

SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | DECEMBER 2024



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

2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the formation of the School of Economic Sciences. It was the summer of 2004 when the Departments of Economics and Agricultural and Resource Economics merged. The first Director was Ron Mittelhammer, who together with the support of Associate Director Robby Rosenman guided us through those early years. While agricultural economics and environmental and natural resource economics will always be major areas for us, we expanded our expertise in health economics and international development, including a major partnership with WSU's Allen School of Global Health. Our core areas are, of course, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics. Over the last 20 years, we have attracted outstanding faculty to join SES in these and other areas.

We have made some changes this past year. We are pleased to welcome Bidisha Mandal as the new Associate Director of SES. We thank Ana Espinola-Arredondo for her outstanding service. She left the role to take on the Editorship of Environmental and Resource Economics. Post pandemic, our challenge has been lower enrollment at WSU. We have responded with several strategies, including updating undergraduate courses, retiring undersubscribed ones, and adding new ones, including Machine Learning and Data Visualization. In addition to our existing B.S. degree, we are adding a B.A. degree that will focus on economic concepts and data analysis without using calculus. We are also updating our Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness sequences.

SES faculty, staff, and students were recognized this year with several promotions, awards, and leadership and editorial positions, which you can read about in this newsletter. Jeff Luckstead and Michael Brady were promoted to full Professor. We have three new Fellows of agricultural economics associations. Tom Marsh was named Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and Jeff Luckstead and Jon Yoder were named Fellows of the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

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

Fall Faculty Retreat

The SES faculty met in a retreat to kick off the 2024-25 academic year. Topics included proposed changes to our undergraduate curriculum, graduate student placement and recruitment, interactions with our industry stakeholders, and how to measure the impact of our research and extension.



SES faculty and staff gather after the fall faculty retreat.



Bidisha Mandal

Bidisha Mandal named Associate Director of SES

Mandal was appointed Associate Director of the School of Economic Sciences in January 2024. She replaced Ana Espinola-Arredondo, who served in the role for four years. Hired by WSU in 2007, Dr. Mandal was promoted to full professor in 2020. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy and a member of the Universal Health Care Commission. Her research focuses on health economics and health care policy. Her leadership goals are to enrich research and teaching initiatives within the school, fostering innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Michael Brady and Jeff Luckstead promoted to Full Professor

Dr. Michael Brady was hired by WSU in 2012. He is the Director of the Master of Applied Economics program. His research and extension efforts focus on specialty crop production including tree fruits, vineyards, vegetables, horticulture and nursery crops. He also has an interest in issues related to water use and irrigated agriculture. Dr. Brady develops models that couple human and environmental systems in an interdisciplinary framework. Prior to WSU, he worked at the Economic Research Service of the USDA. Brady received his Ph.D. in 2007 from Ohio State University. Dr. Jeff Luckstead was hired by WSU in 2020. He is the Director of Graduate Studies in SES. Prior to WSU, he was a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas. He conducts research on International Trade, Agricultural Policy, Farm Labor Markets and Immigration, Industrial Organization, and Applied Econometrics. He received his Ph.D. from WSU in 2014 when his dissertation won the AAEA Outstanding Dissertation award.



Michael Brady



Jeff Luckstead



AAEA Pres. Rudy Nayga with Tom and Karen Marsh and nominators Andrew Schmitz and Ron Mittelhammer

Tom Marsh named AAEA Fellow

Tom Marsh has been named Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), recognizing his outstanding contributions to agricultural economics and policy analysis. Marsh is a Distinguished Professor at WSU, specializing in economic assessments of trade, behavioral analyses, and choice experiments. With over 45 funded projects totaling \$50 million, he is a fellow of AAAS and WAEA, as well as a member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences. Dr. Marsh is a founding member of the Global Burden of Animal Disease program, past president of the WAEA, founding member and past chair of the Health Economics section of the AAEA.

