

SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | DECEMBER 2020



Message from the Director, Jill J. McCluskey

Greetings from the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University. This year has been difficult with the pandemic and all classes going online, but it has also an exciting and productive year for the School. We hired Wesley Blundell as an Assistant Professor in applied econometrics and Jeff Luckstead as an Assistant Professor in agricultural economics. Luckstead, who was a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas, has already received out-

of-cycle tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Provost Emeritus Dan Bernardo announced that he will return to the SES faculty. Danna Moore transferred within WSU from the Social and Economic Science Research Center to SES. She brings major grant funding with her, which made it possible to hire recent WSU Ph.D. graduate Jake Wagner as an Assistant Research Professor.

There are also many accomplishments to celebrate. Ana Espinola-Arredondo, Greg Galinato, Karina Gallardo, Bidisha Mandal, and Felix Muñoz-García were all promoted to Full Professor, and Alex Prera was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor. Randy Fortenbery was named Fellow of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, and Greg Galinato received the Outstanding Journal Article award for the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics for the second consecutive year.

As I write this, a new SES professional degree, the Master of Applied Economics, is under consideration for approval by the WSU Faculty Senate. We expect this new degree to be approved before the end of 2020. This new degree will include new courses such as Machine Learning for Economists and Big Data for Economists. The degree name for our M.S. in Applied Economics is changed to M.S. in Economics, in order to differentiate the two degrees.

Due to the pandemic, WSU football was postponed until November and SES is not holding in-person events. On November 13, we held a very successful virtual social hour and auction.

Through your generous gifts, we were able to award scholarships and fellowships to several SES students. We very much appreciate all of the assistance we receive. Your contributions support 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. If you are in Pullman, please come by and visit us in Hulbert Hall.

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

GO COUGS!

Jill J. McCluskey



CONTACT US:

Washington State University
School of Economic Sciences
PO Box 646210, Pullman, WA 99164-6210
Phone: 509-335-5555 | Fax: 509-335-1173
econs@wsu.edu | ses.wsu.edu

Faculty and Staff Highlights

Dan Bernardo, Provost Emeritus, Returns to SES Faculty as Full Professor



Dan Bernardo

Former Provost and Interim President, **Dr. Dan Bernardo**, will be returning to the School of Economic Sciences to teach Farm Management and conduct applied research, outreach, and policy analysis. Dr. Bernardo obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics at WSU in 1985. After 10 years at Oklahoma State University as a faculty member and 10 years at Kansas State University as a department head, he returned to WSU in 2005 as Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources in 2005. In 2013, he was appointed Provost and Executive Vice President. In 2015 he served as WSU Interim President for a year, and then returned to his previous role. Dr. Bernardo's career has been marked by his success as faculty, administrator, and his great passion to advance WSU to the highest academic standards. Prior to WSU, he taught undergraduate and graduate level courses in farm management, production economics, microeconomics, and risk management. It is a great honor to welcome Dr. Bernardo back to the SES faculty! ■

Wesley Blundell, New Assistant Professor in Applied Econometrics



Wesley Blundell

Dr. Wesley Blundell is an applied econometrician with research interests in environmental economics, industrial organization, and applied microeconomics. He holds a PhD and MA degree in Economics from the University of Arizona and he holds a BS degree in Mathematics and BA in Economics from Pepperdine University in California. In his own words: "Coming to WSU allows me to be closer to friends and family, I grew up on the western side of the state where my parents still reside. Also, I joined because I wanted to be a part of a PhD granting department with all of corresponding perks: (i) being able to benefit from the perspective of so many outstanding economics scholars, (ii) expand my research with the resources only an R1 department can offer, and (iii) the opportunity to mentor graduate students." He finds SES very collegial and friendly. He observed that even in the midst of Covid the faculty have still reached out to see how the move was for his family and asked how the transition has been going with his new classes. He is greatly looking forward to the resumption of in-person faculty events once the virus situation is resolved. He is also pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm and proactiveness of the graduate students, "I was here less than a week before students began reaching out to meet and discuss their research." When Wes is not working, he likes running. He ran track for Pepperdine University where he broke both the school's 5,000 meter and 10,000-meter records as an undergraduate. He runs about 35 miles a week and plans to keep it up even when the temperature drops in a few months. Welcome to SES Wes! ■

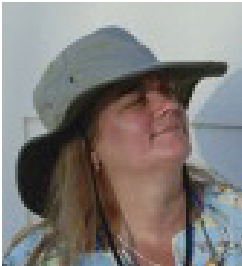
Jeff Luckstead, New Associate Professor in Agricultural Economics



Jeff Luckstead

Dr. Jeff Luckstead is an agricultural economist with interests in international trade, development, immigration, labor, and agricultural policy. His current projects include analyzing the impacts of the COVID-19-induced recession on processed food trade and studying the effects of COVID-19 and the boost and extension in unemployment benefits under the CARES Act on workers willingness to accept meat packing jobs. Dr. Luckstead completed his PhD at Washington State University in 2013. His Ph.D. dissertation was recognized by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association with the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award. Luckstead started his career at the University of Arkansas, where he received early tenure. He was recognized by the Southern Agricultural Economics Association with the Emerging Scholar Award for early-career researchers. A driving force in Dr. Luckstead returning to SES was the opportunity to work with and teach PhD students. The positive and collegial environment makes for effective and productive collaboration among fellow faculty and graduate students. In his free time, Jeff enjoys hiking, camping, and skiing. Welcome back to SES Jeff! ■

