

SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | DECEMBER 2023



Greetings from the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University!

2023 has been a good year for the School of Economic Sciences. We started off the academic year with an in-person faculty retreat, where we discussed how we can better serve students, our industry partners and stakeholders, policymakers, and the citizens of our state, region, and the world.

We have a lot to celebrate this year. We hired Dr. **Patrick Carlin** as a tenure track Assistant Professor with a focus on health economics for indigenous populations.

We also hired **Shanna Hiscock** as an undergraduate advisor. **Joe Cook, Ben**

Cowan and **Mark Gibson** were promoted to full professor.

Jeff Luckstead completed his first year as the Chair of Graduate Studies in SES. After the pandemic period with fewer students, Jeff recruited a larger, outstanding Ph.D. cohort who started in fall of 2023.

Our first cohort of students in our new Master of Applied Economics (MAE) degree graduated in May, and our second cohort started in August. This degree has more of a professional emphasis and can be completed in one year. It includes new courses in big data and machine learning for economists.

Michael Brady has done an outstanding job as the first Director of the MAE.

Our online undergraduate degree continues to grow and is attracting accolades. University Headquarters (HQ), an industry-leading, independent education organization ranked our online degree as 4th nationally.

In October, we had an excellent turnout for the Annual School of Economic Sciences Dinner and Auction held in conjunction with homecoming. It was wonderful to see the alumni who came back to Pullman from near and far.

Through your generous gifts, we were able to award scholarships and fellowships to several SES students. We very much appreciate all the assistance we receive. Your contributions support our students' success and the many successes of the entire School. There are many ways to contribute and support SES, 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 – we would love to catch up with you!

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

GO COUGS!



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

School of Economic Sciences faculty attended a faculty retreat at the beginning of the fall 2023 semester



School of Economic Sciences faculty engaged in conversations during a break at the SES Faculty Retreat at the beginning of the fall 2023 semester.

Patrick Carlin joined the SES faculty in the Fall of 2023



Patrick Carlin

Dr. Carlin is an Assistant Professor at the School of Economic Sciences. He received his PhD in Public Affairs from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and his BS in Mathematics from Hofstra University. His research focuses on the economics of health inequality. Specifically, he has studied policy changes within Indian Health Services, consumer responses to soda taxes, and the effects of Covid-19 policies. He uses natural experiments and econometric techniques in his research. He hopes to better understand demand for health/healthcare as well as trust in healthcare systems in his future research. He enjoys hiking, reading, and watching rugby in his free time. Welcome to SES, Dr. Carlin!! ■

Promotions to Full Professor

Drs. **Joseph Cook** and **Ben Cowan** were promoted to the rank of Professor, and Dr. **Mark Gibson** was promoted to rank of Teaching Professor. Dr. Cook's research focuses on Environmental and Resource Economics and international development. He has published several research papers on water resources in Kenya. Dr. Cowan's research specializes in health and labor economics. He is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and Research Affiliate at the Institute for Research on Poverty. Dr. Gibson is the Chair of Undergraduate Studies in SES. He also oversees the School's Global Campus degree in Business Economics. He was the 2021 recipient of the R. M. Wade Award for Excellence in Teaching! ■



Ben Cowan



Joseph Cook



Mark Gibson



Shanna Hiscock

Shanna Hiscock, New Undergraduate Advisor

Shanna Hiscock came to the School of Economic Sciences from the department of Apparel Merchandizing Textiles and Design (AMDT). She is the new Academic Coordinator for the School of Economic Sciences. She has been employed with WSU since January of 2010 and has served as Academic Coordinator since that time. Shanna is a proud alumna of Kansas State University with a degree in Management and Human Resources. As the new Coordinator for SES, she plans on helping connect the undergraduate students with industry for internships and careers. She hopes to provide a space that feels like home away from home for the Econ students. She has currently been assisting students to strengthen their resume and interview skills. Shanna is teaching ECON 105, introduction to the major. She looks forward to continuing to get to know each student and has enjoyed working with the Econ faculty and staff. She says, we are a great team to be a part of. We are so excited to have her serve in this role. ■



Bidisha Mandal

Thank you to Bidisha Mandal for Serving as Interim Associate Director

The School of Economic Sciences wishes to thank **Bidisha Mandal** for her outstanding service as Associate Director during the time that Ana Espinola-Arredondo was on sabbatical. Among other duties, the Associate Director makes teaching assignments and graduate assistantship assignments. ■

