial economics. I love academic research, which primarily consists of identifying interesting questions and answering them. Unlike most jobs, I spend most of my time on projects I – rather than a supervisor – decided to do. It is hard to put a price on that kind of autonomy. The remaining third of my job involves teaching upper division finance courses to undergraduates, and I'll begin teaching in our new one-year master's of finance program this summer. It is exciting and rewarding to be on that "other side" of the classroom. The best part about it is hearing about the successes of my students.

Before moving to Colorado, my wife and I lived in Chicago for five years, where I obtained my Ph.D. in Economics from University of Chicago and she supported me patiently (enduring lots of late night studying).



Tony Cookson

### How are you using what you learned at MSU?

I use economics every day. Although I am a finance professor, I am an economist at my core. I attend and present my research at economics conferences. In my everyday life, I have found that the research skills I learned while a master's student at MSU laid a good foundation for identifying interesting research questions in finance. Further, my research days are filled with using the applied econometric skills I first learned while haunting the halls of Linfield.

In a more general sense, I wouldn't be where I am without the education and experiences I had at Montana State.

### What advice would you give to students currently in the DAEE as they ponder their academic paths and future careers?

If you take your studies seriously, economics will take you far. The reasoning and problem solving skills that you learn at MSU are valued in a lot of different places -- graduate schools, industry, government, etc. From my standpoint, the most important thing you can do is to decide which option fits your life goals best.

When it comes down to it, figure out what you love, and do it. It is impossible to overstate the value of being excited about what you're doing. Regardless of what you do, you're going to have to work if you want to be successful. When that work has purpose, it is more exciting to get up every day to do it.





# Alumni Spotlight, cont'd.

## Jason Daughtery

### When did you graduate from MSU and what was your major?

My major was Agricultural Business. I had to take one summer class in the summer of 2008 so I was done by the end of June that year.

### Where are you currently working, and what is your job? Have you held other jobs since graduating, and what were they?

When I finished with summer school that June, I never had any solid plans. I went home to the family dairy for a little over a year. I started working as an intern at Mountain West Co-Op which is western Montana's local CHS Inc. affiliate. After almost six months in Missoula, I took another job in Killdeer, North Dakota as an assistant manager at a small country elevator with Southwest Grain, which is part of the CHS Country Operations unit. I was in North Dakota just over three years until I moved to the CHS Grain Marketing group as an Assistant Terminal Superintendent on Lake Superior in Superior, Wisconsin. I have been here just over two years. It has been an exciting ride through the company so far. I have been exposed to many different aspects of CHS and have had fun seeing and learning many new things.

### How are you using what you learned at MSU?

I learned many things through my years at MSU. One thing that always stuck with me came from a class with Myles

Watts. I don't even remember which class and I am sure I will say this different than him but he said something along the lines of "Economics can help you to understand much of what is happening in the world." Almost every day for me I can relate something to this statement. Whether it is sitting at a desk going over our grain inventory or watching the evening news. Thinking about what is going on around me from an economic point of view helps put useful personal perspectives on the world. I attribute that mindset of mine to MSU and Myles Watts, and I feel that it has served me well.

### What advice would you give to students currently in the DAEE as they ponder their academic paths and future careers?

My first piece of advice would be to remember you're in college. Give each other high fives over good cups of coffee and storm the court after every victory no matter how small. When Randy Rucker reminds you that September 19<sup>th</sup> is talk like a pirate day, go ahead and talk like a pirate! Take every chance you get to make Vince Smith excited because it is just funny listening to him go on a tangent. When college is over there are not nearly enough high fives or talking like pirates, and we all know the world needs more of this. A second piece of advice, with all joking aside, would be to remember that this is one of the most important undertakings that you will do in your life. No matter what your career path will be, there will be moments when you look back and think, "*gee, I'm glad I*



Jason Daughtery, Assistant Terminal Superintendent for CHS, Inc. Grain Marketing

*have this degree.*" I know the big picture kind of gets hidden behind the time and effort invested and watching the student loans pile up, but I guarantee that someday you will be glad you did this. So stay strong and enjoy it. Also, take AGBE 315, you will not regret it. I went to China in 2008 and I will never forget it. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

I would like to thank the department and the professors for the memories and the education. If the department, faculty, current, former, or future students would like help from me or CHS, I would be glad to try and help.

## Publications

### The Undergraduate Origins of PhD Economists Revisited

[www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00220485.2015.1015187](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00220485.2015.1015187)

**Wendy Stock** and John Siegfried's paper, "The Undergraduate Origins of PhD Economists Revisited," was published in the *Journal of Economic Education* 46(2): 150-165.

**Abstract:** The paper updates prior analyses of the undergraduate origins of individuals who earn a PhD in economics in the U.S., including the list of the top institutions worldwide graduating the largest number of undergraduates who go on to earn an economics PhD from a U.S. university. We also provide and lists of the

American institutions with the largest proportion of their total undergraduates and the largest proportion of their economics undergraduates who go on to earn an economics PhD from a U.S. university.