Danna Moore, New Associate Research Professor to Work with the TRG and Health Economics



Danna Moore

Dr. Danna Moore transferred to the School of Economic Sciences as an Associate Research Professor to join the Transportation Research Group and also work on grant-funded projects in health economics. She spent thirty years with the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at WSU, which has provided her a rich experience in organizational administration, leadership, and research. She expresses returning to SES and CAHNRS has the warm feeling of “coming home.” She very much looks forward to a new frontier of research and collaborating with SES and CAHNRS colleagues. Her personal goals are to make research and service contributions in health, agriculture, and policy areas important to Washington State, WSU, and to CAHNRS. Her current research activities emphasize interdisciplinary research collaborations across institutions, longitudinal evaluation of

patient centered outcomes in behavioral health treatment and recovery, and randomized control trials. Some current topical areas of interest include healthcare policy, rural-urban disparities in healthcare, substance use including opioid use barriers and challenges to recovery and treatment, measuring industry changes in food safety practices after policy implementation, and safety planning for suicide risk in data collection.

On a personal note, she is an active outdoor and animal enthusiast—trail riding on horses and camping in the mountains as much as she can, scuba and boating on lakes, rivers, and the Canal with her husband Barry, Ariel and Preston, Dylan, and their friends. Gardening, raising, and grazing a few head of cattle. Walking, training, and playing with Bucky and Sunny, her lucky yellow labs, is a daily delight. ■

Jake Wagner, New Assistant Research Professor to Work with the TRG and on Health Economics



Jake Wagner

Dr. Jake Wagner will be collaborating with Danna Moore on the Roadmap for Recovery Study which aims to improve treatment and recovery services for Substance Use Disorder and Opioid Use Disorder across Washington State. They will convene focus groups, design, and implement surveys, and conduct analysis to fill the gaps in the state’s understanding of treatment and recovery services. Dr. Wagner will also be collaborating with Eric Jessup on several projects at the intersection of agriculture and transportation including: (1) improving the efficiency of logging shipments between forests and sawmills, and (2) evaluating agricultural shippers mode choice between truck and rail across diverse U.S. markets/geographies. Dr. Wagner was awarded his Ph.D. in economics from Washington State University in May of 2020; he also holds a B.A. in economics and a B.S. in mathematics from Western Washington University. In his free time, he enjoys cycling the Palouse, and hiking with his fiancé Abby and dog Zeke. ■

Promotion at SES



Karina Gallardo



Gregmar I. Galinato



Ana Espinola-Arredondo



Bidisha Mandal



Felix Muñoz-García



Alex Prera

Congratulations to the SES faculty promoted to Full Professor: **Ana Espinola-Arredondo, Gregmar I. Galinato, Karina Gallardo, Bidisha Mandal,** and **Felix Muñoz-García.** Congratulations to **Alex Prera** for his promotion to Clinical Associate Professor ■

Faculty and Staff Highlights



Bidisha Mandal

Bidisha Mandal's Sabbatical

Bidisha Mandal was on sabbatical during the spring 2020 semester at the Center for Health Outcomes, Policy, and Evaluation Studies (HOPES) in the College of Public Health at the Ohio State University. Her project involved analyzing health insurance claims data from Ohio to understand patterns of opioid disbursement and misuse, as well as differences in treatment protocols among providers for opioid-related diagnoses. While her sabbatical was cut short due to the novel coronavirus outbreak, she plans to continue her research using data from the state of Washington. ■



Mike Brady

Michael Brady's Sabbatical

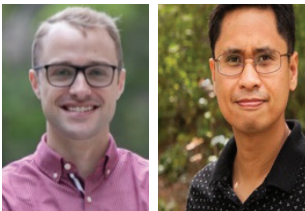
Michael Brady was on sabbatical during the spring 2020 semester at Ohio State University. This provided an opportunity to incorporate new methods for modeling integrated agricultural and environmental systems in his research and teaching. He also had an opportunity to work with USDA staff to develop a more accurate measure of the extent of double cropping in the U.S. The novel coronavirus did shorten time on leave, but it still provided a valuable opportunity to reassess longer term research goals. ■

Randy Fortenbery named 2020 Fellow of the Western Agricultural Economics Association-WAEA



Randy Fortenbery

This award grants the highest recognition to members making an enduring contribution over their career to the discipline, to Western States and the WAEA. From the WAEA: "**Dr. Fortenbery's** contributions to the discipline and to WAEA have been substantial. Randy's greatest contributions lies in his extension outreach program that is supported by rigorous research and effective leadership. Since joining the WAEA in 1988, Randy has developed highly regarded extension programs at North Carolina State University, University of Wisconsin- Madison, and Washington State University. His projects are recognized nationally and internationally." Congratulations Randy! ■



Tristan Skolrud

Gregmar Galinato

Gregmar Galinato won the Outstanding Article in the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* for the second consecutive year

Dr. Gregmar Galinato received the JARE best paper award for a second consecutive year. Nobody has received this award twice and let alone consecutively. The 2020 winning paper was coauthored with SES PhD graduate **Tristan Skolrud**, who is now Assistant Professor at University of Saskatchewan. The paper is entitled "Revenue-Neutral Pollution Taxes in the Presence of a Renewable Fuel Standard."

