Summer is over, and school is back in session! As we enjoy the last few weeks of warm weather, I look forward to when the leaves start changing colors and falling. These trees will have an opportunity to grow new leaves just like we have the opportunity to start this school year off right. What will you do to make this school year beneficial?

Dear Friends of AERS:

Fall semester is in full swing, and all kinds of great things are happening in the AERS! Inside this newsletter you’ll see how our students are participating in national competitions—and placing near the top—against students from the largest land grant universities across the country. These events are some of the many exciting experiential learning opportunities AERS provides our students, and we couldn’t do that without the financial support of friends like you. Thank you!

I’m pleased to be back in Moscow, after spending time on leave last semester in Norway. I had a wonderful experience. On behalf of everyone in the department, thanks to Dr. Chris McIntosh for serving as Acting Department Head in my absence. AERS was in capable hands!

There have been some changes in the department over the summer. First, we congratulate Professor Paul Patterson on his retirement! Well deserved, after a long dedicated career to the Idaho agricultural industry. We also welcome Ben Eborn as our new Area Extension Educator, located in SE Idaho. He is a terrific asset to this department and college. We are, however, sad to have lost Dr. Levan Elbakidze, who accepted a faculty position at another university, and Dr. Kate Painter, who joined UI Extension as an extension educator in Bonner County. Thank you to both for all you did to help make this department great, and best of luck in your new positions!

I hope you have a wonderful fall season!

Cathy

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**Upcoming Seminars:**

- Jay Coggins: 10/9
- Jason Winfree: 10/23
- Cathy Durham: 10/30
- Jon Miller: 11/6
- Marin Bozic: 11/13
- Eric Stuen: 12/4
AERS STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ST. PAUL

Over the summer, three AERS students had the opportunity to travel to St. Paul, MN to participate in the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) Student Case Study Competition. The team consisted of Abby Biedenbach (B.S. Agricultural Economics, B.S. AVS: Dairy Option, & B.S. Mathematics: Statistics Option), Travis Chase (B.S. Agribusiness & B.S. Soil Science) and Elijah Kosse (M.S. Applied Economics). Dr. Ekaterina Vorotnikova was the team advisor and coach. For the competition, teams were given four hours to analyze a specific scenario, generate their recommendations, and construct a presentation, followed by a twenty minute consultation to a panel of judges. The case study focused on Monsanto’s acquisition of The Climate Corporation and developing a plan to leverage the established strengths of both companies as they moved forward.

This was the first time that any of the three students participated in a case study competition, and they found it an enriching experience. Though the Vandal team performed well, they failed to advance to the final round of competition. Twenty teams, representing universities from Africa, Europe, North & South America, and Oceana participated.

While in Minnesota, the Vandal students also had the opportunity to tour the Global Headquarters of CHS, Inc. This included a private meeting with company leaders from Capital, Hedging, Grain Marketing, Human Resources, and Public Affairs departments to overview their operations and highlight emerging opportunities with the company. It was an eye-opening experience and a great highlight of the trip.

The student participants would like to express deep appreciation to Dr. Vorotnikova for her coaching and guidance, as well as the numerous AERS and CALS faculty, staff, and supporters that helped to make this trip possible.

Travel funding was provided by donations from the CHS Foundation and Co-Bank.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR WINFREE ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MILAN, ITALY

The international Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) held its 29th annual conference in Milan, Italy last summer from Aug. 9-14. Agricultural Economists from all over the world attended the conference including AERS own, Assistant Professor Jason Winfree.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together ideas and discuss global issues like production, development, resources and consumer preferences.

Winfree presented a research paper at the conference discussing Geographic Label Indicators (GI). While there was a lot to learn at the conference, Winfree enjoyed learning about various issues regarding consumer preferences. He explained that going to conferences like this one will help him be on the cutting edge of current issues in agriculture. He can use this knowledge to teach his students how to apply economic principles to these current issues. Winfree said that his favorite part was exploring the city and experiencing the great Italian food.
This summer, four students from the AERS department competed in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association’s Academic Bowl Competition.

The team, consisting of Abby Biedenbach, Travis Chase, and Brett Wilder advanced to the semi-finals and took 3rd place beating out 32 teams including prestigious schools like Arkansas, Texas A&M, Florida State, and Kentucky.