Jill McCluskey has been named chair of the Board of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine



Jill McCluskey

Dr. McCluskey has been a board member since 2017. Now, as the board's leader, she will play a crucial role in identifying pathways to enhance the field of agricultural and natural resource sciences. Dr. McCluskey feels honored and excited to expand her service on the board as its chair. She is the first woman to assume this position. She is interested in collaborating with more women and scientists from diverse backgrounds to foster innovation through varied viewpoints. McCluskey's role will also bring a valuable perspective from the western United States. McCluskey expressed her enthusiasm for the diverse range of topics overseen by BANR, highlighting the educational value of understanding various issues within the fields of agriculture and natural resources.

She emphasized her commitment to advocating for science- and evidence-based decision-making, emphasizing that her role as chair will allow her greater influence in shaping the board's agenda and committee composition. In the coming summer, McCluskey plans to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with leaders from various government agencies, including the USDA, to gain insights into pressing issues. ■



R. Karina Gallardo

R. Karina Gallardo was awarded the 2023 CAHNRS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Faculty Award

The CAHNRS assistant dean for equity, diversity, and inclusion (DEI) states that CAHNRS is dedicated to advancing DEI as part of its mission. As such, an important aim is to acknowledge individuals who are making a positive impact on communities and fostering inclusive atmospheres within both the college and WSU. **Dr. Gallardo** utilizes her research to support various stakeholders, including Hispanic communities, whom she finds particularly fulfilling to collaborate with due to their eagerness for knowledge and their appreciation

of being included in WSU's programs. Gallardo delivers programs to Hispanic agricultural workers, which significantly boosts their morale by providing relatability and communication in their native language. Gallardo also enjoys working with students, relishing the opportunity to guide them in their academic journeys, witness their enthusiasm for acquiring knowledge, and demonstrate how their research can benefit others. ■

SES Sabbaticals

Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Felix Muñoz-García— School of Economics University of Barcelona



Ana Espinola-Arredondo

Professors **Ana Espinola-Arredondo** and **Felix Muñoz-García** had a very busy semester, Ana taught Game theory to graduate students during the first two weeks of January at the University of Barcelona. They were able to submit the final version of the book “*Game Theory: An Introduction with Step-by-Step Examples*” which is expected to be published by Palgrave Macmillan at the end of this year. This book is based on their experience teaching Game Theory to undergraduate students at SES. In

addition, they presented their research work at the Autonomous University of Madrid, University of Malaga, University of Valencia, University of Rovira and Virgili, and the University of the Balearic Islands. They established collaborations with faculties at different universities and published several articles examining the strategic role of environmental regulation in *Economic Letters*, *Journal of Regulatory Economics*, and *Journal of Public Economic Letters*. They would like to thank SES for the opportunity to spend time in Barcelona further developing their research work. ■



Felix Muñoz-García



Muñoz-Espinola family

Gregmar Galinato— International Rice Research Institute and the University of the Philippines—Los Baños



Gregmar Galinato



Gregmar and Suzette Galinato



Galinato family

Prof. **Gregmar Galinato** spent his sabbatical during the Spring of 2023 in the Philippines. Together with his wife Suzette, they visited researchers at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the University of the Philippines—Los Baños (UPLB). While in UPLB, they were able to finalize the activities of their first randomized controlled trial in the Philippines entitled, “Assessing the Economic Impacts of Technological Intervention on Organic Vegetable Farm Profitability and Gender Roles in Organic Farming.” Their activities included focus group discussions and online surveys with vegetable farmers. While in IRRI, Greg was involved in an impact evaluation of a national rice program and presented his results to undersecretaries of the Department of Agriculture. They established collaborations with researchers in these institutions and laid the foundation for more potential projects on economic impact evaluation in the future. During their down time, they were able to explore with their kids different regions in the Philippines that they were not able to visit when they were still students. Greg and the kids tried surfing (was lukewarm to the idea but the kids had a blast), while Suzette learned Muay Thai (and loved it). The whole family would like to thank SES for supporting Greg’s sabbatical. ■

