

# SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | DECEMBER 2016

## *Happy Holidays from the School of Economic Sciences!*



The School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University sends you greetings this holiday season. We wish the best for you and your family.

This has been an exciting year at WSU. A new president, Kirk Schulz, joined us in the summer of 2016. SES alum Dan Bernardo returned from serving as Interim President to his position as WSU Provost and continues to be the academic leader of the university. SES alum and faculty member Ron Mittelhammer finished up his year as Interim Co-provost and returned to his position as Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. He will continue to lead the college until his planned return to the SES faculty sometime in 2017. We are very proud that SES alumni serve WSU and

the State of Washington in such important ways.

The School has once again had a year of accomplishments. We added two new faculty, Can Tian and Richard Iles, and we welcomed back Eric Jessup. Richard Shumway and Ken Casavant are taking on new and more broadly defined roles. Doug Young is taking on a new role writing a column for the local paper. Karla Makus is retiring as our academic advisor and has joined our SES Friends Development Committee. We also welcomed our new academic advisor, Rebecca Liao-Cance. Jill McCluskey was inducted into the Washington State Academy of Sciences. Jon Yoder and Mike Brady were recognized for their work on the Yakima Basin with the Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis Award from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. Ben Cowan became our first ever National Bureau of Economic Research affiliate. These and many other stories are in the pages that follow.

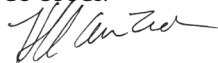
An important milestone for the School was final approval and launching of the Bachelor of Science degree in Economic Sciences, Business Economics Option, for the WSU Global Campus. This represents an important step in reaching an entirely new audience. Combined with expanding on-campus courses, this program will lead the School to be part of the education of more Cougs than ever and enhance our contributions to the State of Washington and beyond.

The Annual SES Colloquium, Banquet, and Auction took place on Homecoming Weekend. We were greatly pleased to see participation by so many alumni, faculty, students, and supporters of the School. The Colloquium topic was Economic Outlook in a Time of Uncertainty and the talks were exceptionally well received. Through your many generous gifts, the School was able to award scholarships and fellowships to 49 SES students. We very much appreciate all of the support we receive and your contributions are truly supporting our students' success and the many successes of the entire School. There are many ways to contribute, so please let us know if you would like to be involved in a larger role.

We hope that you enjoy the tidings that follow about the SES family of alumni, faculty, students, and staff in this issue of the SES News. If you are in Pullman, please come by and visit us in Hulbert Hall.

All of us in SES wish you and yours a very happy and healthful Holiday Season and a peaceful, prosperous New Year.

GO COUGS!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Alan Love".

H. Alan Love, Professor and Director

### **Contact us:**

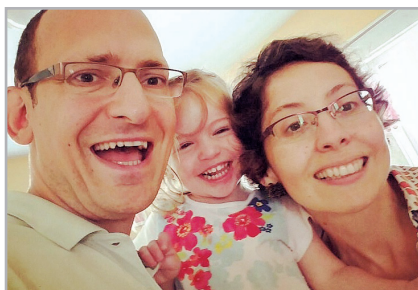
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# Personal note of thanks

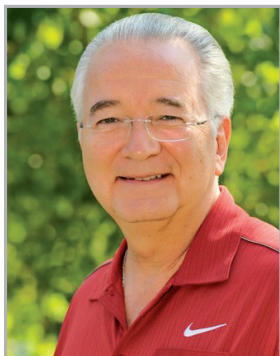
## From Ana Espinola-Arredondo

I would like to thank my colleagues, students and the SES family for all the support I received during my cancer treatment (flowers, visits, food, cards and e-mails). It was an amazing experience that made me value our great community. I would like to especially thank my students John Strandholm and Hao Li who helped me to keep teaching during chemo, something that I love the most and was a key element during my recovery.



## School Highlights

They are BACK!...and we are proud of our economists!!!



SES graduate **Ron Mittelhammer** returns as Dean of CAHNRS and offered these thoughts in June. *"This is my first official day back, full-time, in the CAHNRS Dean's office after having served almost a year as one of two Co-provosts at WSU. I must admit that I am very pleased to be back in the college where I began my academic career, and a college that I truly love being part of. I experienced and learned a great many things during my time in the Provost's Office, and I believe that many of the university-wide perspectives I gained in that role will enhance my ability to serve our college in positive ways moving forward. It also underscored my conviction about something I had already known and appreciated -- that I am, and we are, very fortunate to be part of a college at WSU that is so successful, and that has such monumental impact, quality, scope, and depth."*



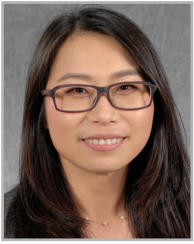
SES graduate and Provost **Dan Bernardo** on his year as Interim WSU President. *"I am proud and humbled to have served as the interim president of my alma mater. While I am certain that someday I will look back fondly on the peaks and valleys of the past year, today, I am just pleased to turn over the controls to the able leadership of President Schulz. ...*

*When I was appointed by the Regents back in July, they gave me two explicit goals: (1) position WSU for the hiring and introduction of a new president, and (2) continue advancing the many initiatives begun by President Floyd. Clearly, we have made great strides in each of these areas, while continuing to perform our day-to-day teaching, research, and engagement activities. WSU is a better place than it was a year ago, and the faculty and staff deserve much of the credit. ...*

