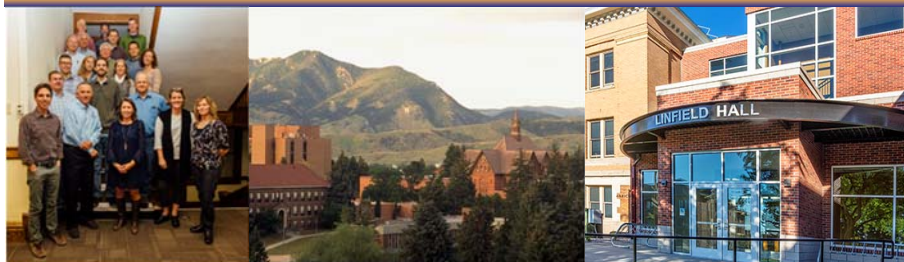


Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics



Spring 2018 Newsletter

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Letter from Department Head

Spring has finally arrived in Bozeman and marks another high-water mark for the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics (DAEE).

In this newsletter, we recognize our students' achievements, milestones, and strides within the department. The DAEE continues to support the fulfillment of MSU's land-grant mission with a focus on resident instruction, meaningful and timely scholarship, and outreach and service in the areas of agriculture business, economics, and financial engineering. The DAEE continues to be recognized for ascribing to the highest academic standards and is dedicated to education which develops human capital.

I am pleased to announce that the Roy E. Huffman Special Collections Library will be dedicated on the Thursday of Ag. Appreciation Weekend, Fall 2018. The department appreciates and recognizes the Huffman's commitment to Agricultural Economics and MSU.

This year our undergraduate students were recognized for their excellence by being awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships through the College of Agriculture. I would like to highlight one of them, Amber Roberts our top graduate who has double major in agricultural business and agricultural education. Amber has a 3.99 GPA, including upper-level electives in mathematics and computer science to prepare her for graduate studies. Not only are Amber's academic achievements impressive, she has done this while providing immense contributions in service, outreach, and leadership to the University and communities around Montana.

Faculty highlights include Dr. Mark Anderson being appointed a *NBER Faculty Research*

Fellow, a top recognition in Economics, Dr. Wendy Stock being appointed as *Associate Editor* of the *Journal of Economic Education*, Dr. Marsha Goetting receiving the *Distinguished Service Award* from MT *Association of Family & Consumer Sciences*, Dr. Isaac Swensen being interviewed by the *American Economic Association* on his research related to school's party culture and sexual violence against women, Dr. Vince Smith being a *Provost's Distinguished Lecturer* this spring and Dr. Mark Anderson was also appointed co-editor of the *Economic Inquiry*.

Teaching highlights include the continual growth in the number of majors and graduates. The DAEE now has approximately 15% more majors than 2015, approximately 100 more! The financial engineering continues to grow and resources have been infused to provide students with the best experience in the Pacific Northwest.

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 spring they had a successful conference on healthcare and supported several research initiatives. This group is pleased to announce that Sir Angus Deaton, Nobel Prize Winner, will be visiting the department in August and providing a public lecture.

Lastly, congratulations to our 47 spring graduates for their hard work and perseverance in achieving their degrees. Job well done!



Greg Gilpin,
Department Head

Greg Gilpin

Student News

Congratulations DAEE Spring 2018 Graduates

Economics

1. Kylar Clifton *
2. Andrea Creel **
3. Christian Hochhalter **
4. Sage Jackson *
5. Holden King
6. Hilary Lemen
7. Daniel Penoyer **
8. Cassidy Reid *
9. Colton Snure
10. Cullan Staack
11. Samuel Vann *
12. Matthew Foley
13. Mitchell Sanford

Agricultural Business

1. Douglas Bosworth
2. Taylor Broyles
3. Colter Darlington
4. McKray Faxon
5. Sloan Fix
6. Thomas Green **
7. Dell Harmon *
8. Johnathan Shane Heiser
9. Katelynn Hess
10. Jack Holzer
11. Trey Kokoruda
12. Rory Lewis
13. Megan Markuson
14. Amber Roberts **
15. Kinsey Schwerts *
16. Logan Staub
17. Susanne Stewart
18. Ryan Tempel *
19. Nick Teselle *
20. Dylan Vasboe
21. Erik Walden

Financial Engineering

1. Samual Caekaert *
2. Elliot Hagan **
3. Thomas Marts **
4. Colton Morgan **
5. Jonathan Samuel
6. Jacob Stanton *
7. Kyle Warner
8. Gavyn Wilson *

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



Graduating Master's Students

1. **Thomas Gumbley**; "Price Relationships in the U.S. Nitrogen Fertilizer Industry"; Committee Chair: **Anton Bekkerman**
2. **Logan Hendrix**; "Long-Term Impacts of Childhood Medicaid Expansions on Crime"; Committee Chair: **Wendy Stock**
3. **Jay Matonte**; "Exposure to Terrorism and Birthweight Outcomes in Nigeria"; Committee Chair: **Brock Smith**
4. **Finn McMichael**; "Estimating Economic Impacts of Tommy John Surgery on Major League Baseball Pitchers"; Committee Chair: **Randy Rucker**
5. **Ericka Refsland**; "The Effect of Marijuana Legalization on Small Bank Competitive Advantages"; Committee Chair: **Joseph Atwood**

Student News

Announcing Outstanding Seniors

Each year the DAEE faculty members choose an outstanding graduate from the graduating seniors in each major. The 2018 outstanding graduates are: Amber Roberts, graduating with a degree in Agricultural Business; Andrea Creel, graduating with a degree in Economics; and Elliot Hagan, graduating with degree in Financial Engineering. We asked each of the students to reflect on their time at MSU.

Amber Roberts:
Agricultural Business



Amber Roberts

What brought you to MSU?

I came to MSU because of their great AG programs and friendliness of faculty. When I had to do research for a speech in high school I reached out to several professors across the country in regards to their research, the professor from MSU not only answered all of my questions, but even offered to let me tour their lab and spend a week in the summer researching with them. That was when I knew that MSU was the right choice for me.

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

I was involved in a variety of different activities at MSU including Ambassador of the MSU College of Agriculture (2015-2017); Agriculture Future of

America (2016-2017), MSU Sustained Dialogue (2015-2017), Toastmasters of MSU (2014-2017), Special Olympics Montana (2007-2017), Boardroom Bobcats (2014-2017), 4-H (2014-2017), Residence Hall Association (2015), Pet-Pawsee (2014-2017), Emerging Leaders Living and Learning Community (2014-2015), Leadership Institute (2014-2018), Montana Ag Summit 2017 Panelist, FFA, Panelist for the 2015 Convocation Masterclass with Rebecca Skloot and the Lacks Family, Day of Student Recognition Selection Committee (2015), Assisted with the 29th Annual Bug Buffet (2017), Economic Peer Leader (2015-2018); Leadership Foundations Teaching Assistant (2016-2018).

What have you enjoyed most about your time at MSU?

I have enjoyed getting to find where my passions and talents intersect. Before coming to MSU, I was unaware that the field of agricultural economics exists and MSU provided me with the opportunity to take a variety of classes in order to discover where both my strengths and passions lies.

What have you enjoyed most about studying Agricultural Business?

I enjoyed the community in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics. I genuinely felt my professors cared about student success and consistently say their willingness to help students in any way they could. I also enjoyed the real life application that many of my classes had and how they challenged me to think about how the topics we were studying could be utilized to benefit challenges that Montana and Montanan agriculturalists face.

What was your favorite class?

This is a tough question! There are several classes that I can think of. Cooperatives with Dr. Haynes grew my passions for cooperatives and I hope to work for an agricultural cooperative in the future. Dr. Bekkerman's Economics of Ag Marketing was a hands-on class that allowed me to apply agricultural economics to analyze a real issue in Montana. Dr. Smith's Special Topics: Clinton and Trump: The Political Election Cycle constantly reminded me of my love for economics and it was so interesting listening to guest lectures share their perspectives on how politics can influence the economy.

What are your post-graduation plans?