We evaluate the success of graduates from various types of undergraduate institutions in terms of the probability of getting into top-15 economics PhD programs and for time-to-degree and success in completing PhD programs.



Wendy Stock

### Substance-Abuse Treatment and Mortality

[www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272714002540](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272714002540)

**Isaac D. Swensen** published "Substance-abuse treatment and mortality," in the *Journal of Public Economics* 122 (2015): 13-30.

**Abstract:** Drug-overdose deaths, which have more than doubled over the past decade, represent a growing public-health concern. Though substance-abuse treatment may be effective in reducing drug abuse, evidence for a causal effect of treatment on drug-related mortality is lacking. In this paper, I provide evidence for the efficacy of substance-abuse treatment—as measured by the expansion of treatment facilities—in reducing drug-related deaths.

Specifically, my analysis exploits county-level variation in treatment facilities



Isaac Swenson

driven by facility openings and closings. The estimates indicate that a 10% increase in facilities lowers a county's drug-induced mortality rate by 2%. The

estimated effects persist across individual and county characteristics and further indicate that spillovers of treatment reduce other related causes of death.

As a whole, these results offer encouraging evidence for the efficacy of substance-abuse treatment in reducing drug-related deaths. Moreover, as mortality is a relatively infrequent consequence of drug abuse, the estimates may only capture a small portion of the benefits of substance-abuse treatment.

## Publications, cont'd.

### Net Returns from Terrain-Based Variable Nitrogen Management on Dryland Spring Wheat in Northern Montana

<https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/aj/pdfs/0/0/agronj14.0331>

Gary W. Brester, Dan S. Long, Jeffrey D. Whitmus, and Richard E. Engel's paper, "Net Returns from Terrain-Based Variable-Rate Nitrogen Management on Dryland Spring Wheat in Northern Montana," was published in *Agronomy Journal* Vol 107: 1055–1067.

Abstract: Agricultural producers can adopt variable-rate nitrogen technology for applying fertilizer within fields.

This study estimated changes in net returns from the implementation of variable-rate N management on hard red spring wheat in a summer-fallow region in northern Montana. Net returns from uniform-N

management traditionally used by producers were compared to that from variable-rate N management in eight dryland fields between 1994 and 2004.

For seven of the eight sites, increased revenues produced by variable-rate N applications did not offset the costs of adopting and implementing the variable-rate technology.



Gary Brester

### Medical Marijuana and Teen Marijuana Use

D. Mark Anderson's paper, "Medical Marijuana Laws and Teen Marijuana Use", with Benjamin Hansen and Daniel Rees, is forthcoming at *American Law and Economics Review*.

Abstract: Although policymakers and law enforcement officials argue that medical marijuana laws (MMLs) "send the wrong message" to young people, previous studies have produced no evidence of a causal relationship between MMLs and marijuana use among teens. Using data from the national and state Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, and the Treatment Episode Data Set, we revisit this relationship. Our results are not

consistent with the hypothesis that legalization of medical marijuana leads to increased marijuana use among teenagers.

This paper has been featured in media outlets including CBS News, Yahoo! News, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post.



Mark Anderson

## Publications, cont'd.

### Compulsory Schooling Laws and School Crime

**Greg Gilpin** and **Luke Pennig** (former DAEE graduate student) authored "Compulsory Schooling Laws and School Crime," which is forthcoming in *Applied Economics*.

**Abstract:** Extensive literature demonstrates that compulsory schooling laws improve educational attainment, well-being, civic involvement, and labor market outcomes.

The purpose of this article is to study whether raising the minimum dropout age (MDA) requirement above age 16 increases crime committed within U.S. public high schools. A difference-in-difference estimation exploits changes

in state-level MDA laws over time and indicates that schools in states that raise their MDA requirement to 18 incur more overall crime relative to schools in states that do not, while no effect on overall crime is identified when the MDA requirement is raised to 17.

Furthermore, these effects persist for four years after passage and are more intense in metropolitan areas. Coupling this research with existing literature suggests that when the MDA requirement is raised to 18, only a small portion of the observed reduction in juvenile crime is displaced to schools. Analysis by category of crime reveals that schools incur more physical attacks, no change in illegal drug and property



Greg Gilpin

crimes, and fewer violent crimes in states that raise their MDA requirement to 18, while illegal drug crimes increase in states that raise their MDA requirement to 17.

### Per Se Drugged Driving Laws and Traffic Fatalities



Mark Anderson

**D. Mark Anderson's** paper with Daniel Rees, "Per Se Drugged Driving Laws and Traffic Fatalities," is forthcoming at *International Review of Law and Economics*.

