

# SES News

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES | DECEMBER 2025



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

I hope that 2025 has been a great year for you! There is a lot of optimism about the future of the School of Economic Sciences. There is new energy and excitement with new WSU leadership. At the university level, we hired a new President, and at the college level, we hired a new Dean. Our Economics majors, Agricultural and Food Business Economics major, and course enrollments are increasing. The WSU Regents approved a new BA degree in Economics to add to our degree options. SES is also hosting a new Agricultural Leadership certificate.

We hired Emily Arnesen as a career-track Assistant Professor with a focus on instruction at WSU Vancouver. Shanthi Manian received tenure and promotion. Rich Hoeft retired as our Finance/Budget Manager. We hired Zach Rost to replace him. Our faculty were recognized with awards, conducted impactful research, taught and mentored outstanding students, and worked with stakeholders.

We love connecting with our SES alumni and friends! We held alumni happy hours in Spokane and Seattle this summer. It was fantastic to connect with the alumni who came, and we are so proud of the impact and accomplishments of our graduates.

Our homecoming game was early this year in September. In the football game, our Cougars defeated the Aztecs from San Diego State University. As part of our homecoming events, we hosted a colloquium focused on winners and losers in the new international trade environment. We also held the Annual SES Dinner and Auction.

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

CONTACT US:  
Washington State University  
School of Economic Science  
PO Box 646210  
Pullman, WA 99164-6210  
Phone: 509-335-5555

# Faculty and Staff Highlights

## SES Welcomes Emily Arnesen to our faculty

Dr. **Emily Arnesen** joined the School of Economic Sciences as a Career-Track Assistant Professor at WSU Vancouver with a focus on teaching. She is an applied microeconomist with broad interests in labor, education, and public economics. Her research focuses on understanding how public policies influence criminal behavior. Emily is already familiar with the Pacific Northwest. She received her PhD in Economics from the University of Oregon and her bachelor's degree from Gonzaga University.



Emily Arnesen

## Jeff Luckstead named Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Dr. **Jeff Luckstead** was awarded the Distinguished Professorship of Agricultural and Resource Economics this year. His research is primarily focused on international agricultural trade, industrial organization, and agricultural labor markets, supported by rigorous state-of-the-art applications of econometric and calibration model methodologies. At WSU, he serves as Director of Graduate Studies in SES. Prior to WSU, he was a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas. He received his Ph.D. from WSU in 2013, and his dissertation was recognized by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Outstanding Dissertation award. He is a Fellow of the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA).



Jeff Luckstead

## Jon Yoder renewed as Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Development

The SES Endowment for Sustainable Development supports this Distinguished Professorship and provides funding for research and merit-based grants and awards to support and recognize outstanding research relating to global sustainability and sustainable development. Dr. **Jon Yoder** was renewed for a second term as Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Development. He will continue to use the fund to support SES student research. Yoder has served as the Director of the State of Washington Water Research Center. His research interests include natural resource and environmental economics, focusing on policy design and impact analysis, law, and contracts. Yoder is an award-winning researcher, Fellow of the WAEA, and a member of the Washington State Academies of Sciences. He has been on the faculty at WSU since 2002.



Jon Yoder

## Shanthi Manian received tenure and promotion

Congratulations to Dr. **Shanthi Manian** on her tenure and promotion. She is a development economist who uses randomized controlled trials, lab-in-the-field experiments, and natural experiments to study intersections of global health, gender, and development. She has focused on the health decisions of vulnerable women, gender discrimination in developing country labor markets, and cognitive constraints among the poor. She has previous or ongoing experiments in Ethiopia, Kenya, the Philippines, Senegal and Uganda. She has a joint appointment with the Allen School for Global Health.



Shanthi Manian

# Faculty and Staff Highlights

## Ana Espinola-Arredondo taught a course in Denmark on game theory and climate change

Dr. **Ana Espinola-Arredondo** was a visiting professor at Denmark's Aarhus University in the summer of 2025. She taught a graduate-level course "Applications of Game Theory to Environmental Problems." The summer experience expanded her abilities as an educator while helping students understand the decision-making process of people, regulators, and companies facing environmental problems. This course was designed to discuss scenarios in which firms decide to cooperate with regulatory agencies by investing in clean technologies or reducing pollution. Students came from different European countries, and their academic background was in Business, Economics, and Data Analysis.