Post-graduation I attend the University of Minnesota in the Master's of Agricultural Economics Program. During the summer of 2018 I will work with CROPP cooperative to create a farm leadership development program.

What is your advice for incoming agricultural economics & economics students?

Establish meaningful connections. Many of the opportunities that I have been given at MSU were because someone I knew told me about the opportunity or encouraged me to apply. The connections that you make while at college will not only open up opportunities during your time at MSU, but also after you graduate. Take time to establish those meaningful connections with your peers, professors, college's administrators, and MSU faculty. It is these relations that you form that will truly make the most of your college career.

Student News, cont'd.

Announcing Outstanding Seniors

Andrea Creel:
Economics



Andrea Creel

What brought you to MSU?

I grew up in Bozeman! Originally, I thought I would be going out of state, like a lot of my friends were planning at the time. But, after some great advising from my high school counselor, I realized MSU would be a great fit for me. That being said, I stayed here for very different reasons that is why I am here now! When I started, I declared Mechanical Engineering and was running on MSU's Cross-Country and Track Team.

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

After quitting Cross-Country, I found Backcountry Squatters, formally known as The Women's Outdoor Adventure Club at MSU. Since its beginning in the fall of 2015, it has grown to be MSU's largest club on campus, with over 750 members. Backcountry Squatters is the one of the things I'm most proud of

during my time at MSU, and I hope to return one day to and find it has grown even more!

What have you enjoyed most about your time at MSU?

I have most enjoyed having the freedom to fit into so many different groups. I've found a place that I belong in the Economics Department, the Computer Science Department, Backcountry Squatters, the MSU Freeride skiing club and so much more. I'll be forever thankful that MSU provided a space where I could grow in so many different directions.

What have you enjoyed most about studying economics?

I have fallen in love with research. I love that I've been given the opportunity to do multiple semester-long research projects, with amazing support from my advisors. I cannot wait to continue along this path and see what unanswered questions I can provide insight into!

What was your favorite class?

It is so hard to pick one class! Cost-Ben spurred research I'm still working on, Econometrics made it possible for me to do research, I really enjoyed working on Intermediate Micro's problems sets, and I am honestly just proud I made it through Microeconomic Theory. But in the end, I have to say Introductory Microeconomics with Monique Dutkowsky. Monique inspired me with the questions you can address with economics, and that's the ultimate reason why I switched my major to

Economics. She also took a chance on me and let me begin TAing for her as a freshman, but I think that was an accident on her part!

What are your post-graduation plans?

I have a lot of plans! This coming year I will be applying to graduate schools to continue my education in Economics. In the meantime, I will be working as a journalist for The Prairie Populist writing about Montana's politics, working as a research assistant for Dr. Anderson, hopefully continuing my own research on estimating the non-consumptive value for Grizzly Bears in Montana, and forming a non-profit called The Montana Grizzly Project. There's a lot on my plate, but I am thrilled to move into this next chapter!

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

When you tell Dr. Bekkerman "Wow, I can't believe I'm done with calculus" and he laughs and says "no, you're not," ask him what he means before you leave his office! Otherwise, it will haunt you until you bring it up a year later with Dr. Urban and she'll make sure you take two more semesters of calculus, linear algebra, and a proofs class. And trust me when I say, calculus is a lot harder if you take a year off between classes! But in all honesty, the best advice I can give is take as much math as you can. You will thank yourself later!

Student News, cont'd.

Announcing Outstanding Seniors

Elliot Hagan:
Financial Engineering



Elliot Hagen

What brought you to MSU?

I came to MSU because there were a lot of different majors to choose from, especially in the STEM fields. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I first got to college but the variety of options in these fields really appealed to me. I also enjoy the outdoor activities that the Bozeman area provides.

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

While at MSU I was involved in Residence Life as an RA for two years. Currently I work in Family and Graduate Housing as a front office assistant.

What have you enjoyed most about your time at MSU?

While at MSU the things I've enjoyed most are the friendships I've developed with the people that I worked with and

taken classes with. I've really enjoyed getting to know people from different parts of the country or from outside of the U.S. It's really easy to find people with similar interests and hobbies and to get groups together to do certain things like backpacking and hiking.

What have you enjoyed most about studying financial engineering?

The most enjoyable part of studying financial engineering has been developing different skillsets in order to better understand financial products or economic concepts. Tying together what we learned in our computer science and math classes and applying it to something like option prices really helped develop my understanding of those topics. It also taught me different ways to incorporate various tools when solving problems.

What was your favorite class?

My favorite class was intermediate micro-economics. I really enjoyed learning about the applications of calculus in economics. Most of the problems that we solved in calculus classes didn't seem to have many practical applications, but applying it to economics showed a more interesting application of calculus.

What are your post-graduation plans?

I am planning to work at FAST Enterprises as an implementation consultant.

What is your advice for incoming financial engineering students?

I would recommend that incoming financial engineering students really commit to understanding the fundamental concepts in their calculus, statistics, and computer science classes. Later classes in the curriculum build off of these concepts and having a thorough understanding of the basic concepts makes it a lot easier to understand how and where they can be applied.



Student Awards and Accomplishments

Peer Leadership Students

Completing its seventieth semester, the DAEE Peer Leadership Program, ECNS 105 and ECNS 206, continues to improve learning and retention for ECNS 101 and ECNS 202 students.

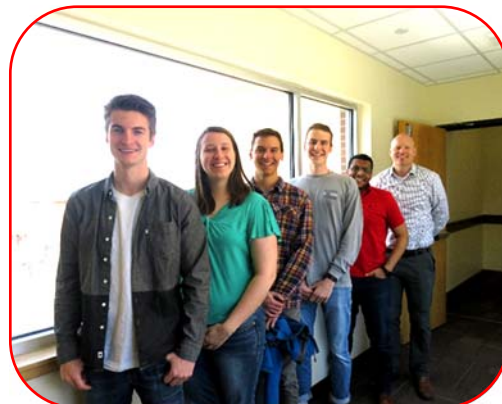
Student peer leaders prepare and deliver a 50 minute class, grade lab homework and answer student questions related to the course material.

They are required to attend weekly meetings to coordinate and discuss teaching techniques.

The student peer leaders are selected through a pool of qualified applicants and mentored by DAEE faculty.



ECNS 105 Peer Leaders: L-R: Katherine Hezel, Keane Stewart (Group Leader), Francis Kawalski, Kenny Evans, Alex Houtz, and Micah McFeely.
Not pictured: Sami Willetts and Dr. Andrew Hill.



ECNS 206 Peer Leaders: L-R: Luke Cardon, Amber Roberts (Group Leader), Dan Penoyer, Peter Pfankuch, Faisal Al-Saad, and Dr. Greg Gilpin

Seven MSU Students Receive Inaugural Cameron Presidential Scholarships

Seven high-achieving Montana State University students have received the inaugural Cameron Presidential Scholarships.

The scholarships for the seven MSU students, as well as three incoming freshmen who will be announced later, were made possible by an endowment made in 2017 by the Cameron Family, according to Ilse-Mari Lee, dean of the MSU Honors College.

The students were selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, demonstrated leadership and exemplary public service. Each recipient of a presidential scholarship, MSU's most prestigious student scholarship, will receive generous

financial support during his or her undergraduate career at MSU if he or she maintains a superior academic standing, she said. All recipients are students in MSU's Honors College.

Two of these students are within the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics.

Taylor Blossom is a junior majoring in chemical engineering, economics and directed interdisciplinary studies.

Micah McFeely is a junior majoring in economics with a minor in statistics.



Top Row: Taylor Blossom, third from the left
Bottom row: Micah McFeely, first from left

Student Awards and Accomplishments, cont'd.

State of Idaho: Truman Award

www.montana.edu/news/17644/two-msu-students-receive-truman-scholarships

Connor Hoffmann of Boise, Idaho, won the Truman award for the state of Idaho. He is among 59 national Truman recipients announced today by the Harry S. Truman Foundation.

In total, 756 American students were nominated by 312 colleges and universities for the award designed to pinpoint and support the country's future leaders. The scholarship is a living memorial to the late U.S. President Harry S. Truman.

