

SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | DECEMBER 2014

Holiday Greetings 2014



The School of Economic Sciences was created in 2004 as the merger of the Department of Economics and the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. This fall we celebrated the many accomplishments in the ten years since the formation of the school with a colloquium featuring speakers from the past and present of SES followed by an evening with alumni and friends at our annual banquet and auction. It was a very stimulating and exciting day. Attendees praised the innovative and important work our alumni are doing. We will honor requests to continue a colloquium as part of the SES Alumni and Friends annual celebration events. I am certain that both present and future alumni will continue doing impactful work. We will keep you posted on details of future events.

This year, Washington State University, along with universities around the nation, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act—legislation, signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson, that established a nationwide system of Cooperative Extension as a part of each state's land-grant university. Washington State University, founded in 1890 as the Washington Agricultural College and School of Science, is one of those land-grant universities. The vision to bring educational opportunities to communities and to use the current research to improve people's lives is one that has lasted through the times and one from which we all benefit in so many ways. One way the school will be continuing that tradition is through delivery of more online courses. It is our plan to offer a distance degree in economics focused on business within the next year.

This has also been an extraordinary year for the alumni, students, faculty, and staff of the school of Economic Sciences. The many accomplishments of the SES family are detailed in the pages that follow, but I would like to highlight one special set of accomplishments. Undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students in the School of Economic Sciences were recognized for their outstanding research contributions at the 2014 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in July. Three of the seven students recognized for outstanding thesis and dissertation awards were from Washington State University or our joint master's program with the University of Idaho and one of our undergraduate majors took first place in the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. It is these efforts and the sustained academic achievements of all members of the SES community that make SES a special place where discovery, learning, and service are part of the fabric of each day.

Many of you contributed financially and in other ways to the School of Economic Sciences this year, and I want to express our deep appreciation. These gifts are extremely important to the school. They provide scholarships for students, support our teaching and scholarly work through professorships and endowed chairs, and facilitate the acquisition of software and other materials for both research and instruction. These funds enable SES to enrich the intellectual conversation by allowing us to bring in speakers to present cutting-edge research that challenges our faculty and students. Contributions also support student recruitment and retention and permit our students and faculty to travel, to conduct research, and to present research ideas and findings. Your contributions to SES are greatly appreciated.

You are all part of the school's many successes. We much enjoy keeping up with the lives and careers of all of our friends. Please send a note from time to time to let us all know about your adventures in life. Please be sure to include your email and address when you write to us with news. If you are in Pullman, you are very welcome to visit us in Hulbert Hall. Please come by my office for a chat. I would enjoy meeting you and learning more about you and your experiences while at WSU and beyond.

As we look ahead to 2015, please let me wish you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday season. May the new year bring you many successes and much joy!

Go Cougs!



H. Alan Love, Professor and Director

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WASHINGTON STATE
 UNIVERSITY

School Highlights

Sweep of the AAEA Student Awards (we are proud!)

WSU students won outstanding doctoral dissertation (Jeff Luckstead) and honorable mention for outstanding doctoral dissertation (Jude Bayham) and a student in our joint master's program with University of Idaho won outstanding master's thesis (Amy Hilland; Ron Mittelhammer was on her thesis committee). In addition, a SES undergraduate, Tristan Hanon, won the undergraduate student outstanding paper

competition at this year's AAEA meeting. This made it a clean sweep of individual student research award categories for WSU academic programs at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association meeting.

In addition, Kynda Curtis (doctoral alumnus, now at Utah State University), was a co-recipient of the Presidential Recognition Award for Special Service to the Association.

New Staff and Faculty



Jaimie Dahl

Jaimie Dahl comes back to us from the Hulbert Hall Business Center. Jaimie is the principal assistant and graduate coordinator. She has been on campus for

22 years starting in the math department, then animal sciences, and the School of Economic Sciences previous to the business center. She is fortunate enough to be able to work with her husband, Tom, who works mornings for SES. They have two daughters and eight grandchildren whom they adore. Both enjoy the outdoors, fishing, picnicking, barbecuing, and spending their time at the lake on weekends.



Alejandro Prera

Our new clinical assistant professor Alejandro Prera was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and finished high school in the United States, leading him to get a

bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He worked in Guatemala for six years in various positions, including as a risk analyst at a private bank and as a project assistant at the Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Energy and Mines. It was in his last job at the Ministry of Energy and Mines where he became truly interested in natural resources. This led him to the University of New Mexico, where he recently received his doctorate. He joins us with a leadership role in undergraduate teaching.



Jinhui Bai

Jinhui Bai is a new associate professor in the School of Economic Sciences. He received his doctorate in economics from Yale University

after studying at Renmin University of China and Peking University in China. His research interests center on macroeconomics, political economy, and economic theory. Prior to joining the faculty at SES, Jinhui served on the faculty at Georgetown University.

Kinda New Faculty



Drs. Peter Tozer and Jeremy Sage

Drs. Peter Tozer and Jeremy Sage have joined the faculty as new research assistant professors.

Previously research associates in SES, the new appointment reflects their research but also teaching commitments to the school. Jeremy also serves as assistant director for the Freight Policy Transportation Institute (FPTI).

And we lost one!



Danielle Engelhardt

recently left the school to join the Clark Hall Business Center and will be missed. Ron Mittelhammer, her supervisor for many years, stated "Danielle was totally dedicated to

the school and the faculty, staff, and students in it. She would routinely go above and

beyond the call of duty to ensure that students' questions were answered, faculty needs were met, and she was always respectful and supportive of fellow staff members. And her support of SES activities and events, and especially the very important annual SES Alumni and Friends BBQ and Auction, was relentless and one of the main reasons why the events were so successful. Indeed, no faculty wallet was left untouched when it came to faculty basket donations!"