Research at SES



Thomas Marsh

Tom Marsh to head new Collaborating Center on the Economics of Animal Health

Dr. **Tom Marsh**'s interdisciplinary contributions on the impacts of animal diseases and human health have brought significant recognition to WSU in this important area. Dr. Marsh has been recognized with numerous awards, including Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This year, he was awarded a major grant to establish a Collaborating Center on the Economics of Animal Health (CCEAH) at Washington State University from the World Organization for Animal Health. ■



Thomas Marsh

Shanthi Manian studies discrimination from below with evidence from Ethiopia

In an in-press article at the *Journal of Development Economics*, **Shanthi Manian** and coauthors find that gender discrimination by subordinates may reduce the effectiveness of female leadership. Using a novel lab-in-the-field experiment in Ethiopia, they find striking evidence for discrimination: subjects are ten percent less likely to follow the same advice from a female leader than an otherwise identical male leader, and female-led subjects perform worse as a result. Subjects also give lower evaluations to hypothetical female managerial candidates. However, they find significantly higher returns to information on

high ability for female leaders: when the leader is presented as highly trained and competent, subjects are more likely to follow advice from women than men. Their results suggest that discrimination from below is an important barrier for female leaders, that credible signals of ability are effective levers for closing such gender gaps, and that new policy approaches are necessary for organizations seeking to achieve gender equity. ■



Jeff Luckstead

Jeff Luckstead study featured in the *New York Times*

Dr. Luckstead's paper "U.S. workers willingness to accept meatpacking jobs amid the COVID-19 pandemic" coauthored with Rudy Nayga and Heather Snell was published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*. This research was cited in the *New York Times* article, "The Kids on the Night Shift," on September 22, 2023. Dr. Luckstead implemented a discrete choice experiment to examine the impact of COVID-19 exposure risk, unemployment risk, enhanced and extended unemployment benefits, and job attributes on low-skilled workers' willingness to accept (WTA) meatpacking jobs. With a sample average WTA wage of \$22.77/hour, the current national

average meatpacking wage of approximately \$15/hour is too low for these workers to consider this employment opportunity. Enhanced layoff risk and exposure to COVID-19 further deterred respondents, while health insurance, retirement benefits, and a signing bonus enhanced respondents' WTA. The additional unemployment benefits of the CARES Act neither deterred nor encouraged respondents WTA. ■



Salvador Ortigueira

Salvador Ortigueira analyzes U.S. income-support policies for low-income single parents

Dr. Ortigueira and his coauthor Nawid Siassi published an article in the September 2023 issue of the *Journal of Public Economics*. This research considers how the United States might reform income support for low-income single parents. They use the U.S. tax-transfer system as the benchmark policy and a sample of single mothers to assess reforms that maximize average expected utility among single mothers-to-be. They find that policies should vary by the age of the children with more income support to mothers with children of pre-school age and more work incentives to those with school-age children. ■

Continues



Ana Espinola-Arredondo



Chelsea Pardini

Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Chelsea Pardini use game theory to overcome misinformation about fungicide resistance

Chelsea Pardini, a WSU alumna and postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University, and Professor **Ana Espinola-Arredondo** recently published the article “Fungicide resistance and misinformation: A game theoretic approach” in the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. There is no current system to monitor and

predict resistance, which is often only identified after an outbreak, and farmers may not always have accurate knowledge of fungicide resistance. They examine a compensation mechanism that induces both groups to reduce their use of fungicide to ameliorate the negative effects of resistance. They provide recommendations for better incentives that could motivate growers to stop over-using fungicide. The results highlight the importance of developing educational programs to reduce misinformation about fungicide resistance. This study was funded by the USDA-NIFA-SCRI program under award number 2018-03375 titled “FRAME: Fungicide Resistance Assessment, Mitigation, and Extension Network for Wine, Table, and Raisin Grapes,” led by WSU Professor Michelle Moyer. ■



R. Karina Gallardo



Azhar Uddin

A study by R. Karina Gallardo and Azhar Uddin was presented at Agriculture and Food Systems Institute Workshop targeting European Union stakeholders and scientists

