

What's Happening in AERS

Department of Agricultural
Economics and Rural Sociology

University of Idaho

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A Note from Dr. Roheim



The Moscow campus is an entirely different place when the academic year ends – the hallways are certainly quieter without the students! We had a terrific 2012-13 academic year. This newsletter highlights our spring semester graduating seniors, with an in-depth interview with Jordan Jacobs, AERS' Outstanding Senior. Check out the section reporting on the presentations made by students

in the capstone course, AgEc 478. As usual, they did a great job working with Northwest companies to solve real world agribusiness problems.

The CALS Spring Banquet honored our excellent students and staff. This year one of our alumni and AERS Advisory Board member, Ron Cegnar '67 and '69, was awarded the CALS Distinguished Alumni Award for his exceptional career. In addition, faculty members Dr. Larry Makus and Dr. Stephen Devadoss were also recipients of national advising and teaching awards, respectively. Congratulations to all of the awardees!

I am pleased to announce the addition of a new member to our AERS Advisory Board, Ms. Brenda Richards. Ms. Richards is a livestock producer who lives in Owhyee County. Among other things, she has served on the Boise District Resource Advisory Committee and the Public Lands Council. We're lucky to have her on board and very much appreciate our dedicated AERS Advisory Board.

I hope you all enjoy the newsletter, and your summer!

Cathy

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2013 CALS Awards Banquet



Pictured above: John Maxwell and Dr. Cathy Roheim

Pictured below: Travis Chase and Dr. Cathy Roheim

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' (CALS) Awards Banquet was held on Monday, April 29, and was a huge success. Students, faculty, staff and alumni were all able to mingle and eat a prime rib dinner provided by many sponsors of CALS.

Many AERS students, faculty and staff were recognized at the CALS Awards Banquet this year.

Travis Chase was the winner of the 2012 Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) Outstanding Senior Award.

John Maxwell was recognized as the AERS Outstanding Graduate Student.

Kate Painter was recognized for her nomination as the University of Idaho Excellent Staff Award.



AERS nominated several excellent candidates for the other CALS awards and we would like to congratulate all of you on being our nominees. These include: **Joe Guenther**, Outstanding Teacher; **Aaron Johnson**, Outstanding Academic Advisor; **Chris Darby**, Outstanding Office Support; **Margarita Contreras**, Outstanding Freshman; **Ray Mossman**, Outstanding Sophomore; **Evan Dixon**, Outstanding Junior; **Jordan Jacobs**, Outstanding Senior.

AERS Alumni Recognized at CALS Banquet



Pictured above: Interim President Don Burnett and Ron Cegnar

AERS Alumni, Ron Cegnar, received the CALS Distinguished Alumni Award at the CALS Banquet in April. Ron graduated from AERS first in 1967 with his B.S. in AgBusiness and Ag Economics, and then in 1969 with his M.S. in the same field. He showed leadership potential even back then, serving as President of the Ag Economics Club! Ron is a great supporter of the AERS Department and is a current member of the AERS advisory board.

Congratulations Ron!

Awards



Dr. Larry Makus was awarded as one of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Outstanding Advisers! He won in the Faculty Adviser category for all his work with AERS Students. He will receive his award this summer. Congratula-

tions Dr. Makus!



Dr. Stephen Devadoss, recently was selected as Teacher Fellow by the Association of North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA). This national award recognizes "those individuals whose efforts represent the very best in agricultural higher education." He will be presented this award at the ceremony of the NACTA Association's conference. Con-

gratulations Dr. Devadoss!

Awards (continued)



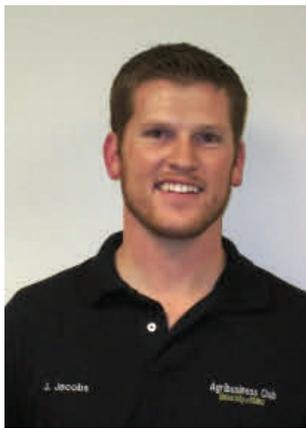
John Maxwell, AERS graduate student, on his recent award in the April 23 U of I Annual Innovation Showcase!

In this competition, University of Idaho students and student teams demonstrated their exceptional skill, confidence and knowledge. Judges selected as award winners the following students and student teams from among the 84 participants.

John competed in the Graduate Disciplinary Presentations category, and was awarded third place for his presentation on evaluating the power of goals, groups and incentives in poverty alleviation in developing countries. Professor Phil Watson is his major professor.

Congratulations, John!

AERS Graduate moves on



My name is Jordan Jacobs, and my major is Agri-Business with a minor in Landscape Architecture.