*I have now moved back into the Provost's Office and feel very comfortable in my old confines. I am focused on the challenges and opportunities that present themselves on the academic side of our institution. There is no question that the past year's experiences have provided me knowledge and perspective that will better inform my leadership and decision making in the role of provost."*

# Faculty and Staff Highlights

## New staff and faculty



**Can Tian** is our new Assistant Professor in macroeconomics. After receiving her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 2014, she worked at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. Her research areas include business cycles, industry/firm dynamics, production networks, and search and matching theory. She has already published in the *Journal of Economic Theory* and *The Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*. She is teaching undergraduate Money and Banking and a Ph.D. core course in Macroeconomics. Excited to be at WSU to work with great students and colleagues, she already bought a house in Pullman and has enjoyed furnishing it with items purchased online. She states, *"I was city born and bred... This is even my first time living in a house (yes, I'm serious!) I have a lot to learn about how to live here, Pullman-style."*

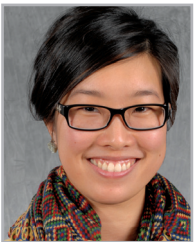


**Richard Iles** joins our faculty after a bit of a travel to get here. He received his Ph.D. from Griffin University in Australia. He states *"Global travel is all part-of-the-course for fieldwork-loving development and global health economists. This has become all the more evident in the lead-up to commencing with SES. To attend SES interviews in February, four flights were required to take me from rural north India to Pullman, USA. Then, to join SES (and adjunct within the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health) as an Assistant Professor from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine required several more flights (UK, via Australia, to Pullman). My first few months in Pullman have been stimulating as I learn about WSU's current animal health work in Kenya and Tanzania, and prepare a funding submission for global health research in India. A highlight of this time was attending the alumni dinner (during homecoming weekend). It was my first opportunity to meet SES grad students from around the world and donors from industry and the community. I am looking forward to continued travel and connecting with those interested in development and global health."*



**Eric Jessup** received his Ph.D. from the Agricultural Economics Department at Washington State University in 1998. His first foray into the private sector was with the financial services firm American Express Inc. The economic, statistical and data analysis skills developed in the doctoral program were valuable assets in the financial services field, particularly in those markets where access to data was so limited. After 5 years with American Express, Jessup returned to WSU as an Assistant Research Professor in the School of Economic Sciences and spent the next seven years on the faculty, teaching and conducting research, primarily in the field of freight transportation economics. He also became well-known locally for his music, performing frequently at venues around the area in Pullman and

Palouse, WA and Moscow, ID. In 2010 he and his family relocated to a small city in the Black Forest region of southern Germany after accepting an Honorary Professor position at the Albert Ludwig University in Freiburg, Germany. Over the next four years his family doubled (from one to two boys, Hugo and Leo). In 2014 Jessup accepted another leadership position within the private sector, but this time with the global commodities firm Informa Economics in Memphis, TN and provided deep connection with real clients with real challenges and needs for real solutions. This Fall 2016, he returned to the classroom at WSU as an Associate Research Professor in the School of Economic Sciences and Associate Director of the Freight Policy Transportation Institute, both teaching and continuing his research interests.....and his musical interests.



**Rebecca Liao-Cance** started her education at WSU as a transferring international student studying in Psychology. After graduating with her B.A degree in 2009, she returned to Pullman the next summer to pursue a Master's degree in counseling driven by her curiosity in human behavior and emotions. During her time in graduate school, she found herself resonating with student experience through advising a student club and counseling at the University of Idaho as part of her practicum. She began working as an academic advisor with undeclared students, supporting their exploration of majors and maneuvering through the WSU campus. This February, she became the new academic coordinator for the School of Economic Sciences working with all undergraduate economic and incoming

students. She is deeply impressed by the quality of students in economics, and their passion to achieve their goals. Rebecca never felt as connected to a group of students as she is with economic students on a professional, intellectual, and emotional level. She feels that she has found her professional home working alongside these bright students and engaging faculty and staff. She hopes to continue supporting, challenging, and engaging economic students to thrive for excellence.

Rebecca has been a Pullmanite for the past 10 years, and currently lives happily with her husband and three cat children.

## Faculty and Staff Highlights *continued*

### Retiring

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**Karla Makus** joined WSU in the spring of 2007 as an academic advisor in the (then) SALC. Luckily she was mentored by Jane Parker and used her improved advising skills working with over 300 students per semester. In the summer of 2008, Karla transferred to the School of Economic Sciences where she has been the Academic Coordinator/Advisor. Her time in SES has been remarkable – bright and interesting students who keep her young, along with warm and friendly faculty and staff who have made SES a “home.” Upon retirement January 6th, Karla plans to spend more time with her new grandson in Portland, and with her new grandchild due January 7th in Helena. Her husband Larry will retire next summer and the two plan to use their new travel trailer often!



**Doug Young**, Emeritus Professor, received his Ph.D. from Oregon State University in 1976 and has been a stalwart member of the faculty until this year of retirement. He served as editor of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, then President of the WAEA. He received numerous teaching and research awards, and was a popular featured speaker in the United States and Canada. He was author of 90 journal articles, 26 book chapters, and over 300 other scholarly pieces of work.

At WSU, he taught undergraduate international agricultural development, undergraduate advanced farm and ranch management, graduate agricultural production economics, Ph.D. core economic theory, and a few other courses for short periods. Doug fully retired in mid-2016 after 40 years at WSU and reaching age 70. He still comes to campus daily to have lunch and tell stories with other WSU retirees and to do a little pro bono work. His new unpaid career is writing a column on vegetable gardening in the local newspaper. Check it out in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News every other Saturday.



