SPRING BRINGS MIDTERMS AND AWARDS

Spring is here, which means that students in the AERS Department have been hard at work completing midterm projects and tests. However, hard work brings great rewards, and several AERS students have been recognized for their achievements this year. The 2015 AERS nominees for the CALS awards banquet are follows:

Austin O’Neill, Outstanding Freshman
Wyatt Smith, Outstanding Sophomore
Heidi Jamison, Outstanding Junior
Katie Vandenberg, Outstanding Senior

Hello Friends,

As readers of this newsletter are aware, Cathy Roheim is on leave until August of this year. Thus I have the pleasure of writing to you as acting department head.

In this newsletter, you will read about the many activities and honors of our outstanding students, both graduate and undergraduate, as well as hearing from a recent graduate. These include undergraduate and scholarship recipient Josh Hamby, graduate student, swimmer, and artist Laura Griffing, and Jordan Jacobs who, as he says it, is a Vandal farmer, Vandal banker and Vandal!

Also in this newsletter, you will read about recent experiential learning opportunities enjoyed by our students. The annual “Experiencing Idaho’s Agriculture Policy Making Process” trip sponsored by the Idaho Food Producers, and a trip to Portland to meet with and learn from grain merchandisers and visit port facilities led by Dr. Vorotnikova and Norm Ruhoff, and sponsored by CHS and CoBank. You will also read about Kailyn Gady and Heidi Jamison attending the Farm Bureau’s Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN. As you can tell, there are many exciting things happening in AERS and our faculty and students are very active and engaged in teaching and learning.

Soon it will be time for Vandal Friday, and then graduation. As it always is with the cycle of higher education, we say hello to a new group of eager students and bid farewell to a new crop of Vandal graduates.

Have a wonderful spring.
AG ECON STUDENTS VISIT IDAHO CAPITAL

Each year, students from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have the opportunity to take the Agricultural Economics 410 class—"Experiencing the Idaho Public Policy Making Process." This class provides students with the unique opportunity to visit the Idaho Capitol and see how agricultural policy is created and passed "behind the scenes." Rick Waitley, founder of the Idaho Food Producers and an Idaho lobbyist, worked hard to put together a very educational three days for the students in this class.

This year there were eleven students in attendance on the trip. Accompanying them to Boise were AERS department faculty members Chris McIntosh and Ekaterina Vorotnikova. While in Boise, the class was able to meet with legislators, the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, the State Controller, lobbyists, as well as many other individuals involved in Idaho’s agricultural public policy making process, including members of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Students were able to sit in on a House session, attend meetings with lobbyists, and attend a committee meeting. The entire three days were filled with educational luncheons, dinners and presentations. All of these activities provided students with the opportunity to be in a professional setting where they could network and engage with leaders in Idaho agriculture and policy.

This public policy tour is a unique chance for undergraduates to experience hands-on learning about policy making, and is the only one of its kind in the state of Idaho. A big thank you to everyone who makes it possible!

This year’s participants are as follows: Michael Grigg, Joshua Hamby, Mikel Harrington, James Ihli, Diana Keller, Mitchell Renfrow, Kyle Rossi, Katie Vandenberg, Hans Vanderhoek, Taylor Wemhoff, and Corbin Williamson.

AERS STUDENTS ATTEND NASHVILLE CONFERENCE

The University of Idaho and the AERS department were well represented at the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, by two wonderful young ladies: Heidi Jamison and Kailyn Gady. This conference had over 1,000 attendees and included participants from the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program, Promotion and Education, and Women’s Leadership Committees.

At this conference, Heidi and Kailyn were able to attend numerous workshops on the topics of communication, leadership, education, and technology. They also heard from motivational speakers and the retiring National Young Farmers and ranchers Committee Chair, and were able to watch CALS students Amanda Hale and Austin O’Neill compete in the collegiate discussion panel.

They both enjoyed the conference immensely, and appreciated the opportunity to network and sightsee while they were there. Extreme weather conditions prevented them from returning home on time, but it ended up working in their favor as they were able to attend the Grand Ole Opry and experience more of Nashville’s riveting culture.

The Washington Farm Bureau sponsored these two ladies, both Washington residents, in order to give them insight on agricultural policy making and an active experience as young professionals. They both received scholarships from this organization in addition to the trip sponsorship.

Congratulations Heidi and Kailyn!
Jordan Jacobs, Columbia Bank

Where are you from? I am from West Jordan, Utah.

What degree did you graduate with, and how has your education at UI helped you in your new career? I graduated with a degree in Agricultural Business. My degree and education from University of Idaho has helped me get my foot in the door for each job I have had out of college. UI has played an important role in my skill development using financial statements and other farm financial management tools. I learned teamwork and leadership from the Agribusiness Club and my fellow Vandals. I also learned how to make friends with a variety of people from all over the university, which has helped me succeed in friendships at work and in my career.

What jobs have you held since graduating? Out of college, I had job offers from Rabo AgriFinance as an Analyst and with Archer Daniels Midland Company as a Grain Terminal Operations Manager Trainee, but ended up being hired by Rabo AgriFinance. I was able to travel to St. Louis for 3 months and to the beaches of Sarasota, Florida, for 1 month, where I gained valuable friends and connections. I worked in agricultural finance for about one and a half years with her undergradu-

ate degree and start a fine art photogra-

phy business. She started her business as an undergraduate in 2013, and has been working on its growth since then.

