It was a busy and productive spring semester in AERS. Graduation is over and the university is a much quieter place now. This newsletter highlights many of the exciting things that are happening in the department, and some of the outstanding accomplishments of our students. In this newsletter you will read about our collaboration with the College of Business and Economics and the Barker Capital Management and Trading Program. You can read about the success of Matt Sturzen who earned a second place finish in the trading competition this year, earning a 30% return, and a $300 check for his efforts. Thanks to the generous support of CHS we now also have a Bloomberg terminal in the department and available for student use.

We are very pleased to welcome our new SSRU staff, Angela Eide, SSRU business manager and Sneha Gantla, research support scientist. While we welcome new faces, we also say goodbye to Paul Patterson (retiring after 33 years of service to UI) and Kate Painter, who as you will read in this newsletter, is leaving AERS to become an Extension Educator in Boundary County. They will both be missed.

This spring five of our students were honored at the CALS awards banquet. Seth Pratt, Heidi Jamison and Wyatt Smith were awarded, respectively, the outstanding senior, junior and sophomore awards. In addition, Patxi Larroccea-Phillips and Katie Vandenberg were recognized for their scholarship by Gamma Sigma Delta. Congratulations to these outstanding students.

Have a wonderful summer everyone.
AERS STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM CHS GRANT & CBE PARTNERSHIP

Last year, the College of Business and Economics (CBE) and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) received a $250,000 grant from CHS Inc., a global agribusiness and farmer-owned cooperative, to help expand the Barker Capital Management and Trading Program. $100,000 of the grant funded the Barker Trading room’s expansion, while the remaining donation has been used for continued operations and development of the program. Part of this plan for continued development was to expand curriculum to include students from CALS in the Barker Trading Program. This will allow Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics majors and minors to broaden their learning and implement more real-life skills into their education.

Since receiving this grant from CHS Inc., many students have taken advantage of the additional opportunities that have been provided. For example, the first expansion of the curriculum was the implementation of AGEC 404: Applied Commodity Market Analysis, taught by Norman Ruhoff in the new US Bank Trading Floor.

The class focused on using data sets to analyze cash and futures markets from a producer standpoint, and then worked as a group to apply these analyses to a simulated hedging program. The groups, which focused on cattle, wheat, and milk, then presented their research and hedging results to the rest of the class. This class has helped these students further their knowledge about commodities markets, risk management, and trading. We would like to thank Norm for sharing his wealth of knowledge on these topics with the class.

Another aspect of the Barker Capital Management and Trading Program is the trading competition it holds each year. The competition is open to all students at the university to trade commodities with a $500 prize for the winner. Students are given a $100,000 simulated account to begin and have a list of commodities they are able to trade. Commodities include: Exchange Traded Funds, e-mini S&P500 futures, e-mini Nasdaq futures, e-mini Dow futures, wheat, corn and soybean futures, crude oil futures, treasuries futures, and gold futures. The students who participate are given instructions and then turned loose to test their knowledge and skills. It is a great way for students to learn and a good opportunity for them to practice trading on a simulated program.

This year, we are pleased to announce that an AERS student took second place in the competition! Matt Sturzen, also a member of the Applied Commodity Market Analysis course, received $300 for generating more than a 30% return during the two week competition. He is pictured below with instructors Ekaterina Vorotnikova and Norm Ruhoff.

We are excited to see so much progress made in just the first year of this partnership, and we hope to see it expand even more in coming years!
At the end of this semester, the AERS department will lose an enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable instructor who had a positive impact on many of the students here. Instructor Kate Painter has been selected to move to Bonners Ferry and become an Extension Educator.

For the last two years, Kate has taught the Introduction to Farm Management course, as well as Development and Analysis of Enterprise Budgets. She is also responsible for publishing costs and returns estimates for crop and livestock enterprises by region. She works mainly with southern Idaho colleagues Paul Patterson, Neil Rimbey, and Wilson Gray (now retired). This collaboration produces approximately 67 different crop enterprise budgets and 20 livestock budgets.

In her time here, Kate has also participated in a number of multidisciplinary research projects, such as the Regional Approaches to Climate Change in the Pacific Northwest (REACCH). For this project, she conducted a longitudinal survey of wheat producers with graduate student Hilary Davis as her research assistant. Kate has also been involved with grant projects on organic potato production, organic dryland wheat production, oilseed production in Idaho, mint production, alfalfa seed production, and ven- tenata control since joining the AERS department.

Kate has worked previously in Oregon as an Extension Educator, and says that the work is “demanding but pretty rewarding.” She has always been interested in both small farms and commercial agriculture, and this new position will give her the opportunity to work more directly in agriculture. She is also excited to live in Boundary County and plans to take advantage of all the wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities in her spare time.

Kate’s friendly attitude and cheerful smile will be missed around the AERS department, but we wish her the best of luck in her new role!

“The work is demanding but pretty rewarding!”