**Richard Shumway**, Regents Professor in the School of Economic Sciences, retired on September 30. He has worked at WSU for nearly 19 years. He came here from Texas A&M in 1998 and served as chair of the department until the merger into the School of Economic Sciences in 2004.

He has taught doctoral econometrics, production and consumption economics, masters’ and undergraduate-level micro-economic theory and econometrics, as well as the senior capstone course and farm management, the subject that got him hooked on economics as a student.

His research has focused on the economics of renewable energy, technical change, and relationships between environmental policy and decisions of multiple-product agricultural firms. The quality of his work has been recognized by awards from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and both the Western and Southern Agricultural Economics Associations. He is a fellow of the AAEA and WAEA and past president of both.

In retirement, Richard and his wife Janet are looking forward to spending more time with their six children and 22 grandchildren. An avid runner, Shumway has taken three-mile runs three days a week for the last 45 years.



**Ken Casavant**, Professor, is leaving, but then he isn’t. Ken and Dorothy Casavant came to WSU for Ken to work on his Ph.D. After two years in graduate school, he was offered and accepted a position on the faculty. Next year will be Ken’s 50th year of having the “perfect job” at WSU. Internationally known as a transportation economist, Ken has generated over \$8 million in grants, written three books, 11 book chapters, has over 350 publications, and his travel as researcher, consultant, and speaker, took him to 41 countries.

He has won many local, state, and national teaching awards due to his love of economics and his students. Last spring he taught his last class, 420 students, but will continue his position as Director Emeritus for the Freight Policy Transportation Institute. Over his long career he has won various University Awards for leadership and service, served on the Pullman City Council, served as President of the Pullman Chamber of Commerce, chaired the WSU Faculty Senate, and served as Faculty Athletic Representative (18 years).

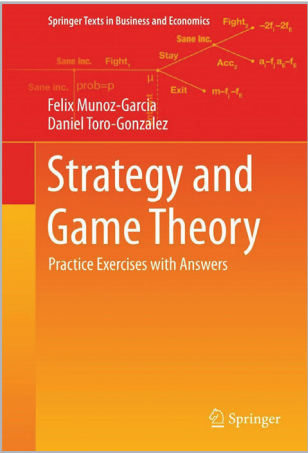
But, at 74, he now enters into phased retirement with Dorothy. What a ride this has been for Ken and Dorothy. Dorothy came to celebrate Ken’s last lecture.



## Leaves

Most people don't choose to winter in Minnesota. But that is exactly what Associate Professor **Andrew Cassey** did. Dr. Cassey was on sabbatical leave during the 2015–16 academic year. During fall semester, Dr. Cassey was a visiting scholar at Penn State University in State College, PA. In spring semester, Dr. Cassey was a visitor at the University of Minnesota. He completed his sabbatical year as a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in May and June, 2016. During his leave, he gave research seminars at Case Western Reserve University and North Dakota State University, developed and enhanced research and Extension networks, and continued his research on informational barriers to trade by working at the U.S. Bureau of the Census Research Data Centers located at Penn State and the University of Minnesota.

**Jinhui Bai** is a visiting professor this year at the PBC School of Finance at Tsinghua University in China. He enjoys observing the dynamic Chinese economy up close. The release from teaching responsibilities in the fall semester is providing a positive shock to his research productivity. He is looking forward to the spring semester when he will teach two Ph.D. courses and organize an international conference on Chinese monetary policy.



## New Books

Faculty members **Felix Munoz-Garcia** and **Anna Espinola-Arredondo** were editors of the volume “*Game Theory*” for the WSPC Reference on Natural Resources and Environmental Policy in the Era of Global Change (published October 2016). The contributors for the volume were recognized experts in the area of environmental economics and game theory in the U.S and Europe.

**Felix Munoz-Garcia** published the book “*Strategy and Game Theory: Practice Exercises with Answers*” with former Ph.D. student **Daniel Toro-Gonzales**.

**Jill McCluskey** and **Jason Winfree** (Ph.D. 2003) are editors of the forthcoming book, *The Economics of Reputation*, to be published by Edward Elgar Publishing: Northampton, MA.



## Faculty honors and awards

### And, Norm does it again

**Norm Whittlesey** was awarded the Warren A. Hall Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Water Resources Research from the Universities Council on Water Resources. Norm is an Emeritus Professor at Washington State University who has been making waves in water economics since before most of our readers were born, and is still doing so.