R. Karina Gallardo presented at the workshop “Harnessing Genome Editing Technologies for Viticulture.” The workshop’s goal was to demonstrate to traditional agriculturalists in the European Union (EU) the potential of using genome editing tools in breeding programs and

the possible application of this technology for the adaptation of grape varieties to a rapidly changing climate. The target audience included a broad base of EU stakeholders, such as scientists, risk assessors, regulatory agents, farmers, and private sector professionals from the wine industry. The study presented was coauthored by **Azhar Uddin** (SES PhD Econ, Class 2022), Julian Alston, Bradley Rickard and Olena Sambucci. They found that in general consumers prefer grapes that are conventionally bred over gene-edited, even if considering the possibility of reducing the number of chemical applications. However, the acceptance was heterogeneous, with a group of respondents favoring gene-editing. This group self-perceived as having more knowledge about food production and breeding technologies. The study was supported in part by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture - Specialty Crop Research Initiative project. ■

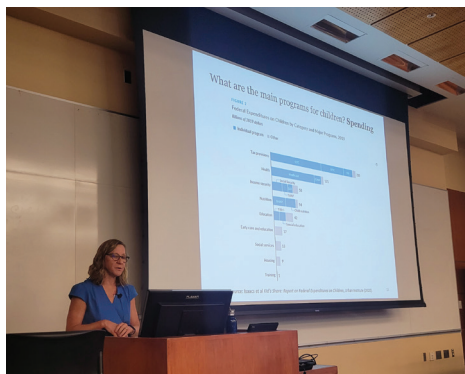


Michael Brady

Michael Brady is Principal Investigator of a NASA-funded grant that uses satellite imagery to better understand how double cropping affects food production and water use

Michael Brady led a team that successfully completed a project funded by the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory to measure the current and historical extent of double cropping in the irrigated production regions of eastern Washington. The project was motivated by interest from the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the Washington Department of Ecology—Office of the Columbia River (OCR) to better understand whether a longer growing season is leading some farmers to plant and harvest two crops in a season. This would have

significant implications for food production and water use particularly if the warming trend continues. Brady’s team developed a novel procedure using machine learning algorithms to process terabytes of NASA satellite imagery to identify double cropped fields. This was turned into a software application provided to the WSDA that will allow them to track double cropping in the future. OCR plans to incorporate the double cropping data into their water supply plans that are critical for maintaining a healthy agricultural economy in the region. ■



LEIGH LECTURE

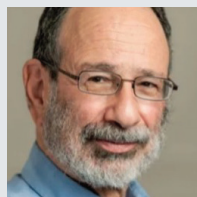
**Professor Hilary Hoynes—
Haas Distinguished Chair in Economic
Disparities at the University of California,
Berkeley—presented “The Social Safety
Net as an Investment in Children”**

*Professor Hilary Hoynes presenting her
Leigh Lecture*

Professor Hoynes gave the Leigh Lecture on April 13, 2023. Her research focuses on poverty, inequality, food and nutrition programs, as well as the effects of government tax and transfer programs on low-income families. Her current work investigates how early-life access to the social safety net influences the health and human capital outcomes of children as they grow older.

Professor Hoynes serves as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on National Statistics and plays a role on California Governor Gavin Newsom’s Council of Economic Advisors. She has a rich history of contributing to

impactful initiatives, having previously served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years, the State of California Task Force on Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty, and the Federal Commission on Evidence-Based Policy Making. Our 2024 Leigh Lecturer will be Nobel Laureate



*2024 Leigh Lecturer
Alvin Roth*

Alvin Roth! Please join us in Pullman on April 11, 2024! ■



Eric Jessup



Jake Wagner

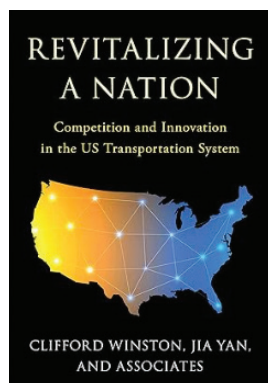
Transportation Research Group News

Drs. **Jake Wagner** and **Eric Jessup** have initiated several new freight research projects. One of these projects is focused on evaluating the impact of container shipper alliances on domestic agricultural exporters. The ocean shipping alliances allow different ocean shipping companies to share space on vessels, allowing the alliances to achieve greater scale and lower transportation costs. But the alliances also limit ocean shipping services to fewer, higher volume ports. This can create challenges for smaller export shippers including apples, onions, potatoes, lentils, and hay, who require more frequent service in smaller volumes to satisfy export markets. The transportation research group has also initiated a study for King County, evaluating the possibility of improving rail infrastructure over Stampede Pass to allow for double-stack rail freight to mitigate existing truck traffic congestion for shippers accessing the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma, WA. These investments could significantly increase the economic feasibility of establishing an inland container rail terminal in Ellensburg, WA for freight destined for the ports and export markets.