**Abstract:** In an effort to reduce drugged driving by 10 percent, the Office of National Drug Control Policy is encouraging all states to adopt per se drugged driving laws, which make it illegal to operate a motor vehicle with a controlled substance in the system.

To date, 20 states have passed per se drugged driving laws, yet little is known about their effectiveness.

Using data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System for the period 1990-2010, the study examines the relationship between these laws and traffic fatalities, the leading cause of death among Americans ages 5 through 34.

Our results provide no evidence that per se drugged driving laws reduce traffic fatalities.



## Outreach/Presentations

### Professor Vince Smith Testifies Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a New Food Aid Reform Bill

On April 15, at the invitation of the Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee, **Vincent Smith** was asked to provide expert witness testimony on the economic efficiency of the current US Food for Peace Program.

He was also asked to assess the potential benefits of reforms proposed in a bill sponsored by Senator Corker, Senator Coons (Delaware), and Senator Sheehan (New Hampshire). The reforms would involve ending the requirement that almost all food aid be sourced from the United States and that 50 percent of all food aid be carried on ships that sail under the US flag. The bill would also terminate a practice called monetization. Currently, the United States spends \$1.36 billion annually on the Food for Peace program, first authorized in 1956, to provide emergency food aid and fund projects in very poor countries like Mali and Malawi (less than 0.04 percent of the approximately \$3.5 trillion annual federal government budget). Most estimates indicate that the reforms included in the proposed Food for Peace Reform Bill would allow those funds to be used more effectively and efficiently to provide emergency relief to at least 4 million more people each year and perhaps as many as 10 to 12 million more people.

Sourcing all food aid in the United States and mandating that that aid be carried on US ships increases the costs of sending food required for emergency relief by about 65 percent compared to sourcing the food from regional and local markets much closer to where the people who are suffering because of the emergency (drought, tidal waves, war) are located.



Vincent Smith, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Just as importantly, mandating sourcing of almost all food aid in the United States increases the time it takes for the food aid to get to where it is needed by almost seven weeks, with very serious morbidity and long-run health consequences for, especially, the children who need the aid.

Monetization is the practice of shipping food aid purchased in the United States to a developing country where it is sold by a U.S. Non-Government Organization (NGO) and the money obtained from those sales is then used to fund the NGO's food aid projects in that country or a nearby country. For every \$100 spent on buying the food in the United States, shipping it to the developing country, and marketing, the typical NGO ends up with less than \$70. The process is extremely wasteful and some NGOs such as CARE and Bread for the World have refused to use the program on the basis that, in the face of so many needs, such waste as appallingly unethical. Fifteen percent of the current funding for Food for Peace programs (around \$260 million) are currently required to be used for monetization.

Professor Smith provided the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with information on the costs of, and cost savings associated with, terminating the practice of food aid monetization, U.S. cargo preference, and sourcing in the United States. He also provided the Committee with the evidence presented in a series of General Accounting Office reports and independent academic studies about whether ending cargo preference would have adverse effects on the ability of the United States armed forces to be effective in times of war requiring military sea lift operations.

Finally, Dr. Smith provided assessments of the effects of ending the requirement that food aid be largely sourced in the United States on the US agriculture sector. Because the proposed reforms would enable more funds to be used to purchase food aid, and many of the commodities such as wheat and corn needed for food aid are traded on global markets, the overall effects of the reforms on the US agriculture are very unlikely to be negative. In fact, they are more likely to be beneficial, although very small, because US food aid involves less than 0.25 percent of total global food grain production.

To view the live stream video [click here](#).

# Outreach/Presentations, cont'd.

## Eric Belasco Outreach Presentations

Eric Belasco has had several outreach presentations in recent months.

In January, Dr. Belasco presented, "Cattle Market Economic Outlook," at the Annual Educational Luncheon and Business Meeting at Headwaters Livestock in Three Forks. 120 were in attendance.

Dr. Belasco also presented "Cattle Market Economic Outlook," in January to the Park County Educational Ranchers Roundtable in Wilsall, MT.

**Eric Belasco** (with **Anton Bekerman**) presented, "Can Pigs Fly? Myth Busting with Economists," at the Montana FFA Conference in November 2014.



Eric Belasco

**Wendy Stock** presented, "The Undergraduate "Origins of PhD Economists: Where Do They Come From and Advice to Programs" at the American Economic Association annual meeting in Boston in January.

## 2014 Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA) Annual Meeting

On December 2, 2014, DAEE professors, **Gary Brester**, **Joe Janzen**, **George Haynes** and **Kate Fuller** conducted a 5 hour workshop at the 2014 Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA) Annual Convention in Great Falls. The "Intermediate Marketing Strategies" workshop was sponsored by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, Northwest Farm Credit Services, BASF, the Minneapolis Grain Exchange (MGEX), the USDA NIFA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program, and Brad Dugdale (Bosch, Kuhr, Dugdale, Martin & Kaze). The keynote lunch speaker from the MGEX was Joe Albrecht, Vice President of Business Development.