During his tenure at Washington State University, he was heavily involved in research and teaching related to production agriculture, irrigation development, water policy, and environmental economics throughout the West. Studies of water value, allocation, and conservation have been central to research and policy development activities during the past two decades. In 1987 he won the prestigious

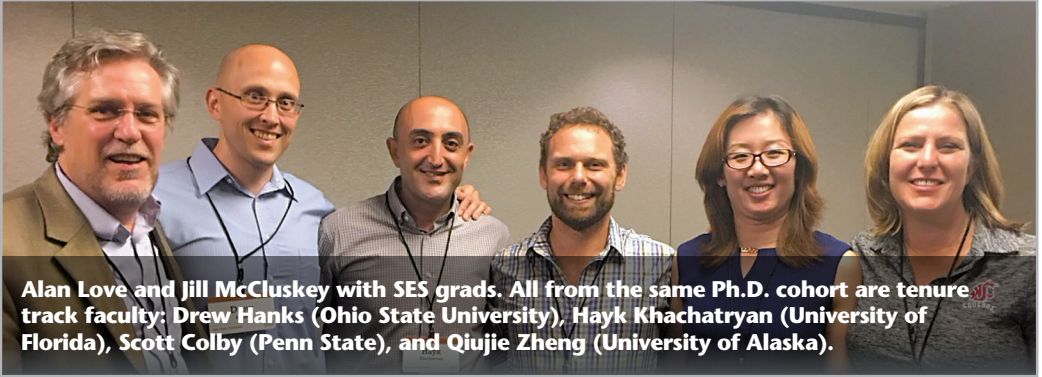
Award for Professional Excellence from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association in recognition of his distinguished policy contribution for work in water policy related to irrigation development in the West. In 1998 he was honored as a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association in recognition of his path-breaking research on water policy and irrigation management. In 2004 he received the Distinguished Scholar award from the WAEA. In 2014 he received the Legacy of Excellence award for emeritus faculty from Washington State University. In 2015 he was appointed to the Hall of Fame for alumni in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University. He has been involved in many consulting efforts. These include three U.S. Supreme Court cases involving disputes between states over allocation of cross border rivers. He has served on numerous regional and national committees and task forces engaged in policy development for solving problems of natural resource management and the environment.

## Faculty and Staff Highlights *continued*

### Further awards, and professional accomplishments

#### Agricultural and Applied Economics Association

AAEA President **Jill McCluskey** presided over the AAEA at the annual meeting in Boston.



**Hayley Chouinard** completed her 3-year term as a director of AAEA.

**Jon Yoder** (team leader) along with **Mike Brady** and **Qingqing Yang** from SES and other team members received the Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis for their report to the Washington State Legislature, "Benefit-Cost Analysis of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Projects" (<https://swwrc.wsu.edu/2014ybip>), and related outreach efforts.

#### CAHNRS

Faculty Excellence in Research Award – **Jill McCluskey**

Team Interdisciplinary Award – Yakima Basin Cost-Benefit Analysis Research Team: The core faculty research team included Jennifer Adams, **Michael Brady**, Joseph Cook, Stephen Katz, and **Jonathan Yoder**.

**Randy Fortenbery** was selected to serve as Chair of the Research Advisory Committee for CAHNRS.



#### National Bureau of Economic Research

**Ben Cowan** has been chosen as an affiliate in health economics by the National Bureau of Economic Research, having published heavily in the Journal of Health Economics. He is the first economist from WSU to be selected as an NBER affiliate. Faculty research fellows and affiliates submit working papers through the NBER's working paper series, meet regularly with other fellows and associates in their program to present new work, and conduct research in their program area. The NBER's Health Economics Program emphasizes studies on the economics of substance use, the economics of obesity, economic models of the determinants of health, and the determinants of the cost of medical care.

#### Washington State Academy of Sciences

**Jill McCluskey** was elected to the Washington State Academy of Sciences

#### Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board

**Ken Casavant** was appointed by the Governor to the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)

#### Western Agricultural Economics Association

**Benjamin W. Cowan**, **Daegoon Lee**, and **C. Richard Shumway**, received the Outstanding Published Research Award for their April 2015 article "The Induced Innovation Hypothesis and U.S. Public Agricultural Research," AJAE 97(3) April 2015:727-742.

**Randy Fortenbery** is President-Elect of the WAEA.

**Karina Gallardo** is beginning a three-year term as Director of the WAEA. She is also editor of the Journal of Food Distribution Research.

# Stimulating the Intellectual Climate

External seminar speakers bring new thoughts and debate to SES in 2016

**Arman Rezaee**, University of California, San Diego  
**David Munro**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
**Minjoon Lee**, University of Michigan  
**Aine McCarthy**, University of Minnesota  
**Roozbeh Hosseini**, Arizona State University  
**Ellen McCullough**, Cornell University  
**Steven Lugauer**, University of Notre Dame  
**Olivia Bertelli**, Paris School of Economics  
**Prachi Jain**, University of Michigan  
**Joseph Harrington**, University of Pennsylvania –  
Leigh Lecturer

**John Campbell**, Harvard University  
**Byoun Hoon Seok**, Ohio State University  
**Carlos Dobkin**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
**Alexis Toda**, University of California, San Diego  
**Eric Edwards**, Utah State University  
**Fei Li**, University of North Carolina  
**Jayson Lusk**, Oklahoma State University  
**Erik Kimbrough**, Simon Fraser University  
**Joseph Cook**, University of Washington  
**Stephen Polasky**, University of Minnesota

## SES Colloquium - Economic Outlook in a Time of Uncertainty

The third annual SES Colloquium featured prominent two alumni, both working in the private sector, among the featured speakers: **Michael Stolp** (B.S., 1996, Agribusiness) and **Tim Graciano** (Ph.D., 2011).

- **Nathan Kauffman**, Assistant Vice President and Omaha Branch Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
- **Michael Stolp**, NW Farm Credit Services Vice President of Consumer Insights
- **Tim Graciano**, Amazon, HR Analytics and Economics
- **Randy Fortenbery**, Professor, Tom Mick Endowed Chair in Small Grains, Washington State University



Alan Love introducing WSU graduate and speaker, Tim Graciano, at the Colloquium.

