Dear Friends of AERS:

Congratulations to the newest graduates of the degree programs in AERS!

In this newsletter, you will learn about several AERS students who graduated in May 2016, including Jacob Forsmann who is now pursuing his dreams locally in the Palouse by helping farmers market their grain production to achieve their greatest economic gains; Travis Chase who successfully combined his interests into a double major and will now be working for Simplot to help farmers maximize their physical and economic yields; and Jack Herman who, with the help of a J.D. Rowell scholarship, used his opportunity studying abroad in Spain to explore the role that the international agricultural marketplace has on viability of Idaho farmers. These fine students are only a small sample of our excellent graduates.

These individuals, and all of their classmates, are young people we in AERS are tremendously proud of. They have applied a dedicated work ethic and their devotion to agriculture — grasping with both hands opportunities UI, CALS and AERS have offered them — to maximize their potential. What a terrific group of Vandals!!!

Enjoy the newsletter, and wishing you all a wonderful summer!

Cathy
NEW AERS AREA EXTENSION EDUCATOR

Norm Ruhoff, a veteran of the regional grain trade and part-time AERS instructor over the past two years, has joined the department full-time as Area Extension Educator and Assistant Extension Professor within UI extension on the Moscow campus. In his new position, he will be focusing on commodity price risk management programs and production economics for the stakeholders of Idaho.

Ruhoff has a long-standing history with AERS, having received his Master’s Degree with Dr. Larry Makus, as his major professor, which provided an opportunity to do applied research on marketing and risk management issues facing regional grain producers.

“I am grateful to Larry on several fronts,” says Ruhoff. “He not only inspired me to learn practical methods of marketing which served me well in my career as a grain merchandiser, but also afforded me the opportunity to teach his AgEcon 489 course several years back, which uncovered my passion for educating students and Stakeholders.”

Ruhoff has since develop a new course in applied commodity market analysis as part of the collaboration with the College of Business & Economics and the Barker Trading Management Program, and has been involved in developing an industry advisory group which provides input on further curriculum development.

In his new extension role, Ruhoff will expand the department’s risk management extension program within the CALS Farm Management Team. The team includes 12 extension faculty throughout the state including his counterpart in southern Idaho, Area Extension Educator and Professor Ben Eborn. (see September 2015 newsletter)

“The farm management team is a group of dedicated professionals which represent a wealth of talent and experience to our stakeholders, and I am excited about the opportunity to contribute,” Ruhoff added.

His efforts thus far have focused on assessing stakeholder needs and restructuring the departmental website Idaho Agbiz, which will serve as an anchor to the farm marketing and management extension programs. Ruhoff intends to bolster delivery of his program through webinars, online courses and on-site workshops throughout the state.

Ruhoff is a native of north central Idaho and sees his new role in Extension as an opportunity to “pay it forward” in providing marketing education. He represents the third generation of his family’s involvement with the grain merchandising industry. His Vandal “veins” also run deep, as one of six siblings holding a degree from the University of Idaho.

Prior to joining the department, Ruhoff spent the majority of his career as a grain merchandiser for Pacific Northwest Farmers Coop in Colfax, Washington. He continues to write a twice-weekly column covering Pacific Northwest commodity markets for DTN out of Omaha, Nebraska.

ALUMNI AWARD

Congratulations to AERS Alumni Ruby Stroschein and her husband Tom who were awarded the Jim Lyle Award for their service and long-term dedication to the University of Idaho. Tom and Ruby have always been friends and supporters of CALS and AERS. Ruby (M.S. Ag Econ 2008) began her graduate studies working with the late Dr. Jim Nelson and finished a master’s degree with Dr. Chris McIntosh as her major professor. She also taught Farm and Ranch Appraisal to agribusiness students. Ruby has recently employed two of our students in her appraisal firm Keylock Solutions (see March 2016 newsletter)
MARKETING GRAIN

New agribusiness graduate Jacob Forsmann said he can’t imagine himself pursuing anything but a career in grain marketing. “It’s second-nature to me,” said Forsmann, who grew up on a small farm near Grangeville, Idaho.