Gregmar and Tristan look at how to best use revenue neutral tax money to incentivize the purchase of cellulose-based biofuels to include in gasoline, while trying to move away from the relatively more polluting crude oil. Revenue neutral taxes means a new tax is added, but it is used to reduce another revenue stream. Congratulations Greg! ■



Vicki McCracken

Vicki McCracken named Associate Dean and Director of Extension

Dr. Vicki McCracken was named Associate Dean and Director of Washington State University Extension. CAHNRS Dean Andre Wright says Vicki brings a wealth of valuable leadership experience. In her own words, Vicki said: “When it comes down to it, Extension is why universities do research. We want research to impact people directly and improve lives. And nowhere is science more meaningfully applied to the real world than with Extension.” Congratulations Vicki! ■



Jonathan Yoder

Jonathan Yoder named Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Development, President of the Universities Council on Water Resources

Dr. Jonathan Yoder is Professor at the School of Economic Sciences, he is Director of the State of Washington Water Research Center, and Affiliated Faculty with the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health. Dr. Yoder’s research focused on water law and economics, energy and environment, wildfire economics, health and economic development, contract theory and public policy, and applied econometrics. The SES Endowment for Sustainable

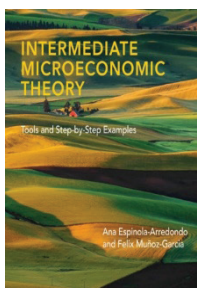
Development provides funding for research merit-based grants and awards, including research projects, awards for outstanding graduate and undergraduate research articles, dissertation chapters, and term papers. Dr. Yoder was also elected president of the Universities Council on Water Resources, a national consortium of Academic Institutions and affiliates invested in water research, education, and outreach. ■



Thomas Marsh

Thomas L. Marsh renewed as Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Dr. Thomas L. Marsh has a dual appointment at the School of Economic Sciences and Paul G. Allen for Global Animal Health, Washington State University. He does research in Econometrics, Consumer Economics, Agricultural & Natural Resource Economics, and Global Health. Several current projects include ‘Zoonoses’, ‘Global Burden of Animal Diseases’, and ‘Microplastic Pollution in Agriculture’. He was honored for contributions to his discipline for using novel econometric approaches to define the risk of invasive species and transboundary diseases. ■



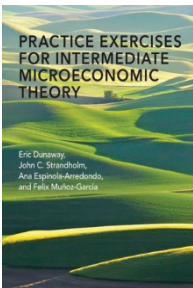
Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Felix Muñoz-García published two books with MIT Press

Professors **Ana Espinola-Arredondo** and **Felix Muñoz-García** published the book “*Intermediate Microeconomic Theory: Tools and Step-by-Step Examples*.” The book provides a short, rigorous introduction to intermediate microeconomic theory that offers worked-out examples, tools for solving exercises, and algebra support. This book takes a concise, example-filled approach to intermediate microeconomic theory. Each chapter presents theoretical models and then offers several examples and applications. The book walks readers through algebra steps and calculations, so only a basic background in algebra and calculus is assumed.

It includes 140 self-assessment exercises, giving students an opportunity to apply concepts learned from examples and teachings in the book chapters.

Continues

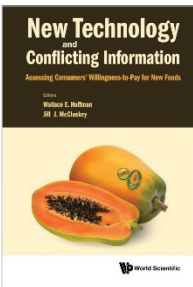
Faculty and Staff Highlights



Continued

Former PhD students **Eric Dunaway** and **John Strandholm** and Professors **Ana Espinola-Arredondo** and **Felix Munoz-García** published the book *“Practice Exercises for Intermediate Microeconomic Theory,”* This book includes detailed answer keys to all 140 self-assessment exercises and solutions to the 173 odd-numbered end-of-chapter exercises in Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (313 exercises with answer keys in total). It provides readable step-by-step explanations and algebra support, enabling students to approach similar exercises on their own, and emphasizing the economic intuition behind mathematical results. You can find more information about these two books in the MIT Press website. <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/intermediate-microeconomic-theory>

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/practice-exercises-intermediate-microeconomic-theory>. ■



Jill McCluskey’s new book on New Technology and Conflicting Information

Professor **Jill McCluskey**, together with Professor Wally Huffman of Iowa State University published a book that includes new chapters, along with the authors’ scholarly research in the area of consumers’ willingness-to-pay for new foods that have controversial attributes easily assessable to other researchers, students, and food policy makers. It addresses issues that arise in a market with conflicting information from interested parties, scientific sources, and the media. It begins with a discussion of research methods and information issues. These results

include how consumers respond to food products that are produced with new technology that lowers farmers’ costs of production, enhance nutrition and food safety for consumers, or adds variety to consumers’ food choices. These results arise from data collected in a series of laboratory experiments on adult subjects at various sites in the US and consumer surveys worldwide. The data include socio-demographic attributes of subjects, and their revealed willingness-to-pay in auctions of experimental foods and food products under randomly assigned food labels and information treatments and contingent-valuation survey data. ■