Faculty and Staff Highlights

Jeff Luckstead and Jon Yoder named WAEA Fellows

Jeff Luckstead and **Jon Yoder** have been honored as Fellows of the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA), recognizing their outstanding contributions to the fields of agricultural and resource economics.

Jeff Luckstead joined SES in 2020. His research emphasizes both domestic and international agricultural policy analyses. His recent work examines the dairy margin coverage insurance program's effects on market outcomes, including price, production, and dairy farm dynamics.



WAEA President Steve Devadoss with Jeff Luckstead



WAEA President Steve Devadoss with Jon Yoder

Jon Yoder is a Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Development at WSU and Director of the State of Washington Water Research Center. He specializes in natural resource economics, focusing on water economics, wildfire management, and health. He is a member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences, recent president of the Universities Council on Water Resources and serves on the Board of the National Institutes for Water Resources. He has received numerous research awards including WAEA's Outstanding Published Research Award.

Jill McCluskey elected President of the International Assoc. of Ag. Economists

As the new President Elect of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), **Jill McCluskey** values the many opportunities to network, collaborate, and share research at international conferences. McCluskey is only the second woman to be elected IAAE president in the association's almost 100-year history, and the first American to hold the position in 30 years. She will assume her new role in 2027 and serve a three-year term, during which the association will celebrate its centennial. Until 2027, she holds the position of president-elect and is a member of IAAE's executive board.

"Jill McCluskey understands the international research and policy challenges for food and agriculture very well and can bring together and motivate colleagues with very diverse backgrounds to contribute to bigger-picture goals," said current IAAE President Martin Qaim, Schlegel professor of agricultural economics at the University of Bonn, Germany. "We very much look forward to her vision for the international agricultural economics profession and her leadership of our great association."

In Aug. 2024, McCluskey joined more than 1,000 IAAE members in New Delhi, India, for a conference that began with a welcome address from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The IAAE truly is global — 68 countries were represented at the conference. As IAAE president, McCluskey will help choose editors for the association's journal and plan regional conferences. She will also lead the organization of the next international conference, set for 2027 in Kigali, Rwanda.



Jill McCluskey at the IAAE meetings in India

Faculty and Staff Highlights

Jon Yoder named Treasurer and Executive Board Member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences

The Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS) has as its mission to put science in the service of Washington State. As such, they mobilize leading experts within and beyond the Academy to provide objective scientific and engineering assessments on the issues that impact the citizens, governments and businesses of Washington state. WSAS is governed by a board of directors that guides the implementation of the mission, sets strategic priorities and provides oversight. Dr. **Jon Yoder** was elected to the board by his peers as board member and treasurer and will serve for a three-year term.



Jon Yoder

Ana Espinola-Arredondo named Co-Editor-in-Chief of Environmental and Resource Economics



Ana Espinola-Arredondo was named Co-Editor-in-Chief of Environmental and Resource Economics (impact factor 3.6) published by the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. Her position started in January 2024 until January 2027. The primary concern of the journal is the application of economic theory and methods to environmental issues and problems that require detailed analysis to improve management strategies.

Ana Espinola-Arredondo

Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Chelsea Pardini (WSU Ph.D. 2020) received 2024 Outstanding Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics article

Their paper entitled, "Fungicide resistance and misinformation: A game theoretic approach," develops a compensation mechanism that induces farmers to reduce fungicide use in exchange for a transfer. This mechanism considers the effects of misinformation about the severity of fungicide resistance and examines how pessimistic beliefs affect compensation. Pardini is an Economist with the U.S. Dept. of Commerce.



Chelsea Pardini

Chris Clarke selected for the Oaks Academic Technology Award

Chris Clarke won the prestigious Oaks Academic Technology Award in 2024, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the integration of technology in academic settings. His innovative approaches enhance teaching and learning experiences, promoting effective use of digital tools. Clarke's commitment to academic excellence and student engagement makes him a deserving recipient of this honor.