Our Ten Year Celebration of SES

On October 3, faculty, alumni, administrators, staff, and students gathered in Pullman under the organizational skills of Dr. Andrew Cassey to celebrate the ten-year anniversary, or decennium, of the School of Economic Sciences. In addition to the student panel and alumni weekend dinner and fundraiser, a colloquium was held to specifically honor the school and its progress after ten years. The colloquium featured SES faculty, students, and alumni in faculty positions at WSU, University of Georgia, University

of New Mexico, and Illinois State University. Topics ranged from the price of beer to price drifts immediately before the release of macroeconomic news. By all accounts, the colloquium was a great success in showing off the school through its faculty, students, and alumni research.

Many thanks are owed to the staff for their incredible effort. They literally kept the building open and food available aplenty!

| Speaker | Institution | Title |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Alan Love | WSU | Welcoming Remarks |
| Ron Mittelhammer | WSU | Observations on Evolution of SES: The Good, the Bad, and the Spectacular |
| Tom Marsh | WSU | Transboundary Livestock Diseases: Preventative Investments & Empirical Evidence |
| Tristan Skolrud | WSU | Estimating the Role of Technology in Converting to Organic Agriculture |
| Brady Horn | UNM | Private Shipping Industry Response to Piracy: Theory & Evidence from Somalia |
| Adrienne Ohler | ILSU | Rate-of-Return Regulation, Electricity Market Deregulation & Renewable Energy Technology |
| Dan Bernardo | WSU | SES: A Retrospective from the Perspective of Administration |
| Josh Berning | UGA | Retail Beer Prices Across Channels & Locations: A Hedonic Analysis |
| Sean Murphy | WSU | Opioid Abuse Among Adolescents: New Evidence from a Misclassification Analysis |
| Ben Cowan | WSU | Evaluating the Two-Body Problem |
| Marketa Wolfe | WSU | Price Drifts Before U.S. Macroeconomic News |
| Arun Raha | Eaton | How to Pursue a Career in Business Economics |

Former graduate students who returned for the 10th year anniversary prepare for beers with Ron Mittelhammer.



Faculty and Staff Honors and Awards

Agricultural Economists Run the University...almost



Daniel J. Bernardo is now serving as Washington State University's provost and executive vice president.

When announcing the appointment,

WSU President Elson S. Floyd said, "Dr. Bernardo is a highly skilled administrator with the professional capacity to help take the university to the next level. He is deeply committed to the institution, its land-grant mission, and the entirety of its academic enterprise. I especially appreciate his ability to work with faculty, department chairs, deans,

senior leadership, and staff to generate positive results."

Dr. Bernardo, who had served as interim provost and executive vice president since May 2013, now fills the permanent position. He was formerly vice president for agriculture and extension and dean of the WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS).

Bernardo led several major initiatives as interim provost, especially regarding student success and support of WSU's research faculty. He spearheaded the institutional strategic planning process and engaged faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders throughout the state.

A devoted Coug, Dan earned his doctorate in agricultural economics from WSU in 1985. He completed his bachelor's degree at University of California, Davis.

Mittelhammer Continues on as Dean of College



Provost Dan Bernardo commented, "Thank you for providing input into the decision of appointing Dr. **Ronald Mittelhammer** as dean of the College of

Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences for a period of two additional years. The responses from CAHNRS faculty and staff were overwhelmingly positive

for continuing the appointment of Dr. Mittelhammer. Therefore, I have proceeded with the appointment of Dr. Mittelhammer to the position of dean for academic years of 2014-15 and 2015-16.

"I look forward to working with Ron, as well as the faculty and staff, to continue to advance the trajectory of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. I am certain that he will continue to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of dean in a stellar fashion. Once again, I want to express my appreciation to Dr. Mittelhammer for his willingness to serve in this challenging, yet critical, position."

Whittlesey Wins Legacy Award

Dr. **Norman Whittlesey** was awarded the 2014 Legacy of Excellence Award. He was honored at WSU's annual Showcase event (celebrating the excellence of faculty, staff, and students) and gave a lecture at an Emeritus Society event. Whittlesey is professor (emeritus) of agricultural economics at Washington State University, where he has been since 1964. In 1987 he won the prestigious

Award for Professional Excellence from the American Agricultural Economics Association in recognition of his distinguished policy contribution for work in water policy related to irrigation development in the west. He has been involved in many consulting efforts in the past, including three U.S. Supreme Court cases involving disputes between states over allocation of cross-border rivers.

Jill J. McCluskey was named President Elect for 2014-2015 of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). Dr. McCluskey is professor and chair of graduate studies in the WSU School of Economic Sciences. She joined the faculty at WSU in 1998, directly after receiving her doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley. Jill was promoted to full professor in 2007. She teaches industrial organization and microeconomic theory. Her research focuses on the economics of food quality and labeling, firm incentives, and consumer perceptions and behavior. Jill has served on

many editorial boards and has guest edited for a number of journals.

Gregmar Galinato and Hayley Chouinard became co-editors of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* for 2013-2016. Gregmar handles papers related to resource issues, agricultural policy issues, and international trade, and Hayley is responsible for manuscript reviews related to consumer demand and food policy. Both have learned a great deal about these research topics and the publication process, and have enjoyed working on the review side of publication.

Hayley Chouinard serves as a member of the AAEA Board of Directors (2013-2016). She was involved in the strategic planning of the association over the last year. AAEA plans to provide better service to members and more effectively communicate the work of members.

SES alumnus Dr. **Eric Jessup** returned to native soil in January 2014 after spending four years as an honorary professor at the Albert Ludwig University in Freiburg, Germany. His new position as vice president of transportation, industrials, and energy at Informa Economics is based in Memphis, Tennessee, and provides analytical economic expertise and consultation to a wide spectrum of commodity, transportation, energy, and business interests worldwide. He joins another WSU SES alum, Ken Eriksen, senior vice president of the group. While Jessup is based in Memphis, he spends a significant portion of his time in Europe (5-6 trips per year) where his two small boys still live (Hugo 3½ and Leo 5½). Whenever he's not working or spending time with the boys, you'll find Jessup out running, cycling, or sitting in a pub playing guitar!