Joseph Cook

Jonathan Yoder

Joseph Cook and Jonathan Yoder testified to Washington House of Representatives

Professors **Jonathan Yoder** and **Joseph Cook** traveled to Olympia in February to testify to the House Rural Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. They discussed the economic fundamentals of the use of water markets in the State, including their impact on local communities and concerns about price speculation in water markets. They also briefly updated the committee on a five-year project funded by the USDA’s NIFA examining the potential for three

new technologies—computerized “smart” water markets, enhanced seasonal forecasting and improved monitoring of evapotranspiration—to improve water management in the state. ■



Research at SES



Wesley Blundell

Wesley Blundell published in the *American Economic Review* on dynamic enforcement of environmental regulations

Just as **Dr. Wesley Blundell** joined the SES faculty, he coauthored along with Gautam Gowrisankaran and Ashley Langer published, “Escalation of Scrutiny: The Gains from Dynamic Enforcement of Environmental Regulations,” in the August 2020 issue of the *American Economic Review*, with a WSU affiliation. He found that eliminating dynamic enforcement to air pollution regulations would raise pollution damages by 164 percent at constant fines but will raise fines by 519 percent at constant pollution damages.” ■



Shanthi Manian

Shanthi Manian’s research on assertive cheap talk and the gender gap is forthcoming in *Management Science*

There is growing evidence that suggests that people are less likely to believe statements made by women rather than by men. **Shanthi Manian** and Ketki Sheth examine whether assertive cheap talk is a mechanism for this gender gap. If women face negative returns to assertive cheap talk, then they have less access than men to an effective tool for increasing their credibility. Manian studied whether subjects discriminate based on advisor gender, whether assertive cheap talk affects advice following, and whether assertive cheap talk has differential effects by gender.

Subjects were randomly assigned to a male or female team leader who otherwise appeared identical to subjects. Subjects were also randomly assigned to varying levels of assertive written communication from their leader. They found no evidence for gender discrimination, but more assertive language significantly increased advice following. They also find that assertive language had positive effects for both male and female leaders, despite subjects perceiving this language as more masculine. However, female subjects were less likely to choose to use more assertive language. Thus, even in the absence of discrimination, this choice would reduce adherence to advice provided by women, generating a gender gap. Greater use of assertive language could be an effective strategy for women to increase their influence and credibility in the labor market. ■



Karina Gallardo

Karina Gallardo is collaborating in a \$12.8 million research funded by the USDA-NIFA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture, through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative, awarded the Vaccinium project. The overall goal is to reveal genes and valuable traits for new and tastier blueberries and cranberries. This project is led by Massimo Iorizzo at North Carolina State University, with teams of researchers from six U.S. Universities, three USDA research centers, and three international research partners. **Dr. Karina Gallardo** leads the Economics Teams along with Mississippi State Dr. Elizabeth Canales. They will

conduct large-scale studies to estimate the value consumers place on selected blueberry and cranberry traits, in order to increase demand for these fruits. Dr. Lisa DeVetter and Dr. Dorrie Main, in the WSU Department of Horticulture, are also part of this project. ■



Jeff Luckstead

Jeff Luckstead received a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grant addressing issues in the Dairy Sector

Working with Stephen Devadoss, **Jeff Luckstead** will study how dairy farms struggle to cope with the financial losses arising from structural changes due to low milk prices, high feed costs, consolidation, economies of scale, and demand fluctuations for milk products. Dairy policies such as Dairy Margin Coverage aims to manage risk by insuring against market margin (difference between average milk price and feed costs) fluctuations. A Dairy Revenue Protection insurance policy also mitigates the

risk faced by the dairy farmers. Given the financial stress, foreclosures, and major shifts in the dairy policies, the goal of this grant is to examine the impacts of dairy policies and insurance program on the economies of scale, dairy farm consolidation, profitability, and foreclosures. ■

Research at SES



Jill McCluskey

Jill McCluskey received a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grant on Social Interaction and Consumer Acceptance of Genome Editing in Domestic Livestock

Jill McCluskey is the Principal Investigator on a New NIFA grant to understand how social interaction affect consumer acceptance of genome editing in livestock. Her co-PIs include Trish Glazebrook, Jason Winfree (U. of Idaho) and Alison Van Eenennaam (U.C. Davis). Recent advances in genome-editing are widely acknowledged to have tremendous potential for beneficial results, but research is needed to understand the accompanying potential scientific, ethical, regulatory,

and social consequences. Since genome editing is a relatively new phenomenon, there is an opportunity to study how social interactions affect consumer acceptance of it. Consumers obtain information about new technology in many ways, including personal interactions, social media, and traditional media. The project will examine how social and traditional media, in-person interactions with experts, and watching a video affect consumer acceptance of genome editing. The research group will consider the case of genome-edited hornless livestock that focuses on animal welfare. They will use text-mining algorithms on major social and traditional news media websites to understand their impact on public sentiment about genome editing and animal welfare. They will host public-engagement events and interviews in California and Idaho to facilitate communication between scientists, producers, an ethicist, and the public about the use of genome editing for hornless cattle. They will test whether the intervention leads to improved understanding of how genome editing for animal welfare decreases the polarization by administering pre- and post-event surveys. Finally, a one-minute video will be created for YouTube from footage of the public engagement events. Subjects will watch the video and complete an online survey, and the results of the in-person and online intervention can be compared. ■