The contest is simple: teams of three compete head-to-head in an eight category, jeopardy-style game. At the end of 15 minutes, or when all the questions are exhausted, the team with the highest score wins. In the case of a tie, teams enter into an eight question “lightning round” where all questions are random and worth the same amount of points.

The question categories are microeconomics, macroeconomics, agribusiness/finance, resource/policy economics, marketing, management, and potpourri (trivia). Heidi Jamison also competed on a composite team.

Being at the conference itself was a great opportunity to interact and network with students and faculty from other universities and see current research. In addition, the conference was held in San Francisco, CA and students who attended had the opportunity to see the town before diving into the competition.

Next year’s conference will be held in Boston, MA

We would like to thank Dr. Jason Winfree, and the numerous other AERS faculty and staff who have supported our team in and out of the classroom.

Funding for the students’ travel was made possible through the Dennis Conley Award for Excellence in Agricultural Economics.

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Awards Banquet was held last April and was a huge success.

Wyatt Smith was recognized as the 2015 Outstanding Sophomore Student. He has done leatherworking since a young age. He also enjoys metal work. Wyatt has had the opportunity to meet people from industry and has a goal of managing/owning a financially and environmentally sustainable beef operation.

Heidi Jamison was recognized as the 2015 Outstanding Junior Student. She is from Garfield, WA and was raised on a family farm.

Her major is agribusiness and she is interested in agricultural appraisal.

Congratulations to those in the AERS department nominated for any of the CALS banquet awards. Good job to both Wyatt and Heidi for their accomplishments within the department and college.
The Idaho Barley Commission gave Paul an opportunity to reflect on his 33 plus year career as a University of Idaho regional agricultural economist based at the UI’s Idaho Falls Center. He said, “I have had a great career and have been fortunate to have had wonderful colleagues to work with, both within and outside my department at the UI of I.” Here are a few of Paul Patterson’s many accomplishments:

- Working with producers throughout the state during the farm financial crisis of the 1980s and in particular workshops using the FINPACK financial management and planning software. It was a challenging time for producers, and Paul’s work made a real difference.
- Conducting “Using Computers in Farm Management Workshops” in the 1980s showing farmers and rancher the potential use of a microcomputer as a management tool.
- Developing new and revising existing University of Idaho’s crop enterprise budgets over the past 33 years and in particular his work with the Potato Cost of Production Advisory Committee.
- Consulting opportunities overseas in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan related to cost of production
- Trying to be responsive to the needs of clientele (county agents, other specialists, farmers and ranchers, or agribusiness), whether simply answering a question, providing or directing them to a resource, or helping them deal with a particularly challenging issue.

Paul continued, “Like a lot of people at the end of a long career, this is certainly a bitter-sweet moment for me… I’m going to miss the challenge and the interaction with colleagues and clientele. While it may have been frustrating at times, it was never boring that’s for sure!”

Paul Patterson will certainly be missed, and we would like to thank him for all the work he did!

Ben Eborn is tapped in for the new UI Extension Area Ag Economist position. Ben, veteran of Teton County Extension based in Driggs, will assume a new position created by the UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to focus on farm and ranch economics across southern Idaho, including educating producers on business management decision-making, marketing and succession planning, development of crop enterprise budgets that help producers manage their variable input costs, and preparation of annual Idaho farm income forecasts that are used by the Idaho Legislature to estimate state tax revues.

Ben and his family will relocate from Driggs to Soda Springs where he will base his regional program. Ben said, “I am really excited to have this new opportunity to focus more intensely on farm economics which I have always been passionate about.”

Back row: Beau, Ben, Clayton
Front row: Gracie, Elle, Heidi, Will
Gabriel Wright  
Sophomore, Agricultural Economics  
AERS Alumni Scholarship

Tell a little about yourself:

I was born in Boise and we moved to Moscow when I was eight. There I went to elementary school. Then I lived and went to school in Troy in Junior High and High school. I was never a farm kid, but was introduced to agriculture in 7th grade when I joined FFA to be on the soils team. I really enjoyed ag class, the competitions, and my amazing ag teacher/FFA advisor. I stuck with ag and FFA throughout high school and decided to major in Agricultural Economics when I came to UI.

Why does earning a degree in Agricultural Economics appeal to you?