Randy Fortenbery has been re-appointed chair of the Agricultural Markets Advisory Committee to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) by Chair Timothy Massad. Massad was appointed by President Obama,

confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in June 2014. He re-appointed Professor Fortenbery in September 2014. The Agricultural Markets Advisory Committee is one of five advisory committees to the CFTC. It is comprised of 36 members that include representatives of national farm organizations, major commodity groups, agribusinesses, and bankers. Professor Fortenbery was the first academic to be appointed to the committee.

(on another note for Randy)

Randy was invited to be a keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Norwegian Center for Commodity Markets Analysis in Oslo, Norway, in November 2014. He was asked to speak on the role of speculators in generating commodity market volatility. In addition, he gave a seminar on futures market dynamics at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

Last year **Robby Rosenman** was chair of the Faculty Senate and the faculty representative to the Washington State Legislature. He was also selected as the WSU representative to the Washington State Institute of Public Policy. He has challenging research going on with two former graduate students (Sean Murphy, now in HPA at WSU Spokane, and Dan Friesner, associate dean of the College of Pharmacy at NDSU) on adolescent opioid use, and also on idiopathic intracranial hypertension.

Distinguished Leigh Award

Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Memorial Economics Excellence Fund



Our Leigh Lecturer, Dr. Susan Athey

In 2013 the Leigh Memorial Economics Excellence Fund sponsored a university-wide address by Dr. Susan Athey, economics of technology professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Professor Athey is an eminent scholar, especially well known for his work on the economics of the internet,



The dinner honoring Dr. Susan Athey

market place design, auction theory, the statistical analysis of auction data, and the intersection of econometrics and machine learning. Dr. Athey has received numerous awards including the highly prestigious John Bates Clark Medal given by the American Economic Association to an American economist under the age of forty who is judged to have made the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge. She is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences and of the Econometric Society, among others. At this year's Bertha C. and Roy E. Leigh Distinguished Lecture in Economics, Dr. Athey explained how the internet has changed the way people consume news. She discussed the implications of these changes for the viability of journalism, as well as for the types of news that are consumed.

Faculty Highlights

Professional Leave/Sabbatical

Jia Yan has been awarded a sabbatical for next spring. Jia will visit the City University of Hong Kong from January to March to work with his coauthor on a paper entitled “Agglomeration, Selection and Transport Infrastructure Investment.” He will then visit the Brookings Institution from March to July to work with another coauthor on various projects including the effect of congestion on vehicle size choice, justices’ ideology and pro-business bias in the U.S. Supreme Court, and modeling dynamic price competition of railways in the United States.

Secret Data for Secret Work

For two months during spring semester 2014, Dr. **Andrew Cassey** was conducting “fieldwork” at the Pacific Northwest Census Bureau Research Data Center housed near the University of Washington in Seattle. This was not the usual fieldwork in the sense of a botanist, however. Rather Dr. Cassey has special sworn status clearance at the U.S. Census Bureau, which allows him to access highly confidential business and tax data through a secure on-site computer terminal.

Cassey first applied for the security clearance with the Census Bureau as a first year faculty member in the 2008–09 academic year. Clearance was only granted more than five years later, in October 2014, after a four year Census Bureau review process and an additional year of security checks conducted by the FBI. In addition to the security clearance, the Census Bureau charges \$20,000 per year for site access.

The fieldwork involves going to a secure location where there is a computer terminal connected with a dedicated line to the data housed on a government server. No cameras, cell phones, or connections to the internet are allowed, and no hand-written notes may be removed from the site. Cassey wrote computer code on site that merged data from several different sources to create a statistic measuring the production scope of exported goods by state. The restrictions forced Dr. Cassey to know the code he needed to program each day as he could not search the internet for references or examples once inside the Research Data Center. It is hoped this research will lead to a grant from the National Science Foundation to use the new statistic Cassey created to learn about the informational barriers to international trade and how state-level policy such as export promotion can reduce those informational barriers.

Economics and Education with Marketa Wolfe

Marketa Wolfe’s paper “What Do Chinese Macro Announcements Tell Us about China’s Role in the World Economy?” written in collaboration with Christopher F. Baum (Boston College) and Alexander Kurov (West Virginia University) won the 2014 McGraw-Hill Distinguished Paper Award in March 2014.

It is the first paper that comprehensively studies how Chinese macroeconomic announcements affect the world financial and commodity markets. Previous literature has shown that only announcements from developed economies move the markets; news from emerging economies usually come into the spotlight only in times of crises such as the Asian or Russian financial crises. Their paper shows that there does not have to be a serious crisis for China’s economy to rock the world markets. Regular, scheduled macroeconomic announcements move them as well, and the influence is substantial compared to similar U.S. and Japanese announcements.

A creative paper, “Learning to Argue with Intermediate Macro Theory: A Semester-Long Team Writing Project” was presented at the AEA Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education in May 2014. This resulted in two invitations from the Federal Reserve Bank, the first at the Post Conference Session on Effective Teaching of Macroeconomics that the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association organized in cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. The second one took place at the Annual Professors Conference organized by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The paper was published by the *Journal of Economic Education*, which is the best journal for economics teaching.

Dog Bites Economist...really, according to Robby

Robby Rosenman has been going regularly to Thailand since 1999, as an adjunct at Kohn Kaen University and the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce. Lately, he has spent time at UTCC, working at the Research Institute for Policy Evaluation and Design, a joint effort between UTCC and the University of Chicago. The president of UTCC is Suwanee Thairungroj (WSU PhD). Usually Robby gives a lecture or two and works with different faculty members on research papers. But his trip in February 2012 was a little different. Robby was bitten by a dog. His first reaction was, "Oh, only 15% of the dogs in Bangkok have rabies." His second reaction was "Oh #@%?!—15% of the dogs in Bangkok have rabies!" So he made it over to a clinic and started the rabies vaccine (in the arm now, not stomach, and no big deal). But then he looked at the CDC website that recommends that someone bit by an unknown dog that might have rabies also get immunoglobulin. So he trekked back to the doctor to ask about it. The Thai doctor said (a true quote) "Bit down there (pointing to Robby's leg), head up here, plenty of time."