Ana Espinola-Arredondo

## Karina Gallardo presented at the U.S. Apple Association 2025 Outlook meeting



Karina Gallardo

Dr. **Karina Gallardo** presented the 2024 updates on production costs and returns for five leading apple varieties in Washington, in collaboration with coauthors Suzette Galinato and Bernardita Sallato. Christopher Gerlach, U.S. Apple Association, Insights & Analytics VP, emphasized the importance of these studies, noting their influence on policy discussions. He underscored that the detailed analysis of cost shares—particularly labor, much of it H-2A labor—provides critical evidence for the U.S. Apple Association in communicating to policymakers that current labor rates are unsustainable for U.S. apple growers under prevailing market conditions

## Gregmar and Suzette Galinato Summer Visit for Research in the Philippines

Suzette and **Gregmar Galinato** served as Visiting Research Fellows at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines in July 2025. They were keynote speakers for a week-long workshop on "Impact Evaluation and Causal Inference." Greg presented several case studies demonstrating the application of quasi-experimental methods introduced during the workshop, while Suzette presented on applying benefit-cost analysis to assess farm-level projects. During their fellowship, they continued their research on the impacts of the 1991 Mount Pinatubo eruption and subsequent lahar mudflows on the recovery of rice production and farmer welfare in affected villages. They also continued their collaborative study on the impact of financial management training on farmers' adoption of high-yielding rice varieties. In their free time, they explored new destinations in the Philippines with family and friends, and enjoyed participating in sports like tennis, pickleball and Muay Thai.



Gregmar Galinato answering questions from participants.

# Faculty and Staff Highlights

Luckstead's Article was selected as the Outstanding Article in the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics



Jeff Luckstead

Jeff Luckstead's article, coauthored with Stephen Devadoss, "Optimal Timing of Removal and Planting of Perennial Crops in Anticipation of a New Cultivar," was honored in 2025 as the best article published in the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics in 2024.



Karina Gallardo

Gallardo's Article Won the Best Specialty Crop Economics Article Award

Karina Gallardo's co-authored article was selected by the AAEA's Specialty Crop Economics Section as the best article that significantly contributed to transdisciplinary work or specialty crops industries. The article is entitled, "Willingness to Pay for Blueberries: Sensory Attributes, Fruit Quality Traits, and Consumers' Characteristics," and was published in HortScience.

Ken Casavant won the 2025 Emeritus Society Legacy of Excellence Award

This university-wide award recognizes sustained contributions to academia; continued service to the university, community and mankind; and personal accomplishments in retirement. Dr. Casavant's remarkable career at WSU spanned more than five decades, during which he became a leading figure in agricultural economics and transportation policy. Earning his Ph.D. from WSU in 1971, he quickly distinguished himself as a passionate educator and a nationally recognized scholar. His research on transportation economics, with a particular focus on integrated transportation models, brought national attention and influenced policies at the state and federal levels. Ken's innovative teaching style earned him numerous accolades throughout his career, and his dedication to mentoring students and faculty alike has left a lasting impact on the WSU community. Beyond his academic work, Ken's leadership and commitment to public service have been central to his legacy. He played an instrumental role in shaping transportation policy through his involvement with the Washington State Transportation Center and the Northwest Power Planning Council. His continued engagement in local initiatives highlights his ongoing commitment to the public good. Whether serving on the boards of the Pullman Good Food Cooperative or the WSU Retirement Association, Ken's contributions reflect his belief in the land-grant mission and his dedication to improving his community.



Ken Casavant receiving his award from Larry Fox

## Research at SES

### Impacts of Cyberbullying

Teens who are bullied online are far more likely to smoke, drink, or use marijuana — and how the bullying happens matters. Ben Cowan and PhD Student Zhuang Hao authored a new study drawing on surveys of more than half a million U.S. adolescents, along with interviews and experiments. They found that cyberbullying often leads to mental distress, which in turn fuels substance use. The research also shows that the nature of online interactions can worsen or soften the blow. When bullying is public, visible to an audience, its effects are especially damaging. But when victims have some distance — in time or space — the harm is less severe. The findings highlight both the serious health risks of cyberbullying and the ways online dynamics shape its impact.