Chris Clarke

Shanna Hiscock recognized as the CAHNRS Outstanding Advisor

Shanna Hiscock has received the CAHNRS Outstanding Advisor Award for her exceptional guidance and support to SES students. This award recognizes academic advisors who foster student achievement. Hiscock assists students in selecting courses, choosing majors, and securing internships, significantly enhancing their college experience. Since 1987, the College's Alumni Association has honored the often-overlooked efforts of such dedicated advisors. Her commitment to mentoring encourages both academic and personal growth, empowering students to reach their goals.



Shanna Hiscock with Associate Dean Nancy Derringer

Faculty and Staff Highlights

Alejandro Prera won CAHNRS' R.M. Wade Award for Excellence in Teaching

Alex Prera received the 2024 CAHNRS R.M. Wade Award for Excellence in Teaching, recognizing his innovative teaching methods and dedication to student success that foster a dynamic learning environment, inspiring students to engage deeply with the material. His commitment to excellence in education enhances academic performance and cultivates critical thinking and real-world problem-solving skills. This prestigious award highlights his role as a transformative educator and reflects the high regard in which he is held by students and colleagues alike. Established in 1964 with the support of the R.M. Wade Foundation, the R.M. Wade Award recognizes outstanding teachers in CAHNRS, emphasizing the importance of exemplary teaching in agricultural and natural resource sciences.



Alejandro Prera

Research at SES

Xin Liu conducts econometric research on quantile models with endogeneity



Xin Liu

Xin Liu's research on instrumental variables quantile regression (IVQR) brings averaging methods into IVQR models to improve IVQR estimation efficiency. It introduces a new bootstrap averaging method and applies a recent averaging GMM method. Compared to the traditional IVQR estimator, the new estimators' efficiency gain can be 40% in some cases and the new estimators are uniformly better than the traditional estimator under some regularity conditions.

Seollee Park investigates maternal mental health in Nigeria

Seollee Park, in collaboration with SES Ph.D. student Mengshan Zhao, is studying the role of maternal mental health in child undernutrition in Nigeria. The project, conducted with the Taimaka Project, a US-Nigerian NGO, implements a randomized control trial that integrates Problem Management Plus (PM+), an evidence-based psychological intervention, into a community-based malnutrition treatment program (CMAM).

The study involves 1,000 mothers of malnourished children under five, with participants receiving either the PM+ and CMAM interventions or only the standard CMAM care. The study explores the impact on maternal psychosocial well-being and child nutrition outcomes, with early results showing the feasibility of integrating mental health support with CMAM programs, even among caregivers with very low education levels. The project, funded by the Center for Effective Global Action at UC Berkeley, holds potential for scaling mental health care in CMAM programs, which currently serve millions globally.



Seollee Park



PhD student Mengshan Zhao (left) conducting a pilot survey in Nigeria

Research at SES

R. Karina Gallardo presented at farm labor symposia in California



Gallardo presenting at UC Davis

U.S. agricultural employers historically depend on foreign-born farmworkers, whose availability has decreased in recent times. To sustain competitiveness in producing labor-intensive crops like fruits and vegetables, both private enterprises and government entities must adapt to shifts in the farm labor market. The first symposium “Farm Labor: Demand, Supply and Markets” happened in April 4-5, and was organized by UC Davis. This event brought together researchers and data generators to focus on the demand for farm labor; the characteristics, earnings, and health of farm workers; and the operation of the farm labor market, including housing, labor contracting, unions and other issues. The second symposium “The Changing Landscape of Farm Labor Conditions in the United States: What the Future Holds and How to Prepare for It” took place in Monterey, CA in September 17-18, and was organized by the Farm Foundation and the USDA Economic Research Service. The goal of this event was to convene and develop a network of researchers and stakeholders to engage in a productive discussion focused on farm labor issues, with four key themes: Trends in the farm labor force, labor costs, farm worker conditions, and workforce development.