## SES Friends Development Committee

The SES Friends Development Committee supports the programs of the School of Economic Sciences by leading fund raising 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 \$77,000 for these purposes, received \$20,000 in pledges for scholarships, and invited contributions to create the following:

### **NEW CURRENT USE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- Randy and Eve Fortenbery Undergraduate Scholarship
- Vicki McCracken and Bill Pan Undergraduate Scholarship
- Maggie and Jinhui Bai Undergraduate Scholarship
- C. Richard and Janet L. Shumway Undergraduate Scholarship (renewed)

## MANY THANKS TO THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES FRIENDS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Bruce A. Prenguber**, Chair,  
Globalwise, Inc. '73 B.S.  
Agricultural Economics

**Tristan Hanon**, Vice Chair,  
University of California, Davis,  
'14 B.S. Economic Sciences

**Mark Brandon**, Banner Bank,  
'76 B.S. Agricultural Economics

**Carolyn Clark**, WSU Emeritus  
Professor

**Chris Clarke**, WSU Graduate  
Student, '17 (expected) Ph.D.  
Economics

**Hayley Hohman**, University  
of Texas, '16 B.S. Economic  
Sciences

**Karla Makus**, WSU SES  
Academic Adviser

**Monte H. Marti**, Snohomish  
Conservation District, '80 B.S.,  
'82 M.A. Agricultural Economics

**Michael McCullough**,  
California Polytechnic State  
University, '08 Ph.D. Economics

**Toby Paterson**, Washington  
State Office of Financial  
Management, '04 M.A.  
Agricultural Economics

**Thomas Roney**, Thomas Roney  
LLC, '80 B.A. Economics

**Rebekah R. Shrader**,  
California State University,  
Stanislaus, '14 Ph.D. Economics

**Alexander Smith**, Limeade,  
'13 B.S. Economic Sciences

**Kyle Strachila**, WSU  
Undergraduate, '17 (expected)  
B.S. Economic Sciences

**Pitchayaporn (Peach)  
Tantihkarnchana**,  
Pennsylvania State University,  
'16 Ph.D. Economics

**Robert D. Thayer**, '76 M.A.  
Agricultural Economics

**Cory Walters**, University of  
Nebraska, '04 M.A. AgEcon, '08  
Ph.D. Economics

**Jadrian Wooten**, Pennsylvania  
State University, '14 Ph.D.  
Economics

## 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 \$10,984 and total student costs approach \$27,000 per academic year.





## 2016-17 SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Josh Adams, Haseeb Ahmed, Sherzod Akhundjanov, Juan Ares, Paige Campbell, Kuan Chen, Pak Sing Choi, Taylor Choonhaurai, Haynes Dallas, Nathan DeLay, Dylan Diedrich, Abigail Dovre, Kristen Droogh, Brandon Evers, Seiji Furukawa, Hallie Galbreath, David Hannas, Madison Harder, Austin Harding, Zed Higgs, Yeon Hong, Nicholas Hosler, Boris Houenou, Christopher Keizer, Julian Khalifa, Lyudmyla Kompaniyets, Tyler Laferriere, Sadie Lanier, Rui Luo, Megan McCormick, Maxwell Mielke, Austin Miller, Taylor Neal, Joe Patten, Riley Seeger, Kyle Strachila, John Strandholm, Xinlong Tan, Hieu Thai, Joshua Thompson, Wylie Thulen, Gabriella Tudor, Preston Van Winkle, Luke Williams, Haowei Yu, Xin Zhao, You Zhou, Taylor Zillyett, Quinn Zunino

## CONNECT WITH THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES

Please visit our newly designed website **ses.wsu.edu** to see more exciting things happening in the School of Economic Sciences and who is doing what.



Click on **“Keep in Touch”** at the bottom of the homepage to give us your current contact information and inform us of your activities. Click on **“Facebook”** at the bottom of the homepage or search for **“School of Economic Sciences”** on Facebook to inform us and your fellow alumni about your activities throughout the year.

### 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 or graduate students.
  - 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](https://secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=405)
- School of Economic Sciences (Undergraduate) Scholarship Fund: [secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=407](https://secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=407)
- School of Economic Sciences Graduate Fellowship Fund at: [secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=4492](https://secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=4492)

## Leigh Lecture

**Joe Harrington**, Patrick T. Harker Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy at Wharton, was the 2016 Leigh Lecturer. He has published extensively in many leading journals including the American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, Management Science, and American Journal of Sociology. His lecture, "Collusion – The hidden evil in the marketplace," drew from his research on collusion and cartels, with the objectives of understanding observed collusive practices, developing observable markers of collusion, and designing competition policy to detect and deter collusion.



## SES Faculty Lead Centers

**The Freight Policy Transportation Institute (FPTI)** is led by **Ken Casavant** and **Eric Jessup**. The FPTI seeks to improve understanding of the importance of efficient and effective freight transportation to both the regional and national economy; address the need for improved intermodal freight transportation, as well as policies and actions that can be implemented to lower operating costs, increase safety and lower environmental impacts of freight transportation nationwide, and improve freight transportation performance to specific industries and sectors of the economy. Jessup received new funding from the US Department of Transportation, "Efficiency and effectiveness of transportation policy initiatives." Jessup, Casavant, and **Vicki McCracken** also received USDA funding for a project, "The future of the agricultural transportation system of the United States".