Continues



Jia Yan



Book coauthored by Clifford Winston (Brookings Institution) and Jia Yan

Transportation Research Group News continued

Jia Yan and Clifford Winston from the Brookings Institution have completed a book titled *Revitalizing a Nation: Competition and Innovation in the U.S. Transportation System*, which is published by the Brookings Press. In this book, the authors argue that it would be far more efficient and equitable if US policymakers prioritized greater competition and innovation instead of relying on taxpayer-funded spending to significantly improve the transportation system. Beginning in the mid-1970s, deregulation demonstrated that efficient policies could significantly improve the intercity passenger and freight transportation system by increasing competition among airlines, railroads, and trucks and by stimulating technological and operational innovations that reduced the modes' costs and prices and improve service quality. The authors provide evidence that ridesharing has stimulated competition in urban transportation and has greatly benefited travelers and calls on policymakers to withdraw any obstacles that prevent ridesharing companies from competing in urban areas. ■

IMPACT Center News



Randy Fortenbery

The WSU IMPACT Center is widely regarded for its expertise in applied economic modeling and policy analysis. It primarily works with off-campus clientele interested in understanding the economic implications of various public policy proposals, private business development initiatives, and community development issues. In 2023 the Center wrapped up a project funded through the Broad Band Office of the Washington State Department of Commerce. This project focused on efficiency gains in agricultural production systems associated with expanding broad band access at the farm level.

In the most recent legislative session, IMPACT Center faculty worked with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to secure \$400,000 of funding, spread across the 2023/24 and 2024/25 fiscal years, to conduct a statewide study of agricultural competitiveness in Washington. The study focuses on the constraints and advantages faced by the Washington tree fruit, vine, wheat, potato, and dairy sectors. One specific objective of this project examines ways in which the regulatory environment affects agricultural competitiveness.

In addition to these two large projects, IMPACT continue to serve the various commodity groups in Washington by performing its standard economic analyses. This includes regular work for the Washington Grain Commission, the Potato Commission, and others.

IMPACT published the 2023 edition of *Washington Agribusiness: Status and Outlook* in January. This was the 8th edition, with the 9th issue to be released January 2024. The 2024 publication will include focus articles on wildfire mitigation in Washington, and volatility in food price transmission from farmgate to retail markets. The IMPACT Center's current and archived research may be accessed at ses.wsu.edu/impact-center. ■



Tim Nadreau

Graduate Programs News

SES Endowment for Sustainable Development (ESD) Fellowships

The ESD provides funding for research and merit-based grants and awards to support and recognize outstanding research relating to global sustainability and sustainable development. The ESD provides fellowship opportunities for graduate students to support research projects consistent with the ESD mission and various other forms of support for SES student activities focusing on Sustainable Development. SES Professor Jonathan Yoder holds the Distinguished Professor for Sustainable Development and manages the ESD. In 2023, SES PhD students **Dipanjita Barai** and **Ilhoon Choi** were awarded the ESD fellowship.



Dipanjita Barai

Dipanjita developed a theoretical and empirical model to examine the factors contributing to drilled but uncompleted oil well (DUCs) growth. Her results suggest that previous years' DUC status and natural gas production changes have a positive relationship with current DUC status, whereas oil price has a negative effect on DUCs. Furthermore, economic variables have heterogeneous effects on regional-level DUCs. For example, previous years' DUCs are positively associated with this year's DUCs in all the regions except Appalachia, where oil price growth reduces DUCs in all regions except Eagle Ford, Bakken, and Anadarko. The findings also indicate that oil well drilling and production costs play a large role in some regions, such as Eagle Ford, Appalachia, and Bakken. This study can help policymakers better understand the impact of market conditions and inventories on DUCs, which ultimately can help to

manage the oil and gas industry, environmental pollution, and attain sustainable economic development. ■