Following lunch, the conference began with a refresher course on contracting, hedging, options, and basis. This was



followed by a Risk Tolerance Assessment provided by Custom Ag Solutions, Inc. Then, intermediate marketing topics including rolling options, fence hedges, and storage hedges were presented. This was followed by a producer/industry panel consisting of Mark Black (Malteurop), Kent Kupfner (Columbia Grain), Paul Broyles (wheat producer), and Steve Bahnmillier (wheat producer).

Finally, the group (approximately 140 participants) agreed to take a position in the MGEX wheat market by purchasing a \$6.00 September put option for \$0.26/

bu. We have been tracking this activity as a means for placing a price floor under 5,000 bushels of spring wheat for delivery in September. The activity is being monitored through monthly newsletters with participants.



Gary Brester



George Haynes



Kate Fuller

## Outreach/Presentations, cont'd.

### Understanding Your Mineral Rights Seminar

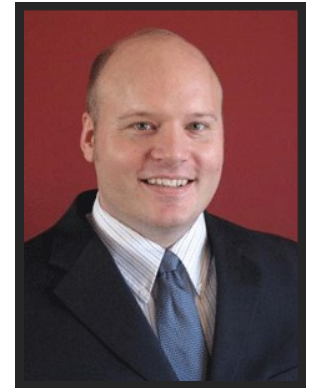
**Tim Fitzgerald** presented "Understanding Your Mineral Rights" in Lewistown on February 4, 2015. The Central Montana Resource Council and MSU Extension-Fergus County were the sponsors.

There were over 100 participants.

### Greg Gilpin Outreach Presentations

Greg Gilpin had several outreach and conference presentations this spring.

- "The Power of Knowledge: The Bozeman Public Library Geostatistics Project" at the 2014 Montana Library Association Annual Conference, Bozeman, MT in April.
- "Employer-sponsored Tuition Assistance and MBA Costs of Enrollment" was presented at the Association of Education Finance and Policy Conference, Washington DC, in March.
- "A Panel Analysis on School-break Readership: Are Public Libraries the Great Academic Equalizer?" at the Association of Education Finance and Policy Conference, Washington DC, in March.



Greg Gilpin

## Awards and Grants

### Organic Research and Education Initiative

**Eric Belasco** is a co-Primary Investigator on a five-year project funded through the Organic Research and Education Initiative, titled "Is Organic Farming Risky? Understanding and Overcoming Crop Insurance Barriers for Expanding Organic Food Production and Markets."

The project is a collaboration between Montana State University, the University of Minnesota, and the National Center for Appropriate Technology (located in Butte, MT), as well as individuals representing farms, extension, and outreach across the country.

This integrated project explores the important issue of the lack of quality crop insurance as a barrier for organic producers to expand agricultural markets.

The long-term goal of the project is to understand and measure the relative yield and price risk of comparable organic and non-organic production systems.

Extensive education and extension activities are utilized to obtain data for research that will be used to improve organic producer understanding of the types and quality of the crop and whole farm revenue insurance options available to them.

Recommendations will also be made, as part of the project, in order to provide higher quality crop insurance products to organic producers.



Eric Belasco

# Awards and Grants, cont'd.

## Quality of Research Discovery Award

**Randy Rucker** and his co-authors received the Quality of Research Discovery Award from the European Association of Agricultural Economics (EAAE) for their article, "Honeybee Pollination Markets and the Internalization of Reciprocal Benefits," which was published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

the work, (3) Scientific quality, and (4) Potential Impact especially for scientific theory and methodology. One article receives this award from the EAAE each year. The award was announced at the 2014 EAAE Congress in Slovenia last August.



Randy Rucker

### USDA Cooperative Agreement

**Randy Rucker** and his collaborators were awarded a USDA Cooperative Agreement for a proposal titled "Challenges to Managed Pollinator Health: Welfare Implications of Changes to Pollination Service Fees Stemming from Bee Health Problems." The term of the grant is from 2014 - 2016.

This research award is a relatively new initiative in the EAAE and is designed to recognize the (1) Relevance of the topic, (2) Originality of

## MSU Extension Update



### Montana \$aves \$cavenger Hunt 2014-2015

The 2014 -2015 Montana \$aves \$cavenger Hunt was completed by 191 students ages 14 - 19 and 83 students ages 11 - 14.



The online course was developed by **Marsha A. Goetting**, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist and **Keri Hayes**, MSU Publications Assistant.

Students learned about saving and investing, how credit can be a friend or foe, and managing their finances. Funding of \$6,600 provided \$100 awards for 66 Montana students.