Laura’s areas of interest include seafood, food quality, natural resources, and land management. Her interest in seafood stems from growing up in a fishing community and seeing firsthand how fisheries affect the economy of a small town. She has also spent the last four summers working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a sockeye salm- on research technician.

The AERS department would like to welcome Laura as a new member of the graduate student team!

Laura Griffing graduated from the AERS department in December 2014 with a degree in agribusiness, and is back for round two as a graduate student in the applied economics program.

Laura is from Kodiak Island, Alaska. She originally came to UI as a biology major, but switched to agribusiness when she found that it aligned more closely with her interests. She is a member of the swim team as a breast-stroker, and was named an All American in 2011. She has also held the school record in the 100 breaststroke twice. Along with her success on the swim team, she was able to finish in just three and a half years with her undergradu-

ate degree and start a fine art photogra-

To see Laura’s art work, you can visit griffingphotography.etsy.com.
AERS Scholarship Spotlight

Joshua Hamby
Junior, Agribusiness
AERS Faculty Scholarship Recipient

What are your future career goals?
I plan to go back home and take over the family farm after graduating college.

How do you think your education will help you accomplish these goals?
I think my education will help me improve our business and make us more profitable.

What clubs/extracurricular activities have you been involved in?
I am a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, but I have not been involved with anything other than the events and activities through Beta. A fraternity is extremely time consuming.

What is your favorite thing about being a Vandal?
Over half of my family members are Vandals. Both my parents went to the University of Idaho as well as my only other sibling. I've been a Vandal since day one, and I don't see that changing. Another great thing about being a Vandal is that I don't have to wear blue and orange, which is a terrible color combination if you ask me!

AERS Students Visit Grain Merchandisers

Over President’s day weekend, a group of agricultural economics students travelled to Portland on a trip to learn about grain merchandising and trading businesses. These students were accompanied by AERS faculty Ekaterina Vorotnikova and Norm Ruhoff, of PNW Farm Coop., as well as Paul Bartell from the College of Business and Economics.

This trip was sponsored by CHS and CoBank, and gave students the opportunity to tour several grain operations and speak with the professionals who work there. The facilities toured include United Grain Corporation, Pacific or, and Columbia County Grain Growers. The Wheat Marketing Center and its team of scientists were also involved in this trip.

Most of the students who went on this trip are members of Norm Ruhoff’s new commodity market analysis class (AgEc 404). Norm reported that the trip was very educational, and that the participating students represented us extremely well.
**CHRIS MCINTOSH RECEIVES POTATO RESEARCH GRANT**

Dr. Chris McIntosh was recently named as a principal investigator on a project titled “Biological and Economic Impacts of Emerging Potato Tuber Necrotic Viruses and the Development of Comprehensive and Sustainable Management Practices.” This project will include research in the areas of plant breeding, genetics and genomics, pest and disease management and threat identification, as well as improved production efficiency and profitability.

Dr. McIntosh will be working with a group of scientists from Cornell, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Maine, Michigan State University, North Dakota State University, Montana State University, Oregon State University, and the USDA-ARS. This 5-year study is funded by an $8.6 million grant funded as a Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) by the USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI). This grant is a follow up to a previously funded USDA-SCRI on which he also served as a principal investigator.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Patterson, Paul. 2015 Idaho Ag Outlook: Burley and Idaho Falls, December 10 – 11
- Input Cost Trends and Outlook
- Potato Situation and Outlook

Patterson, Paul. 2015 Idaho Potato Conference: Pocatello, January 21st
- 2014 Idaho Potato Cost of Production Review
- Cost of Production Trends
- 2014 Farm Bill

Patterson, Paul. 2015 Southeast Idaho Cereal Schools: Burley, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Ashton and Preston, February 3-6
- Farm Bill Update

Patterson, Paul. 2015 Southern Rock Mountain Ag Conference: Monte Vista, Colorado, February 10th
- 2014 Colorado Cost of Potato Production

**PUBLICATIONS**

Winfree, Jason A. (forthcoming) "Partial adherence to voluntary quality standards for experience goods." Journal of Agricultural & Food Industrial Organization


**ALUMNI: WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

If you are a graduate from Department Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology we would like to hear from you. We are in the process of compiling information about alumni and their career paths. So we would love to hear about what you have been up to since leaving the University of Idaho. Please email Chris Darby at cdarby@uidaho.edu about your career path and how the AERS department has helped you succeed in life after college. Also we would like a current email so we can continue to send you our Department Newsletter.
If you have information you would like to include in our next newsletter, please contact the editors, Heidi Jamison and Katie Vandenberg, at our mailing address on the left or at jami1002@vandals.uidaho.edu and vand8488@vandals.uidaho.edu.

Pictured above: Heidi Jamison (left) and Katie Vandenberg (right)

### ATTENTION: JOB, INTERNSHIP, & SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Students:** Please visit the AERS library and/or the bulletin board outside of the AERS department office. A current listing of all jobs, internships, and scholarships are posted there and in the “Opportunity Binder” with relevant information such as due dates and application materials.

**Alumni & Recruiters:** Please contact one of the editors above to place job, internship, and scholarship opportunities on the bulletin board and in the opportunity binder.