Connor is triple majoring in chemical engineering, biological engineering and in

the new directed interdisciplinary studies degree in the Honors College combining biological engineering, economics and political science.



Connor Hoffmann

Connor said he developed a passion for economics as a way of thinking as well as a

lens through which to look at social constructs.

Connor also said the Truman award will help him access a graduate program in which he will study both a law degree and a doctorate in economics, with an eventual career at the intersection of policymaking and science advocacy.

In 2015, the DAEE also had a Truman recipient: Alexander Paterson, an economics major from Salt Lake City who now works for the Truman Foundation.

AAEA Outstanding Thesis Honorable Mention

Savannah Noray, has been selected to receive the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's prestigious Outstanding Master's Thesis **Honorable Mention** for "Male Migration and Family-Related Outcomes." AAEA will honor the award winners at a ceremony on August 6, 2018 in Washington, DC. **Dr. Sarah Janzen** was Savannah's committee chair.

Erma Lessel Collins Senior Award

Amber Roberts, agricultural business senior received the Erma Lessel Collins Senior Award.

Originally the Five Year Speaker Award, this honor is presented to a senior woman based upon leadership, scholarship, and contributions to Montana State University.

It is awarded in honor of Mrs. Collins, the first Woman's Day speaker in 1924.



Amber Roberts receiving her award

Student Awards and Accomplishments, cont'd.

American Statistical Association (ASA) DataFest

The American Statistical Association (ASA) DataFest is a celebration of data in which teams of undergraduates work around the clock to find and share meaning in a large, rich, and complex data set. DataFest was founded at UCLA in 2011, when 30 students gathered for 48 intense hours to analyze five years of arrest records provided by Lt. Thomas Zak of the Los Angeles Police Department.

A key feature of ASA DataFest is that it brings together the data science community. Undergraduate students do the work, but they are assisted by roving consultants who are graduate students, faculty, and industry professionals. Many professionals find ASA DataFest to be a great recruiting opportunity—they get to watch talented undergraduate students work under pressure in a team and examine their thinking processes.



From left to right: Caroline Hardy, Andie Creel, Dan Penoyer, Christian Hochhalter, Haily Gelzer

After two days of intense data wrangling, analysis, and presentation design, each team is allowed a few minutes and no more than two slides to impress a panel of judges. Prizes are given for Best in Show, Best Visualization, and Best Use of External Data.

A few of DAEE students attended DataFest and here is what they have said about this prestigious event: *We played to our strengths and stuck to economics, winning us the "Most Interesting Result" award.*

Dr. Urban, thank you for putting together the beginnings of a super team! We ended up having a great time really getting to know Stata this weekend.

Poster Presentation on Estimating Willingness to Pay for Un-Hunted Yellowstone Grizzly Bears

On April 13 **Andie Creel** was selected to present a poster presentation on her research "Estimating Willingness to Pay for Un-Hunted Yellowstone Grizzly Bears" at the Montana State University Student Research Celebration.

Mark Anderson was her faculty advisor for this project.



Andrea Creel at Student Research Celebration

HerStory of Montana State

Economics major and this past year's Student Vice President of the Associated Students of Montana State University, **Micah McFeely** of Whitefish, presented the *Herstory of Montana State* on Wednesday, March 28th, in conjunction of Celebrate Women's History Month. Event was held in the MSU Alumni Foundation Great Room.

Student Awards and Accomplishments, cont'd.

ECNS 403 Introduction to Econometrics Poster Session
on April 24

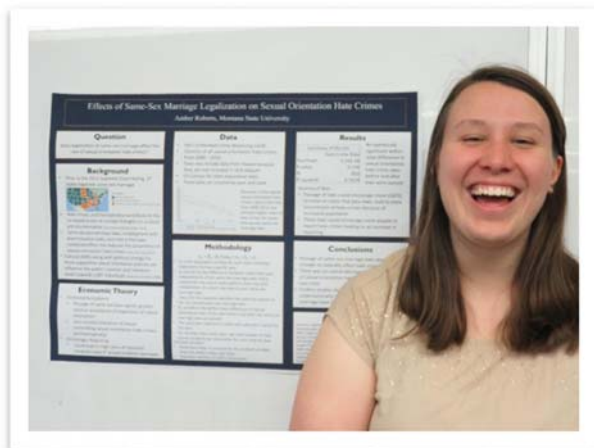
Instructor: Brock Smith



Abdullah Alabduljabbar (Financial Engineering)



Alex Houtz (Economics)



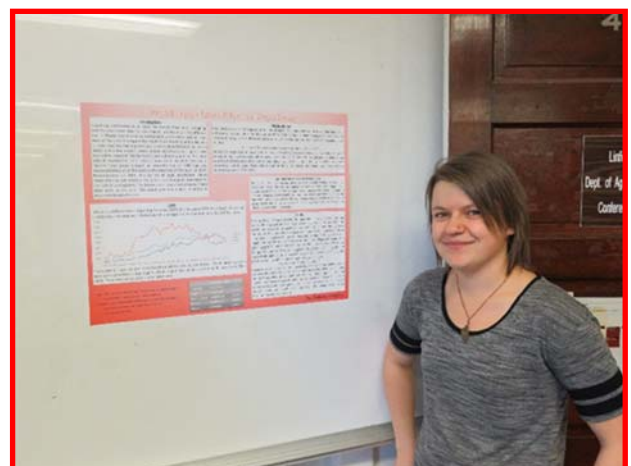
Amber Roberts (Agricultural Business)



Alex Richey (Business Finance)



Cullan Staack (Economics)



Catherine Kuntz (Economics)

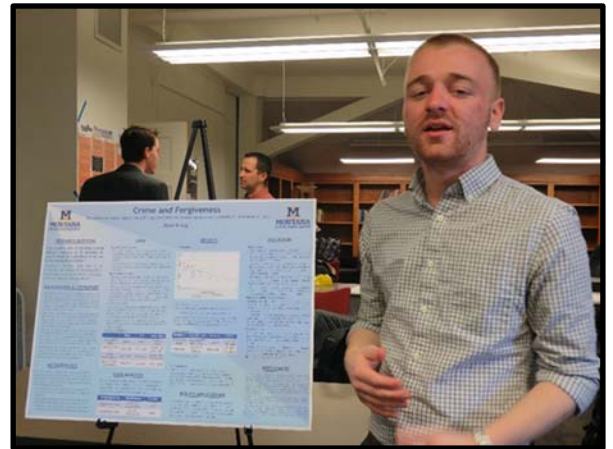
Student Awards and Accomplishments, cont'd.

ECNS 403 Introduction to Econometrics Poster Session on April 24

Instructor: Brock Smith



Hilary Lemen (Economics)



Jesse Knapp (Financial Engineering)



Kenny Evans (Economics)



Lester Johnson IV (Economics)



Zack Wolfe (Economics)

Student Awards and Accomplishments, cont'd.

MSU ASMSU Elections

Taylor Blossom was recently elected as the new ASMSU President for the academic year 2018-2019. Taylor is a student triple majoring in chemical engineering, economics, and directed interdisciplinary studies.

Natalie Hall is a financial engineering student and was elected as one of four ASMSU Engineering Senators.



Taylor Blossom



Natalie Hall

Student Alumni Spotlight

Kevin Ward

The local beer-league hockey team (Old Crush), on which DAEE faculty members **Joe Janzen** and **Anton Bekkerman** play, won the league championship for the second year in a row. The team also includes a DAEE Alumni Student, **Kevin Ward**.

The league is part of the Bozeman Amateur Hockey Association (BAHA). The league is called IVY and runs between late October and late April.

Kevin Ward graduated with highest honors in May 2010. BA in Economics.



Bottom Row: From Left: Anton Bekkerman, Kevin Ward Top Row: 8th from left Joe Janzen

Papers and Publications

The Effects of a Foreclosure Moratorium on Loan Repayment Behaviors

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0166046217300716

Carly Urban's paper "The Effects of a Foreclosure Moratorium on Loan Repayment Behaviors" joint with J. Michael Collins at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is now published in *Regional Science and Urban Economics*.