Through frequent visits to the University of Idaho with Grangeville’s FFA program, Forsmann became familiar with UI’s campus and decided that it was a good fit.

During spring semester he accepted a marketing internship with the Uniontown Seed Co-Op.

“The job is marketing grain, or buying and selling grain from farmers,” said Forsmann. “I jumped at the chance.”

Currently, Forsmann is working for UI cropping system agronomist Kurt Schroeder in Moscow on wheat, barley and legume variety trials and dryland cropping systems research projects in northern Idaho for the third year in a row. Schroeder’s research team plants and monitors field trials in numerous locations throughout the region to examine varietal adaptation and yield performance.

At harvest, they collect yield and quality information on wheat, barley, peas, lentils and chickpeas. The researchers report their findings to farmers and the industry through Extension presentations, annual reports and a variety testing website.

Working for Schroeder has been a valuable learning experience for Forsmann.

“I knew the mechanics, how it all worked, how to seed the ground and harvest,” he said. “But I never knew how varieties start out from seeds in the greenhouse and eventually become a full-blown variety.”

Forsmann hopes his internship with the Uniontown Seed Co-Op will lead into a full-time marketing job after he graduates.

“I like being around farmers, talking to people all the time,” he said. “That’s what I like, the marketing.”

By Miranda Rae Carter

AGRIBUSINESS MAJOR HELPS HIS COLLEGE UNDERSTAND WHAT STUDENTS WANT

Austin O’Neill, 20, came to the University of Idaho knowing that he wanted to help people all around the world improve their businesses. But the sophomore discovered he wanted to help fellow students as well.

O’Neill, a Stanwood, Washington, native and agribusiness major, says he chose UI because of its great programs, but found he loved the research opportunities too.

O’Neill first discovered his project while working as a student success intern for the Academic Programs Office in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS).

O’Neill is participating in a research project to determine what CALS needs to make the college better. Specifically, he is helping the Dean decide if creating a scholars’ program for CALS students who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher would be beneficial to students. O’Neill says this project will improve not only this college, but the overall quality of the university itself.

“It’s making a difference in people’s lives and the college, and that gets me really excited,” he says.

O’Neill is looking at current and previous Dean’s Lists to see if the number of students coincides with the perceived need for a scholars’ program. He is creating a survey that will be sent to CALS students to help with determining if a scholars’ program is needed, as well as gather valuable insight into what UI students think about the university. The survey allows students to express their opinions about UI programs and how they feel they should be changed. This is a chance for students’ voices to be heard, O’Neill says.

While this research project is only in its beginning stages, O’Neill has decided that he would love to participate in another research project next semester.

Though he is only a sophomore at UI, O’Neill is already considering his options for life after graduation. He originally intended to get a job working with an international marketing team after completing his bachelor’s degree. Now he is also considering graduate programs to continue his education in agricultural economics.

“I want to help producers improve their productivity and business,” he says

By Charissa Chappell, Freshman English Major
Travis Chase, a University of Idaho senior who graduated in May with a double-major in agribusiness and soil and land resources, was raised in Utopia.

Well, something like that.

“New Plymouth actually has a very interesting history,” Chase said. “Originally envisioned as a western utopia, it was created as a colony town based on agriculture, making use of an elaborate system of canals and waterwheels to bring life, in the form of water, to productive desert soils. As you might expect given the rural setting, I grew up working on our family farm, growing wheat, alfalfa, corn, beans, onions, sugar beets and a strong work ethic.”

Chase channeled this well-developed work ethic into his high school FFA program and his family farm, and then again in academics and extracurricular activities at UI.

On top of earning a 3.77 GPA, Chase joined the Agribusiness Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Plant and Soil Science Club, Collegiate FFA and Student Alumni Relations Board. He volunteered through UI’s Alternative Service Break program and served as a College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Ambassador.

He also received roles in local productions with the Moscow Community Theatre and the Regional Theatre of the Palouse, sang with the Palouse Choral Society and spent a semester as a student-resident firefighter with the Moscow Fire Department.