**The Impact Center** is located within SES and co-led by SES faculty members **Randy Fortenbery** and **Karina Gallardo**. Impact seeks to address economic, social, political, and technical problems that affect the competitiveness of Washington's agriculture and related sectors. New Impact grants include a project led by **Randy Fortenbery** funded by the Washington Grains Commission, "Contribution analysis of the Washington wheat industry." **Tim Nadreau** and **Eric Jessup** also received new WA Department of Agriculture funding, "Washington agribusiness status and outlook – 2016 and 2017." **Tom Marsh** stepped down as Director of IMPACT after serving in that role since 2009. Tom is devoting more time to the SES partnership with the Allen School for Global Animal Health. We thank Tom for his leadership and many accomplishments!

**The Washington Water Research Center (WRC)** is directed by **Jon Yoder**. The WRC administration and researchers lead and contribute to a wide range of integrative water-related basic and applied research in service to the State of Washington, the Pacific Northwest, and the World. Yoder received new funding for projects including "Livestock, livelihoods and health" (multiple funding sources), "Increasing regional to global-scale resilience in a climate-constrained world" (National Science Foundation – with **Randy Fortenbery**), and "Helping communities prepare for and recover from wildfires" (National Science Foundation).

**The Western Center for Risk Management Education (WCRME)** is led by **Shannon Neibergs**. The WCRME provides risk management education programs to agricultural producers across the 13 Western states and Guam by awarding sub-contracts for risk management education grants. With a competitive continuation award from USDA, funding supported two collaborative projects of particular importance to Washington producers – a survey to determine the extent of emerging financial risk with declining commodity prices and a study to evaluate the effects of climate risk on the PNW beef cattle industry.

# Undergraduate Highlights

## The Econ Club

**The Econ Club** officers are: Lupe Villaseñor (President), Eliana Bolt (Vice President), Molly Dilworth (Secretary), and Margaret Wallace (Treasurer).

## Undergraduate Teaching Experiences

SES faculty have developed a dedication to exposing our undergraduate students to teaching experiences, both in and out of the classroom and laboratories. This year we had 31 different students serving as Teaching Assistants in 12 different courses in the School. The reception from the students in the classes and the evaluation of those serving as TAs was very positive.

## Undergraduate scores publication of school work!



**Trent Davis**, currently serving in the Peace Corps in Peru, has had his economics capstone paper, "International Trade and the Eurozone: A Gravity Model Study," accepted for publication in *Issues of Political Economy*. Congratulations, Trent.

## Internships: Another Source of Valuable Experience

Anderson Hay and Grain  
Armor Pest Defense LLC  
Bank Colombia, Colombia  
Basin Sod and Gravel  
Congressman Denny Heck  
DelMonte

Dependable Construction  
Supply  
Dow AgroSciences  
Friese Logging Company  
Global Harvest Foods  
Northwest Specialty Produce  
Northwestern Mutual

Office Careers  
Phinney Ridge Painting  
Schweitzer Engineering  
Laboratories  
US Bank  
Wilson Banner Ranch  
WSU Extension

**Invitation to our alumni and friends: consider sponsoring an internship in your company or organization.**



**Matthew Buening** writes from Colombia, where he is doing an internship for his double major. "On February 29th I was accepted into a program called 'The Intern Group' which is an organization that takes international students to various locations in the world to work internships and gain real work experience. While the program offered many options, I immediately chose to go to Medellín, Colombia and was eventually set up with an internship in Grupo Bancolombia, the largest bank in Colombia in their Management of High Impact Entrepreneurship, Communities, and Contractors with my focus being on High Impact Entrepreneurship.

*My work at Bancolombia has been fantastic so far, and my education at WSU has helped me immensely. My focus at WSU was economic development, and part of what we do in High Impact Entrepreneurship is selecting companies to fund that will have a large, positive impact on the economy."*



Undergraduate profiles



**Paige Campbell** engaged in everything about the family farm she grew up on, especially the people who surrounded her. As a third generation Coug, she was exposed to the passion that her grandfather had for the university, sports, and economics. She learned from a young age the importance of hard work, and being accountable, while staying busy with her school work and different responsibilities. From being a Cougar Connector who introduces prospective students and family to the wonderful campus, to being the Director of Legislative Affairs that included lobbying for WSU, Paige strives to do what she can to contribute to making WSU the best it can be. She continues to be inspired by those around her to pursue her dream. She will be spending her sophomore Spring semester in Olympia as a full-time lobbyist on behalf of WSU students. Paige hopes to attend law school to focus on public policy in the future to help improve the economy.



**Hayley Hohman**, May 2016 Graduate in Quantitative Economics, Honors student, who also won the college-wide Family and Consumer Scientist Award, will receive a M.A degree in Economics from University of Texas at Austin this coming May. While at WSU, she was involved with ASWSU as Chief of Staff and Director of Legislative Affairs and was also a student member of the Commission on the Status of Women. Hayley's work always reflects her drive to enrich the life of others. Beyond her wide array of involvement at WSU, Hayley is currently serving as the Master's representative to the Economic Graduate Student Assembly, and will be working with the Governor's office on anti-human trafficking efforts. Hayley is a proud Coug and continues to grow as an economist who works to create public policy to benefit those in need.