During the 2008 housing crisis, lenders were accused of making mistakes when repossessing homes, spurring some policymakers to call for a moratorium on foreclosure filings. Comparing borrowers subject to a New Jersey court-ordered stay on

foreclosure-related filings that applied to six high-profile lenders and those that were not, this paper shows that loans impacted by the moratorium are no more likely to be observed as in default as comparable loans not subject to the court order.

Borrowers, and lenders, appear to respond in ways that did not result in the strongly negative effects initially predicted by critics at the time, and this policy may have accomplished the intended consumer protection goals.



Carly Urban

Quantile DEA: Estimating qDEA-alpha Efficiency Estimates with Conventional Linear Programming

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-3-319-68678-3_14

Joe Atwood and Saleem Shaik's (North Dakota State University) paper "Quantile DEA: Estimating qDEA-alpha Efficiency Estimates with Conventional Linear Programming" was published as a book chapter in the book *Productivity and Inequality*. Springer International Publishing. 2018.

DEA is a procedure whereby observed input-output information from groups of firms, agencies, or other organizations is used to construct comparative performance assessments. DEA is increasingly being used in a broad set of applications by firms, researchers, and regulatory organizations examining comparative firm performance and identifying potential firm, agency, or regulatory performance gains.

This paper researches conventional non-parametric linear programming

(LP) based data envelopment analysis (DEA) models have the advantage of being able to estimate multiple input-output efficiency metrics but suffer from sensitivity to outliers and statistical observational noise. Previous observation-deleting approaches to the outlier/noise problem have been somewhat ad hoc usually requiring iterative LP and non-LP problem solving methods.

Dr. Atwood and Dr. Shaik present the theory and methodology of quantile-DEA (qDEA), similar in concept to quantile-regression, which enables the analyst to directly use LP to obtain efficiency metrics while specifying that no more than ψ -percent of data points can lie external to the efficiency hull. Estimated qDEA- α frontiers encompassing proportion $\alpha = 1 - \psi$ of the data observations are contrasted

to order- α frontier estimates.

Quantile DEA is shown to be useful in addressing outliers in a study examining changes in relative state level agricultural efficiency measures over time.



Joe Atwood

Papers and Publications, cont'd.

Where the Money Goes: The Distribution of Crop Insurance and Other Farm Subsidy Payments

www.aei.org/publication/where-the-money-goes-the-distribution-of-crop-insurance-and-other-farm-subsidy-payments

Eric Belasco, Anton Bekkerman, and Vincent Smith published an article titled “Where the Money Goes: The Distribution of Crop Insurance and Other Farm Subsidy Payments” in the January 9, 2018 issue of the *American Enterprise Institute Agricultural Policy in Disarray Reforming the Farm Bill Journal*.

This study examined the distribution of Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program payments and crop insurance subsidy payments among U.S. farms.

It also explained if the objective of cost-effective farm safety-net policies is to ensure a stable food supply by helping all farms manage otherwise volatile revenues, then the current programs do not direct taxpayer funds in ways

that effectively protect farm operations that are most vulnerable to such shocks.

Lastly, it explained the policies capping crop insurance subsidies and ARC and PLC benefits could result in substantial reductions in federal outlays with minimal adverse implications for 90 percent (and in some cases, more) of U.S. farms.



From left to right: Eric Belasco, Vincent Smith, and Anton Bekkerman

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

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775717306635

Andrew Hill published a paper in the *Economics of Education Review* titled “A Teacher Who Knows Me: The Academic Benefits of Repeat Student-Teacher Matches”.

The paper provides new evidence increased student-teacher familiarity improves academic achievement in elementary school.

The paper also observes small but significant test score gains for students assigned to the same teacher for a second time in a higher grade. The

effects are largest for minorities, and there is some evidence that gains are most evident for students with generally less effective teachers.

Overall, the findings indicate that there may be potential low-cost gains from the policy of “looping” in which students and teachers progress through early school grades together.



Andrew Hill

Papers and Publications, cont'd.

Economic Effects and Responses to Changes in Honey Bee Health

www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/88117/err-246.pdf?v=43186

Randy Rucker, with co-authors Peyton Ferrier (USDA-Economic Research Service) and Wally Thurman (North Carolina State University) had their study titled "Economic Effects and Responses to Changes in Honey Bee Health" published as USDA, ERS, *Economic Research Report Number 246* in March of 2018.

Summarizing the paper, since Colony Collapse Disorder appeared in the winter of 2006/2007, winter losses of managed honey bee colonies in the United States have been substantially higher than previously.

This paper explained how elevated losses have raised widespread concerns that agricultural and food supply chains will suffer disruptions as pollination services become less available and more costly.



Randy Rucker

Despite higher winter loss rates, however, U.S. honey bee colony numbers have remained relatively stable. Among major pollinated crops, almond pollination fees have increased substantially while fees for other major crops have not shown a marked increase since 2006. For most crops, the share of farmgate costs attributable to pollination fees is small enough that even substantial increase in those fees would not have noticeable impacts on retail food prices. The paper also discussed adaptation by beekeepers and possibilities for substitution by food processors and consumers.

Does Partisan Affiliation Impact the Distribution of Spending? Evidence from State Governments' Expenditures on Education

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167268117302494

Andrew Hill published a paper in the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* titled "Does partisan affiliation impact the distribution of spending? Evidence from state governments' expenditures on education."

This paper found that Democratic and Republican governors allocate spending differently within their state. In particular, school districts with higher shares of minority students receive larger state transfers under Democratic governors.

This is true regardless of whether the governor is eligible for re-election, and we find no evidence that Democrat governors are simply sending money to areas with a larger share of Democrats.

These results suggest that the observed policy divergence is driven by differences in preferences of elected candidates.



Andrew Hill

Papers and Publications, cont'd.

Was the Public Health Campaign Successful? The Tuberculosis Movement and Its Effect on Mortality

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2931287

Mark Anderson, co authored with Kerwin Charles (University of Chicago), Claudio Las Heras Olivares (Banco de Chile), and Daniel Rees (University of Colorado Denver) had a paper "Was the First Public Health Campaign Successful? The Tuberculosis Movement and Its Effect on Mortality" accepted in the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.

The U.S. tuberculosis movement pioneered many of the strategies of modern public health campaigns. Dedicated to eradicating a specific disease, it was spearheaded by voluntary associations and supported by the sale of Christmas Seals.

Although remarkable in its scope and intensity, the effectiveness of the tuberculosis (TB) movement has not been studied in a systematic fashion. Using newly transcribed mortality data at the municipal level for the period 1900-1917, we explore the effectiveness of public health measures championed by the TB movement, including the establishment of sanatoriums and open-air camps, prohibitions on spitting and the use of common drinking cups, and requirements that local health officials be notified about TB cases by physicians.

The paper suggests that these and other anti-TB measures can explain, at most, only a small portion of the overall decline in pulmonary TB mortality observed during the period under study.



Mark Anderson

Wakandanomics "Black Panther" resists one economic myth but perpetuates another

www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21739796-black-panther-resists-one-economic-myth-perpetuates-another-wakandanomics

Brock Smith submitted an article in *The Economist* on "Black Panther" resists one economic myth but perpetuates another on March 21st 2018.

The source of Wakanda's riches is its "great mound" of vibranium, a versatile ore left behind by a meteor strike, which can absorb sound and motion. Like other deposits of natural treasure, Wakanda's vibranium attracts some vicious intruders. But unlike some other resource-rich countries, Wakanda has never succumbed to outside foes. Comics deal in fantasy and wish fulfillment.

And it is the economic wish of many resource-dependent countries to master the more refined products that lie further along the value chain. In the minds of many policymakers, this is "a logical, natural progression", said Ricardo Hausmann, Bailey Klinger and Robert Lawrence of Harvard University in a 2008 paper. In pursuit of "beneficiation", as it is called, policymakers often impose heavy taxes or even bans on the export of raw, unprocessed minerals.



Brock Smith

MSU Extension Update

MSU Extension Releases New MontGuide About Montana Body Donation Program

Montana State University Extension has released a new MontGuide about the Montana Body Donation Program, which allows professionals and students to study the human body in an anatomy laboratory.