Teacher feedback included the following:

- *I think it has been a great experience for the students and that they have learned some things they didn't already know. It has also sparked some great discussions as a group and between their classmates about the various topics. Thanks so much for providing this—it has been great!*
- *My son is also doing this at the middle school level, and has been great conversation at home. What a great opportunity!*



Marsha Goetting



Keri Hayes



# MSU Extension Update, cont'd.



## MSU Extension and USDA held Farm Bill Meetings Across the State

[www.montana.edu/farmbill](http://www.montana.edu/farmbill)

Montana State University Extension, in partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited 48 Montana communities across the state to conduct a series of informational meetings about important new programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 in October – November 2014 and January 2015.

The meetings focused on the price-loss coverage and agricultural-risk coverage programs that will be administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency, and the supplemental-coverage option administered by USDA's Risk Management Agency through federal crop insurance providers.

MSU Extension explained the new online Farm Bill Decision Tool to assist producers in understanding their options. Bruce Nelson, State Executive Director-Farm Service Agency-Montana, shared several comments about the program, including:

- We learned that partnering with Extension pays off for FSA. By pooling our resources, we not only reach more producers, we do a better job with those we do reach. So, we in FSA look forward to continuing and expanding our partnership in the months and years ahead!
- An enormous amount of credit for our success goes to **Dr. George Haynes**. George did a tremendous

*job helping organize the meetings and the presentations, then hit to road to conduct dozens of presentations across the state. His extensive knowledge of Montana Agriculture, low key humorous manner and Judith Basin roots showed through in his presentations. In addition, George took innumerable calls at all hours from producers seeking help and advice.*

- George and **Dr. Vince Smith** also deserve great recognition for their leadership of the Land Grant University consortium that obtained Farm Bill funding enabling the development of web-based tools tailored to help Montana producers make good program decision for their operations.
- A newcomer to Montana, **Dr. Kate Fuller**, stepped up and made a big contribution. Kate learned quick about Montana on our thousand miles of travel around the state. Like George, she was outstanding with producers during the hands-on computer workshops, responding to their phone calls and in presentations at meetings. We're lucky she came to Montana and is an important part of the future of MSU Extension.



- I also need to mention George's assistant **Keri Hayes** whose excellent organization and logistical work together with my FSA staff led to all those meetings coming off without a hitch.

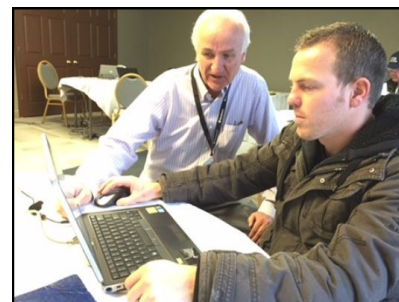
Congratulations George, Kate, Vince, and Keri for a job well done on representing MSU Extension and the State of Montana.



Kate Fuller



Vince Smith



George Haynes, helping a farmer in Great Falls analyze how he might be impacted by different options with the 2014 Farm Bill.

### Farm Bill Website Reaches Numerous Hits

From October 2014 – January 2015 the MSU Extension Farm Bill Website had 4,880 hits and 10,446 page views.

# MSU Extension Update, cont'd.



## Montana Common Law Marriage and Estate Planning



<http://store.msuetension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/mt201408HR.pdf>

*Montana Common Law Marriages and Estate Planning* is the latest MontGuide authored by **Marsha A. Goetting**, Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist.

The publication explores Montana common law marriages from an estate planning perspective.

Topics include: the definition of common law marriage; what establishes a common law marriage; what documentation is necessary for a common law marriage; and what amount the surviving spouse of a common law marriage inherits.



Marsha Goetting

### Missoula Aging Services

**Marsha A. Goetting**, Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist, authored a column for Missoula Aging Services that appeared in the Missoulian, "How property is titled affects transfer at death."

To read article [click here](#)

## Solid Finances 2014-2015

[www.msuetension.org/solidfinances](http://www.msuetension.org/solidfinances)



Solid Finances is an adult financial education webinar series. The goal of Solid Finances is to provide working Montanans high quality, unbiased financial education opportunities.

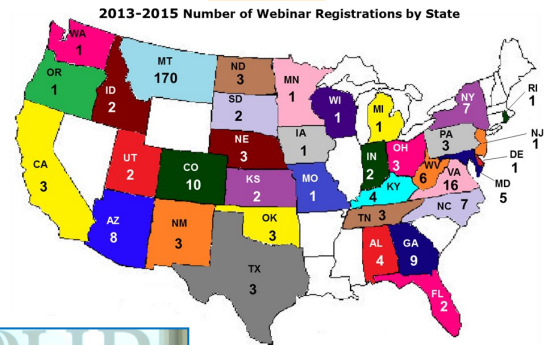
This year's series provide webinars in four general areas:

- Student Loans & Borrowing
- Retirement Income
- Estate Planning
- Investments and Investor Awareness

Presenters included **Joel Schumacher**-Montana State University Extension, **Marsha Goetting**- Montana State University Extension, Carrie Johnson-South Dakota State University Extension, Luke Erickson-University of Idaho Extension and Lynn Egan-

Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance Office.