Zhuang Hao



Ben Cowan

# Research at SES

## Enforcement of Environmental Regulations

Government regulatory agencies with constrained budgets often struggle to prioritize which standards to enforce. What are the benefits to limiting the types of violations that require the agency to undertake costly enforcement actions and litigation? Assistant Professor **Wesley Blundell** and **Almira Salimgarieva** (PhD 2024) study this question in the context of environmental regulation. Examining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2014 limitation of the violations which require a state environmental agency to undertake costly enforcement actions. They find a reduction in industry facility level emissions, equivalent to \$2.4 billion annually in environmental harm, following the implementation of the policy. Consistent with the policy's intention of helping regulators steer enforcement resources toward violations that posed the greatest potential harm, the largest effects of the policy were observed among the states that underwent the greatest reallocation of their enforcement targeting. The findings will be published in the Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.



Wesley Blundell



Almira Salimgarieva

## Performance Pay Increases Dog Vaccinations to Reduce Human Rabies



Shanthi Manian



Jon Yoder

What happens when local organizers get paid for results instead of just showing up? SES Faculty **Shanthi Manian** and **Jon Yoder** along with Felix Lankester of the WSU School for Global Health carried out a field experiment in Rural Tanzania that tested three ways to pay community coordinators for running dog rabies vaccination drives: fixed pay, pay-for-performance, or a mix of both. The mix won, boosting vaccinations by 16 percent, even though total pay stayed the same. Simply raising the fixed rate didn't matter but increasing pay per dog did. The takeaway: smart incentive design can make grassroots public health efforts work better and reach farther. The World Bank Economic Review article about this research can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhae038>. This and other research by SES faculty supports WSU's Rabies Free Africa campaign ([rabiesfreeafrica.org](http://rabiesfreeafrica.org)).



## Economics of green goods

Felix Munoz-Garcia, Ana Espinola-Arredondo, & John Strandholm

Professors **Felix Munoz-Garcia** and **Ana Espinola-Arredondo** jointly with **John Strandholm** (WSU PhD 2017) published, "Greener or cheaper goods: Economies of scope in R&D investments," in the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management. The paper characterizes the current investment trend where firms not only invest in cost-reducing R&D but also in clean R&D (abatement technology). They investigate how environmental regulation differs from that in standard models where firms invest in one type of R&D, identifying settings in which this difference becomes larger. Understanding firms' simultaneous investment: (i) helps to better characterize firms' decisions in real life; and (ii) avoids potential regulatory mistakes, especially in the form of under taxation. They show that policies that do not account for the multiplicity of R&D investments could induce excessive pollution.

# Research at SES

## Study shows how underpricing helps 'cult wineries' drive demand



Botir Okhunjano



Jill McCluskey



Ron Mittelhammer

When a product is hard to buy, more people want it. **Jill McCluskey**, **Ron Mittelhammer** and **Botir Okhunjano**'s (PhD 2022, Assistant Professor Denison University) study reveals that wineries producing "cult wines" can boost long-term revenues by keeping their prices low, creating excess demand that fuels their brand's prestige and future revenue. They analyzed data on cult wines, which are rare luxury bottles only available to consumers who secure a spot on a winery's allocation list or purchase the product via the secondary market. Published this year in the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, the study focused solely on Washington, Oregon and California wineries with full allocation lists.

McCluskey said, "As an economist, I wondered why these wineries didn't eliminate their allocation lists by raising the prices of their high-quality products." The researchers found that when the wineries offered their cult wines below market equilibrium price — the point where market supply equals demand — more people wanted to buy them. This caused demand to outweigh supply, resulting in perceived scarcity among consumers. While this "scarcity-pricing" strategy was not profit-maximizing for wineries in the short term, the study demonstrated that it increased demand for cult wines in the long run. That combination of excess demand and higher prices led to increased revenue for winemakers. The study also examined prices in the secondary market, where cult wines are often resold for significantly higher prices than their release prices. While the secondary market sellers receive the short-term profits, the wineries still reap the long-term benefits as demand increases over time. The researchers discovered that the greater the difference between the secondary market price and the release price, the higher the wine's secondary market price will be the next year. As secondary market prices increased, wineries were also prompted to increase the release prices of their cult wines in future periods.