Some common questions answered in the MontGuide include the following:

- How may I assure family members will honor my wish to donate my body?
- What happens if I am also an organ donor?
- Can the MBDP accept a donation that has not been registered before death?

- What is the final disposition of my body after it has been used for anatomical studies?

The MontGuide is co-authored by **Marsha Goetting**, MSU Professor and Family Economics Specialist; Lisa Terry (Stillwater County FCS Agent); Martin Teintz (Director WWAMI; Cassie Cusack (Director of Montana Body Donation Program); and Molly Hopkins (Program Coordinator, Montana Body Donation Program).

The MontGuide can be downloaded at: <http://msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/mt201804HR.pdf>



Marsha Goetting

2018 Economic Outlook Seminars

www.economicoutlookseminar.com

Kate Fuller and **George Haynes** presented the Montana Agricultural Outlook at the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research Economic Outlook Seminars

The seminars take place in nine locations across the state each winter and given an overview the status and outlook of various sectors in Montana's economy, reaching over 1,000 attendees.

This year's focus was the future of higher education in Montana.



Kate Fuller



George Haynes



A packed house at the Outlook Seminar in Missoula

MSU Extension Update, cont'd.

Farm Management Workshops in Five Communities Across the State

Montana State University Extension offered Farm Management workshops in five communities, including Lewistown, Ronan, Choteau, Great Falls, and Glasgow from January to March 2018. Extension Economists, **George Haynes, Kate Fuller, and Joel Schumacher** lead the workshops. Other contributing faculty members were **Anton Bekkerman, Joseph Janzen, Gary Brester, and Eric Belasco**. Participation in this workshop also satisfied the requirements for Farm Service Agency production and financial management training.

Workshops were scheduled for two days.

Topics included financial analysis and enterprise budgeting, risk management, marketing of grain and cattle, disaster assistance and tax considerations, agricultural policy issues, estate planning and crop and livestock production.



George Haynes presenting "Family Business Issues" in Lewistown

New MontGuide: Livestock Brands in Montana: An Important Component of an Estate Plan

The focus of this MontGuide is to examine brand ownership from an estate planning perspective. Under Montana law, a person may NOT brand his/her livestock unless the brand is recorded with the Brands Enforcement Division. The recording process begins by obtaining an ***Application of Brand Recording***.

Brand Owners are encouraged to be sure they know exactly how their brand is recorded with the Department of Livestock.

Co-authors of the MontGuide include: **Marsha Goetting**,



MSU Professor and Family Economics Specialist; Kristen Juras, University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law; Elin Kittleman, Fallon-Carter Extension Agent; Keri Hayes, MSU Publications Assistant and Leslie Doely, Administrator, Brands Enforcement Division, Montana Department of Livestock.

This MontGuide can be downloaded at:
<http://msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT201805HR.pdf>



Marsha Goetting

Estate Planning Presentations

Marsha Goetting, MSU Professor and Family Economics Specialist, presented over 70 classes on Estate Planning and had 1,840 participants throughout Montana during 2017.

Faculty Spotlights

Joe and Sarah Janzen: An Interview & Farewell

What brought you to Montana State University?

Sarah: During our initial on-campus interviews we felt very much at home here. The department was supportive and collegial, the faculty seemed genuinely interested in our research, and the Bozeman community and the Bridgers were the icing on the cake. As a dual career couple looking for two academic jobs, we felt very fortunate to be offered two tenure-track positions in a place we were excited to call home.

Joe: We both saw a young, growing department with lots of research and teaching activity. For me, the department had traditional strengths in agricultural economics and a clear mission to serve the state through research and outreach. I've very much enjoyed making some contribution to that mission.

What are your most favorite things about MSU and Bozeman?

MSU favorites - the faculty, staff, grad students and undergrads of the DAEE. People are what makes the university a vital and exciting place to work. Bozeman favorites - skiing, fly fishing, trail running, hiking, camping, being outside.

Where are you moving to and what type of work will each of you be doing?

Sarah: We have both accepted faculty positions at Kansas State University in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Our day-to-day work will look similar to what we do at MSU. One big difference is that K-State has a PhD program, so we'll be advising PhD students. We anticipate that mentoring PhD students will be both challenging and rewarding, and it's something we

think will help keep us sharp. I will continue working on ongoing research projects in Kenya and Nepal. I'm looking forward to joining several faculty members at K-State who are also engaged in international research. I'll also be teaching less, which will give me more time for research travel, data collection, and number crunching.

Joe: Much like my time at MSU, I'll be conducting research on agricultural markets and teaching in the undergraduate and graduate Agricultural Economics programs at K-State, including my class in Commodity Futures and Options. Kansas is the nation's biggest wheat growing state (and Montana is third) so I'll continue my work on price discovery in world wheat markets.

Both of you have been involved with students and student organizations. How have they inspired you?

Joe: We've really loved working with students here at MSU. Undergraduate classes in the DAEE are small enough that faculty can really get to know all of their students and many students are involved in student organizations, clubs, and events. Similarly, the MS in Applied Economics program is small enough that faculty can offer focused research mentorship to individual students. Both Sarah and I have had the pleasure of working closely with motivated graduate students, and it is very rewarding to see them graduate and go out into the world to pursue their own dreams.

Sarah: We're really fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with truly exceptional students. Over the past five years here I've met some of the most talented and bright young students through my advisory role with Engineers Without Borders. It has been a privilege to see their passion to better understand

the complexities of international development work and their desire to leave a lasting and meaningful impact.

What will you miss the most about MSU and Bozeman?

Sarah: The people and the mountains. MSU has been a great place to launch our careers, and we sincerely appreciate the support we've received from the other faculty in the DAEE during the past five years. We've learned a lot from the people here, and we are truly grateful for the friendship and mentorship.

Joe: I'm also very thankful for the people we've met at MSU. I hope we've contributed to the department in proportion to what we've received. We'll truly miss being in Bozeman. Although the Flint Hills around Manhattan (the location of K-State) are quite nice, Kansas isn't known for its mountain peaks or fly fishing, so you're likely to see us visiting often.



The Janzen Family

Outreach and Presentations

College of Letters and Science Advisory Council

The College of Letters and Science Advisory Council requested that DAEE representatives attend their April 20 meeting, highlighting the research being conducted in the department.

- **Greg Gilpin** gave an overview of the department.
- **Diane Charlton** and **Isaac Swensen** each presented their current research.
- Graduate student **Tom Gumbley** and undergraduate students

Megan Brence (AgBus), **Andie Creel** (ECON), and **Thomas Marts** (EFin) were all selected to present their research projects.



Greg Gilpin



Isaac Swensen



Diane Charlton

Early Midwifery Law Presentations

Mark Anderson will be presenting "The Effect of Occupational Licensing on Consumer Welfare: Early Midwifery Laws and Maternal Mortality" at the College of William and Mary and at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Annual Public Choice Conference-Charleston, SC

Carly Urban presented "Do Local House Prices Affect Campaign Contributions," joint with Rebecca Lessem of Carnegie Mellon University at the Annual Public Choice Conference in Charleston, SC.

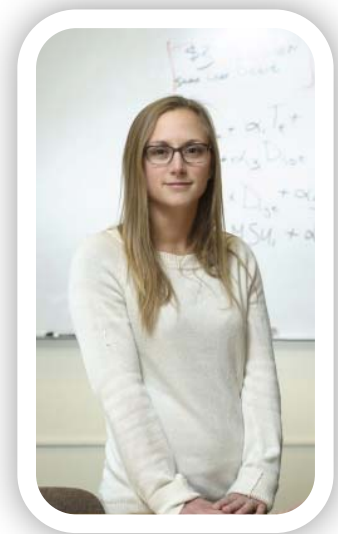
With over \$1.4 billion in contributions to the 2016 presidential campaigns, few realize that roughly 74% of campaign funding is from individual-level contributions.

However, understanding how economic factors affect these contributions remains largely unexplored.

The data was used from the 1992-2016 Presidential and Congressional elections to determine the effects of changing house prices on

contributions. The results suggested that rising house prices generate additional contributions to Democratic (but not Republican) candidates.