Robby wasn't happy with that response, but was told no immunoglobulin could be had in Thailand. He then called a friend who happens to own several hospitals in Thailand, who called his doctor in a three-way phone conversation. When he asked his doctor why the CDC recommends immunoglobulin, the doctor replied (another direct quote) "bit down there, head up here, plenty of time." I guess that phrase is part of Thai medical education. Anyway, it came out that the CDC recommends immunoglobulin to be "100% sure" according to the Thai doctor. Luckily for Robby, his friend wanted to be 100% sure, so arranged, somehow, to get Robby the immunoglobulin that evening. It was a bit traumatic, and puzzling that something "not available in Thailand" could be had. Of course, Robby's friend did say, when refusing payment for the treatment, that it was very expensive.

Robby finished the vaccine regimen in Pullman. In Thailand the rabies vaccine cost about \$6 a shot, including the nurse. In Pullman, it cost over \$200 a shot—same vaccine, made in the same place (Israel). (Jon Yoder, to add some spice to the story, took great delight in supplying Robby with an article or two about people in Thailand who got bit by dogs, got the vaccine, and died.)

Robby went back to Thailand in late August this year. He remains unafraid of the numerous street dogs there, and now having had the rabies vaccine, might even try to pet one. If he gets bit again, all he needs is one simple booster shot. Now we have prepared economists!

Centers Helping SES Grow in Profile and Impact

IMPACT Center

The IMPACT Center (Dr. **Tom Marsh**, director; Dr. **Peter Tozer**, research assistant professor; and **Suzette Galinato**, research associate) has been active in applied policy analysis and economics. Research at the center includes pest and disease modelling in tree fruit and livestock, analysis of commodity promotion programs, invasive species in the United States and developing countries, economic analysis of commodities and products in Washington, and development of enterprise budgets. The center has been fortunate that several large grants will fund continued research into biodegradable plastics and specialty crops, as well as further funding to complete a suite of models to assess pests and pathogens in tree fruit crops. Newer research initiatives in the IMPACT Center include an evaluation of the economics of soil amendments, a pilot study of the craft

cider industry in Washington, and market analysis of agricultural materials that could be used in biobattery manufacturing. Miaoru Liu (SES doctoral candidate) and Drs. Marsh and Tozer completed a report to the Canned Pear Commission evaluating the effectiveness of the commission's promotion and advertising program. In collaboration with the Allen School for Global Animal Health, Umesh Bastol (SES doctoral candidate) is working on invasive species problems in trade. Dr. Xiaojiao Xiang, who worked on a study on the impact of fireblight in the pear industry on the national level funded by USDA-APHIS, will be moving onto the banking sector. Dr. Gnel Gabrielyan, who studied the willingness to pay for sensory attributes in beer, has accepted a postdoctoral position at Cornell. Best of luck to Xiaojiao and Gnel.

Freight Policy Transportation Institute (FPTI)

Having previously earned a Superior Service Award from the USDA-AMS for their work on the original 2008 Rural Transportation Study, Dr. **Ken Casavant** and the Freight Policy Transportation Institute (FPTI) have once again been sought out and charged with conducting a study of rural transportation issues. This round of study, congressionally mandated in the 2014 Farm Bill, seeks to generate an updated understanding of the transportation opportunities and constraints for rural mobility of agricultural goods on the nation's freight network.



Ken Casavant and Jeremy Sage

FPTI's role as a leader in freight mobility did not end with the Farm Bill in 2014. FPTI Director Casavant and Assistant Director Dr. **Jeremy Sage** and their team of graduate research assistants have additionally been asked by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to perform a legislatively mandated study of short line railroad operations in the state. WSDOT's 2013 State Rail Plan sparked the Legislature's interest as it identified the valuable, yet under supported, role that short lines play in the state's economy.

These two studies add to the portfolio of five other projects being conducted, many led by Dr. Sage, or sent to press by the FPTI in 2014. The last year has been productive for the group as they have not only served WSDOT, but transportation agencies in Idaho and Oregon as well.

WCRME

The Western Center for Risk Management Education (WCRME) is one of five regional risk management education centers competitively awarded by USDA NIFA. The center has been within SES since 2010. **Shannon Neibergs** is the center director and the center has been competitively awarded about \$7.88 million since 2010.

The WCRME provides risk management programs and education to 13 western states. The center funds about 20 projects annually that address one or more production, financial, market, regulatory, or human



Shannon Neibergs

risk issues affecting agricultural producers. The projects range in scope from commercial agricultural production to beginning farmer specialty crop production. In

addition to its competitive grant program, the center conducts targeted risk management projects.

The WCRME collaborated on the recently completed Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers and Fishermen program that provided business education to 10,893 producers across the nation and included asparagus producers in Washington.

Presently, the WCRME is heavily involved with Farm Bill education. The center has cosponsored national Farm Bill education meetings in Kansas City and Salt Lake City, partnered with Ag In Uncertain Times on a Farm Bill webinar series and is working with the Western Extension Committee on developing Farm Bill outreach.

Water Research Center

In March of 2013, Dr. **Jonathan Yoder** began a half-time administrative role as director of the State of Washington Water Research Center (Swwrc). The center is housed at WSU and is a member of the National Institutes for Water Research. Its mission is to facilitate and carry out applied water-related research, to foster education and training for water professionals, and to serve as a nexus between academics, government, and the private sector in relation to water resources and management. Additionally, a new effort led by Yoder, the Health and Economic Development Seminar



Jonathan Yoder

Series, is underway. SES has teamed up with the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health to invite seminar speakers with expertise at the nexus of human health, livestock health,

and economic development. A series of four speakers were brought to campus and gave seminars on topics including perceptions of risk exposure and responses to food security, the role of governance in the effectiveness of public health subsidies, and the impact of informal incentives for effective health care provision.