Jill McCluskey and Koroles Awad’s research on ultra-processed food

Jill McCluskey is working with PhD candidate Koroles Awad on demand for ultra-processed food. The research is motivated by the concern that ultra-processed foods might be addictive. McCluskey received a USDA Cooperative Agreement, which allows them to access household-level purchases with grocery store scanner data for all items in grocery stores. They use machine learning to categorize each item in the grocery store by level of processing according to the NOVA classification system, which was developed by food scientists. They estimate demand for each category. They find that demand for ultra-processed food is inelastic, and that it has the lowest own-price elasticity of the four categories of food, meaning that consumers are the least sensitive to price changes in ultra processed foods. They also estimated demand separately for households based on the following categories: no kids, kids 0 to 6 years old, kids 6 to 13 years old, and kids 13 to 18. The own-price elasticity of demand for ultra-processed foods monotonically decreases with age of children.



PhD candidate Koroles Awad presenting his research

Research at SES

Transportation Research Group News

The Transportation Research Group (TRG), lead by **Eric Jessup**, has had a productive year in 2024! Many of the research activities and collaborative efforts were highlighted at the recently hosted Transportation Research Day at WSU on October 17, 2024. Researchers and public transportation officials from a wide array of organizations across the Pacific Northwest participated in sessions focused on freight transportation, seaports, sustainability in transportation and autonomous vehicles. Presentations included research by TRG Research Associate **Adam Wilson** on the impact of ocean carrier alliances on U.S. agricultural exports and by PhD student **Hanouf Alhunayshil** on an innovative port performance measure she is developing utilizing real-time vessel tracking data from automated identification system (AIS) data. **Jia Yan** presented his research on household willingness to pay for autonomous driving features. **Jake Wagner** presented the recently completed analysis estimating the public benefit and private shipper costs savings from an inland container terminal in eastern Washington.



Eric Jessup



Jake Wagner



Adam Wilson



Jia Yan

Impact Center News

The WSU IMPACT Center, led by **Randy Fortenbery**, is widely regarded for its expertise in applied economic modeling and policy analysis. We primarily work 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 was awarded funding through the Washington legislative budget process to conduct a statewide study of agricultural competitiveness. This study focuses on the constraints and advantages faced by the Washington tree fruit, vine, wheat, potato, dairy, and small/diversified producer sectors, and is currently planned for release next summer. A specific objective of this project examines ways in which the regulatory environment affects agricultural competitiveness.

Tim Nadreau left WSU in fall 2024 to start a tenure-track Professorship at the University of Idaho, but he will continue to work with the IMPACT Center as the study is completed in the summer of 2025. In addition, he has taken leadership on a cost of production study for the Washington Potato Commission. Congratulations on the new job Tim, and thanks for continuing to make important contributions to IMPACT's work!



Randy Fortenbery



Katelin Swanson

Beginning in last May, **Katelin Swanson**, 2024 SES Ph.D., joined the IMPACT Center as a Post-Doc researcher. She is providing leadership on the Agribusiness study as well as helping with other projects. **Jillian Hyink**, a first-year Ph.D. student in SES, is working as a Research Assistant with the IMPACT Center this academic year, and providing critical support to both Katelin and Tim. IMPACT published the 2024 edition of our report Washington Agribusiness: Status and Outlook (WASO) in January 2024 and will publish the 10th annual issue in January 2025. The 2025 publication will include articles on transportation issues in Washington, and an article discussing the Agribusiness Study currently underway. The IMPACT Center's current and archived research may be accessed at <https://ses.wsu.edu/impact-center/>

Dr. Soran Mohtadi is visiting SES during the Fall semester



Soran Mohtadi

Soran Mohtadi holds a PhD from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and he is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University (School of Advanced International Studies, the Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy). His research interests are Energy Economics, Econometrics and Development Economics. He studies topics within applied microeconomics, particularly focusing on the intersection of economic development, energy economics and environmental policies. He explores the economic impacts of natural resources and their role in shaping inequalities, employing advanced econometric techniques and considering energy forecast scenarios. He also investigates the political economy of the global energy transition, examining how shifts in energy policy affect economic and social outcomes.