Ilhoon analyzed the effect of automation on labor market outcomes with the aim to design public policies for sustainable development to mitigate the adverse effects of automation. She found that the employment share of routine workers—those performing mostly routine tasks—dropped by 5 percentage points between 1999 and 2019, whereas the employment share of abstract workers—those performing mostly abstract tasks—increased by 1.5 percentage points. To account for the main drivers of automation, she built a task-based model and found that the first driver of automation is the fall in the relative price of capital equipment capable of doing the same work as people. The second was the increase in the scope of capital equipment which expanded the type of tasks it can perform. Lastly, she found that increases in the minimum wage contributed to automation. In particular, increases in the minimum wage reduced the employment of routine workers, suggesting that hikes in the minimum wage expedite automation in the economy. ■



Ilhoon Choi

Mercer Fellowships

The Mercer Ranches School of Economic Sciences Specialty Crops Fellowship supports research that advances knowledge and innovation in specialty crops production and marketing. This fellowship has been made possible thanks to the generous gift from Robert and Brenda Mercer. In 2023–24, **Will King** and **Qingwei Qiao** were awarded the Mercer Fellowship to study specialty crop economics. Will made progress on his paper related to a discrete choice experiment to estimate consumers' willingness to pay for organic beer (made with organic hops). ■



Will King



Qingwei Qiao

Qingwei Qiao worked on her paper titled “Neuromarketing Research Directions for Wine, Raisins and Table Grapes.” The study intends to utilize eye-tracking and electroencephalogram technology to discern the specific information that captures consumers' attention when they observe labels and advertisements for wine, raisins, and table grapes. By creating diverse labels and advertisements that incorporate different attribute designs and placements, the study will monitor consumers' gaze and brain patterns during their interaction with these materials. Through this investigation, the research aims to advance the knowledge and innovation in specialty crops production and marketing by identifying consumer preferences for specific attributes of these specific crops. Ultimately, the study's discoveries will guide the development of more effective labels and advertising, thereby bolstering the appeal of specialty crops to consumers. ■

Continues

Mercer Fellowships Continued

Xueying Ma, Kennedy Odongo, and Andre Murray received Mercer fellowships in 2022–23.



Xueying Ma

Kennedy studied the market disruptions in specialty crops due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Market disruptions were caused by both supply chain issues and changes in demand. He studied how social and traditional media coverage of the pandemic affected shipping point prices of specialty crops depending on whether they are mostly consumed in at-home or away from home settings. He found that the impacts of the pandemic were heterogeneous across specialty crops, with crops whose usage is concentrated in away-from-home settings experiencing a decrease in demand compared to crops used mostly in food consumed at home. He also used techniques from machine learning to conduct an event study. Kennedy completed his Ph.D. in May 2023. ■



Kennedy Odongo



Andre Murray

Andre Murray estimated consumers' willingness to pay in Mexico for imported apples treated with irradiation, compared to more commonly used chemical postharvest treatments. He utilized propensity score matching to adjust for confounding factors associated with differences across samples of respondents. He found that consumers' willingness to pay for apples treated with irradiation is lower, but this reduced willingness to pay decreases when respondents received information about irradiation from both scientific and layperson narrative styles. Andre's study contributes to the literature by identifying the most impactful factors that drive consumers' choice to choose apples treated with irradiation, including social, demographic, access to information, and country of origin labels. ■

Graduate Student News

Ph.D. Dissertations and Placement for Academic Year 2022–23

This year, 13 of our PhD graduates were placed in various universities, private companies, and federal agencies.

NAME	DISSERTATION/ADVISOR	PLACEMENT
Imisi Aiyetan	Essays on Environmental and Development Economics Ana Espinola-Arredondo	Associate Director, Advanced Analytics, Lead Mindshare Synapse Data
Reetwika Basu	Three Essays on Agent-Based Models for Water Allocation under Appropriative Rights Jonathan Yoder	Research Scientist II University of Alabama
Timur Dincer	Essays in Applied Microeconomics Eric Jessup	Data scientist at Central Insurance
Jae Young Hwang	Essays in Decision-making with an Endogeneity Problem Thomas Marsh	Post-doctoral computational research scientist, USDA
Dindu Lama	Essays on Industrial Organization and Transportation Economics Jia Yan	Visiting Assistant Professor Luther College