After Graduation I will become a Relationship (Credit) Analyst for Rabo Agri-Finance (RAF) in Richland, Washington. Following the introductory new employee training in St. Louis, I will be living in the Tri-Cities with my wife.

The job will entail the analysis of financial statements for potential borrowers of RAF. I will look over financial statements and when necessary meet clients and answer their questions. I will work under the guidance and direction of a Relationship Manager or Loan Officer trying to ensure that the loans and money which we offer to customers will help the farmers and ranchers to succeed and enjoy their way of life, farming and ranching with the financial assistance from Rabo. I look forward to learning from the agricultural producers and processors as well as team members of Rabo. The thing I hope to be most rewarding is developing relationships with the customers who are the heart of America's food production, as well as the men and women who help feed the world. I look forward to being part of a team focused on strengthening businesses and making things grow. I think I will look forward to the learning experiences and friendships I will develop most.

My favorite thing about the AERS Department? Well it depends, I am not sure whether to say that my favorite thing is the helpful and knowledgeable faculty or the fun and friendly fellow students. I have really enjoyed being in AERS since 2011 and finding that the professors and administrative support staff are so supportive. They have time for students and often have their doors open for questions or just to talk and be a friend. I also like that the faculty generally don't use big college words in general conversation and allow you to feel comfortable talking to them and asking questions. The classes with the friendly students are also fun. I have really been grateful to have students sitting next to me in every class who are willing to help with notes and questions. The academic experience here at University of Idaho AERS is excellent, the small classes, quality instruction and students wanting to learn have given me a greater base of knowledge to approach a career with. I like that there are ways to get involved in this college with great leadership staff. Opportunities like the Corn Maze, Golf Scramble and Clubs are all fun ways which I have met friends and faculty.

My most beneficial experience at University of Idaho has been gaining a greater understanding of how to work with people from a variety of backgrounds, majors and areas of interest. I have found the economic theory and general business principles helpful to my knowledge of how the world of Agricultural Business works. The most beneficial life take away from the University of Idaho is the ability to study, learn and organize my ideas.

My bit of advice for underclassmen... Get to know the professors, they are not scary, they are people with a lot of knowledge. Create a plan for school and work with your advisor to continue to further your education while completing your degree. Be friendly and enjoy the easy-going life of a University Student while it lasts, make friends and study together. Try skiing while here in Idaho as well as the potatoes. Go Vandals!

Student Capstone Course Presentations

Students in the Advanced Agribusiness Management class (AGEC 478) worked all semester with sponsoring companies are the following projects:

- Neil Goeckner (Owner) and Matt Beckman from Pioneer Enterprises listened to seniors Michael Claiborn, Tanner Hinderer, Dillon Laan and Blas Lord present their analysis of market segmentation for agricultural lime suppliers.
- Art McIntosh (owner) and Doug McIntosh (owner) from Harvest Ridge Organics listened to seniors Mark Goddard, Hannah Hallock, Shelbie Lincoln, and Kenneth Pete present their market strategy for local, organic, integrated flour company.
- Meg Carlson (President and CEO) and Cygnia Rapp (Founder & Chief Science Officer) from Prosperity Organic Foods listened to seniors Evan Dixon, Dillon Greiner, and Daniel Ropp present their procurement plan for ingredients to organic buttery spread.
- Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency asked seniors Adam Daggs, Sarah Ebert, Jordan Jacobs, and Xiaoyu Lang to investigate the market feasibility for hothouse produce in Sandpoint, Idaho.

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 and Larry Makus) 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. Interested companies should contact Aaron Johnson at aaronj@uidaho.edu or 208.885.5489.

AERS Endowments and Scholarships

"Thanks to all the alumni and friends who have supported the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (AERS). Your gifts make it possible to fund scholarships, professional development and experiential opportunities for our students. Every gift makes a difference and is sincerely appreciated." — Cathy Roheim

Endowments and Scholarships

Described below are individual funds that have been established to support AERS activities. You can contribute any time by mailing a check payable to *University of Idaho Foundation, Inc.*, 875 Perimeter Drive MS 443147, Moscow, ID 83844-3147. Please include to which scholarship or endowment you would like your donation designated. You may also contribute online at the UI Gift Website: www.uidaho.edu/give.

Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Alumni Scholarship: Scholarship contributed to by alumni and friends. Supports full-time undergraduate students of any class standing seeking a degree in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics. AERS department faculty focus awards based upon academic achievement and leadership potential.

Dennis J. Conley Award for Excellence in Agricultural Economics Endowment: Awarded to an undergraduate student, a group of students, a professor, a group of professors, or to the Dept. of Ag Econ & Rural Sociology at the UI. Recognizing or promoting Excellence in Ag Economics shall be the primary consideration.