For Chase’s advanced agribusiness management capstone course, Chase and two other classmates partnered with the Boise Fire Department and Ada County Emergency Management to explore the possibility of using publically-owned goat herds to reduce vegetation and fire risk. The students analyzed operation costs and implementation tactics in relationship to the mitigation needs of Ada County. After completing their research, Chase and his teammates traveled to Boise and presented their information to the fire department and emergency management group.

“Travis is an outstanding student,” said Larry Makus, associate dean of CALS. “He is a genuinely humble person that shows compassion for others. His enthusiasm is contagious, so doing things with Travis is always fun, whether it is work or play. His commitment to this college and UI is extraordinary, and his leadership over the last few years has been critical to CALS, especially in recruiting new students.

“I cannot say enough good things about Travis, and he so well represents what we attempt to accomplish when we provide an educational experience for our students.”

Chase will begin working full-time as a field representative for the J.R. Simplot Co. in southern Idaho following graduation. Having interned for the company between semesters, Chase said he has a solid idea of what his job will entail, including working with potato producers.

“It is somewhat bittersweet to recognize that my undergraduate chapter is coming to a close,” Chase said, “but at the same time very exciting to be starting out on a new journey as I join the Vandal alumni family.”

Article by Miranda Carter, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
AERS students were again among the top contenders in the annual Barker Trading Competition which took place during the first two weeks of April. The annual event, sponsored by Barker Capital Management and the College of Business and Economics, allows students from across campus to manage a $100,000 simulated trading account, using a trading software platform to analyze and execute trades. Incentives to do well include $1,000 in prize money.

Eighteen AERS students participated as part of the CALS-CBE collaborative risk-management curriculum to apply concepts learned in the classroom to a real-world trading environment, among the 88 students. Traders were authorized to initiate positions in a mix of financial and commodity futures, including stock-exchange index futures, grains, crude oil, precious metals and currencies.

Finishing the competition in the top 10 for overall earnings performance were Brett Wilder, representing AgEcon 499, and Jeff Kaufman from AgEcon 489 and 404 Lab. Winning trade portfolios took advantage of sharp upward moves in both soybeans and crude oil during the two-week competition, with soybeans advancing more than 50 cents per bushel and crude oil gaining more than $6 per barrel.

Students attending the University of Idaho – future leaders in their respective careers – are taught to be critical thinkers, passionate advocates for their fields of study, and often, are junior members of the exciting research and discovery led by the top-notch faculty who train them. Take for instance J.D. Rowell Scholarship recipient and senior agribusiness major Jack Hermann; raised on his family’s Genesee, Idaho farm, and through his study with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, now sees the Ag industry in a much broader, global context.

“The most fascinating part of agriculture is how quickly it is evolving,” he said. “As a world we are becoming more concerned with sustainability and more environmentally concisne, both of which have helped steer agriculture in a new and cleaner direction. I would love to help develop that aspect of farming even faster.”

When Hermann received the opportunity to study abroad in Alicante, Spain, he knew it would only further develop his ability to connect with others and influence his career path.

“Without my scholarship, and the many alike, it wouldn’t have been possible for me to get the great experience I had studying abroad,” Hermann said. “I was able to make connections with possible future employers, learn Spanish and immerse myself in another culture.”

After graduation, Hermann plans on working for a year or two on the farm before traveling back to Spain. He plans on spending three to five years working and traveling abroad before returning home to Idaho to apply his skills and carry on the family legacy by leading the operations of the family business.
The AERS department is proud to announce the following Agribusiness students who were selected to be a member of the 2015-16 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Ambassador team. CALS Ambassadors 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 minor in Agribusiness

**Emily George**  
**Hometown:** Moxee, Washington  
**Major:** Agribusiness  
**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.

**Isabel Arreola**  
**Hometown:** Brentwood, Calif  
**Majors:** Agribusiness and Agricultural Education  
**Future Goals:** Isabel wants to fulfill her dream of managing a cattle ranch, hopefully her own. But also wishes to teach others what agriculture has to offer and what great opportunities it gives us all. Agriculture really helped Isabel become the person that she is today and she couldn't be more grateful.