Individual could participate at their own computer or by attending on the host viewing locations. In addition the real time participation, the recordings of the sessions were viewed over 1,000 times.



Joel Schumacher

# MSU Extension Update, cont'd.



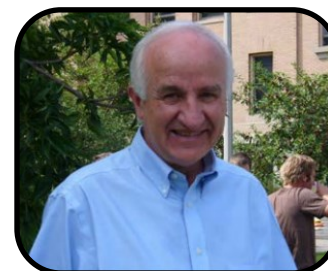
## Farmers Market and Local Food Promotional Program: Grant Writing Workshop

[www.montana.edu/amsta](http://www.montana.edu/amsta)

George Haynes, offered a free Farmers Market and Local Food Promotional Program Grant Writing workshop, in Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula in April.

Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP).

There was a great turnout in Bozeman (10), Billings (5), and Missoula (23).



George Haynes

The Regional Rural Development Centers in cooperation with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) have developed workshop materials and resources focused on improving the funding success rate of applicants to USDA AMS grant programs, specifically the Farmers Market



## Farm Bill Computer Workshops in Reservation Communities

[www.montana.edu/nafarmbill](http://www.montana.edu/nafarmbill)

Montana State University Extension professors, **George Haynes** and **Kate Fuller**, in partnership with USDA Farm Service Agency presented a series of 2014 Farm Bill Computer workshops on seven Montana reservations during February – March 2015.

Those decision tools assisted producers in assessing the FSA's Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, and the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Buy-Up option. In addition to the one-on-one Farm Bill workshops on the reservations, a series of 7 webinars were presented to assist Native American producers on the important new programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014.



George Haynes



Kate Fuller

The meetings offered an educational opportunity to work with MSU Extension economics specialists one-on-one on the 2014 Farm Bill decisions tools.





# Faculty Spotlight

## DAEE Welcomes a Faculty Member, Richard Ready

The DAEE is happy to welcome **Richard Ready** to the faculty. Rich came to MSU in March after having worked at Pennsylvania State University, the Agricultural University of Norway, and the University of Kentucky.

### What brought you to the DAEE?

The short answer is that I was brought here by the Institute on Ecosystems, which supported my position. The IoE is an NSF-funded statewide consortium whose mission is to advance interdisciplinary, integrated research on ecosystem sciences. I am excited about the chance to help build research teams that incorporate both natural scientists and social scientists. Plus, Montana offers a range of exciting research topics including public lands issues, fish and wildlife management, water, and how those could be affected by population growth and climate change. It's a smorgasbord for an environmental economist.

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

A lot of my research has to do with how individuals and households make personal decisions that affect or are affected by the environment – where to live, how to heat your house, what crops to plant, where to go fishing, that sort of thing. By looking at how people make decisions, we can predict how behavior would change if the environment changed, and we can also

figure out what a change in environmental quality would be worth to people. Two specific areas I've been working on lately involve how people would change their behavior in response to climate change and invasive species.

### What led you to study agricultural economics?

My undergraduate degree was in Fishery Science. I studied why fish and fish populations do what they do in response to changes in their habitat, their prey, and their predators. During my senior year, I took a class in fishery policy that included some economics. As a biologist, I was intrigued by the idea that people also respond to stimuli – both economic stimuli (prices, incentives) and non-economic stimuli (their environment). I decided that understanding human behavior was at least as interesting as understanding fish behavior.

### What class are you most looking forward to teaching and why?

I really enjoy teaching Environmental Economics. I like challenging students to recognize the tradeoffs inherent in environmental policy. Every policy decision involves balancing competing objectives and competing interests. Economics may not give definitive answers about how policy should be formulated, but it is awfully useful in posing the questions.

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

My wife and I are avid skiers – both downhill and cross country. We are looking forward to Bozeman's famous "nine months of winter." The winters in Pennsylvania were getting warmer and warmer, and we decided it was time to move. I guess you could call us climate change refugees. We also like hiking and biking and I like whitewater kayaking. I hope to take up fly fishing, and am open to invitations.



Richard Ready



## Other News

### New Classroom Dedication

The CHS Inc. Master Classroom was dedicated on November 7, 2014 during Celebrate Ag weekend. Dr. Glenn Duff (Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture) and Dr. **Gary Brester** (Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics) introduced visitors and guests.

The state-of-the-art classroom was made possible by the generous support of CHS, Inc. CHS, Inc. was represented by Ed Malesich, (CHS Director, Region 2, Montana and Wyoming), and Jessie Headrick (CHS Communications and Community Relations Specialist). Scot Stroh (Think 1, Architectural Design manager) and Dr. Charles Boyer (MSU Vice President for Agriculture) were also in attendance. Lori Cox (previous Director of Business Development,

MSU Alumni Foundation) talked about how the new classroom will empower future students with expanded educational opportunities.