Shanthi Manian and Jonathan Yoder are collaborating in a \$6 M grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development



Shanthi Manian

Jonathan Yoder

This is a 5-year grant project will be used to develop a regional Feed the Future Animal Health Innovation Lab and research program, based in Nairobi, Kenya. The lab will identify interventions to address livestock diseases, particularly East Coast Fever, and develop capacity in-country for both research training and institutional development for long term impact. ■

Covid-19 Research



Ben Cowan

Ben Cowan's research on Short-run Effects of COVID-19 on U.S. Worker Transitions

Dr. Cowan uses Current Population Survey Data from February and April 2020 to examine how individual workers have transitioned between labor-market states and which workers have been hurt most by the COVID-19 pandemic. He finds not only large effects on workers becoming unemployed but also a decline in labor-force participation, an increase in absence from one's job, and a decrease in hours worked. Generally, more vulnerable populations—racial and ethnic minorities, those born outside the U.S., women with children, the least educated, and workers with a disability—have experienced the largest declines in the likelihood of (full-time) work and work hours. This research is published as a National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) paper. ■



Jeff Luckstead

Jeff Luckstead's research on the food supply chain and Covid-19

Dr. Jeff Luckstead analyzed surveys administered to low-skilled domestic workers before and during the pandemic to assess attitudes towards food production, guest workers, immigration policy, and the government's response to Covid-19. It was found that the outbreak resulted in respondents shifting their view toward food being a national security issue and a higher degree of empathy for H2A workers. This research was published in *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. ■

Jill McCluskey and Ron Mittelhammer received a USDA Cooperative Agreement Grant to Analyze Disruptions in Specialty Crop Markets from COVID-19



Jill McCluskey



Ron Mittelhammer

Drs. McCluskey and Mittelhammer will examine the impact of the pandemic on both supply-chain issues and changes in demand and assess whether these disruptions are temporary or expected to be longer-term issues. They will make policy recommendations based on our findings. ■



Karina Gallardo

Karina Gallardo's factsheets on Covid-19 impacts on the Washington tree fruit industry

Dr. Karina Gallardo put together a series of factsheet to document the impact of Covid-19 on the Washington tree fruit industry. Covid-19 and the Washington Apple Industry, Covid-19 Supply and Demand Indices Washington Apples and Covid-19 Apple Inventories and Prices are available at the SES Tree Fruit Economics Website http://ses.wsu.edu/extension/tree_fruit_economics/. ■



Eric Jessup

Transportation Research Group News

Dr. Eric Jessup leads the SES Transportation Research Group, which has been involved with a variety of freight transportation research addressing issues relevant to the agricultural and food industry in the PNW. These research efforts were funded by USDA, USDOT and regional transportation agencies. One of these studies investigated whether truck movement of agricultural products from the farm is more likely to be involved in accidents, compared to commercial truck freight. Agricultural truck movements from the farm are exempt from many requirements required of commercial truck operators, leading some to speculate that they are also less safe. But agricultural truck movements are less likely to be involved in accidents (compared to commercial trucks) but when they are involved, the consequences more severe (primarily due to weight). Another study developed a simulation model to identify the optimal location for an inland container terminal, to relieve traffic congestion on the I-5 corridor accessing the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma for trucks accessing/delivering containers. These facilities are often not economically viable unless adequate scale is achieved to provide Class I rail service. Results of these two studies and others are available at: <http://ses.wsu.edu/transportation-research-group/publications/>. Three new research projects have just been initiated, focusing on estimating the economic benefits of Columbia/Snake River navigation, improving the efficiency of forest product movements and identifying spatial modal tradeoffs between truck/rail for high value agricultural movements. ■

IMPACT Center News



Randy Fortenberry Karina Gallardo

Dr. Randy Fortenberry and **Dr. Karina Gallardo** are co-Directors of the IMPACT Center, which has internationally recognized expertise in applied economics modeling, often works multidisciplinary teams, and engages and collaborates with industry stakeholder groups. Over the past year, the IMPACT Center has completed several projects with important implications for the well-being of Washington citizens. One, in conjunction with Microsoft and Apple STEM networks, examined potential job displacement and re-training in the Wenatchee Valley associated with increased mechanization in farming. Another recent project focused on the

primary dairy regions in Washington and documented the economic contributions of the dairy sector to those regions. This was a collaborative effort between IMPACT and Dr. Shannon Neibergs and the Center for Risk Management. A third project involved an analysis of the effects of COVID-19 on Washington’s potato producers and processors. This complemented work completed by Dr. Gallardo focusing on the tree fruit industry’s response to COVID-19.

