What's Happening in AERS

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

University of Idaho

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A Note from Dr. Van Tassell

As many of you know, I recently interviewed for the department head position at the University of Nebraska and I have accepted their offer. It is with great reluctance that I do this as I have been very blessed to have served in this department over the past 11 years. I have enjoyed the great times we have had. I feel good things are ahead for the UI. After 11 years as department head, I have been contemplating what is next and have finally decided upon this path.

I leave you in excellent hands with Dr. Larry Makus serving as the interim department head during the transition. Most of you know Dr. Makus. He brings experience and a great commitment to the University of Idaho, CALS, and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. The department is fortunate to have the strong leadership skills Dr. Makus processes. I look forward to our continued personal and professional associations. I wish you the best as you continue your pursuit of excellence.

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Fall 2010 New Agribusiness Club Officers are:

Alec Oliver – President

Clark Gill – Vice President

Carolyn Sonnen- Secretary

Valerie Pantone - Treasurer

December B.S. graduate, **Tricia Crump,** has been named Miss Rodeo Idaho 2011. Tricia will serve as a rodeo ambassador throughout the nation. Receiving a $2,500 scholastic scholarship, she plans to pursue an advanced degree and become an agricultural lobbyist. Read more in the 7/28 *Idaho Statesman*.

Awards

Pictured from the April 19 CALS Spring Banquet is **Robb Steinke**, a Distinguished Alumni Award winner. Robb (1984) is a solid supporter of the department and is one of our Advisory Board members. Not present at the banquet but also honored for an Alumni Achievement Award was our alumni **Travis Jones** (1999, 2002).

Publications

Assiseh, F., **S. Devadoss**, **Y. Bolotova**, **J. Foltz**, and **R. Haggerty**. "Factors Influencing Growth of Dairy Product Manufacturing in the United States," International Food and Agribusiness Management Review, 13(2) 2010:1-16.

Bolotova, Y., **K. Muthusamy**, **Christopher S. McIntosh**, and **P.E. Patterson**. 2010. Is Stabilization of Potato Price and Supply Effective? Empirical Evidence from Idaho. Forthcoming , *Agribusiness: An International Journal* 26:2, 177-201.

Devadoss, S., and **J. Bayham**. "Contributions of U.S. Crop Subsidies to Biofuel and Related Markets." Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, 42(4) 2010

Aaron J. Johnson, Clay C. Dibrell, and Eric Hansen. 2009. Market Orientation, Innovativeness, and Performance of Food Companies. *Journal of Agribusiness* 27, 1/2 (Spring/Fall 2009): 85-106.

Saito, Y., and **Christopher S. McIntosh**. 2010. "The Economic Value of Auditing and Its Effectiveness in Public School Operations" Forthcoming *Contemporary Accounting Research.*

Whitworth, J. L., P. B. Hamm, and **Christopher S. McIntosh**. 2010. Effect of Potato Virus Y on Yield of a Clonal Selection of Russet Norkotah. Forthcoming *American Journal of Potato Research*.

AERS Seminars

Most recent AERS seminars presented include:

- **Gleyn E Bledsoe,** Adjunct Faculty, presented research projects related to regulatory and market driven agri-products, including identification, standards, product traceability, waste usage and disposal, and alternative energy systems. April 2
- **Joe Guenthner**, AERS faculty, talked about his USDA Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer project in"Working with a Potato Growers Cooperative in Ntcheu, Malawi, Africa." April 30

Seminars focus on current issues being analyzed in AERS, present the research process, and provide an opportunity for faculty, students, and agribusiness leaders to interact. Please join us!

* Seminars are connected off-campus through Adobe Connection

Presentations

April

Chris McIntosh presented "The Economic Value of Auditing and Its Effectiveness in Public School Operations" to Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. in April.

June

Joe Guenthner (presenter), **Aaron Johnson**, **Chris McIntosh** and **Elliot Toevs**. "An identity preservation system for processing GM potatoes." International Potato Processing & Storage Convention, June 22-24. Edinburgh, Scotland.

SSRU Has a Great View!

Stephanie Kane & Barbara Foltz

Every year, the College of Business and Economics hosts the Vandal Innovation and Enterprise Works business plan competition. This year, the competition was opened up to units or individuals at UI who wished to enter an intrapreneurship plan for either revenue enhancement or expense control at the University. **Stephanie Kane**, Project Manager, and **Barbara Foltz**, Unit Manager, wrote a business plan for the Social Science Research Unit for the next two fiscal years that outlined how they intended to grow and generate more revenue for the University. The SSRU has shown steady growth in the number of projects and revenue generated over the past three years, and future growth will depend on strategic investments in capacity, including both expanding the existing call center and adding staff. Well done, SSRU!

478 Capstone Presentations

Agribusiness seniors enrolled in the Advanced Agribusiness Management class (AGEC 478) presented their final reports to representatives from the participating companies.