Dr. Carl Igo (Associate Professor in the Division of Agricultural Education) spoke about the remodeling tasks and the difference between teaching in the old versus new classroom. The classroom will be used by the Agricultural Business and Agricultural Education programs as means for connecting students with the larger agribusiness community through advanced audio/visual technologies.



Entrance to CHS New Master Classroom



New classroom style

### College of Letters & Sciences Distinguished Lecture Series

On April 2, Dr. Gordon Dahl presented his research on "Family Violence and Football: The Effect of Unexpected Emotional Cues on Violent Behavior" as part of the College of Letters and Science Distinguished Speakers Series. Dr. Dahl is a professor of economics at the University of California, San Diego whose research interests include labor economics and applied microeconomics.

In his talk, Dr. Dahl discussed his research on the link between family violence and emotional cues associated with wins and losses by professional

football teams. He hypothesized that the risk of violence is affected by the "gain-loss" utility of game outcomes around a rationally expected reference point. Controlling for the pregame point spread and the size of the local viewing audience, upset losses lead to a 10 percent increase in the rate of at-home violence by men against their wives and girlfriends. In contrast, losses when the game was expected to be close have small and insignificant effects. Upset wins (victories when the home team was predicted to lose) also have little impact on violence. The rise in violence after an upset loss is

concentrated in a narrow time window near the end of the game and is larger for more important games. The estimated impact of an upset loss is about one-third as large as the jump in violence on a major holiday like the Fourth of July. From a policy perspective, the results of this study suggest that better awareness and management of expectations could help to reduce violence within families. [Click here](#) to download the paper.

#### New Arrivals in the DAEE

Two DAEE faculty families welcomed newborns into their lives this spring:

Anton and Amy Bekkerman welcomed a son, Nikolai Bekkerman, in March.

Sarah and Joe Janzen welcomed a son, Ruben Janzen, in April.

Congratulations!

## Other News, cont'd.

### DAEE Research Seminar Series

[www.montana.edu/econ/academicresearch.html](http://www.montana.edu/econ/academicresearch.html)

The DAEE has hosted several external speakers this semester:

- Erik Hembre, from the University of Illinois-Chicago discussed "The Price of Homeownership: An Investigation into the Effects of the First-time Homebuyer Tax Credit." He explained how the tax credit incentivized one out of 16 individuals to switch from the rental market to owning their own homes.
- Stacy Dickert-Conlin from Michigan State University presented "Allocating Scarce Organs: How a Change in Supply Affects Transplant Waiting Lists." Her work described an interesting phenomenon: removing motorcycle helmet laws increases the rate of organ donation, specifically for those organs that need to be replaced quickly.

- Gordon Dahl, a professor at the University of California in San Diego, presented his research "Do Politicians Change Public Attitudes?" This research reverses the age old question: how do politicians change to fit public opinion? Instead, he uses data from Sweden, where many parties comprise a small portion of the legislature, to show



Stacey Dickert-Conlin posed for a photo to share with her colleagues at Michigan State (the "other" MSU).

that a new party with a specific platform can change individuals' interests on political issues.

- Jennifer Doleac from the University of Virginia, discussed "Keep the Kids Inside: Juvenile Curfews, Bad Weather, and Urban Gun Violence" Her findings suggest that juvenile curfews are not effective at reducing gun violence and related crimes.
- Hillary Hoynes from the University of California-Berkeley presented "Effective Policy for Reducing Inequality: The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Distribution of Income." The paper examined the effect of the EITC on the employment and income of single mothers with children.

### Congratulations Associate Professors

Congratulations to **Anton Bekkerman**, **Eric Belasco**, and **Greg Gilpin**, who were awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor this year. Well done and well earned!



Gregory Gilpin, Eric Belasco, Anton Bekkerman at the MSU Promotion and Tenure Celebration in April.

## Other News, cont'd.

### Myles Watts: Leader, Scholar, Colleague, and Friend

After 38 years of astonishingly selfless service to the State of Montana, Montana State University, the MSU College of Agriculture, and, perhaps above all, the students and faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, Dr. Myles Watts is retiring from the University. He isn't retiring as an economist: work with the World Bank, service on the Board of Directors of Farmer Mac, and uncountable other obligations will take up much of his time. But he and his wonderful wife, Gayle, will be able to share more time together and with their now grown children, Kimmy and Jade, and their families.



Myles Watts

Dr. Charles Boyer, MSU Vice President for Agriculture asked the following very simple but, at the same time, profoundly difficult question: "How do you describe 38 years of service to our students, the College of Agriculture, MSU, and Montana?" His answer: "Educator, advisor, collaborator, consultant, researcher, scholar, citizen, and friend. Thank you Myles for making a difference in so many ways."

From the very beginning of his career at MSU, to his very last day in the DAEE, Myles has been a scholar, a gifted researcher, an astonishingly generous and kind collaborator, a devoted educator, and a serious but genuinely compassionate administrator.