-Kate Painter
The AERS department is proud to announce that we have four students who were selected to be a member of the 2015-16 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Ambassador team. CALS Ambassadors are students who are selected to represent CALS and engage with prospective students, donors, and the public. This is the largest ambassador team on campus, and was the first of its kind at the University of Idaho. These students were selected because of their outstanding achievement, leadership, and potential to share knowledge and enthusiasm with prospective students. These students will be actively involved in representing CALS and its programs at events both on and off-campus throughout the year.

**Maggie Elliot**  
Hometown: Prosser, Washington  
Major: Agricultural Science, Leadership, and Communication, with a minor in Agribusiness  
Future Goals: Maggie plans to pursue a career as an agricultural lobbyist.

**Kailyn Gady**  
Hometown: Rockford, Washington  
Major: Agribusiness  
Future Goals: Kailyn would like to stay involved in agriculture from a business standpoint, and is considering attending graduate school before entering the workforce.

**Emily George**  
Hometown: Moxee, Washington  
Major: Agribusiness, with a minor in International Political Economy  
Goals: Emily plans to go to law school and pursue a degree in agricultural and environmental policy. She hopes to use these degrees to work in agriculture and help people, organizations, and businesses manage difficult issues that are put against them.

**Austin O’Neill**  
Hometown: Stanwood, Washington  
Majors: Agribusiness and Animal Veterinary Science-Production Option  
Future Goals: Austin plans to work for a veterinarian supply company or a pharmaceutical company after graduation, while remaining on the Dean’s list for the rest of his undergraduate career.

The AERS department would also like to recognize several returning Ambassadors who received officer positions this year, along with a $2,000 scholarship:

**Katie Vandenberg**  
Director of Finance  
Majors: Agribusiness and Accounting  
Katie has served as an intern for the Office of Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter, as well as with Northwest Farm Credit Services as a financial services intern. She hopes to attend law school and specialize in legal issues pertaining to agriculture and agricultural producers.

**Brett Wilder**  
Director of Communications  
Major: Agricultural Economics  
Brett has served as an intern for Food Producers of Idaho, and will be interning this summer with Northwest Farm Credit Services. He hopes to pursue a career in agricultural business and finance with a focus in risk management.
**MEET OUR NEW SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH UNIT STAFF**

**Angela Eide**

Where are you from and where did you attend college?
I moved to Lewiston from San Antonio on December 31st, 2014. I was raised in Gifford, Idaho. I attended Lewis Clark State College in Lewiston and the University of Maryland.

What is your professional background before coming to the SSRU?
I worked at the University Of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) from 2008 to 2014. My most recent position at UTHSCSA was Programs Coordinator for the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. Prior to my departure from Idaho in 2003 due to my husband’s enlistment into the US Army, I worked as a buyer for Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories.

What is your new role with the SSRU and what are your responsibilities?
I am the Business Manager. I am responsible for the unit’s financial/human resource management.

What do you enjoy the most about being in AERS/SSRU?
I enjoy being part of a team that strives to provide quality service/research to their clients.

What are you most excited about in your future here at the SSRU?
I’m eager to help SSRU grow their client/project base while maintaining their research quality.

**Sneha Gantla**

Where are you from and where did you attend college?
I moved to Moscow, Idaho, from Corvallis, Oregon, but I was born and raised in India until I was 11. Then my family moved to the Chicagoland area. I attended undergrad at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and graduate school at Oregon State University.

What is your professional background before coming to the SSRU?
I have worked at the University of Illinois Survey Research Center as an interviewer and student supervisor for a couple years. I worked as a legal assistant at a defense malpractice law firm in Chicago for another couple years. Then I attended graduate school for a Master’s in Public Policy for yet another couple years where I was involved in many research projects. I worked as a research assistant with a few different professors and conducted primary research for my Master’s degree.

What is your role with the SSRU and what are your responsibilities?
I’m the Research Support Scientist at SSRU. I am mainly responsible for working with clients to develop their research objectives, developing the study design, project management, and writing research reports.

What do you enjoy the most about being in AERS/SSRU?
I love being involved in research everyday, but, hands down, the best thing about being with SSRU is that I truly have the best colleagues. I’m very grateful to be working with people who are so supportive of each other and always ready to put their best foot forward.

What are you most excited about in your future here at the SSRU?
I’m most excited to help SSRU continue to do the work they have been doing in terms of quality and scope of projects that the organization takes on. I think we have some incredibly talented and committed research staff so I’m excited to do my part in generating meaningful and impactful research.

**PUBLICATIONS**


AERS CALS Award Winners:

Seth Pratt—Outstanding Senior
Heidi Jamison—Outstanding Junior
Wyatt Smith—Outstanding Sophomore
Patxi Larrocea-Phillips—Gamma Sigma Delta Inductee
Katie Vandenberg—Gamma Sigma Delta Inductee

AERS AgSAC Officers

Zachary Reynolds—President
Rabeka Kelly—Secretary
Chyla Whited—Treasurer
Abby Biedenbach—Reporter