Leigh Lecture

Nobel Laureate Alvin Roth of Stanford University presented the 2024 Leigh Lecture. Dean Karlan, Northwestern University, will give the 2025 Leigh Lecture on April 25, 2025. Karlan is co-director of the Global Poverty Research Lab at Northwestern University, and the Founder and President of Innovations for Poverty Action, a non-profit organization dedicated to discovering and promoting solutions to global poverty problems. Please save the date and join us!



Nobel Laureate Al Roth presenting the 2024 Leigh Lecture

Graduate Programs

GSA elections for 2024-25 term: Congratulations to the newly elected officers

President: Nehal Ahmad Khan
Vice President: Asif Chowdhury
Treasurer: Mohamed Zida
Secretary: Tanaya Shubhangi

Heartfelt thank you to the outgoing GSA team: Nels, Gabriel, and Varsha.

MAE student *Kassandra Vogel* selected as the WSU student Regent

Kassandra Vogel recently earned her undergraduate degrees in Economics and English from Washington State University in May 2024 and is continuing her education with a Master of Applied Economics. Before serving as Student Regent, Kassandra was the Deputy Director of Campus Sustainability at the Associated Students of Washington State University on the Pullman Campus. In this role, she worked closely with student groups and liaised with faculty and local stakeholders to gain comprehensive insights into WSU and the broader community's waste management infrastructure. She also had the opportunity to serve as a co-chair of the Student Experience subcommittee on WSU's system-wide Sustainability Task Force, contributing to the university's broader mission of sustainability and responsible resource management. Kassandra is deeply passionate about student representation and advocating for the student body.



Kassandra Vogel

Graduate Programs

SES Excellence Awards by Graduate Students



Aditi Surve

The winner of the SES Excellence in Research Awards is **Aditi Surve**. Aditi is interested in providing evidence that helps tailor policy recommendations using causal inference techniques. Her preference is to use lab-in-the-field and field experiments to study the behavior of vulnerable communities in developing countries. She also conducting research applying causal inference techniques using observational data. In her own words: "Enhancing the well-being of vulnerable communities by carefully designing economic research protocols and methods is at the core of my work and continues to inspire my future research endeavors."



Dipanwita Barai

The winner of the SES Excellence in Teaching Awards **Dipanwita Barai**. Since 2021, "Dipa" has served as the solo lead instructor for several courses at Washington State University while pursuing her Ph.D. in economics. Her teaching philosophy is rooted in student engagement and the real-world application of theoretical concepts. The examples she uses in her classes are connected directly to her own dissertation work, illustrating how real-world scenarios can make theoretical concepts more tangible and relevant for students. This approach has sharpened her ability to explain complex ideas, positively impacting both her teaching and research, while also helping students understand the differences between various markets.

Sustainable Development Fellowship for Graduate Students

The Endowment for Sustainable Development (ESD) supports the Distinguished Professorship for Sustainable Development, research, and grants in global sustainability. The Endowment aims to enhance teaching and scholarship in sustainable development economics, focusing on human well-being and equity in a global context. This Summer, three SES PhD students won the fellowship: **Nabittun Nahar** for her work entitled "Water for Women: Impact of Access to Piped Water on Women's Time Allocation for Sustainable Development." **Qingwei Qiao** for her paper "Identification and Estimation of Network Spillovers in nutrition programs: Experiments in Madagascar and Niger," and **Mengshan Zhao** for her study: "The Effects of a Psychological Support Intervention for Mothers on Children's Nutrition, Maternal Well-being, and Cognitive Function in Nigeria." For more information about these students and their projects please visit at <https://labs.wsu.edu/sustainable-development/>.