Current projects include a USDA grant awarded to Gallardo and Tim Nadreau to assess economic activity associated with Christmas tree production in the three U.S. regions that produce the bulk of the nation’s trees. This project is slated to extend into the summer of 2021. Impact has also begun a project that will assess the impact of legal home-grown cannabis on the commercial cannabis industry, including impacts on state tax collections. IMPACT will be working with the Washington Cannabis Alliance and Scots Miracle Grow to obtain primary data, and with the state liquor and cannabis board to obtain production, processing, retail, and fiscal data. An additional project that was delayed due to the onset of COVID-19 is underway now and assesses the role of beef markets and supply beef supply chains on Washington’s gross state product. These results are expected to be finalized in November. One final project just started will evaluate the challenges and costs to both potato producers in processors in Washington associated with protecting worker safety in the COVID-19 environment.

IMPACT published the 2020 edition of our annual report Washington Agribusiness: Status and Outlook, and the 2021 edition is currently underway. The special focus this year will address the effects COVID-19 has had on some of Washington’s primary crops. These, as well as our completed studies, can be accessed at <http://ses.wsu.edu/impact-center/>. ■

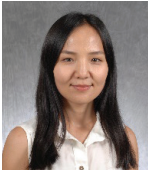
Graduate Student News



Chelsea Pardini,
President

SES Graduate Student Association

The School of Economic Sciences Graduate Student Association (SES GSA) brings graduate students together. During COVID-19, this is simultaneously more challenging and more important. Last year, the pandemic shook the foundation upon which SES GSA depended to create togetherness: weekly coffee hours, “Half-Baked” presentations, and social events. This new academic year, the GSA faced the pandemic, its isolation and uncertainty, with new resolve. They ask, how can we be there for each other when we cannot truly *be there*?



Zhazira Alisheva,
GSA Vice President

They began by meeting virtually with the first-year students who, in addition to beginning a traditionally challenging experience, now face it in extreme circumstances. In the meeting, the GSA welcomed them and answered some of their most pressing questions. They are proud of the many more senior students who joined us in sharing support and advice. They hold weekly virtual coffee hours as opportunities for laughter and connection. From playing games like “Among Us” and “Codenames”, to asking questions like, “What veggie would you be?” Most would be potatoes (though some of us are sweet). They invite professors to join the fun and ask them these and their own personalized questions. They were not surprised to learn that Dr. Ana Espínola-Arredondo believes that she would be broccoli. Coffee hours continue to be a bright and supportive space.



Katelin Swanson,
GSA Treasurer

Given that one of our goals is to support students throughout their academic journeys in SES, they started offering virtual “Cookie Dough” sessions to help students form research questions that align with their interests. In spite of their inability to provide pizza virtually,

Continues



Wisnu Sugiarto,
GSA Secretary

they are happy that many students have been willing to participate and share feedback, insights, and resources. They hold virtual “Half-Baked” sessions to foster peer research support for students with papers in their beginning stages to their final presentation practices for the job market. In the near future, they will host virtual game nights. Currently, they are in the process of putting together an apparel order, for students, faculty and alumni, featuring an SES logo. They hope that this will help us to feel close to our SES family during these difficult times and long after through them. For the rest of this academic year, they plan to both continue supporting students as in the ways shared above and find new ways to keep the community together. ■



Chelsea Pardini

SES Excellence in Research Award

SES PhD student **Chelsea Pardini** won the 2020 SES Excellence in Research Award. Chelsea’s research focus on environmental and natural resource economics and health economics. She published three journal articles and has two under peer review. Her research work studies the bargaining process between indigenous peoples and settlers. Her advisor is Ana Espinola-Arredondo. Congratulations Chelsea! ■



Joshua Tibbitts

SES Excellence in Teaching Award

SES PhD student **Joshua Tibbitts** won the 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award. Josh has taught Fundamentals of Microeconomics five times as a full responsibility instructor. He also taught Fundamentals of Macroeconomics, Economics of Sports in America, and Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus. His student evaluation score across all courses range from 4.85 to 5.0 being 5 the highest possible score. His advisor is Jill McCluskey. Congratulations Joshua! ■

Modhurima Dey Amin won AAEA-COSBAE & CWAE Research Competition



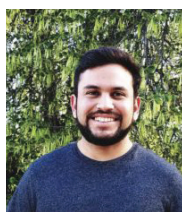
Modhurima Amin

The competition was created by two Agricultural and Applied Sections, the Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE) and the Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE) to help link students, post-doctoral associates, and early-career faculty with mentors at land-grant institutions, agencies, and industry.