## Access to Water Services

SES Professor **Joe Cook** continues his work on the economics and financing of sustainable and equitable access to high-quality water services around the world. In the US, he recently published a paper showing the importance of peer effects in encouraging the adoption of "rain gardens" used in Seattle to prevent combined sewer overflows. He also co-leads an observatory on urban water issues in the global South, with research partners in Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda, and with funding from the Environment for Development (Efd) network based in Sweden. Last fall, he and his colleagues were awarded Efd's Policy Impact Award for their long-time collaboration with the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company. The observatory is currently focusing on the issue of how to encourage customer bill payment. In October, they convened a meeting in Tanzania of commercial managers from four water utilities (serving Accra, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Kampala) to build a "community of practice" around improving bill payment. The team was also awarded Efd's award for best "discussion paper" for a study in Nairobi examining whether nudging people with text messages works in encouraging bill payment (unfortunately, it doesn't).



Joe Cook (second from left) with his winning team.

# Research at SES

## Transportation Research Group News



Eric Jessup



Jake Wagner



Jia Yan

The TRG includes three SES faculty: Drs. **Eric Jessup**, **Jake Wagner**, and **Jia Yan**. They actively engage in meaningful research for the state and region. They completed a study for the WA State Depts. of Commerce and Ecology, evaluating the state's single-use plastic bag ban and how effective that ban has been on reducing plastic waste. The study included a review of experiences of many other states, which had adopted similar single-use plastic bag bans and the resultant impact on consumer behavior. The study revealed that the ban resulted in a 50% reduction in plastic bag use, going from the free single-use thin bags to the thicker (2.25 ml) reusable bag at 8 cents per bag (Oct. 2021), but the total plastic use increased 17%. The TRG also is providing an independent review of the WA State Transportation Impacts of Lower Snake River Dam Removal study for the WA State Dept. of Transportation.

**Jia Yan** is working with Clifford Winston on the safety features of autonomous vehicles. He is developing estimation approaches that combine the strengths of machine learning methods with traditional econometric models to quantify households' heterogeneous preferences for AI-driven safety features. The goal is to quantify the total benefits to households from AI-driven safety features. In a 2<sup>nd</sup> project, along with Winston and **Wisnu Sugiarto** (PhD 2024, Assistant Prof. at Whitman College), he is working on a law enforcement and roadway safety project. They are conducting a high-resolution, street-block-level causal analysis of the relationship between law enforcement activity and traffic accidents in Seattle. Focusing on 49,020 local street segments. They estimate heterogeneous treatment effects of traffic stops on accident outcomes.

## Collaborating Center for the Economics of Animal Health (CCEAH)

The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) maintains a network of Collaborating Centers for the purposes of providing scientific expertise and support to the WOAH and its Members and for promoting international collaboration on animal health and welfare. Dr. **Tom Marsh** is the founding Director of the CCEAH, which is a collaboration between WSU and Kansas State University, as well as universities in Mexico and South America. **Golam Shakil** (PhD, 2022) served as postdoctoral research associate for the center. The CCEAH provides leadership in research, training, and capacity for the economics of animal health, as well as networking within the Americas and across the world. In 2024-25, the CCEAH was funded by USDA to assess the economic impacts of vaccination strategies for highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1 or bird flu) with trade impacts. The team completed a report and a requested briefing to the Secretary of Agriculture's Office. In addition, Dr. Marsh presented a confidential briefing on bird flu to the State Department, which included intelligence agencies and White House staff, and presented to the US National Academies of Sciences. Congratulations to Golam who has taken a research position at Kansas State University.



Tom Marsh



Golam Shakil

## Impact Center News

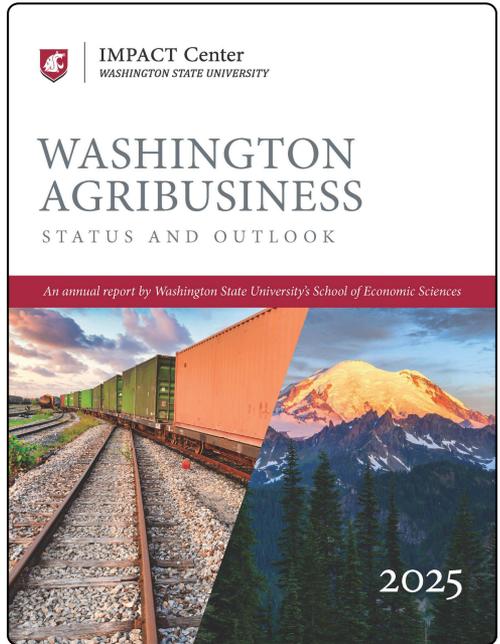
The IMPACT Center is transitioning to new leadership. After ten years of leading the Impact Center, Dr. **Randy Fortenbery** stepped down in August as he moves towards retirement. Dr. **Eric Jessup** is serving as Interim Director. Eric's vision is to cultivate support, increase interactions with stakeholders, and expand the IMPACT Center's funding base. One of the highly used publications that the Impact Center provides is the Washington Agribusiness Status and Outlook. **Des O'Rourke** established IMPACT in 1985.