Undergraduate Highlights

Econ Club

During the spring semester of 2014 the Econ Club welcomed several interesting discussion sessions allowing undergraduate students the opportunity to learn some of the finer details of the work our faculty and alumni do. We had the chance to talk about international tax competition with Dr. Batina, food labeling with Dr. Chouinard, transportation economics with Dr. Sage, and Dr. Rosenman presented several topics on health economics. Our last meeting was sponsored by CAHNRS and we were honored to have alumnus Elyot Whitney discussing his experience at Boeing.

After five years and a great experience as Econ Club advisors, Drs. Ana Espinola and Felix Munoz stepped down. We are happy to announce that the new advisors are Drs. Alex Prera and Jeremy Sage. The 2014-15 Econ Club will be led by officers Emily Rose Johnson (president), Chris Bevier (vice president), and Spencer Good (secretary). The students have taken this venue as an opportunity to explore research and career paths through inviting on-campus faculty and graduate students and previous SES students to exchange ideas and provide tips for moving forward in their academic and professional lives. Club meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend every other Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Econ Club members are actively pursuing a wider reach of students from across campus, as they hold more discussion sessions and venture away from the classroom for a little extracurricular fun.

Kudos

Aylard Rowing in Canada



Mickey Aylard, second from left

Michelle “Mickey” Aylard is a senior completing a bachelor’s degree in economic sciences, agricultural economics option, and a second degree in business. She has been an active member of the WSU Rowing Team since beginning at WSU in the fall of 2011. During the summer of 2014, she was given the opportunity to try out for the Canadian National Rowing Team. After the selection process, she was chosen, along with another teammate from WSU, to row for Canada at the under-23 World Rowing Championships in Varese, Italy. With two other women who attend the University of British Columbia, the four trained for five weeks before the championships. Mickey’s team placed third and received a bronze medal.

2014 Student AWARDS

SES Outstanding Senior Awards

BS Economic Sciences degree, agricultural economics option: **Tristan Hanon**
BS Economic Sciences degree, economics, policy, and law option: **Justin Surber**
BS Economic Sciences degree, financial markets option: **Aaron Kring**

CAHNRS Awards

Outstanding Junior in Agriculture: **Brandon Nickels**
Alpha Zeta’s Arnold Knopf Outstanding Freshman Award: **Jenica Hagler**

WAEA Awards

2014 Western Agricultural Economics Association–SES Outstanding Senior: **Tristan Hanon**

Other Recognition

2014 First Place, undergraduate student paper competition, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association: **Tristan Hanon**

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO WON



Tristan Hanon graduated in May 2014 with a bachelor's degree in economic sciences, agricultural economics option. He is an assistant analyst with the Congressional

Budget Office, Microeconomic Studies Division, in Washington, D.C.



Justin Surber completed his bachelor's degree in economic sciences, policy and law option, in May 2014. As a resident of the Oso, Washington, area, he was offered free tuition for this year

so he is enrolled in coursework important to entering law school. He hopes to attend law school in Arizona.



Jenica Hagler was a fall 2012 Agriculture Future of America National Scholar. She helped start an AFA chapter in CAHNRS. During summer 2014, she interned for Northwest Farm

Credit Services in Nampa, Idaho.



Brandon Nickels senior in agricultural and food business economics and bachelor's degree in economic sciences, agricultural economics option, graduating May 2015.



Aaron Kring graduated in May 2014 with a bachelor's degree in economic sciences, financial markets option. He is a graduate student pursuing his master's degree at

North Carolina State University this fall.

The "Pay It Forward" committee has awarded the Dr. Jeffrey Krautkraemer Pay It Forward Scholarship to **Darlington Sabasi**.



The new Omicron Delta Epsilon members are recognized by Bruce Pregeluber and Alan Love, left to right: Karson Taylor, Wendiam Sawadgo, Crystal Swanson, Madison Moore, Stephanie George, Corbin Poppe, and Hayley Hohman

SES Undergraduates

December 2013

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES

Matthew Brubaker, Wai Hin Chan, Lulin Chen, ChienYu Chen, Yi Lam Cheung, Pui-Ki Chung, Dallas Dyer, Joel Freeborn (Magna Cum Laude), Steve Hayden, Maddie Horner, William Knight, Yu-Chuan Lin, Hsuan-Li Lin, Ye Liu, Hao Liu, Huajun "Candice" Lu, Kevin Lynch, Ben Moore, Oscar Vega, Dejian Yu

May 2014

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES

ECONOMICS AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS OPTIONS

Fidel Abebe, Wesley Barton, Christopher Batt (Magna Cum Laude), Rossetti Celis, Kevin Coslett, Jared Felice (Cum Laude), Tristan Hanon (Magna Cum Laude), Patrick Hinwood, Mike Huyhn, Austin Kittelson, Aaron Kring (Cum Laude), Gavin Lejameyer (Cum Laude), Reginald Louimar, Michael McDonald, Lillian Mojica, Ben Moran, Kyle Murphy (Magna Cum Laude), Matthew Olson, Xin Pan, Ryan Pendleton, Kelsey Reeck, Ellen Robertson (Cum Laude), Shawn Roller (Cum Laude), Jakob Scott, Tim Smith, Timothy Summit, Garrett Thesan, Raymond Tupling

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD BUSINESS ECONOMICS

Kathryn Bolding, Jacob Klaus, Christopher Newhouse, Patrick Sullivan (Cum Laude)

August 2014

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES

Nathan Johnson (Cum Laude), Michael Rattray (Cum Laude), Osakwe Rogers, Zhentao Zhao

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD BUSINESS ECONOMICS

Undergraduate scholarship recipients

Rodrigo Bonilla, Matthew Campbell, Nicolas Colby, Kristen Droogh, Stephanie George, Kathrine Hagen, Jenica Hagler, Hayley Hohman, Miranda Jones, Christian Lacambra, Eres Logan, Megan McCormick, Madison Moore, Maria Navarro, Brandon Nickels, Cheyenne Pace, Corbin Poppe, Shane Reed, Darlington Sabasi, Wendiam Sawadgo, Coleman Schnebly, Jacob Scourey, Kyle Strachila, Crystal Swanson, Wylie Thulen, Jayson Tillman, Robert Warren, Dylan Welch, Benjamin Wildt Joshua Duncan

