



Fall 2010 Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Professor Myles Watts sworn in as a member of the Farmer Mac Board of Directors
- Follow the Grain trip to Chile
- Undergraduate Research Lab Now Open!
- 2010 M.L. Wilson Lecture

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Note from the Department Head



Wendy Stock

Welcome to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics Fall/Winter 2010 Newsletter. From teaching to conducting conferences and public presentations to publishing high-quality research, it has been a busy start to the academic year for our award-winning set of faculty, staff, and students.

On the teaching front, despite many difficulties, the Follow the Grain course made its way to Chile after end of classes in May – the start of the Chilean winter. Student uniformly reported learning a lot on the trip. Other teaching highlights included Doug Young’s seminar course on “Naked Economics,” designed to invoke discussion of the book of the same name.

The department again hosted our Fall Agriculture Conference this year, this time focusing on Agriculture and Energy in Montana. The conference concluded with the annual M.L. Wilson lecture, this year presented by Dr. Wally Tyner of Purdue University. Other public presentations included the “Solid Finances” series by Marsha Goetting and Joel Schumacher, as well as numerous research paper presentations at conferences and seminars throughout the world.

Faculty research continues to be a strength of the department, and several faculty members have had their work published or accepted for publication in the past few months. This work is wide-ranging, focusing on topics from firm pricing practices, to economics education, to eminent domain policy, to government land ownership.

DAEE students continue to excel. We are particularly proud of our former economics (and engineering) major Katy Hansen, who was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for 2011. Congratulations also to James Brown, MSU’s Male Graduate Student of the Year, and Teresa Snyder-Borrenphol, the Student Regent for the Montana University System this year.

As you read through the newsletter, I think that you’ll agree that the department continues to uphold its reputation as home to a dynamic and creative set of faculty and student-scholars who focus on excellence in teaching, research, and outreach.



Agriculture and Energy in Montana Conference

On November 5th, DAEE and MSU Extension hosted the Agriculture and Energy in Montana Conference. This event was held on



Tim Fitzgerald

Friday of MSU's Ag. Appreciation Weekend. Over 110 people were able to attend this event in person with others participating in the live web cast. Speakers at the event included DAEE faculty members **Myles Watts** (Ag. Finance Update), **Vince Smith** (Ag. Policy Update), **Gary Brester** (Livestock Outlook), **Joel Schumacher** (Grain Outlook) and

Tim Fitzgerald (Effects of Energy Development on Agriculture). The conference also featured Paul Polzin (UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research), Adam Sigler (MSU Land Resources and Environmental Science), Ron de Yong (Montana Department of Agriculture), Richard Owen (CHS Inc.), and Bill Whitsitt (Devon Energy). Recordings of the event are available at:

<http://www.ampc.montana.edu/fallconference.html>.



Gary Brester



Myles Watts



Joel Schumacher



Vince Smith

Publications



James Brown

DAEE Master's student **James Brown's** article, "Beyond the Blackboard: Developing Leadership Skills in Agricultural Education Students," appeared in the September/October edition of *The Agricultural Education Magazine*.

Wendy Stock's paper, "Completion Rates and Time-to-Degree for Fall 2002 Economics Ph.D. Program Entrants" (co-authored with John Siegfried, Vanderbilt University and T. Aldrich Finegan, Vanderbilt University) has been accepted for publication in the May 2011 edition of *American Economic Review*. The paper tracks the dropout and degree completion outcomes for a cohort of Ph.D. program entrants over eight years.



Wendy Stock

Publications cont'd.



Jason Percy

Jason Percy and Yongmin Chen's (University of Colorado at Boulder) paper, "Dynamic Pricing: When to Entice Brand Switching and When to Reward Consumer Loyalty," is forthcoming in the *RAND Journal of Economics*. Percy and Chen's paper explores why some industries reward consumer loyalty, but other industries entice brand switching (reward consumer disloyalty). For example, airlines and hotels reward consumer loyalty with frequent flier and frequent stay programs, but cable and satellite TV firms subsidize consumers who switch from a rival. Percy and Chen show that the industry's equilibrium, rewarding loyalty or enticing brand switching, depends on a firm's ability to commit to a future price for repeat consumers and how consumer preferences change over time. They also show how the various pricing strategies affect the well being of all consumers and determine under what conditions these pricing practices are anti-competitive.

Wendy Stock's paper, "The Characteristics of Economics Graduate Students," is forthcoming in the *International Handbook on Teaching and Learning Economics*, published by Elgar Publishers. The chapter illustrates changes in the characteristics of economics graduate students over a 40-year period. The chapter also presents a point-in-time description of the undergraduate training and preparation characteristics of economics graduate students.

Rob Fleck and Andy Hanssen (Clemson University) had the lead article in the June 2010 *International Review of Law and Economics*. Their paper, "Repeated Adjustment of Delegated Powers and the History of Eminent Domain," develops a theoretical model in which a stylized public repeatedly adjusts the set of powers it delegates to politicians. The public obtains new information each period, forecasts rationally (but not perfectly), the benefits and costs of delegation and infers the likelihood with which a court will correct politicians' misuses of delegated powers. As the paper explains, the public reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2005 decision in *Kelo v. City of New London* (which allowed the use of eminent domain to take non-blighted homes in order to provide land for private development) is merely the most recent in a long line of angry public reactions to adjudicated eminent domain proceedings, involving such varied things as mill dams, railroads, and urban renewal. The model and historical discussion illuminate the nature of public responses to judicial rulings – explaining why the public may react by adjusting the scope of delegated powers, even if a ruling merely upholds a well established precedent.