Eric Jessup



Randy Fortenbery



## Leigh Lecture

Dean Karlan, the Frederic Esser Nemmers Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance at Northwestern University, gave the 2025 Leigh Lecture. Karlan was the Chief Economist at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) from 2022 until resigning in 2025. His timely lecture was entitled, "The Future of U.S. Foreign Aid." The 2026 Leigh Lecture will be given on April 23 by Jesse Rothstein from U. of California, Berkeley.



Dean Karlan presenting the 2025 Leigh Lecture

# Graduate Programs



SES Graduate Students at the top of Kamiak Butte this fall.

## SES Graduate Student Association Officers 2025-26

Congratulations to the newly elected officers:

President: Jillian Hyink

Vice President Krishna Pullarkattu Mukundan

Secretary Srijan Budhathoki

Treasurer: Jamil Imon



Jamil Imon, Krishna Pullarkattu Mukundan, Jillian Hyink, & Srijan Budhathoki

## PhD student Jacob Gifford studied water law and policy



Jacob Gifford & Chief Justice Debra Stephens

PhD student **Jacob Gifford** attended a judicial education program about water law and policy that included Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens and other Washington State judges in March of 2025. The program was organized by **Jon Yoder**, SES professor and Director of the State of Washington Water Research Center and Alf Brandt of the National Judicial College. Three SES faculty gave talks about water economics and law during the program: **Michael Brady**, **Joe Cook**, and **Jon Yoder**.

## Sustainable Development Graduate Fellowships

The Endowment for Sustainable Development (ESD) aims to enhance teaching and scholarship in sustainable development economics, focusing on human well-being and equity in a global context. **Saroj Adhikari** and **Hector Botello** received Endowment for Sustainable Development Fellowships this summer. Adhikari's project is entitled "The Impact of the 2015 Nepal Earthquake on Maternal Health Outcomes and Reproductive Health Services, and Hector's work is entitled "Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases on Peru's Indigenous Households". For more information about these students and their projects, see <https://labs.wsu.edu/sustainable-development/>.



Saroj Adhikari



Hector Botello

## Mercer Fellowship for Specialty Crops



Tanaya Shubhangi

Tanaya Shubhangi was awarded the Mercer Fellowship this summer. She is working on a project that aims to identify and quantify the effects of a range of factors—including individual strategic uncertainty, risk behavior, and farm and socio-demographic characteristics—on Washington cherry growers' willingness to participate in area-wide pest management programs designed to mitigate the devastating impacts of Western X disease, which is a viral disease that affects cherry trees and currently has no known cure.

# Graduate Programs

## SES Excellence Awards by Graduate Students

The winner of the SES Excellence in Research Award is **Hector Botello**. Hector is an applied microeconomist with research interests in Health, Public, Labor, and Development Economics. The winner of the SES Excellence in Teaching Award is **Jingjie Xu**. She has been the lead instructor for three different courses at WSU.



Hector Botello



Jingjie Xu

## Ph.D. Dissertations and Placement for Academic Year 2024-25

Name	Dissertation/advisor	Placement
Banguning Asgha	Essays on Ecolabels and Water Disconnection Theory and Nonpayment Contagion Behavior / J. Cook & R.K. Gallardo	Assistant Professor, Pomodoro University
Dipanwita Barai	Empirical and Theoretical Approaches to Resource Economics: From Oil Well Dynamics to Agricultural Trade and Public Health / T. Marsh & J. Luckstead	Visiting assistant professor, Univ. of Tampa
Ilhoon Choi	Essays on Minimum Wage / J. Bai	Lecturer in Statistics, WSU
William Ottenheimer	Essays in Environmental Systems Management and Policy Economics / M. Brady	Lecturer, Central Washington University
Sahil Patil	Essays in Applied Microeconomics and Causal Inference / W. Blundell	Research Scientist, Amazon
Aditi Surve	Essays in Development and Environmental Economics / S. Manian & J. Yoder	Post-doctoral researcher, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Qingwei Qiao	Essays in Machine Learning, Health and Environmental Economics / W. Blundell	Economist, Amazon
Bin Zhao	Three Essays on Applied Econometrics / W. Blundell	Visiting Assistant Professor, Soka University