Continues

Ph.D. Dissertations and Placement for Academic Year 2022–23 Continued

NAME	DISSERTATION/ADVISOR	PLACEMENT
Michael Mahoney	The Impact of Media on Political Polarization: Evidence from the United States/Salvador Ortigueira	Data Scientist Holland America
Grishma Manandhar	Peer to Peer Electricity Trading in Community Microgrids/Alan Love	Consultant at Concentric Energy Advisors, Boston
Joseph Navelski	Applied Microeconomic and Statistical Methods using Social Media Data/Jill McCluskey	Senior Quantitative Analyst at TD Bank
Mohammad Maksudur Rahman	Essays on Global Burden of Animal Diseases/Thomas Marsh	Post-doctoral researcher, WSU
Kennedy Odongo	Machine Learning Applications for Agricultural Economics Jill McCluskey	Assistant Professor Hamline University
Jui Sen	Application of Causal Inference Approaches in Environmental Policy Analysis/Mike Brady & Wes Blundell	Data Scientist Discover Financial Services



PhD graduates Joe Navelski, Kennedy Odongo, and Botir Okhunjanov



Professor Wes Blundell with PhD graduate Jui Sen



PhD students at our end-of-year barbeque at Eric Jessup's farm

Master of Science Graduates 2022–2023

NAME	ADVISOR
Hieu (Ricky) Thai	Thomas Marsh
Cameron Manzano	Michael Brady
Emma Taylor	Alejandro Prera
Dante Ludlow	Jill McCluskey
Fangyan Wang	Felix Munoz-Garcia

Master of Applied Economics (MAE) Program

We excited to celebrate our first class of MAE students graduating and welcoming our second cohort. The MAE program is designed to be completed in 1-year and aims to meet the rapidly growing demand from industry for experts in big data management, predictive analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. As the Director of our MAE program, **Mike Brady** worked closely with the inaugural class to coordinate their coursework and individual projects to place them in their ideal careers. We had excellent placements with a diverse range of employers in areas including economic consulting, electric power supply, real estate investment, and agriculture. We expect big things from our excellent second cohort. ■

Undergraduate Programs News

New Econ Club Officers



Joseph Ikueze

My name is Joseph Ikueze, I am a senior at Washington State University, and I major in International and Development Economics, and minor in Finance. I am the President of the WSU Economics Club and a sales associate at CORETECH Technology so it's easy to catch me easily on campus! I am very passionate about helping Cougs and I'll love to help any of you if you have questions. ■



Thad Altio

Hello, my name is Thad Altio. I am majoring in Economics, financial markets option, and minoring in business administration. I am the Vice President of the WSU Economics Club. ■

Thad Altio



Kirten Brewer

My name is Kirten and I am a senior at Washington State University in the Economic Sciences department. My focus is in environmental and natural resource economics, and I am the Secretary of the Econ Club. ■

Kirten Brewer



We also had our first activity of the fall 2023 semester on Tuesday, Sept. 26, with **Eric Jessup**. ■

Econ Club and Eric Jessup

SES undergraduate students received two CAHNRS-wide awards



Cashup Davis Merit in Human Sciences—Edwin Gianini

Edwin Gianini graduated in May 2023 with Bachelor of Science in Economic Sciences – Financial Markets. He has completed internships with CougsFirst! in Program Development and Goldman Sachs in Private Wealth Management Analyst. His undergraduate research was on designing a campus safety score. He works as an analyst for Goldman Sachs, and he volunteers for the Lauren McCluskey Foundation. We expect big things from Edwin! ■

Cashup Davis Merit in Human Sciences winner Edwin Gianini with Prof. McCluskey

Emerging Undergraduate Leader in Human Sciences—Andrew Davila

Andrew Davila is pursuing a BS in Economic Sciences – Financial Markets, is part of the Honors college, and is completing a Business Administration minor. Andrew is quite involved with campus life, he is a resident advisor in Housing and Residence Life, Associated Students of WSU (ASWSU) Honors College Senator and founder and President of WSU's chess club. Andrew is excited to graduate and start a career as an economic consultant. He plans on attending graduate school to work towards his consulting goals. ■

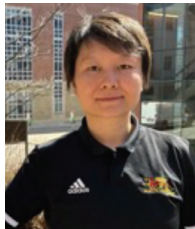
Congratulations to the 2023 Outstanding Seniors, CAHNRS School of Economic Sciences

OUTSTANDING SENIOR	MAJOR
Martha Lum	Ag and Food Business Economics (Honors)
Joseph Ikueze	International Economics & Development; Minor in Business Administration
Maguire Isaak	Agricultural Economics; Minor in Business Administration
Edwin Gianini	Financial Markets
Christopher Busch	Business Economics; Minor in Business Administration
Mitchell Kent	Quantitative Economics; Minor in Mathematics
Kolby Ross	Economics, Policy and Law

Alumni News



Professor Jill McCluskey with SES alumni at the AAEA meetings.