The competition committee unanimously recommended Amin’s research report for the first-place award. “The committee’s recognition encourages me and many other scientists in the field to investigate the issues from a modern, data-driven angle,”

Modhurima said. “It inspires me to do more exciting research in the future and helps to expand my network for interdisciplinary collaboration.” Amin graduated in May and is now a tenure-track assistant professor at Texas Tech University. She was advised at SES by Jill McCluskey! ■

WSU Graduate Students Finalists in NFL 2020 Big Data Bowl Competition



Jugal Marfatia

Jugal Marfatia, SES PhD student and MS in Statistics, and **Namrata Ray**, PhD student in Sociology enter the NFL’s 2020 Big Data Bowl competition to answer a question: when a running back takes a handoff, how many yards should we expect him to gain? The WSU team were named finalists in the collegiate event, earning a trip to the combine. The NFL posted the contest on Kaggle, an online community of data scientists, and over 2,000 people competed. The WSU student team is one of six finalists in the college portion. Marfatia, who will graduate in May 2021, has already accepted a position as a Data Scientist for Facebook. ■

Graduate Student News

Graduate Placement for Academic Year 2019—2020

NAME	DISSERTATION/ADVISOR	PLACEMENT
Modhurima Amin	Choices and Safety in the U.S. Retail Industry. Advisor: Jill McCluskey	Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Applied Econometrics, Statistics, and Data Science, Texas Tech University
Syed Badruddoza	Retail Markets for Organic Dairy. Advisor: Jill McCluskey	Assistant Research Professor, Texas Tech University
Ryan Bain	Essays on Price Formation of Commodities and Consumer Goods. Advisor: Randy Fortenberry	PhD Economist and Data Analyst, California
Youngran Choi	Essays on Consumer Choices and Public Health. Advisor: Thomas Marsh	Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Business Analytics, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Christopher Clarke	Public Capital, Politics, and Inequality. Advisor: Ray Batina	Instructional Assistant Professor, University of Houston
J. Bradley Eustice	Topics in Spatial-Temporal Economics. Advisor: Jia Yan	Data Scientist. Lowe's Companies, Inc.
Dolores Garrido	Innovation, Green Labels, and Consumer Preferences. Advisors: Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Karina Gallardo	Visiting Assistant Professor at Union College, New York
Hyeonjun Hwang	Measuring, Designing, and Simulating Treatments in Economics. Advisor: Jonathan Yoder	Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade
Moses Luri	Essays in Water Resource Management and Adaptation, and Development Economics. Advisor: Jonathan Yoder	Visiting Assistant Professor The College of Wooster, Ohio
James Miller	Post Disability and Maternity Leave Employment-Considering Education Interactions and State Mandates. Advisor: Bidisha Mandal	PhD Economist, Idaho
Yousef Nazer	Impacts of New Technology on Market Power: The Case of the Petroleum Industry. Advisor: Jill McCluskey and Alan Love	Energy Program Officer, International Monetary Fund
Jake Wagner	Three Essays in Resource Economics Advisor: Joseph Cook	Assistant Research Professor, Washington State University
Kiana Yektansani	Essays in Environmental Regulation Design and Product Differentiation Advisors: Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Jill McCluskey	Lecturer, University of Illinois, Chicago

Master of Science Graduates 2019—2020

NAME	ADVISOR
Ramazan Acar	Mark Gibson
John Brunolli	Ana Espinola-Arredondo
Li Kai Chen	Jill J. McCluskey
Joshua Daniel Freimark	Mark Gibson
Richard Burdette Houghton III	Joseph Cook
Nhat Thi Hong Le	Bidisha Mandal
Hui Luo	Ana Espinola-Arredondo
Huize Ni	Jia Yan
Jake Stevens	Vicki McCracken
Joe Sandow	Felix Muñoz-García
Donghyun Seo	Jill J. McCluskey
Aditi Anup Surve	Richard Iles

Undergraduate Student News



Vanessa Giramata

Vanessa Giramata is the university's first finalist for the nationally competitive Schwarzman Scholar Award, said April Seehafer, director of WSU's Distinguished Scholarships Program. Giramata, who is originally from Rwanda, is an Honors College student and Agricultural Economics major. The Schwarzman, first presented to U.S. students in 2016, was created to prepare young leaders to respond to the geopolitical landscape of this century, according to its website. Scholars can focus on public policy, economics and business, or international studies. The Schwarzman is aimed at deepening the understanding of China's role in global trends. "Vanessa's career goals evolved from her past in Africa but reflect her future as a change agent and policy leader," said Seehafer. "Becoming our first Schwarzman is a credit to her academic preparation from WSU as well as her drive to be a changemaker when she returns to Rwanda." ■

CAHNRS Honors Students

Family and Consumer Scientist – **Daniel Lochridge**
Outstanding Junior in Human Sciences – **Emma Taylor**
Emerging Undergraduate Leader in Human Sciences – **Michelle Sikora**

Outstanding Senior in Economics

Agricultural Economics option
Business Economics option
Economics, Policy & Law option
Financial Markets option
International Economics & Development
Quantitative Economics option

Recipient

Vanessa Giramata
Isabella Cristelli
Ashley Knauf
Logan Dziuk
Jae Hun Jeong
Owen Thompson

Outstanding Sr in Ag & Food Bus Econ

Gracie Dickerson

Alumni News



Chris Waller

Ph.D. Alumnus **Chris Waller** named to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Waller was previously Executive Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Dr. Waller earned his master's and doctorate degrees from Washington State University in 1984 and 1985. Waller's research has centered on monetary theory, political economy and macroeconomic theory. ■



Jason Winfree

SES Alumni **Jason Winfree** (PhD 2003) now Associate Professor at University of Idaho, and **Daniel Toro-González**, now Academic Vice Chancellor at Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar Colombia (PhD 2012) along with Philip Watson, Associate Professor at University of Idaho, were awarded the 2020 Excellence in Research and Communication Award from the Food Distribution Research Society, for their article: "Fiscal Impacts and Cross-Border Effects of a Change in State Liquor Policy." The paper analyzes the economic effects of the 2012 changes in liquor policy (initiative 1183) in Washington State. This policy increased the availability of liquor but also increased taxes on liquor. The study provides evidence that the quantity of liquor sold in both Washington and Idaho increased, suggesting that availability and convenience effects can outweigh the tax/price effects. ■



Daniel Toro-González

We would like to expand our Alumni News.