## Master of Applied Economics 2024-25 graduates (all advised by Michael Brady)

Jakob Chicoyne, Corey Hemenway, Caden Hough, and Brandon Parham

# Undergraduate News

## Online BS ranked top ten

The school is consistently ranked among the best online programs for economics degrees, with high marks for its agricultural economics program. Ranking website OnlineU most recently placed the program as the 10<sup>th</sup> most popular online economics degree in the U.S., based on the number of degrees conferred.



# Undergraduate News

## New Bachelor of Arts in Economic Sciences Approved by WSU Regents for Pullman and Global Campuses

SES is adding a BA degree in Economic Sciences to its BS degree offerings in Economics and in Agricultural and Food Business Economics. The addition of a BA aims to expand the school's capacity to serve students with diverse skills, interests, and career aspirations, while enhancing the program's overall appeal and competitiveness. The BA provides greater flexibility, allowing for fewer technical requirements and more opportunities for interdisciplinary electives in fields such as political science, history, or sociology. This design makes Economics more accessible to a broad group of students. The intention is to broaden pathways and increase enrollment at the undergraduate level.

## New Agricultural Leadership Certificate

SES now offers a certificate in Agricultural Leadership. The requirements include 16 credits with 13 graded credits and 3 internship or project credits. The core courses include our introductory course in Economics and a course on developing effective communication offered by Human Development (HD). The electives include courses from Ag & Food Systems, Animal Science, Crop Sciences, Economics, HD, Strategic Communication, and Political Science.

## New Undergraduate Courses Added

As part of strengthening our undergraduate programs, we are introducing three new courses

1. EconS 215 – Data Management, Analysis, and Visualization
2. EconS 310 [QUAN] – Statistics for Economics
3. EconS 315 – Machine Learning for Economists

We expect for these new courses to position SES students for additional success.

## Undergraduate Awards

Western Ag. Economics Association Outstanding Senior – Sarah Kovich  
Cashup Davis Merit in Ag. and Natural Resource Sciences – Esther Grosz



Jill McCluskey & Sarah Kovich



Esther Grosz

## Congratulations to the 2025 SES Outstanding seniors

Outstanding Seniors in Economics	Major
Ashley Dickerson	Economics, Policy and Law
Sarah Kovich	Agricultural Economics
Gil Shatti	Business Economics
Ethan Stocknow	Financial Markets

# Alumni News

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

- **Mike McCullough** (PhD 2008) is a Professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he lives with his wife and kids. He was the local organizer at the Amer. Assoc. of Wine Economists Conference in June 2025, where his band provided dinner entertainment.
- **Craig Newcomb** (BS, Econ, 1985) reports that he is currently working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District. He conducts economic analyses on flood control, environmental, navigation, and military projects across the United States and the Pacific. He provides economic benefit analysis and quantification for Congressional approval of projects. He uses current modeling tools predominantly based on GIS modeling and data analysis with integration of hydrologic data. He has responded to emergencies across the U.S. mainland, Guam, Saipan, and Samoa. Currently living in Hawaii, he is excited to return to Washington. Go Cougs!
- **Sanatan Shrey** (PhD 2009) lives in San Jose with his wife and children. He is Head of Health Economics and Outcomes Research and OSL at Cytokinetics.
- **Pitchayaporn "Peach" Tantiakarnchana** (PhD 2016) is a Collegiate Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech. This year she received the award for the outstanding principles instructor at Virginia Tech. She met up with Ana Espinola Arredondo at the Conference of the European Assoc. of Environmental and Resource Economists in Bergen, Norway in June 2025.