Nabittun Nahar



Qingwei Qiao



Mengshan Zhao

Master of Applied Economics 2023-24 graduates (all advised by Michael Brady)

Ross Carter, Mitchell Kent, Pariyakorn Magphanthong, Ben Nichols

Master of Science Graduate 2023-24

Kristina Gibson advised by Shannon Neibergs

Graduate Programs

Ph.D. Dissertations and Placement for Academic Year 2023-24

Name	Dissertation/advisor	Placement
Yazeed Aldhafian	The Effect of Weather Shocks and a Strategic Investor on Competition and Abatement Efforts under Environmental Regulation/F. Munoz-Garcia	Assistant Professor, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia
Carly Dollin	Essays in Economics of Labor, Technology, and Development/M. Gibson	Post-doctoral researcher, WSU
Kairon Shayne Garcia	The Impact of School Closures in years 2020-21 on Parents and Children/B. Cowan	Tenure-track Assistant Professor, California State University, Long Beach
Magdana Kondaridze	Essays on Gravity Model of International Trade/J. Luckstead	Tenure-track Assistant Professor, Gonzaga University
Xueying Ma	Essays on Consumer Demand: Marketing and Policy Implications from Primary and Secondary Data/R. K. Gallardo	Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Arkansas, Medical Sciences
Putriesti Mandasari	Essays on Firm Performance and Agribusiness/J. Cook	Tenure-track Assistant Professor, Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia
Andre Murray	Essays on Central Bank Digital Money and Public Policies/J. Bai	Advisor to the Sr. Deputy Governor, Bank of Jamaica
Namloc Nguyen	Applications of Time-Series Econometrics: Assessing Commodity Price Risk, Food Price Inflation, and Market Integration/R. Fortenbery	Post-doctoral Researcher at Stanford University's Climate and Energy Policy Program
Almira Salimgarieva	Unpacking Environmental Enforcement: Causal Inference, Regulatory Mechanisms, and Social Implications/W. Blundell	Senior Data Scientist, Citizens Bank
Wisnu Sugiarto	Essays in Applied Microeconomics with Policy Implications on Safety & Environment in Transportation Sectors/J. Yan	Tenure-track Assistant Professor, Whitman College
Katelin Swanson	Essays in Applied Agricultural Economics/R. Fortenbery	Post-doctoral Researcher, Impact Center, WSU
Jiaying Wang	Essays on Industrial Organization and Economics/W. Blundell	Quantitative Risk Modeling Analyst, the Huntington National Bank
Mingyi Yang	Essays In Macroeconomics/ J. Bai and Salvador Ortigueira	Assistant Professor at a Chinese University
Qi Zhang	Essays on Applied Microeconomics/W. Blundell and R. K. Gallardo	Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Idaho



Graduate students went river rafting guided by Professor Jon Yoder



Prof. Karina Gallardo with PhD graduate Xueying Ma and Xueying's mother.

Undergraduate News

Preston Bebich recognized as one of WSU's top ten seniors

Economics major **Preston Bebich** was selected as one of WSU's 2024 top ten outstanding seniors. The WSU Alumni Association selects those students who represent the highest standards in specific aspects of the college experience: academics, athletics, campus involvement, community service, and visual and performing arts. Bebich is a four-year letter winner on WSU Men's Golf. His accomplishments include being third all-time for WSU scoring record, 28 events with six top 10 finishes, top scoring average for player who has played all four years at WSU; Pac-12 All-Academic, three years with a 3.92 GPA; President's Honor Roll all semesters; Cleveland/Srixion All-America Scholar Award from the Golf Coaches Association of America; Pac-12 Player of the Week. He was a recipient of the Peninsula Seahawks Scholarship, University Achievement Award, Shumway Undergrad Scholarship, Henry T. Beuchel Memorial Scholarship, Krautkraemer Scholarship, Home Economics Endowed Scholarship, SES Scholarship; community service with the Whitman County Humane Society and the annual Butch's Bash to engage with Pullman youth.