Internships are available and utilized

SES students participate in a variety of internships. This year, the following businesses offered internships.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| EconS 101 and 102 Tutoring Center | McGregor Co. |
| Economic Modeling Specialists | Microsoft |
| Camp Kalsman | NW Farm Credit Services |
| Charlie Holden Ranch | Paradise Creek Bicycles |
| Dow AgroSciences, Mycogen Seed Branch | Washington Federal Bank |
| Farm Credit | Windermere of Bellevue |
| Fisher Investments | WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center |
| Lamb Weston | Pemco |
| Larsen Financial Services | Reticle Solutions |

Study Abroad

SES students had many study abroad experiences. Sam Russell spent the summer in Cuba, Trent Davis spent the spring in Spain, and Jorden Mellergaard spent the spring in Prague. Faculty also led two trips:

Rwanda



In May 2014, three students from economic sciences and agricultural and food business economics majors traveled with **Randy Fortenbery** to Rwanda to work with students from Michigan State University and the National University of Rwanda on research questions pertaining to the coffee industry. The three WSU students—Hayley Hohman, Brandon Nickels, and Corbin Poppe—are conducting research on coffee production and marketing, from how to incentivize farmers to produce higher quality coffee cherries to how to use fertilizer to increase production.

Italy



Hayley Chouinard and **Philip Wandschneider** have offered the SES faculty-led study abroad program in Florence, Italy, every other year since 2005. Students enroll in three EconS classes and an Italian language course for 13 WSU credits. They discuss how to economically manage natural resources, the historical and current importance of natural resources to the economy of Florence and the Tuscan region, and how EU natural resource policy is determined and implemented. Students visit a family-run balsamic vinegar operation and a centuries-old winery to understand the value of these resources and to taste the fruits of the region.

Nearly 80 students have participated in the program, all of which have become EconS majors or minors. The next trip will begin in February 2015 with 17 students.



Hayley Chouinard and students at a bit of a luncheon



Phil Wandschneider and smiling students

Graduate Student Highlights

A Pipeline to Success

Since arriving at SES in 2010, **Ben Cowan** has made four trips (including one in October 2014) to Brigham Young University to recruit undergraduate students to apply for WSU's economics doctoral program. These trips build on a tradition started by Richard Shumway over a decade ago after Richard served as an external reviewer of BYU's undergraduate program and was impressed with the quality of the training and students there. Cowan, who obtained his bachelor's degree in economics from BYU in 2004, was a classmate of Michael Barnes ('08 WSU PhD), who chose to enroll in WSU's program after meeting with Dr. Shumway on one of his visits. BYU has been ranked in the top 15 institutions in the country for producing Ph.D. economists (but it has no doctoral program of its own), and BYU students have a strong tradition of performing well in WSU's economics doctoral program. Aside from Barnes, former BYU students who have successfully completed their doctorate over the last 10 years include Aaron Benson, Scott Goates, Drew Hanks, Jared Woolstenhulme, and Martin Ma. Six former BYU students are currently enrolled in the doctoral program.

The Shumway Fellows are **Daegoon Lee** and **Yeon Hong**. The Deboch Fellows are **Pratikshya Sapkota Bastola** and **Umesh Bastola**. The Krautkraemer Fellows are **Paul Ervin**, **Darlington Sabasi**, and **Pitchayaporn (Peach) Tantihkarnchana**. The selection of fellows was a competitive process. The Graduate Studies Committee received many outstanding applications.

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Fall 2013

Xiaojiao Jiang. Essays on the Tree Fruit Industry. Major Advisor: Dr. Thomas Marsh. Placement: Postdoctoral Researcher, Washington State University.

Max St. Brown. Essays on Economic Integration, Migration, and Secondary Markets. Major Advisor: Dr. Jon Yoder. Placement: Assistant Professor of Economics, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Last year the School of Economic Sciences Graduate Student Association held their annual poster competition where **Sansi Yang** took first place with her poster titled "Impact Evaluation of the Sri Lanka Dry Zone Livelihood Support and Partnership Program." **Tongzhe Li** with her poster titled "Explaining Hypothetical Bias Variations Using Income Elasticity of Demand" took second place. **Gnel Gabrielyan**, **Pavan Dhanireddy**, and **Lyliana Gayoso** received honorable mentions.

The School of Economic Sciences Graduate Student Association's officers for the 2014-2015 school year are **Greg Astill** as president, **Jiehong Qui** as vice president, **Dusty White** as treasurer, and **Melissa Wright** as executive secretary. This year they held, for the first time, an interdisciplinary research table at the CAHNRS Fall Festival to advertise the interdisciplinary research WSU graduate students have been a part of and to connect with graduate students in other disciplines. They also gathered donations from many Pullman businesses and SES graduate students that contributed to the successful annual SES Alumni and Friends Banquet and Auction.

Graduate Student Highlights *continued*

Spring 2014

Xiaonan Liu. Demand System with Binding Non-Negativity Constraints and the Effect of Product Quality on Net Trade. Major Advisor: Dr. Hayley Chouinard. Placement: Modeler, JPMorgan Chase Bank.

Alisher Mamadzhanov. Research and Development and Alternative Energy. Major Advisor: Dr. Jill McCluskey. Placement: United Nations.

Rebekah Shrader. Applied Topics in Food Policy and Management. Major Advisor: Dr. Hayley Chouinard. Placement: Assistant Professor, California State University, Stanislaus.

Ben Smith. Applying New Technology Topics and Ideas to Economics. Major Advisor: Dr. Phil Wandschneider. Placement: Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska.

Brandon Ware (interdisciplinary with main field in economics). Food Deserts: The Spatial Location of Grocery Retailers in an Urban Area. Major Advisor: Dr. Jill McCluskey. Placement: Instructor, Butler University.