Please send us news about yourself! We want to know what's been going on in your life. Have you recently accepted a job, received a promotion or award, gotten married, or had a baby? Please share this and other news. Please send the information to Jaimie Dahl (jaimie@wsu.edu) so that we can include it in our next newsletter.



Sherzod Akhundjanov



Marco Costanigro



Thomas Heckeley



Maria Loureiro Garcia

Sherzod Akhundjanov (PhD 2016) won the WAEA Outstanding Published Research Award, 2020 for his paper, "The Antiquities Act, National Monuments, and the Regional Economy," which was published in the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management. Akhundjanov is an Assistant Professor at Utah State University.

Marco Costanigro (PhD 2007) was promoted to full professor at Colorado State University.

Thomas Heckeley (PhD 1995) became Dean at the University of Bonn.

Maria Loureiro Garcia (PhD 2000) won the 2020 Spanish-Portuguese Association of Natural and Environmental Resources Economics (AERNA) Award for the "best scientific article published in 2018 and 2019." Loureiro is a Professor at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. ■

SES Friends Development Committee

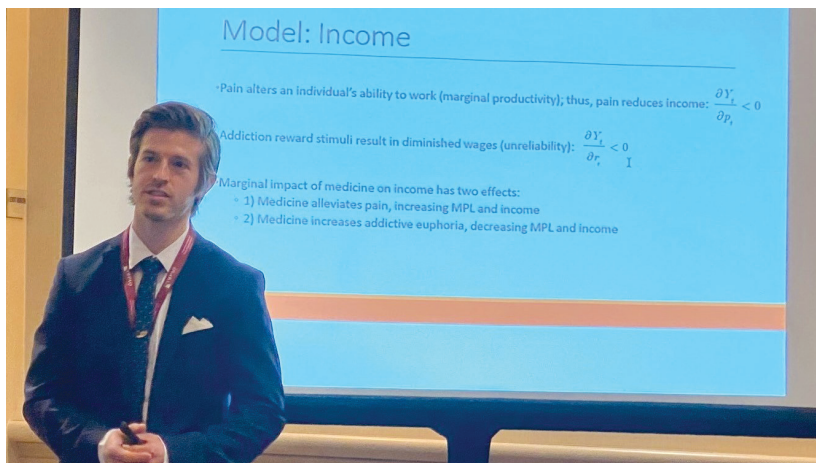
The SES Friends Development Committee supports the programs of the School of Economic Sciences by leading fundraising efforts for privately donated endowments and development funds. The goal for this year is to raise \$145,000 for the SES Excellence fund and for scholarships and fellowships. Last year, the committee raised nearly \$175,000 for these purposes and received \$100,000 in news pledges. ■

SES Friends Development Committee Members

Mark Brandon, Chair, Banner Bank (retired), '76 BS Agricultural Economics
Michael McCullough, California Polytechnic State University, '08 PhD Economics
Bruce Prenguber, Globalwise, Inc. '73 BS Agricultural Economics
Thomas Roney, Ex Officio Member, Thomas Roney LLC, '80 BA Economics
Tristan Hanon, University of California, Davis, '14 BS Economic Sciences
Hayley Hohman, Washington Department of Early Learning, '16 BS Economic Sciences
Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District, '80 BS, '82 MA Agricultural Economics
Lindsay Schilperoort, NW Farm Credit Services, '19 BS Economic Sciences
Alexander Smith, Starbucks, '13 BS Economic Sciences
Michael Stolp, NW Farm Credit Services, '96 BS AgEc
Madison Moore, Washington State Dept Agri, '16 BS Economic Sciences
Pitchayaporn (Peach) Tantihkarnchana, Pennsylvania State University, '16 PhD Economics
Robert D. Thayer, '76 MA Agricultural Economics
Jadrian Wooten, Pennsylvania State University, '14 PhD Economics

How can you most help the School of Economic Sciences through your gift? Create your own scholarship – It's easy! Or contribute to:

The SES Friends Development Committee has set scholarships and fellowships as its highest fundraising priority. Why? Graduate tuition now costs \$11,722 and total student costs approach \$29,000 per academic year. If you wish to support our many activities through a financial contribution, please use this link: go.wsu.edu/supportSES or mail your check to the address on the front page. ■



Ph.D. candidate Joshua Tibbitts presented his research on the economics of pain and addiction at the 2020 American Economics Association meetings in San Diego.



School of Economic Sciences
PO Box 646210
Pullman, WA 99164-6210

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Pullman, WA
Permit No. 1