Preston Bebich

Graduate Joseph Ikueze selected as a gonfalon bearer for CAHNRS



Joseph Ikueze

Joseph Ikueze who received his BS in Economics served as a gonfalon bearer for CAHNRS at the May 2024 graduation ceremony. Ikueze, a standout in international and development economics with a focus on financial markets, reflects on his transformative experience. From revitalizing the Economics Club to earning prestigious awards, his dedication shines through. As he prepares to embark on a career in financial services, Ikueze aims to mentor fellow international students, advocating for seizing opportunities and building a path to success. His journey inspires and resonates, showcasing a commitment to impact and leadership.

SES undergraduate students received College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources (CAHNRS)-wide awards

Cashup Davis Merit in Human Sciences- Joseph Ikueze
Human Sciences Research Award - Nicolas Kaabel

Congratulations to the 2024 SES Outstanding seniors

Outstanding Seniors in Economics	Major
Johnathan "Jack" Simonson	Economics, Policy and Law
Kassandra Vogel	Environmental Economics
Nicolas Kraabel	Quantitative Economics
Andrew Davila	Financial Markets
Joseph Ikueze	International Econ & Development
Della Paloy	Ag. and Food Business Economics Agricultural Economics

Alumni News

Please send Jaimie Dahl (jaimie@wsu.edu) your career or personal updates! Below is what some SES alumni have been doing.

Afrin Islam (PhD 2021) won the 2024 Outstanding Teaching Award at Temple University.

Tony Delmond (PhD 2018) was appointed to the Hendrix Chair of Excellence in the College of Business at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Tongzhe Li (PhD 2015) was promoted to Full Professor at the University of Guelph in Canada.

Gnel Gabrielyan (PhD 2014) is a tax policy researcher for the California Franchise Tax Board.

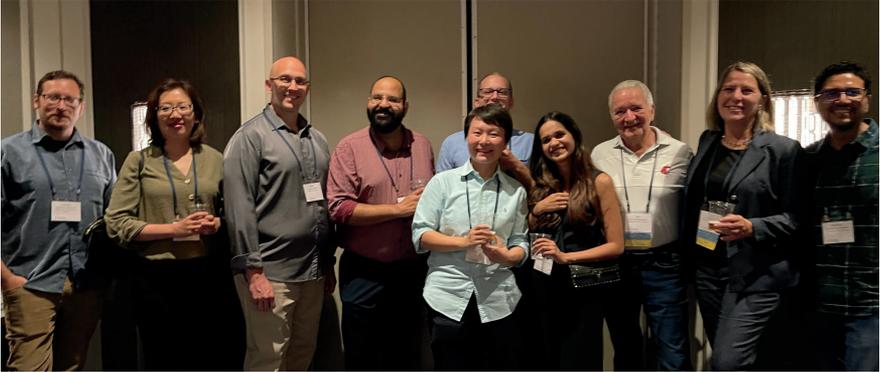
Joe Navelski (PhD 2023) accepted a position as Senior Quantitative Analyst at Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.



SES alumni at the 2024 American Economic Association meetings: Zarina Juraqulova, Modhurima Dey Amin, Syed Badrudoza, Botir Okhunjanov, and Sherzod Akhundjanov.

Alumni News

We hope to provide more opportunities for SES alumni to interact. Alumni gather at the American Economic Association meetings each January and at the Ag. & Applied Economics Association meetings each summer. Ag West sponsored a reception before Cougar Night at the Mariners in Seattle over the summer. Stay tuned for announcements of young alumni events in Seattle and Spokane.



SES alumni, faculty and students at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association meetings: Tony Delmond, Angie Zhang, Drew Hanks, Kiro Awad, Tongzhe Li, Jeff Luckstead, Aditi Surve, Ron Mittelhammer, Jill McCluskey and Maksud Rahman.



Thanks to Ag West for hosting a SES Alumni gathering before the Cougar Night at the Mariners in Seattle! Pictured are Tom Sullivan, (Masters, 1995), Andrew Jaqua (Masters, 1995), and Eric Jessup.

Alumni needed for Undergraduate Mentorship Program

Current mentees list degree and career advice, skill development, networking, and job insight as reasons for participating in the mentorship program. Let us know if you are interested in being a mentor!