**Dain Johnson**  
**Hometown:** Coldwell, ID  
**Majors:** Political Science and Agricultural Economics  
Not Pictured

**Sarah Mosman**  
**Hometown:** Nezperce, ID  
**Major:** Agribusiness  
**Future Goals:** After graduating from UI, she plans to work her way up to marketing native grass seed for reclamation purposes.

**Austin O’Neill**  
**Hometown:** Stanwood, WA  
**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.

**Kailyn Gady**  
**Hometown:** Rockford, WA  
**Major:** Agribusiness  
**Future Goals:** Kailyn would like to stay involved in agriculture from a business standpoint, and is considering attending graduate school or perusing a career in

**Dustin Winston**  
**Hometown:** Coldwell, ID  
**Major:** Agribusiness
AERs Student Experiences Taiwan

University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences faculty and students traveled to Taiwan during spring break as part of the Ag 499 course taught by Dr. Bob Haggerty. The group including Heidi Jamison, Agribusiness major. Participants explored Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, for two days during the first portion of their trip. Activities included an elevator ride to the top of Taipei 101, bargaining at a local street market, a visit to Longshan Temple and the World Trade Center, and a ride on the Maokong Gondola. The UI group then traveled south via train to Chiayi City and stayed at the National Chiayi University (NCYU) guesthouse. Time spent at this location allotted for ample interaction between NCYU students/faculty and UI guests. NCYU was very hospitable to the Idaho travelers, teaching them about current NCYU agriculture research and organizing several educational tours throughout the area. The group was able to visit the World Vegetable Center, Alishan National Scenic Area, the Southern Branch of the National Palace Museum, local tilapia and grouper aquaculture farms, an orchid production facility, and a tea plantation. Seeing as this overseas experience was housed under a UI faculty-led study abroad program, the main purpose of the trip was to encourage educational growth. Students gained insight regarding Taiwanese history and customs, and were able to learn about the country’s agricultural economy in relation to the United States and world. The trip encouraged students to branch out of their comfort zone by academically engaging in a new culture.

Photo was taken in Taipei (the capital of Taiwan) on a street overpass near Taipei 101. Pictured left to right is Dr. Samantha Ramsay, Jennie Davis, Miranda Rivers, Samantha Worden, Ellison Schultz, Lauren Keeney, Heidi Jamison, Dr. Nancy Deringer, and Siew Guan Lee (Not pictured: Dr. Matt Powell)

CALS Awards Banquet Winners

Congratulations to Heidi Jamison for winning the Western Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Senior award and Cole Lickley for winning the CALS Outstanding Freshman award.

Cathy Roheim, Heidi Jamison, Dean Michael Parrella
Cole Lickley, Dean Michael Parrella

Congrats to all those who were nominated from our department, you represented AERS well!
Garth Taylor received the 2016 Student Organization Adviser Award for being an outstanding faculty advisor to the University of Idaho Indian Student Association for the past 4 years. The award recognize individuals who have made contributions to student activities, campus and community life. Faculty advisors have been a part of students' extracurricular activities since the 1890s, when UI administration encouraged the development of student organizations in order to discourage young men from frequenting local saloons. Today, organization advisors still play a vital role in the lives of students. They give of themselves and their time to enhance co-curricular experiences of students. This award was created in recognition of the work student organization advisors do above and beyond professional responsibilities.

For the last 15+ years Garth Taylor has welcomed AERS students from all parts of the world. He truly enjoys making AERS students feel welcomed and is always welling to help them out in any way he can. There have been times when he has moved furniture, taken students to and from airports, and of course, taught some how to fly fish. Congratulations Garth!

Ekaterina Vorotnikiva received a UI Seed Grant. Her proposal, “The Effects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement on the Cheese Trade Flows” was selected for funding by Vice Provost for Research McIver.

Ekaterina Vorotnikiva presented “Valuation of 2014 Farm Bill Insurance Products, MPP vs LGM: Real Options Approach” at the “SCC-76 Economics and Management of Risks in Agriculture and Natural Resources Meetings” March 17-20, Pensacola, FL.