This comes from an increase in donations in areas with rising prices and relatively more renters, suggesting that increased housing costs encourages these donations.



Carly Urban

Outreach and Presentations, cont'd.

Cattle Outlook and Risk Management Presentations

Eric Belasco provided cattle outlook presentations on risk management and cattle markets at the:

- 102nd annual Montana Farmer's Union convention held in Great Falls (November 2017)
- 23rd annual Herdsmanship School Meeting in Phillipsburg (January 2018)
- Judith Basin County Stockgrowers Association Meeting in Stanford (January 2018).

Recently Eric also spoke at the annual Montana Agricultural Bankers conference held in Bozeman (April) where he discussed the future landscape of risk management and the role financial engineers could play in designing new safety net and insurance programs for farmers and ranchers.



Eric Belasco

SCC - 76 Conference

Eric Belasco presented "Understanding Crop Insurance Barriers for Organic and Diversified Farms" at the SCC-76 annual conference on the Economics and Management of Risk in Agriculture and Natural Resources, held in Kansas City, MO. His presentation was based on findings from a national survey that he collaborated in developing and distributing, as part of a USDA-funded grant to better understand risk management practices among organic and diversified farms and how those strategies relate to farm management decisions.

MSU College of Letters and Science Rising Stars Research Roundup

www.montana.edu/news/17606

Isaac Swensen, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, presented "Understanding the link between college party culture and sexual assault" at the MSU College of Letters and Sciences Rising Stars Research Roundup on Monday, April 9 at the Museum of the Rockies.

The presentation discussed to what extent do events that intensify partying increase sexual assault among college-aged individuals? Swenson will discuss his research on the effects of Division 1 football games—which intensify partying

among college students—on the incidence of rape.



Isaac Swensen

Outreach and Presentations, cont'd.

Bobcat Birthday Bash

The Bobcat Birthday Bash was February 16th and 17th, celebrating MSU's 125th Anniversary. One of the events during this weekend was the Innovation Road Show where invited faculty did a 10 minute presentation.

Vince Smith presented "Economics in the Policy Process: How an Economist Has Fun!" and **Anton Bekkerman** presented "I love Economics. Here's Why."



College of Letters and Science Distinguished Speakers Series

The DAEE sponsored the College of Letters and Science Distinguished Speakers Series on April 26.

Brian Knight, professor of economics in the Department of Economics at Brown University, presented "How Do Voters Cope with Media Bias?" as apart of this series.

The media has become increasingly biased in its coverage of politics. Drawing upon evidence from three different continents, Dr. Knight will argue that voters are surprisingly sophisticated in responding to media bias. In the United States, readers account for the editorial slant of newspapers when presented with endorsements of candidates in Presidential elections.

In Italy, television viewers re-sort across news pro-



Brian Knight

grams following a shift in the ideological position of the main public channel. And, in Venezuela, television viewership responds quickly to the airing of government propaganda.

By discounting biased information and changing media consumption patterns, these voter responses significantly limit the political influence of media bias and government propaganda. Brian Knight is a professor of economics at Brown

University and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He previously worked as an economist in the Division of Research and Statistics at the Federal Reserve Board and has held visiting faculty positions at Yale University and Harvard University. He received his Ph.D. in 2000 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his B.S. in 1992 from Miami University.

On April 27 Brian Knight also presented an Academic Research Seminar for the DAEE titled "Reducing Frictions in College Admissions: Evidence from the Common Application".

Oral Presentation in Halifax, Canada

In the fall of 2017 **Andrew Hill** presented "Paying for Whose Performance? Teacher Incentive Pay and the Black-White Achievement Gap" in Halifax, Canada.

This presentation discussed teacher performance pay increases and the black-white achievement gap. This is especially true in classrooms where a majority of students are white. We

hypothesize that this may be caused by teachers responding to performance pay by allocating additional effort towards the students they (rightly or wrongly) perceive as being more likely to increase their test scores.



Andrew Hill

Outreach and Presentations, cont'd.

Academic Research Seminars—Spring 2018

Throughout the academic year research seminars are held with presentations by faculty from MSU and other universities and research institutions. The Spring 2018 seminars were:

- February 2:** Jonathon Smith, George State University; Title: "SAT AT Retaking and Inequality in College Enrollment" (co-authors Joshua Goodman-Harvard University, Oded Gurantz-College Board) (Host: Carly Urban)
- March 5:** Nick Magnan, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Georgia; Title: "Information, Technology, and Market Rewards: Incentivizing Aflatoxin Control in Ghana" (Host: Sarah Janzen)
- March 7:** John Loomis, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University; Title: "Do fuel treatments reduce wildfire suppression costs and property damages? Analysis of suppression costs and property damages in U.S. National Forests" (Host: Richard Ready)
- March 26:** Dale Manning, Colorado State University; Title: "Effects of Severance Tax on Economic Activity: Evidence from the Oil Sector" (Host: Diane Charlton)
- April 27:** Brian Knight, Brown University; Title: Reducing Frictions in College Admissions: Evidence from the Common Application" (Host: Carly Urban)



Interview with American Economic Association

In the January issue of the "American Economic Journal: Applied Economics", Montana State University professor **Isaac Swensen** and his co-authors Jason Lindo and Peter Siminski consider the extent to which a school's party culture increases sexual violence against women. Every day seems to bring new revelations of sexual assault against women.

The nation's reckoning with this issue, sparked by an avalanche of accusations against powerful men, has compelled many of us to

rethink our understanding of assault and the cultural attitudes and behaviors that are behind it.

Perhaps nowhere has the discussion been more heated than on college campuses, which for years have struggled to prevent these attacks and also create policies to hold offenders accountable.

Their interview focused on a particularly festive day on many college campuses in the fall — football game day.

To listen to the interview:

www.aeaweb.org/research/campus-sexual-assault-isaac-swensen-interview



Isaac Swensen

Association for Education Finances & Policy

Andrew Hill presented at the Association for Education Finances & Policy Annual Conference in Portland, OR on March 13 – 17, 2018. This presentation investigated the effect of school closing on teacher labor market outcomes and teacher effectiveness.

Outreach and Presentations, cont'd.

Featured in Multiple Segments Regarding Recent Trade Deal Between Montana Stockgrowers and JD.com

Eric Belasco was featured in multiple segments regarding the recent trade deal between Montana Stockgrowers Association and JD.com

- *ABC Fox News: Chinese Beef Deal Includes Montana Slaughterhouses:* Feed lots and slaughterhouses are few and far between in Montana, but that could change as Chinese investor JD.com pledges \$100 million to build a local processing facility. This is part of a deal announced Wednesday between JD.com, Senator Steve Daines and Montana beef producers. The deal is huge for Montana's economy, as it is expected to increase our state's beef exports by 40%. But ag experts say building large-scale local slaughterhouses has its pros and cons. MSU associate professor of agriculture economics, Eric Belasco, specializes in livestock marketing. His reaction to China's commitment to buying at least \$200 million of Montana beef wasn't one of surprise. "I think it's a great thing for the future," Belasco said. "I think it's something that the Montana Stockgrowers Association recognizes as important going forward and Senator Daines has really been on the forefront of pushing that deal as well." www.abcfoxmontana.com/story/36810839/chinese-beef-deal-includes-montana-slaughterhouse
- *Civil Eats: Can a Chinese Mega-Retailer Make a Killing of Montana Beef:* Montana is a cowboy state. Full of dramatic, pristine landscapes and seemingly endless open space, its residents point

proudly to the fact that the ultra-rural state has more cows than people. Cattle have long been grazed in the high elevation sagebrush grasslands, which are known to provide the animals with more protein than other grasses. But these days, aside from a few high profile grassfed beef producers, the vast majority of the state's cattle get shipped to feedlots in the Midwest, where they get fattened on grains, slaughtered, and sold into the conventional market. Elsewhere, large meat processing plants are staffed mostly by migrant laborers and Eric Belasco, an agricultural economist at Montana State University and one of the authors of the slaughterhouse feasibility study, thinks this plant probably would, too. In other words, the overall impact on the state's unemployment rate—which is slightly lower than the national average at 4 percent—would probably be fairly small.