Annual SES Homecoming Colloquium, Banquet and Auction

The Homecoming Colloquium and Banquet and Auction were a great opportunity to talk about economics and connect with friends. The homecoming colloquium, "The New Economics of College Sports," tackled several issues, including conference realignment, paying players and NIL deals, and the costs on student athletes of increased travel. We welcomed two of our sports economics alumni: **Jadrian Wooten** and **Jason Winfree**. In addition to three D-1 Athletic Directors (Anne McCoy, Don Oberhelman, and Terry Gawlick), we welcomed Marie Mayes and Asa Brown from the Carson College of Business to talk about NILs at WSU.

We held our banquet and auction at the Palouse Ridge Golf Course Pavilion. We were honored that several of our SES emeriti attended, and we remembered **Lee Blakeslee**. We also honored emeritus faculty member **Ken Casavant** as an Honored Alumnus. The next day, the WSU football team beat the University of Hawaii.



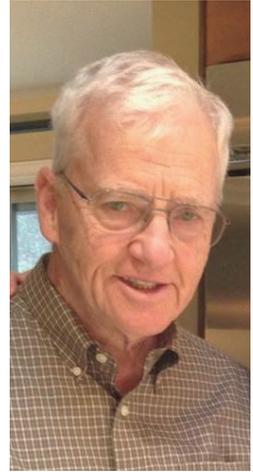
The Athletic Directors Panel during the Homecoming Colloquium on the "New Economics of College Sports." Pictured from left to right are WSU AD Anne McCoy, Cal Poly AD Don Oberhelman, Univ. of Idaho AD Terry Gawlick, and WSU alumnus Jadrian Wooten.



Ken Casavant received the Honored Alumnus Award, presented by Jill McCluskey and Hayley Hohman.

Obituary

Leeroy "Lee" Blakeslee's years growing up on a dairy farm in upstate New York inspired his educational choices. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and his PhD from Iowa State University, both in Agricultural Economics. He then joined the faculty at Washington State University where he spent his entire career. During his tenure at WSU, Lee earned respect as a researcher and teacher with a focus on Econometrics and Quantitative Economic Analysis, as Department Chair, and as a dedicated mentor to a multitude of PhD candidates. Two of his best research articles received national awards for Quality of Research Discovery. Lee's wife Yoshie was a long-time employee of WSU's Civil & Environmental Engineering department where she supported undergraduate students as an academic advisor and a friend. The Blakeslee family had an enduring fondness for Pullman, Cougar athletics, and the many personal connections that grew out of their time at WSU. In memory of Lee and Yoshie Blakeslee, their daughters have established a scholarship to support graduate students in Agricultural and Applied Economics who have an interest in conducting quantitative economic analyses of problems in agricultural sectors.



Lee Blakeslee

SES Friends and 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 \$100,000 for the SES Excellence Fund and scholarships and fellowships. Last year, the committee raised over \$75,000 for these purposes and received almost \$100,000 in new pledges.

SES Friends Development Committee Members

Don Carrell, BS Ag Econ/Ag Bus, 1989

Rossetti Farrell, BS Econ, 2014

Hayley Hohman (Chair), BS Econ 2016

Troy Joshua, Ag Econ, 1994

Ryan Kile, BS Ag Bus, 2004

Monte Marti, MS Ag Econ, 1982

Michael McCullough, PhD Econ, 2008

Madison Moore, BS Econ 2016

Corbin Poppe, BS Econ 2016

Alexander Smith, BS Econ 2013

Kyle Strachila, BS Econ 2017; BS Ag & Food
Bus Econ 2017

PitchayapornTantihkarnchana, MS Applied
Econ 2014, PhD Econ 2014

Emma Taylor, BS Econ 2021; MS Applied
Econ 2022

Robert Thayer, MA Ag Econ 1976

Jadrian Wooten, PhD Econ, 2014



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