Jadrian Wooten. Applied Microeconomic Topics in American Professional Soccer. Major Advisor: Dr. Jill McCluskey. Placement: Lecturer, Penn State.

Summer 2014

Gnel Gabrielyan. Essays on Hop Price Formation and Brewing Industry. Major Advisor: Dr. Tom Marsh. Placement: Postdoctoral Researcher, Cornell University.

Bing Han. Three Essays on Product Quality and Sequential Auctions. Major Advisor: Dr. Hayley Chouinard. Placement: Postdoctoral Researcher, Washington State University.

Yingzi Li. Essays on the Behavior of Commodity Prices and Economic Experimental Design. Major Advisor: Dr. Randy Fortenbery.



From left to right: **Jingze Jiang** (assistant professor, Edinboro University), **Jadrian Wooten** (instructor, Penn State), **Ben Smith** (assistant professor, University of Nebraska Omaha), **Jared Woolstenhulme** (senior associate, Charles River Associates), **Rebekah Schrader** (assistant professor, California State University, Stanislaus), and **Xiaonan Liu** (Modeler, JPMorgan Chase).

MASTER'S DEGREE IN APPLIED ECONOMICS

Fall 2013

Sylvia Olivo. Advised by Dr. Ron Mittelhammer.

Summer 2014

Huang, Kuan-Ming. Advised by Dr. Mark Gibson.
Ningshu Yu. Advised by Dr. Jill McCluskey.

Alumni News

Cory Walters and **Lia Nogueira** moved a few months ago from the University of Kentucky to the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska.

Qiujie Zheng accepted a tenure track position this fall in the Department of Economics at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Alumnus and Faculty Member Waves the Coug Flag



Alumnus ('71) and departmental faculty member (45 years), **Ken Casavant** spreads the word about WSU and SES. His son-in-law, Gustavo, invited Ken to the World Cup in Recife, Brazil, so Ken invited Gustavo to the Amazon jungle on the way to

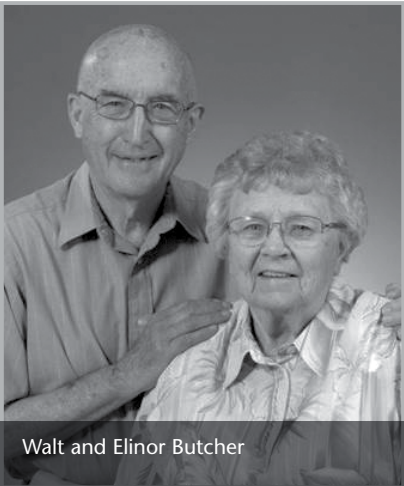


Recife. The flag was waved with enthusiasm and success. They both had a challenging but great time.

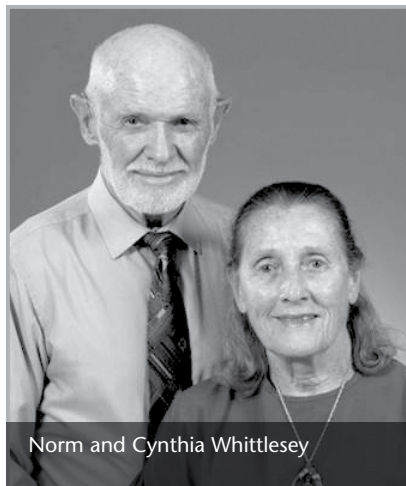
Honored Alumni and Friends Awards

Whittlesey and Butcher

Norm Whittlesey and **Walt Butcher** were colleagues who worked closely together over several decades doing great work that addressed important issues. They did not shy from controversy. Both have continued for more than 17 years since retirement to strengthen the quality of programs in the School of Economic Sciences (and its predecessor departments). They are still researching together (and may head into more turbulent waters). They have continued student mentoring, and, along with their wives, have strengthened the school through their generous contributions.



Walt and Elinor Butcher



Norm and Cynthia Whittlesey

They launched the successful fundraising effort to secure a quarter million dollars to endow a distinguished professorship in agricultural and resource economics. In various ways, they regularly purchase the services of hard working graduate students at these events and contribute to SES scholarships, international research, and the excellence fund. Walt's leadership over the last year established a fund to help the family of the late Tesfaye Deboch. And everyone enjoys watching Norm try to contain Cynthia's enthusiasm when bidding at these auctions, even when he had just written a check to help endow the Wally Rehberg scholarship, far in excess of anything Cynthia could possibly bid.

Honored Alumni and Friends Awards *continued*



Our honorees from left to right: Alan Love, Norm Whittlesey, Cynthia Whittlesey, Don Blayney, and Walt Butcher

Don Blayney also received the WSU Foundation Benefactor Award for lifetime contributions to WSU of \$100,000. The award was presented by Ben McLuen, CAHNRS development director.

Don Blayney

With a doctorate earned in 1988, **Don Blayney** is one of the most loyal Cougs on earth. He has demonstrated that loyalty through annual pilgrimages back to Pullman to work in the July 4th festivities and through annual and more frequent contributions to the School of Economic Sciences and its predecessor departments. Don has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Westminster College, a master's degree in economics from New Mexico State University, and a doctorate in agricultural economics from WSU. After his education, Don went on to pursue a 26-year career with the USDA's Economic Research Service, carrying out economic research on the U.S. dairy industry. He never fails to contribute significantly every year, establishing two endowments, the Emalinda "Dolly" Laporte Scholarship and the Martha and Bert Blayney Endowed Scholarship. Don was a major contributor to the distinguished professorship in agricultural and resource economics and to graduate fellowships.