However, in the feasibility study, Eric estimated that every dollar from meat sold by a slaughterhouse of this size would generate \$0.48 of extra economic activity in the community. Once it's up and running, it could add more than \$300 million each year to the local economy. For a small town, that's a big number. <https://civileats.com/2018/01/23/can-a-chinese-mega-retailer-make-a-killing-off-montana-beef/>

- *Northern Ag Network News: How the JD.com Deal Could Boost the U.S. Pulse and Barley Sectors.* The AgEconMT.com team has

written and chatted about the recent agreement between the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and the Chinese retailer JD.com to supply Montana-branded beef to Chinese consumers. Despite the tremendous promise this agreement provides to the economic development of Montana's cattle industry, there are also significant uncertainties about whether there exists a sufficient infrastructure for finishing and processing cattle in Montana to meet the increased local demand. Dr. Belasco noted the northern Great Plains region currently has a comparative disadvantage in both producing traditional feed components (corn and soybeans) and processing fed cattle. <http://northernag.net/AGNews/AgNewsStories/TabId/657/ArtMID/2927/ArticleID/8819/How-the-JDcom-Deal-Could-Boost-the-US-Pulse-and-Barley-Sectors.aspx>



Eric Belasco

Outreach and Presentations, cont'd.

Provost's Distinguished Lecture Series

Montana State University faculty members deliver lectures throughout the academic year as part of the University's Annual Provost's Distinguished Lecturer Series.

The series, which is free and open to the public, recognizes outstanding MSU faculty for their scholarship and leadership.

Faculty presenting during the series will reflect on the inspirations for their work in lectures suited for professionals and lay people alike.

Vincent Smith was invited to present on April 17 as part of this series. His presentation focused on world hunger and the policy process.

The title of his presentation was "Food Aid and the Farm Bill: The Role of Economics and the Policy Process."

Vince's talk was based in part on a book chapter he co-authored last year, "U.S. Agricultural Policy: Impacts on Domestic and International Food Security," and a paper he co-authored based on reforming food aid cargo

preference that's under review with the journal of *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*.



Vincent Smith

San Diego University Presentation

Carly Urban presented her work "The Effects of Financial Education on Student Financial Aid Choices," joint with **Chris Stoddard**, at San Diego State University.

Faculty Awards and Accomplishments

NBER Research Fellow

Mark Anderson recently was appointed a NBER Faculty Research Fellow.

Mark was one of three economists in the U.S. this year to be appointed to the Health Economics group. The NBER is organized around twenty research programs, each of which consists of scholars whose expertise relates to a common core topic.

The NBER is the nation's leading non-profit economic research organization. Twenty-seven Nobel Prize winners in Economics and thirteen past chairs of the President's Council of Economic Advisers have held NBER affiliations. Founded in 1920, the NBER is a

private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to conducting economic research and to disseminating research findings among academics, public policy makers, and business professionals.

NBER-affiliated researchers study a wide range of topics and they employ many different methods in their work. Key focus areas include developing new statistical measurements, estimating quantitative models of economic behavior, and analyzing the effects of public policies.

"This is truly well-deserved recognition for Mark's outstanding scholarship," said DAEE Department Head **Gregory Gilpin**.



Mark Anderson

Faculty Awards and Accomplishments, cont'd.

Associate Editor of Journal of Economic Education

Wendy Stock has been appointed as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Economic Education*.

The *Journal of Economic Education* publishes original peer-reviewed articles focused on research related to economics pedagogy.

Research in the journal includes studies analyzing the effectiveness of teaching methods and materials,

applications of general economics research findings in teaching economics, presentation of exemplary material for interactive and online economics teaching, and research on events that influence academic economists (the economics labor market, the status of women and minorities in economics, and developments within graduate and undergraduate programs).



Wendy Stock

**Co-Director
for *Journal
of Economic
Inquiry***

Mark Anderson has accepted a position as a co-editor for the journal *Economic Inquiry*

2018 Distinguished Service Award from Montana Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

Congratulations to Marsha Goetting for receiving the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the Montana Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

This award is in recognition for her work in legacy planning and educational presentations across the state.



Marsha Goetting



Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis News

Research and Publications

Distribution of Crop Insurance Subsidies and Government Program Payment across U.S.

A forthcoming paper in the journal *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* authored by IRAEA research fellows **Anton Bekkerman** and **Eric Belasco** as well as the Initiative's co-director **Vincent Smith** evaluates the distribution of payments from major 2014 farm bill safety net programs—Federal Crop Insurance, Agricultural Risk Coverage, and Price Loss Coverage—across farm size.



From left to right: Anton Bekkerman, Eric Belasco, and Vincent Smith

Results indicate that farms within the top decile for crop sales receive over two-thirds of the payments from these programs. Recent legislative proposals to implement payment caps on each farm are shown to impact a relatively

small percentage of farms that are almost entirely within the top decile of crop sales. However, implementing these caps is likely to result in as much as \$2.51 billion in taxpayer savings.

The study suggests the caps help provide direction for continued efforts to design cost-effective, equitable agricultural safety net policies.

Self-Related Health and Endogenous Selection into Primary Care

IRAEA long-term visiting economics and finance scholar, **Firat Bilgel**, of Turkey's Okan University, co-authored in February a book chapter in *Social Science & Medicine* titled, "Self-Rated Health and Endogenous Selection into Primary Care." The study assesses the causal effects of primary care utilization on subjective health status in Turkey using individual-level data from the 2012 Health Research Survey.



Visiting Scholar, Firat Bilgel of Turkey's Okan University

Employing recursive bivariate ordered models that take into account the possibility that selection into healthcare might be correlated with the respondent's self-reported health status, the authors find that selection into primary care is endogenously determined and that the utilization of primary care significantly improves self-rated health after controlling for sociodemographic, socioeconomic

status, health behaviors and risk factors, and access to healthcare.

The study shows that the causal association between healthcare utilization and health status is robust to the use of objective measures of health and specific types of care, suggesting

that the use of a single-item question on self-rated health and binary measures of preventive care utilization is valid.

Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis News, cont'd

Research and Publications

College Party Culture and Sexual Assault

A paper co-authored by Montana State University economics professor and IRAEA research fellow **Isaac Swensen** finds game days at top college football programs are associated with a 28 percent increase in reports of rape from college-age women.



In addition to the findings, the paper offers recommendations for policymakers to consider and conclude that it will be important for future research to consider the degree to which game day-specific policies, such as elimination of tailgating and alcohol sales inside football stadiums, reduce incidences of rape.

The study, which focused on 96 U.S. colleges and universities with NCAA Division 1 football programs, examined the relationship between campus party culture and sexual assault. It found rape reports in the vicinity of those colleges surge 41 percent above average on the day of home football games, while reports of rape increase

15 percent when there are away games.

Published in the January issue of the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, "College Party Culture and Sexual Assault" considers the extent to which a school's party culture increases sexual violence against women.

Substance Abuse Treatment Centers and Local Crime

In January, the *Journal of Urban Economics* published a paper co-authored by MSU economics professor and IRAEA research fellow **Isaac Swensen** titled, "Substance Abuse Treatment Centers and Local Crime."

The paper estimates the effects of expanding access to substance-abuse treatment on local crime by using an identification strategy that leverages variation driven by substance-abuse-treatment facility openings and closings measured at the county level.

The results indicate that substance-abuse-treatment facilities reduce both violent and financially motivated crimes in an area, and that the effects are

particularly pronounced for relatively serious crimes. The effects on homicides are documented in two sources of homicide data and are concentrated in highly populated areas.



Isaac Swensen

Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis News, cont'd.

Student Spotlight

IRAEA Supports Graduate Student to Present Thesis at Premiere Public Policy Conference

Logan Hendrix, a Montana State University applied economics master's degree candidate presented his thesis research about long-term impacts of childhood Medicaid expansions on crime at one of the nation's premier gatherings concerning public policy.