I know there will always be a job in agriculture. People need to eat, and that’s about the best job security you can have. I’d also like to continue to live in the Northwest after I graduate, and there are plenty of agribusiness firms here. The people in ag and the people in CALS are some of the nicest people I’ve ever met, so that doesn’t hurt either.

What are your future career goals?

I’d like to work for an agribusiness firm somewhere in the Northwest, but as far as what firm or what job, I’m still undecided.

How will your education at the University of Idaho help you accomplish these goals?

University of Idaho is the best university we have in Idaho. The people in CALS are some of the nicest people I’ve met. They’re not only interested in putting a degree in our hand, but also making sure that we have the knowledge and skills to turn that degree into a career.

In Dr. Roheim’s AGEC 101 class, we had different agribusiness representatives, CALS faculty members and CALS students speaking to the class on a weekly basis. We researched different firms all the way down to their internship opportunities. Thinking about internships first semester of freshman year is a little scary, but it helps you picture the job market, and start thinking about what you want to do with your degree.

Why do you love being a Vandal?

Because blue and orange look TERRIBLE together. Also, no matter where I end up in the future, I’ll always have a degree from the state where I was born and raised.

AERS ENDOWMENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

Lindeborg Endowment

Scholarship established in honor of former AERS professor Karl Lindeborg. Awarded to at least one full-time student pursuing a degree in the AERS department. Preference is given to graduate students in Applied Economics. Selection is based on academic success and potential for success in his or her chosen field.

Turner Scholarship Endowment

Scholarship created by Raymond and Bonnie Turner. Awarded to at least one full-time student pursuing a degree in the AERS department with a minimum grade point average of 3.2. In order to qualify, students must show a financial need for the scholarship.

Described above 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.

If you are interested in establishing your own scholarship or endowment, please contact Kim O’Neill at 425-359-2411 or kimoneill@uidaho.edu.
Each year the AERS faculty attend conferences and present their research. This year was no exception, and the department was well represented.

SEMINARS SCHEDULE

At UI, CALS Room 104, Friday’s 3:30-4:30 pm
At WSU, BLS 402, http://sec.wsu.edu/seminars

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<td>September</td>
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<td>Stephen Devadoss, Professor, AERS</td>
<td>UI @ WSU</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>Don Dillman, WSU Survey Research</td>
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<td>Jay Coggins, Minnesota</td>
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<td>October</td>
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<td>Jason Winfree, Assist Professor AERS</td>
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<td>Cathy Durham, OSU</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>Jon Miller, Professor, Econ Dept.</td>
<td>UI @ WSU</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>Marin Bozic, Minnesota Ag Econ</td>
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<td>Eric Stuen Econ Dept.</td>
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GRANTS

USDA - OCE Grant: “The Theory of Optimal Hedging Horizons and Application to Dairy Risk Management in the United States.” Accepted: $100,000. (47,000 – Vorotnikova and a Master’s student) With Bozic, M., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

PRESENTATIONS


Lewin, P. and Brown, A. “County Resilience to a Recession.” AAEA meetings July 27, San Francisco, CA

Lewin, P., Rimby, N., and Wulfhorst, J. “Economic and Social changes in Owyhee County” WERA-1018, Sept. 16, Park City, UT

PUBLICATIONS


Last semester, the AERS Department said goodbye to Department Librarians, Heidi Jamison and Katie Vandenberg. Heidi and Katie were undoubtedly huge assets to this department and will be missed, but are moving onto exciting new opportunities. We would like to welcome our two new lead Librarians, Kailyn Gady and Amanda Hale to the department.

Kailyn Gady (pictured left) is originally from Rockford, WA and is currently a junior, majoring in Agribusiness. Kailyn grew up on a family farm where they grew Kentucky Bluegrass Seed, wheat and oats in addition to running a herd of Simmental Cattle. She has been involved in both 4-H and FFA. She plans on furthering her education by attending Graduate School.

Amanda Hale (pictured right) was raised in Rigby, ID and is also currently a sophomore double majoring in Agricultural Economics and Journalism. Amanda has been involved with FFA her entire life and had the opportunity to serve on the state level. She hopes to stay involved in agriculture by advocating and connecting the consumer with the producer.

Kailyn and Amanda are both excited to be on board with the AERS Department, so please extend a warm welcome the next time you see them!