As soon as **Kyle Strachila** got to Pullman, he started getting involved and has not stopped. Kyle embodies the motto of his fraternity, "Becoming Balanced Men." From being Vice President for his fraternity to serving in student body government, he is also completing double degrees in Agricultural and Food Business Economics and Economic Sciences (Agricultural Economics Option) with a minor in Spanish and is an Honors student. Besides being active on campus, Kyle applied his education in economics in an internship at Fisher Investments. That experience pushed him to learn more about data analytics. He wants to utilize his experience in the agriculture industry where his passion lies. To go out with a bang, he is currently serving as the Vice President for ASWSU. Following graduation in May 2017, Kyle plans to pursue a career in sales and management training at a large

agricultural firm where he plans to contribute answers to the following questions: Will we have enough food? Will it be safe? Will it be sustainable?



## Award winning undergraduates

### **SES OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARDS**

Ag & Food Business Economics  
Agricultural Economics  
Business Economics  
Economics, Policy & Law  
Environmental & Resource Economics  
Financial Markets  
International Economics  
& Development  
Quantitative Economics

Stephanie George  
Madison Moore  
Justin Shiver  
Corbin Poope  
Riley Seeger  
David Park  
Jordan Sperl  
Crystal Swanson

### **COLLEGE-WIDE AWARDS**

Aggie of the Year  
Family and Consumer  
Scientist of the Year  
Outstanding Junior  
in Agriculture

Jenica Hagler  
Hayley Hohman  
Kyle Strachila

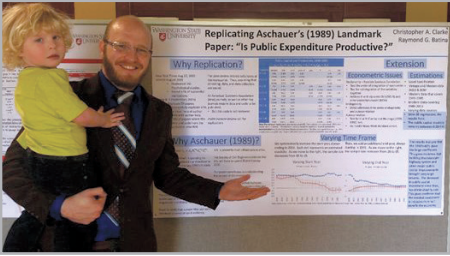
### **WAEA AWARD**

Logan Eres

## Graduate Highlights

### SES-GSA 2015 Poster Competition

**Chris Clark, with a future Cougar, explains the point of his poster.**



We awarded more than \$2,000 in travel grants to graduate students. Dozens of students submitted their work and received excellent feedback from faculty and colleagues. The funds helped many students present their work at the Western Economic Association meeting and other professional conferences.

The GSA maintains a computer lab and hosts a monthly half-baked ideas luncheon. Students practice for conference presentations and try out new ideas among their peers. This is all sandwiched between opening and closing picnics.

## Alumni Marriage

Congratulations to recently minted Ph.D.s and newly married alumni **Jadrian Wooten** and **Pitchayaporn "Peach" Tantiakarnchana**.



## **SES GRADUATES: DECEMBER 2015, MAY 2016, AND AUGUST 2016**

### **DOCTORAL GRADUATES and Their New Positions**

**Sherzod Akhundjanov**, Essays on Environmental Regulation and Applied Microeconomics; advisors: Ron Mittelhammer and Felix Munoz-Garcia; Assistant Professor, Utah State University

**Gregory Astill**, Production Analyses on Green Technology Adoption: The Case of Anaerobic Digestion; advisor: Richard Shumway; USDA Economic Research Service

**Paul Ervin**, Three Essays on the Economics of Infectious Diseases; advisor: Jon Yoder; Ministry of Economic and Social Development, Paraguay

**Lyliana Gayoso de Ervin**, Essays on Economics of Education and Language of Instruction; advisor: Ben Cowan; Ministry of Economic Planning, Paraguay

**Miaoru Liu**, Three Essays on Human Welfare and Public Policies; advisor: Thomas Marsh; Zions Bancorporation

**SES GRADUATES: DECEMBER 2015, MAY 2016, AND AUGUST 2016 cont.**

**Darlington Sabasi**, Analysis of U.S. Agricultural Total Factor Productivity Components, Credit Constraints, and Farm Households' Labor Allocation; advisor: Richard Shumway; Assistant Professor, Beloit College

**Tristan Skolrud**, Advances in the Economic Modeling of Agriculture and Natural Resources; advisor: Richard Shumway and Greg Galinato; Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan

**Pitchayaporn Tantihkarnchana**, The impact of Environmental Amenity on Real Estate Market and Decision Making in the Incomplete Information Context; advisors: Hayley Chouinard and Michael Brady; Instructor, Penn State University

**Dustin White**, The Hidden Costs of Decisions in Applied Microeconomics; advisor: Ben Cowan; Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska at Omaha

**MASTER OF SCIENCE GRADUATES**

**Michael Gilman**; advisor: Felix Munoz-Garcia

**Trang Thu Tran**; advisor: Ana Fabiola Espinola Arredondo

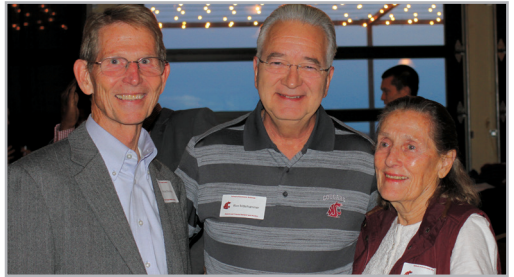
## Alumni News

### Alumni and Friends Banquet and Auction

At the annual banquet, conversations and wine flowed freely. Some of the activities are shown below:



Every one writing out their checks for the auction.



Richard Shumway, Ron Mittelhammer, and Cynthia Whittlesey.