- Heath Barns (VP of Marketing) and Bill Newbry (CEO) of *Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative* heard the presentation on value added pulse flour from seniors **Whitney Plant, Jake Gisler, Alex Vigil,** and **Sylvan La Cross**.
- Bill Newbry (CEO) was joined by Kyle Renton (Seed/Agronomy Manager), John Kromm (Seed Plant Manager), Jerry Mraz (field staff), Mike DeVoe (field staff), and Jay Rubin (SRT foreman and field staff) from *Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative* heard students R**yan Huibregtse, Pete Koompin, Melissa Obermeyer, Cheyenne Williams,** and **Katy Wunsch** present their report on how GM wheat will impact Palouse agriculture.
- Edward Hawkins (CEO), Kelly Prior (CFO), Bill Hawkins (Commodities Buyer), and Doug Hawkins (Corporate Category Manager) from *Litehouse Foods* heard from two teams. The first team of **Suzy Allen, Whitney Jemmett, Kendrick Knehans,** and **Dustin Kreger** reported on what it would take to bolster a dairy industry in Northern Idaho. The second team of **Layne Dustin, Casey Newumeyer, Mac Reynolds,** and **Katrina Anderson** presented ideas on what Litehouse could do with their production waste stream.
- Finally, Pete Johnstone (Chairman of the Board, President, General Manager), Andrew Fontaine (Sales Manager), and Steve Druffel (past Procurement Manager) from *Spokane Seed Company* heard about supply procurement ideas from the student team of Lo**ren Benjamin, Jessica Davenport, Shea Nesbitt,** and **Derek Wanders**.

The students worked with their sponsoring company to define the scope and deliverables of their project. Then, they worked with their coaches (instructor team of **Aaron Johnson, Larry Makus** and **TA Elliott Toevs**) throughout the semester to address the problem. This partnership allowed the students to have real world experiences and several teachable moments throughout their work. It also allowed the companies an opportunity to think through their problems and hear potential solutions.

The class and UI are truly appreciative of the contributions these companies made to our students' education. The department recruits companies interested in participating in the class throughout the year. Companies interested in participating in future classes can contact Aaron Johnson at aaronj@uidaho.edu or 208.885.5489.

Awards

Jude Bayham, recent MS Graduate pursuing a PhD at WSU, has received a number of awards recently. Jude's major professor was **Stephen Devadoss**.

- Jude's master's thesis has been selected the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's Outstanding Master's Thesis-Honorable Mention Award and the WAEA Thesis Award (Honorable Mention) for A General Equilibrium Analysis of Biofuel Market Policies, formally present this award to Jude at the 2010 AAEA, CAES, & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting to be held in Denver from July 25–27.

- Selected as the 2010 Masters Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award recipient. Jude and Dr. Devadoss were invited to the Excellence Awards Banquet April 20, Moscow, ID.

- Selected to receive the Gamma Sigma Delta Award this spring.

And while these may be July awards, they were also at the recent WAEA and AAEA meetings in Denver and are being mentioned here. Expect to see them more fully cited in the next quarterly.

- **Steven Devadoss** was honored as a Distinguished Scholar by the WAEA and was involved in three posters and one selected paper.

- **Levan Elbakidze** was involved in two posters with two of our graduate students.

- **Aaron Johnson** presented a poster and was a discussant in a session on sustainability.

- **Chris McIntosh** was honored as the Outstanding Teacher (over 10 years experience) by the WAEA.

- **Phil Watson** and **Steven Cooke** had a Selected Paper that Phil presented.

- **Larry Van Tassell** is President elect of the WAEA and gave the Presidential Address to the WAEA.

Stephen Devadoss was selected as one of the regional US Dept of Food and Ag Sciences Excellence in Teaching Awards recipients, to receive the award at the APLU meetings in Dallas, TX in November.

Commencement

May saw a number of our students receive diplomas. We congratulate all as they go off to new jobs, new academic programs, and new life settings. We have enjoyed working with them through courses, internships, projects, activities, competitions, and the day-to-day moments.

Bachelor of Science:
Agribusiness / Agricultural Economics

Loren Benjamin	**Melissa Obermeyer**
Jessica Davenport	**Whitney Plant**
Jacob Gisler	**William Reynolds**
Whitney Jemmett	**Alex Vigil**
Pete Koompin	**Derek Wanders**
Sylvan La Cross	**Kathleen Wunsch**
Guthrie Newell	

Pictured above from the April 19 CALS Spring Banquet are **Dr. Van Tassell** presenting awards to **Whitney Plant** *(left)* and **Elliott Toevs** *(right)*. Whitney received the WAEA Outstanding Senior Award; Elliot received the AERS Outstanding Graduate Student Award. With **Dr. John Foltz** is **Victoria Seever** *(center)* receiving the Outstanding Staff Award.

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If you have information you would like to include in our next newsletter please contact the editor, Victoria Seever at the address to the left, or

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We're on the web:

http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/aers

Noteworthy News

The Agribusiness Club

The Agribusiness Club Golf Scramble was held May 1 at the Elk's Club Golf course in less than ideal weather. It was a memorable experience we will be talking about in the future. See participants and prize winners below. Sponsors were: *Farm Credit, Vern Eide,* and *Primeland* who sponsored holes; and *Idaho Dairymen* who sponsored the longest drive; prizes were donated by *Pea and Lentil Council, Farm Credit,* and *Spence Hardware.* We want to express our sincere appreciation to our sponsors and all that participated.

We had 6 teams with a total of 23 people, the winning teams (tied for first place) were Steve Kaufman, Phil Kaufman, Justin Green, Zack Wolf, and the other was Craig Jackson, John Borgenson, J.C. Oliver and Alec Oliver with a score of 37. The losing team was Trevor DeVore, Dustin Dixon, Brice Starr, and Grant Pynes with a score of 49.

◊ Larry Makus & Aaron Johnson, Club Advisors

SSRU

The SSRU recently completed working with a project, Watershed Health in the Tri-State Region, which is designed to help land owners in decision-making for best management practices and conservation. The project documents and analyzes community-level impacts of the dairy industry in southern Idaho; it also determines the general public perception and compares rural and urban difference. The grant funding source is USDA Conservation Effectiveness Assessment Program for Rangelands to WSU and UI.

◊ Stephanie Kane, Project Manager