Dr. Tongzhe Li

Tongzhe Li Received an Endowed Professorship to Focus on 'People Side' of Agri-Economics

Tongzhe Li (PhD 2015) is the recipient of a new Arrell Family Chair at the University of Guelph in Canada. She received a new \$1-million research chair in an emerging field intended to make agri-food production more efficient and ensure sustainable food production in Canada and around the world. The new chair will be held for five years by FARE professor Dr. Tongzhe Li, whose field and lab research aims to combine economic theory with sometimes messy and unpredictable human behavior. ■

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Alumni Giving Back

Thanks to our alumni Hayley Hohman, Eliana Yoder, and Andrey Zaikin for participating in our first "Why Economics?" event on March 16, 2023, to help current WSU students understand what Economics is and what they can do with the degree. Professor Wes Blundell served as moderator for the event.



Annual SES Alumni/Friends Banquet and Auction

Thanks everyone for making the SES auction a wonderful event! This year we had generous auction items from faculty and SES friends. Go Cougs! 🍌



Alumna Dr. Modhurima Dey Amin presenting in the Homecoming Colloquium on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture, Business and Economics.



Professor Jill McCluskey presenting SES outstanding students.



Auctioneer, alumnus Monte Marti, helps every year.



Professor Jinhui Bai and SES graduate students



Academic Coordinator Shanna and undergraduate student Kassandra Vogel



Professor Ana Espinola and graduate students

Obituaries



Douglas L. Young

Doug Young passed away at the age of 77 in October 7, 2023. Doug was born on July 6, 1946, in Wallowa County, Oregon. Doug studied economics at the University of Oregon and then served in the Peace Corps in Kenya, where he met his Norwegian wife Lilian. He completed his PhD at Oregon State University in 1976. After graduating from OSU, Doug began a 32-year teaching and research career at Washington State University in agricultural economics until he retired in 2009. He had a passion for teaching and often took the time to mentor international graduate students. Doug is survived by his son, Erik, his daughter, Marit, and his grandchildren: Isaiah, Asher, Colton, and Hazel. ■



Corey Pickelsimer

At age 48, on September 27, 2023, WSU alumnus Corey Pickelsimer passed away. Corey earned his Master's in Agricultural Economics at WSU in 2002. He followed in his stepfather Asif Chaudhry's (WSU Ag. Econ. PhD) footsteps after graduation, proudly becoming a Foreign Service Officer, eventually serving at U.S. Embassy Bangkok and U.S. Embassy Pretoria. Corey is survived by his wife, Janalee; children, Ray and Cole; his grieving parents, Charla and Asif Chaudhry; his brother, Rishan (Jessica); his sister, Brianna (Cody); his beloved nephew, Noah, and niece, Margaret; and his father, Gary Pickelsimer. ■

SES Friends Development Committee

The SES Friends Development Committee supports the School of Economic Sciences programs by leading fundraising efforts for privately donated endowments and development funds. The goal for this year is to raise \$125,000 for the SES Excellence Fund and scholarships and fellowships. Last year, the committee raised nearly \$111,000 for these purposes and received over \$25,000 in new pledges. ■

SES Friends Development Committee Members

Alexander Smith, BS Econ, 2013

Tristan Hanon, BS Econ, 2014

Hayley Hohman, BS Econ, 2016

Monte Marti, MA Ag Econ, 1982

Michael McCullough, PhD Econ, 2008

Madison Moore, BS Econ, 2016

Troy Joshua, MA AgEcon, 1994

Emma Taylor, MS Econ 2022

Corbin Poppe, BS Econ, Policy and Law, 2016

Lindsay Schilperoort, BS Econ, 2019

Michael Stolp, BS AgEcon, 1996

Pitchayaporn Tantihkarnchana, PhD Econ, 2016

Robert Thayer, MA Ag Econ, 1976

Jadrian Wooten, PhD Econ 2014

Don Carrell, PhD Ag Econ, 1989



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