If you are interested in establishing your own scholarship or endowment, please contact Kim O'Neill at 425-359-2411 or kimoneill@uidaho.edu.

Professor Selected for Association Leadership Role



Congratulations to **Professor Aaron Johnson**, who was selected as chair elect of the Teaching, Learning and Communication (TLC) section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) for 2014. Aaron is an associate professor in agribusiness management in AERS.

His teaching responsibilities include the seniors' Capstone, sales and entrepreneurial skills, courses. With a desire to constantly improve his teaching and the

students' learning experience, Aaron has pushed experiential learning in every course. For example, Aaron helps students tie together previous educational experiences through a combination of class discussions and hands on projects with real agribusinesses in the senior capstone course. In addition to teaching responsibilities, Aaron conducts research in new venture creation, business management, marketing and sales, and contributes to regional agribusiness executive training programs. Johnson received his degrees in agribusiness management from Purdue University.

Aaron says, "TLC has been a great resource for improving teaching skills in and outside of the classroom. I have learned new teaching styles, how learning occurs, and supporting technology through TLC's various activities. However, the greatest value has come from contacts I have made through these programs"

Meetings and Trips

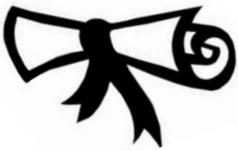
C Wilson Gray recently attended the Extension Risk Management Education Conference and Pre-Conference in Denver on April 2-4. This biennial conference featured 3 keynote presentations, over 40 hours of individual concurrent session presentations, a networking reception which included a poster session, and a pre-conference seminar. A true highlight was the presentation by Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, Emeritus Professor from K-state. More information and the proceedings are available at <http://www.extensionrme.org/conferences/2013/default.aspx>.



Spring Department Seminars

Joe Guenther gave a seminar titled "Potato Storage in Kenya: A Farmer-to-Farmer Extension Project" on April 12.

Dustin L Pendell of Colorado State University gave a seminar titled "Economic Impact of Alternative FMD Emergency Vaccination Strategies in the United States" on April 26



May 2013 Graduates

The following students graduated from the AERS Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology on May 11, 2013:

B.S. Degree in Agricultural Economics with listed major:

Amanda Joan Cayler, Agricultural Economics
 Michael Thomas Claiborn, Agribusiness
 Mark Paul Goddard, Agribusiness
 Christian Tanner Hinderer, Agribusiness
 Jordan David Jacobs, Agribusiness
 Shelbie Lincoln, Agribusiness
 Ryan Jay Nichols, Agribusiness
 Julie Michele Obermeyer, Agribusiness
 Kenneth Wayne Pete, Agribusiness
 Tyler J. Zollinger, Agribusiness

M.S. Degree in Applied Economics with listed emphasis:

Amy Jean Hilland, Applied Economics
 Ashley Rae McClain, Agricultural Economics
 Elizabeth Anne Sieverkropp, Agribusiness

Publications

Elbakidze, L., R. M. Nayga Jr., H. Li, **C. McIntosh.** “Value Elicitation for Multiple Quantities of a Quasi-Public Good Using Open Ended Choice Experiments and Uniform Price Auctions.” Accepted at *Agricultural Economics*.

Elbakidze, L., and K. Cobourn. “Economic Foundation for the Interdisciplinary Modeling of Water Resources under Climate Change” Forthcoming at the *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education*, 2013



Grants Received

Elbakidze, L., G. Taylor, L. Baranyk, R.D. Schmidt, T. Soltaninejad. “Dynamic modeling of rule curve reservoir operations under stochastic climate conditions” USGS, \$13,933

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If you have information you would like to include in our next newsletter please contact the editor, Jessica Reynolds, at our new mailing address to the left or at reyn1344@vandals.uidaho.edu

We're on the Web!
www.uidaho.edu/cals/aers



Don't forget to "like" our
Facebook page!

Agribusiness Club

The new officers for the 2013-2014 school year are:

President: Anna Rodriguez
Vice President: Katie Vandenberg
Secretary: Heidi Jamison
Treasurer: Mark Nebeker



Pictured above: Mark, Anna, Katie, Heidi

Congratulations to these students !

Collegiate Farm Bureau

The new officers for the 2013-2014 school year are:

President: Tara Stubbers
Vice President: Kirk Ramsey
Secretary: Katelyn Steinkamp
Treasurer: Sam Emmert
Reporter: Nicola Elliot

AgSAC Reps:
Tyler Cenarussa
Anna Pratt

Congratulations to these students!