Ron Mittelhammer visited Sanatan Shrey in Berkeley, CA



Mike McCullough playing guitar at the Amer. Assoc. of Wine Economists Conference



Ana Espinola Arredondo with Peach Tantiakarnchana at the EAERE conference



Jingze Jiang (PhD 2013) became a U.S. citizen in 2025. Her husband and two daughters are included in the picture. She is a tenured Professor of Economics at Pennsylvania Western University Edinboro.



Kiana Yektansani (PhD, 2020) met up with J. McCluskey and R. Mittelhammer at the Am. Econ. Assoc. meetings in San Francisco. She is a Lecturer in Economics at the Univ. of Illinois, Chicago.

# Alumni News

We hope to provide more opportunities for SES alumni to interact. Alumni gather at the American Economic Assoc. meetings each January and at the Ag. & Applied Economics Assoc. meetings each summer. We hosted alumni happy hours in Spokane and Seattle. We hope that you can join us at an event this year!



WSU Reunion at the AAEA meetings: (front row) Kiro Awad, Will Ottenheimer, Karina Gallardo, Modhurima Dey Amin, Tongzhe Li, Tanaya Shubhangi, Nana Kyei-Boadu, Kuan-Ming Huang; (back row) Syed Badruddoza, Tony Delmond, Hayk Khachatryan, Kynda Curtis, Jill McCluskey, Gail Cramer, Nathan Delay, Ron Mittelhammer, Jude Bayham, Angie Zhang, Botir Okhunjyanov, Lia Nogueira, Cory Walters, Sherzod Akhunjyanov, and Qi Zhang



Mark Gibson, Alex Prera, and Matt Birch were part of the group who met up at the SES Alumni Happy Hour in Spokane.



The SES Alumni Happy Hour in Seattle took place at Sluggers before the Cougar Night at the Mariners. Please join us next year!



Jeff Luckstead, Jill McCluskey, & Thomas Heckelei (PhD 1997) eating schweinshaxe at the European Assoc. of Ag. Econ. meetings in Bonn, Germany. Thomas is a Professor at the University of Bonn.



Rafic Fahs (PhD 2001) and family visited the Mittelhammer's home in Pullman. Rafic is the Chief Model Risk Officer at Fifth Third Bank in Stamford, Connecticut.

# Alumni News



In October 2025, Jill McCluskey visited Syed Badruddoza (PhD, 2020) and Modhurima Dey Amin (PhD, 2020), who are both tenure-track Assistant Professors at Texas Tech University.



Thomas Roney (BA, 1980; ABD, 1983) came to Pullman for WSU homecoming and the SES banquet and auction. He supports our students to attend our banquet. Tom is President and Sr. Economist of Thomas Roney LLC Economic Consulting in Texas. Thank you, Tom!



Dante Ludlow (MS, 2023) is a Coordinator for the San Diego Padres.

# Emeriti Faculty



Emeriti gathering (clockwise from bottom): Des O'Rourke, Tom Schotzko, Ken Duft, Eric Jessup (honorary member), Scott Matulich, Ken Casavant, Norm Whittlesey, and Walt Butcher.

# SES Events

## 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, "Tariffs Unpacked: Winners, Losers, and What's Next," included speakers **Sanatan Shreay** (PhD 2009) on the pharmaceutical industry, **Grant Forsyth** (PhD 1996) who is Chief Economist at Avista on energy, **Phyllis Huey**, VP at Nordstroms on retail, **Mike Miller** of the WA Grain Commission on agriculture, and SES faculty members **Randy Fortenbery** and **Jeff Luckstead**.



Randy Fortenbery speaking at the Homecoming Colloquium.

We held our banquet and auction at the Palouse Ridge Golf Course Pavilion. We were honored that alumni and several of our SES emeriti attended. Thank you to all you attended. The next day, the WSU football team beat San Diego State.



Alan Love, Rich Hoef, and Jill McCluskey

## End-of-year BBQ

We celebrated the end of the 2024-25 academic year with a barbeque at **Eric Jessup's** ranch, where we recognized **Rich Hoef** for his outstanding service as the SES finance manager over many years. We wish Rich and Sandy a wonderful retirement!

# 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 2016

**Emma Taylor**, BS Econ 2021; MS Applied  
Econ 2022

**Robert Thayer**, MA Ag Econ 1976

**Jadrian Wooten**, PhD Econ, 2014



WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**School of Economic Sciences**

PO Box 646210

Pullman, WA 99164-6210