SES Friends Development Committee

The SES Friends Development Committee supports the programs of the School of Economic Sciences by leading fundraising efforts for privately donated endowments and development funds. The goal for this year is to raise \$125,000 for the SES Excellence Fund and for scholarships and fellowships. Last year, the committee raised \$96,000 for these purposes, received \$80,000 in pledges for scholarships and fellowships, initiated the Honored Alumni and Friends Award, and invited contributors to create the following:

NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

- Martha and Bert Blayney Scholarship
- Wallace (Wally) A. Rehberg Scholarship

NEW CURRENT USE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- William M. Blayney Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship
- J. Cleve and Judith J. Borth Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship
- Mark and Nancy Brandon Undergraduate Scholarship
- Tesfaye Girma Deboch Memorial Graduate Fellowship
- Giorgio and Luisa Felloni Undergraduate Scholarship
- Marsh Family Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship
- Carole and Monte Marti Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship
- Michael McCullough Graduate Scholarship
- Lia Nogueira and Cory Walters Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship
- Des and Sheila O'Rourke Undergraduate Scholarship
- C. Richard and Janet L Shumway Undergraduate Scholarship

MANY THANKS TO THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES FRIENDS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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President, Globalwise, Inc.
'73 BS Agricultural Economics

Thomas Roney, Vice Chair
President, Thomas Roney LLC
'80 BA Economics

Mark Brandon
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'76 BS Agricultural Economics

Nick Campos President,
Viking Freight Group
'03 BS Management

Tristan Hanon
Assistant Analyst,
Congressional Budget Office
'14 BS Economic Sciences

Paula Khosla
'00 PhD Agricultural Economics

Monte H. Marti
'80 BS Agricultural Economics,
'82 MA Agricultural Economics

Michael McCullough
Associate Professor, California
Polytechnic State University
'08 PhD Economics

Toby Paterson
Education Research and Data Center,
Research and Forecasting,
State of Washington
'04 MA Agricultural Economics

Rebekah R. Shrader
Assistant Professor of Economics,
California State University, Stanislaus
'14 PhD Economics

**Pitchayaporn (Peach)
Tantihkarnchana**
Graduate Assistant,
WSU School of Economic Sciences
'16 PhD Economics (expected)

Robert D. Thayer
'76 MA Agricultural Economics

Cory Walters
Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Agricultural Economics,
University of Nebraska
'04 MA Agricultural Economics,
'08 PhD Economics

Jadrian Wooten
Graduate Assistant,
WSU School of Economic Sciences
'14 PhD Economics

We want to express a heartfelt thank you to Leslie Roy, Duane Leigh, and Daniel Friesner for their many years of service on the committee.



Please visit our Facebook page by searching for "School of Economic Sciences." Please inform us and your fellow alumni about your activities throughout the year.

How can you most help the School of Economic Sciences through your gift?

The SES Friends Development Committee has set scholarships and fellowships as its highest fundraising priority.

Why? Tuition now costs \$11,396 and total student costs approach \$24,000 per academic year.

Three Recipients of Student Awards Speak



Hayley Hohman accepts award.

Hayley Hohman

"I am a junior majoring in quantitative economics with minors in mathematics and political science. I am from Spokane, Washington, and am the first Cougar in my family, and my brother is the second. I've worked many jobs to support my education, but could not have attended WSU if it wasn't for the scholarship help that CAHNRS and alumni provided for me. My sophomore year, I was honored to represent CAHNRS on the ASWSU student senate, and this year I am the ASWSU director of legislative affairs and will be lobbying for students in Olympia this spring. The education and development CAHNRS offers has given me an edge

and provided the necessary skills to do wonderful things, such as conduct developmental economic research in Rwanda or manage a state legislative campaign. Overall, I can't even imagine not being a CAHNRS Cougar and am extremely grateful to the community. I can't wait to be an alumna and help other students reach their potential just as past alumni have helped me."

CREATE YOUR OWN SCHOLARSHIP—IT'S EASY!

- Pledge at least \$5,000 over five years—we invite all alumni and friends for whom this is feasible and consistent with gifting priorities to establish a scholarship.
 - o Name it and designate it for undergraduate students, graduate students, or both
 - o Come meet your scholarship recipient at the Alumni/Friends Banquet each year (typically Homecoming weekend)
- Contributions made by December 31 are awarded to an excellent student the next year.

OR CONTRIBUTE TO:

- School of Economic Sciences Excellence Fund:
secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=405
- School of Economic Sciences (Undergraduate) Scholarship Fund:
secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=407
- School of Economic Sciences Graduate Fellowship Fund at:
secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=4492



Darlington Sabasi speaks at the friends dinner

Darlington Sabasi

"This fellowship helped cover part of my costs for the two major professional conferences I attended this summer—the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Through these conferences, I was able to meet with former faculty and friends, make new connections, receive an award, and make my first presentation at the biggest meeting in the agricultural and applied economics discipline. The exposure I got is second to none and I am more motivated than before to not only do research but to also go out and share with others my research while at the same time learn what others in my discipline are doing in advancing science."

Katherine Hagen

"Receiving an SES scholarship allows me to freely pursue an economics degree (a subject which I love dearly and am consistently fascinated by) without worrying about the tradeoff between education and debt. It is also a great reminder that there are people out there who care and have enough faith in students to invest in us. It's inspiring, really."

CONTINUING A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

Many thanks to all who have created new current use scholarships and fellowships, contributed to the school's excellence fund, and helped with the endowment campaign to provide endowed chairs, distinguished professorships, graduate fellowships, and undergraduate scholarships in the School of Economic Sciences. Your generous donations ensure the continued excellence of vital programs. As you make your charitable contributions to WSU, please consider creating a new current use scholarship or fellowship by pledging to contribute at least \$5,000 during the next five years. You can also designate the WSU School of Economic Sciences Excellence Fund, SES Undergraduate Scholarship Fund, SES Graduate Fellowship Fund, or any of the other scholarships and endowed funds for your donation. You can then be assured that your generosity will work for the continued excellence of programs and faculty in all areas of economics and agricultural economics. You may donate by check, credit card, appreciated assets, or through a legacy gift. To give online, visit ses.wsu.edu and click on "I Want to Give" in the upper left corner. For more information, contact Cindy Barnhart at 509-335-2243 or cindy.barnhart@wsu.edu. We appreciate your continued support!

The following list of annual gifts includes contributions for the period of July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. If we missed your donation, please accept our apologies and let us know of our oversight.

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