Myles has had numerous connections with the U.S. Congress, Montana Legislature, World Bank, Farmer Mac, and national and international organizations. He brought those experiences into his research and outreach, and also into the classroom, providing students with important insights in the "real world."

Myles has always believed that every student who comes to the university should be valued, whether they are potential Rhodes Scholars or everyday individuals who have to work hard to obtain a C in Farm and Ranch Management or Managerial Economics. He has never compromised his expectations of students to achieve the standards he sets for them, and those standards have always been high. He would spend hours and hours with any student who needed his help and was willing to work. He and Gayle have also taken care of many students when they were in trouble: in dire financial need, in serious personal distress, facing catastrophic illness, or during tragic events in their lives.

His senior colleagues, all of whom have known him for over a quarter of a century, will also deeply miss Myles. Their words and insights below form a remarkable testament to his career.

*Professor Joe Atwood*

"I have had the honor of knowing and working with Myles for more than 38

years. Myles is a rare individual who has interacted directly with U.S. presidents, international leaders, and multinational industrial leaders, and yet remains humble enough to sit and work one-on-one with freshman students, farmers and ranchers, faculty, and community members. When I think of Myles, one role repeatedly comes to mind: "servant-leader". In both presentations and private discussions, I have repeatedly used Myles as example of servant leadership. Among numerous accomplishments, Myles has been a successful administrator who maintained a world-ranked department. He accomplished this by realizing that a leader's most productive role is not accumulating and/or exercising power over people but rather facilitating and mentoring the work, efforts, and success of those under your supervision and to whom you have a responsibility. I am confident that Myles will continue as a servant leader at the local, state, national, and international level in the future."

*Professor Marsha Goetting*

"In 1987 the President of MSU decreed that all Extension Specialists should be departmentalized. Before I had even had a chance to "consider a home" Myles, as department head, invited me to join the department. He explained that he believed my outreach efforts in the area of estate planning and financial management were a good fit for the department. I quickly learned he had his "ear to the ground" about the needs of Montanans. He supported outreach for all departmental faculty members, not just Extension. He made countless trips to the legislature to educate representatives and senators



# Other News, cont'd.

about pending legislation. Not a year went by without his presenting the economic aspects of a variety of farm programs to producers, legislators, and agency staff. As a department head, he trusted his faculty to do the “right thing right”. His knowledge base about Montana, the legislature, and the “history of MSU” will be missed.”

*Professor George Haynes*

“Occasionally, a very special individual arrives in an academic department with deep personal ties to Montana, with professional acquaintances across the political spectrum in the public and private sectors who generates an outstanding academic record in administration, research, and teaching and who provides unselfish leadership to DAEE and MSU. That’s Myles Watts, the kid from Miles City, MT who has left an indelible mark on MSU. In addition to all that you’ve done for the institution, thanks for all your insightful advice and guidance throughout my career at MSU.”

*Professor Gary Brester*

“Myles has been the ultimate champion for academic achievement,

student education, scholarly research, and outreach education. He has done more to improve the quality of education in the DAEE, the College of Agriculture, and MSU than any other single individual over the past 38 years. In addition, his contributions to the State of Montana have been immeasurable. His decision-making and dedication to improving the quality of education will be greatly missed by the state legislature, government agencies, and, especially, Montana State University.”

*Professor Randy Rucker*

“Myles Watts has been a leader in the DAEE for the past three decades. He has also been a valuable colleague. When he is in town, his door is always open (It is also sometimes open even when he is not around.). Whether the issue I have in mind is related to economic theory, real world markets and institutions, government programs, the inner workings of the university, or political issues related to Montana or the United States, he is always willing to listen, think, and respond. Myles will be sorely missed in this department, and it may be a while before the full extent of his influence on the DAEE and the university is fully appreciated.”

*Professor Vince Smith*

“I came to Montana State University in 1988 because Myles Watts persuaded me that the DAEE would be a place where I could flourish. He was right, in no small part because he took the time and made the effort to ensure that I had the opportunity to build a research program that would be relevant to the state and to policy makers at many levels. Myles also encouraged me to develop new courses in the Honors Program and through the Agriculture in a Global Context initiative, not because they were “creative” or “multidisciplinary, but because he believed students from Winifred, Plentywood, Dutton, Lame Deer, and Circle would benefit from them. As a department head, he always put students, faculty, and support staff first and himself last. As a colleague and fellow researcher, he has simply been “the best.”



Myles is restoring an R tractor, and this painting (Myles’ retirement gift from the faculty and staff of the DAEE) is the view of the Bridgers from his house.



Myles Watts sharing “The State of Economic Education” with Montana TV viewers



Myles Watts in the Ukraine with the Follow the Grain Course 2011



Myles takes oath of office as new director of Farmer Mac Board of Directors