### Honored Alumni and Friends Awards

Each year, the School of Economic Sciences recognizes individuals or organizations whose generous donations have made an important difference in the quality of our programs. This year, both individuals and organizations were honored.



**Duane and Joan Leigh** Long-time faculty member and chair of the WSU Department of Economics, Duane Leigh had a distinguished career as a labor economist. He was a highly regarded teacher and researcher. He served as chair in 2003 when serious faculty discussion of a merger of the Departments of Economics and Agricultural & Resource Economics began. He was a strong proponent of the merger. Without his support, there would likely be no School of Economic Sciences today. Joan Leigh was also a career educator and left a legacy implanted in the lives of hundreds of Pullman children.

Duane's father Roy endowed the Bertha Leigh Memorial Fund in Economics as a tribute to his late wife and to Duane's professional contributions. With that endowment, the department launched the Leigh Lecture, an annual university-wide symposium, in 2001. With the department merger, the Leigh Lecture has become the signature scholarly event of the School of Economic Sciences and has hosted 16 eminent economists, including three Nobel laureates (with another coming this spring). Following the death of Duane's father, the endowment was renamed the Roy E. and Bertha C. Leigh Memorial Economics Excellence Fund. Duane and Joan have continued to augment the fund with resources to ensure continuation of the Leigh legacy of excellence, and the lectures have become a family as well as a university-wide event.



**Randy Fortenbery (Tom Mick endowed chair) and Alan Love present award to WSU commissioners Gary Bailey and Dana Herron**

**The Washington Grain Commission** (WGC) was created through state legislation by merging the Washington Wheat Commission (WWC) and the Washington Barley Commission (WBC) in July 2009. These two commissions were originally created by producers in 1958 and 1985, respectively, to fund industry self-help programs through assessments on each bushel of wheat and barley sold.

An important part of the WGC's strategy is actively supporting and financially contributing to WSU. They have directly invested in the success of CAHNRS and the School of Economic Sciences through the funding of endowed chairs, infrastructure, and research projects that have supported both graduate and undergraduate students. By funding several chairs across multiple disciplines, they have encouraged and supported an interdisciplinary approach to addressing the important

problems facing Washington agriculture, and have stayed actively engaged in research conducted by campus scientists.

The Thomas B. Mick Endowed Chair in Small Grain Economics was funded by the Commission in 2009, and filled in the School of Economic Sciences in 2011. The Chair is named after the first Washington Grain Commission CEO, Thomas B. Mick.

## Announcements

### In Memoriam

#### **Myron "Mike" "Bud" Eugene Wirth**

Long time faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Myron "Mike" "Bud" Eugene Wirth, died on November 11th, 2015. He was born in Lapeer, Michigan on June 6, 1928.

Mike earned his Doctorate at Michigan State University and was a professor of Agricultural Economics at Washington State University in Pullman from 1965 to 1994. Mike taught undergraduate agricultural finance for decades. He also developed and conducted the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Credit School for bank loan officers for several years. This was one of the Department's major extension outreach activities.

Mike previously served in the Military Police Corps in the United States Army as a first Lieutenant. He was a crack shot, a devoted football fan, a jazz music connoisseur, a consummate storyteller, and a copious consumer of popcorn. He loved to laugh and had a quirky sense of humor.

#### **Milton Steinmueller**

Dr. Milton H. Steinmueller who was awarded the Honored Alumni and Friends Award last year by SES, passed away in Vancouver, WA at 92. He was born June 26, 1924 in Vancouver where he grew up on a small dairy farm in the Pleasant Valley area.

During World War II, he worked as a crane operator in the building of Liberty Ships.

Following the war, Milton earned an Associate's degree from Clark College and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University. In 1954, he began Ph.D. studies at Michigan State University at East Lansing, MI in Agricultural Economics. In 1960, Dr. Steinmueller taught his first class at MSU, Conservation of Natural Resources, to 11 students. With growing interest in environmental issues in the 1970s and 1980s, enrollment in the course grew to 170-190 students per term and he taught this course over 100 times before retiring in 1990. Milton was named a Distinguished Faculty member in 1997. His lifelong influence on students was felt in his courses as well as through supervision of many Ph.D. dissertations on resource development policy, natural resource economics, energy and mineral policy, and international development.

As stated when presenting the Friends award, Dr. Steinmueller was among the most loyal of Cougs and was a consistent financial supporter of the School. SES and his many friends and former graduate students will miss him.

## 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 to 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 5 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](http://ses.wsu.edu) and click on "I Want to Give" in the upper left corner. For more information, contact CAHNRS Alumni & Development, 509-335-2243 or [alumni.friends@wsu.edu](mailto:alumni.friends@wsu.edu). Say "I want to strengthen the School of Economic Sciences with my gift." We appreciate your continued support.



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## A BIG THANK YOU

To all of our loyal alumni, friends, faculty and emeriti who contributed a total of \$77,000 last year to ensure high quality teaching, research, and outreach programs in the School of Economic Sciences. For confidentiality reasons, we will no longer list all donors in our annual newsletter. But we want each of you to know the great value of your contributions to the School.

They have enabled us to award more scholarships and fellowships than in previous years, enrich the educational experience of students, and strengthen research and outreach activities.

The attached envelope can be used to make your contribution or pledge or you can go to [ses.wsu.edu](http://ses.wsu.edu) and click on "I Want to Give."