Ekaterina Vorotnikiva presented to the “Office of the Chief Economist, USDA” May 16-21, in Washington, D.C.

Lorie Higgins attended and presented at the “Community Development Extension Institute” May 21-26, Jackson Hole, WY.

Ekaterina Vorotnikiva attended the “National Workshop for Dairy Economists and Policy Analysts Conference” April 29 - May 4, Buffalo, N.Y.

J. D. Wulhorst attended the “Annual UI Rangeland Center Retreat” May 4-5, McCall, ID.

J.D. Wulhorst attended the “WAPOR & AAPOR Meetings” May 10-14, Austin, TX.


Wyatt Smith
Junior, Agricultural Business

AERS Alumni Scholarship

Tell us a little about yourself:
Junior in AERS (Agribusiness degree and AVS minor) Out of state student (Nevada). Student Manager, Steer-A-Year program and UI Beef Center employee. I am also a member and officer of the Student Idaho Cattle Association

Why does earning a degree in Agricultural Business appeal to you?
Earning a degree in Agribusiness appeals to me because of the many options I have after graduation. Agribusiness prepares students for many possibilities in agriculture.

What are you future career goals?
My career goals are to manage a progressive and profitable cow-calf or feeder business with the end goal of running my own cows.

How will your education at the University of Idaho help you accomplish these goals?
My UI education will help me with these goals by having a degree that has taught me so much about the business side of an agricultural operation. Also, my hands on experiences through working for the University and in my AVS classes teaches the technical skills that are so important.

Why do you love being a Vandal?
I love being a Vandal because of the many opportunities the University of Idaho offers.

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 considera-

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.

J. D. Rowell Scholarship for International Studies with Agricultural Economics
Awarded to students within AERS who will be participating in an approved University of Idaho study abroad experience as part of their studies. Preference is given to students who have an interest in international marketing or international supply chain management.

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.
Yousef Bayomy

Yousef defended his M.S. thesis “A Game Theoretical Analysis of the U.S.-Mexican Suspension Agreement” on April 13. He starts his new employment on June 20 as a Portfolio Analytics Associate at Fisher Investments in Camas, WA.

Congratulations Yousef!

M.S. in Applied Economics
Yousef Fouad Bayomy, M.S. Applied Economics
Hannah Darlene Vinson, M.S. Applied Economics

B.S. in Agricultural Economics with Listed Emphasis
Jonathan Michael Bettencourt, Agribusiness
Abby Mykaila Biedenbach, Agricultural Economics
Travis Joel Chase, Agribusiness
Margarita Alexandra Contreras, Agribusiness
Breanna J Cooper, Agricultural Economics
Jacob Stephen Forsmann, Agribusiness
Joshua M. Hamby, Agribusiness
Trista J. Harting, Agricultural Economics
Lexie M. Hirst, Agribusiness
Ryan J. Hutchins, Agribusiness
James Donald Ihli, Agribusiness
Heidi Marie Jamison, Agribusiness
Cassidee Evelyn Kippes, Agribusiness
Phillip Martin Metsker, Agribusiness
Ayla Noelle Neumeyer, Agribusiness
Mitchell Alan Renfrow, Agribusiness
Samuel John Schile Agribusiness
Matthew Sturzen Agribusiness
Carmine Dean Tyler Agribusiness
Thomas VanBerkum Agribusiness
Katie Lyn Vandenberg Agribusiness

LR James Ihli, Heidi Jamison, Katie Vandenberg & Jeff Kaufman (AgSystems Mgmt)

Travis Chase
F-B Professor Aaron Johnson, high-five with Jacob Forsmann,

Heidi Jamison

Ayla Neumeyer

Mitch Renfrow

Abby Biedenbach

If you have information you would like to include in our next newsletter please contact the editors, Kailyn Gady at gady9313@vandals.uidaho.edu or Chris Darby, cdarby@uidaho.edu. Or by mailing the information to the address on the left.