Hendrix's paper, "Long-Term Impacts of Childhood Medicaid Expansions on Crime," which he defended to his committee on April 13, was accepted to be part of the 2018 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management's Regional Student Conference in Claremont, California, on March 9-10.

APPAM is a research association dedicated to improving public policy

and management by fostering excellence in research, analysis and education. It's also the publisher of the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, a peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journal that's ranked among the top three journals in public administration and top 25 economics journals.

Hendrix's thesis explores the relationship between children's health insurance eligibility and their propensity for criminal activity later in life.

Logan, a graduate student advised by **Wendy Stock** in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, was awarded funding by the Initiative

for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis to travel to and attend the conference.



Logan Hendrix, MSU applied economics master's degree candidate presented his thesis paper at the 2018 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management's Regional Student Conference.

Other News

IRAEA Welcomes Six-Short Term Visiting Scholars Over the Summer

IRAEA will host six distinguished visiting scholars for short-term visits over the summer semester:

- Jeremy Goh, associate professor of finance, Singapore Management University, will work with Lisa Yang and Gary Caton (Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship): "Are Credit Ratings Informative? Evidence from Regulatory Regime Changes."
- Dominic Parker, Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, will work with **Randal Rucker** (DAEE): "Market Regulation and Artificial Input: Taxicab Medallion System."
- Dan Rees, economics professor, University of Colorado-Denver, will work with **Mark Anderson** (DAEE), to assess the effectiveness of regulations and policies intended to combat infectious diseases at the turn of the 20th century.
- Jason Lindo, Department of Economics, Texas A&M University, will work with **Isaac Swensen** (DAEE), to host a workshop titled, "Economic Perspectives on Reproductive Health Policies."
- Michael McCullough and Lynn Hamilton, of the Agricultural Business Department at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, will work with **Gary Brester** (DAEE): "A Decade of Change: Evolving Costs of Regulatory Compliance in the Produce Industry."

The scholars will work with several MSU faculty members and present findings from their cutting edge research to students and faculty.

IRAEA welcomes proposals from MSU faculty members interested in hosting visiting scholars for short-term visits. Proposals should include a description of the proposed scholar's 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. Please contact Wendy Stock (wstock@montana.edu) or Vincent Smith (vsmith@montana.edu) for more information.

Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis News, cont'd.

Other News

Healthcare Policy Conference

Healthcare was the focus during the second annual policy conference hosted on April 5-6 by the MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis.

"Healthcare at a Crossroads: Where Do We Go from Here?" brought together nationally recognized healthcare policy scholars, as well as local experts and providers, to discuss consumer-centric models of care, evolving federal healthcare policy, integrating mental and physical care, promoting community health, ensuring care for aging and vulnerable populations and maintaining a robust health care workforce.

A keynote lecture featuring James Capretta of the American Enterprise Institute was held on April 5 in Linfield Hall, Room 125. The conference and keynote were free and open to the public. About 70 people attended each

event, gaining a deeper understanding of healthcare challenges and the potential effects of policies and regulations designed to address them.

Speakers included Stephen Parente of the University of Minnesota; David Auerbach of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission; Arnold Epstein of the Harvard School of Public Health; Lucy Liu of Oliver Wyman; Angela Beck of the University of Michigan Behavioral Health Workforce Research Center; Claire Brindis of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco; Karen Donelan of the Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital; Jay Bhattacharya of the Center on the Demography and Economics of Health and Aging at Stanford University; and Jon Skinner of Dartmouth College.



Conference audience members listen to conference presenters discuss the U.S. healthcare system and the potential effects of policies and regulations designed to address them.

If you missed the conference and keynote lecture, you may access videos and presenters' PowerPoint presentations at:

montana.edu/regecon/healthcarepolicyconference



Claire Brindis, director of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California-San Francisco, spoke about enhancing behavioral health integration as well as promoting community health.



Session one presenters (left to right) Bryce Ward of the MT Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Lucy Liu, of Oliver Wyman's Health and Life Sciences, and David Auerbach, of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission, answer audience questions.



James Capretta, resident fellow and Milton Friedman Chair of the American Enterprise Institute, gave the conference keynote lecture titled "Making Competition in the Healthcare Sector Work: What Would It Take?"

Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis News, cont'd.

Other News

IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program Provides Research Opportunities for Six Students During Spring Semester, Request for Proposals Open for Summer and Fall

www.montana.edu/regecon/undergraduate_research_scholars.html



IRAEA Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 undergraduate scholarship recipients gather at a luncheon to discuss and share their IRAEA-funded research projects. From left to right: Carolyn Egervary, Faisal Al-Saad, Joseph Lazarus, Emma Folkerts; and Athena Erickson

The MSU IRAEA is pleased to announce the spring 2018 Undergraduate Research Scholars. Six students from a wide range of disciplines were selected for the spring Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program, which supports student participation in faculty-led research projects that address issues relevant to the IRAEA mission. Applications must be prepared by a tenured/tenure-track member on behalf of the undergraduate student.

Research scholarships provide funding for undergraduate students from a wide range of disciplines to participate in faculty-led research projects that address issues relevant to the initiative's mission.

Spring 2018 Undergraduate Research Scholars include:

- **Carolyn Egervary** (biological sciences, pre-med, 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."

- **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."
- **Dominick Faith** (cell biology and neuroscience) under the direction of **Blake Wiedenheft** (Dept. of Microbiology) and **Eric Belasco** (DAEE): "Developing Bio-based treatments for Scours with regard to FDA policy that governs these treatment strategies."
- **Emma Folkerts** (economics, political science) under the direction of **Wendy Stock** (DAEE): "Human Trafficking: The Impact of Policy on Identification and Prosecution."

- **Alex Houtz** (economics) under the direction of **Isaac Swensen** (DAEE): "Can Domestic Violence Victim Screening Reduce Domestic Violence?"
- **Ryan Trefethen** (financial engineering) under the direction of **Vincent Smith** (DAEE): "Impacts of Medicaid Reform in Montana."

Requests for proposals for summer and fall 2018 undergraduate research scholarships are currently being solicited. Contact Wendy Stock (wstock@montana.edu) for more information.

Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis News, cont'd.

Other News

Research Grants Available

The MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis is pleased to announce the third annual **requests for proposals** for its **Research Grants Program**. The proposal deadline is May 15, 2018.

These 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.

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



Undergraduate research scholarships available for summer and fall semesters

Requests for proposals for summer and fall 2018 undergraduate research scholarships are being solicited.

IRAEA funds research scholarships for undergraduate students from a wide-range 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.

Contact Wendy Stock (wstock@montana.edu) for more information.

Support Available for Visiting Scholars

IRAEA is seeking applications for the 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 Visiting Scholar Program. Job postings can be found at www.montana.edu/regecon/visiting_scholars.

The MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis' visiting scholars program provides support for visiting scholars to conduct research with MSU faculty and students and present seminars or

workshops related to the research. Long-term support is available for faculty during the summer or for those on sabbatical during the academic year. Short-term support is available for visits of two weeks or less, either during summer or during the academic year.

MSU faculty members in any discipline who are interested in hosting visiting scholars should contact Wendy Stock (wstock@montana.edu) or Vince Smith

(vsmith@montana.edu) for more information.



Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis News, cont'd.

Other News

Research Fellowships Available

www.montana.edu/regecon/documents/2018rfps/Research%20Fellows%20RFP%202018%202020.pdf

Research Fellowships requests for proposals for 2018-2020 are open. The proposal deadline is May 15, 2018.

Research Fellowships are available for MSU faculty members to conduct research projects related to regulation and policy. Fellows produce 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, and participate in workshops and conferences organized by the research fellows.

Appointments are for a two-year period, with the potential for renewal.

For more information go to: www.montana.edu/regecon/researchfellows

Save the Date! Sir Angus Deaton August 29, 2018

Please join us August 29, 2018, for a public lecture featuring Sir Angus Deaton.

The lecture will be held in the Strand Union Building, Ballroom A, beginning at 7 p.m.

Deaton is a 2015 Nobel Prize Recipient in Economics and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of Economics and International Affairs Emeritus at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Economics Department at Princeton University.

Visit www.montana.edu/regecon for more information.



Sir Angus Deaton

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



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