Rob Fleck

Publications cont'd.

Nick Parker's paper, "Crowding out Open Space: The Effects of Government Land Programs on Private Land Conservation," was accepted for publication in *Land Economics*. The paper is co-authored with Wally Thurman (NCSU) and is forthcoming in May 2011.



Nick Parker



Wendy Stock

Wendy Stock's paper, "Career Patterns of Economics Ph.D.s: A Decade of Outcomes for the Class of 1997" (with John Siegfried, Vanderbilt University) will be published by Cambridge University Press in *The Economics of Economists: Institutional Settings, Individual Incentives, and Future Prospects*. Using surveys of the economics Ph.D. class of 1996-97 conducted in 1997, 2003, and 2008 (i.e., immediately, five, and ten years after graduation), the paper examines the employment experiences, salary progression, tenure outcomes, and match between what is taught in economics Ph.D. programs and what mid-career Ph.D. economists do in their jobs. Ten years after completing their Ph.D.s in economics, the class of 1996-97 had an unemployment rate of zero and almost all had full-time permanent employment. Median salaries among those in full-time jobs in the United States doubled - rising from \$54,000 in 1997 to \$108,000 in 2008. Over half of the graduates are employed in academe, while 27% are employed in government, international organizations or research organizations and 15% are employed in business/industry. Among the academics, more than three-fourths have earned tenure by ten years post-degree.

Most of our survey respondents reported that the emphasis placed by their Ph.D. economics programs on theory and econometrics training, on conducting independent research, and on developing teaching skills was "about right." However, a majority of the respondents reported that their programs placed too little emphasis on applying economic theory to real-world problems and on understanding economic institutions and history. This outcome highlights one of the fundamental elements of economics - that life involves tradeoffs, since we have shown elsewhere (Stock and Siegfried, 2006) the negative relationship between the time taken to earn the Ph.D. and labor market salaries.



Farmer Mac: Professor Watts Sworn In



Myles Watts

On September 30th, **Myles Watts** was sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac). Watts was previously nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate and will replace Grace Trujillo Daniel. Watts was initially recommended by U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

Farmer Mac is a stockholder-owned instrumentality of the United States chartered by Congress to establish a secondary market for agricultural real estate and rural housing mortgage loans and rural utilities loans. Farmer Mac also facilitates capital market funding for USDA-guaranteed farm program and rural development loans. The Board of Directors generally meets six times a year in Washington D.C. to address issues related to lending practices and policies.

Watts has been a part of the DAEE since 1978 and served 17 years as DAEE head. In addition to advising many government and private organizations, Watts has served as editor for the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* and as a board member on a variety of non-profit economic education groups. His family still owns and operates the cattle and wheat ranch where he was raised in southeastern Montana.



Undergraduate Research Lab Now Open!

The DAEE undergraduate research lab is now open! Located in LINH 211, the lab houses six computers, two large whiteboards, and two large work tables. It will soon have a projector installed. The lab is available for DAEE undergrad students working on research papers in their classes. Hours of operation: M-F 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



Presentations



Holly Fretwell

Holly Fretwell spoke at the Economic Education Summit, "The Economics of Energy" in September, presenting "Recycling Myths" for classroom discussions.

In June, **Gary Brester** presented, "Educational Partnerships Between MSU's DAEE and Montana's American Indian Livestock Producers" to the Montana Stockgrowers Association's 2010 Mid-Year Meeting in Dillon, MT.



Gary Brester

Greg Gilpin received a Research Enhancement Award (REA) from the College of Letters and Science to present his paper, "Quantity and Quality of Teachers: A Dynamic Trade-Off," at the 2010 Public Economic Theory Conference in Istanbul, Turkey this past June. Greg also received an REA to attend the Southern Economics Association meetings in Atlanta, GA this past November to present his joint paper with D. Chris Ferguson (Indiana University) titled "Contract Rigidities and the Quantity and Quality of Teachers: An Analysis of Differential Effects Across Teaching-subject Areas."



Wendy Stock

Wendy Stock presented, "Economic Recovery: What's Ahead for Men and Women Workers?" to the Bozeman Business and Professional Women in October. The talk focused on how the recession has impacted males and females in Montana and in the United States more broadly, including the more negative early impacts of the recession on men, but the stark rise

in unemployment among women in Montana during the past year.

In August, **Randy Rucker** presented, "Do Tribes Benefit from Windfall Fishing Allocations? The Role of Property Rights with Evidence from U.S. v. Washington," co-authored with **Nick Parker** and Peter Nickerson (Nickerson and Associates, Seattle). The presentation was delivered at a workshop for the Property and Environment Research Center titled, "The



Randy Rucker

Role of Property Rights and Institutions in North American Indian Economies."



Rob Fleck

In October, **Rob Fleck** and Andy Hanssen (Clemson University) presented their paper, "How Tyranny Paved the Way to Wealth and Democracy: The Democratic Transition in An-

Presentations cont'd.

In June, **Gary Brester** delivered, "The 2010 Cattle Industry Outlook: Past, Present, and Future" to the Montana Farm Bureau's Summer Meeting in Red Lodge, MT. He also gave this talk to the Mountain View Co-op Beef Producer Fall Trends meeting in Great Falls, MT in September.

Holly Fretwell spoke at the October Pachyderm Luncheon in Bozeman where she presented, "The Sky is Not Falling: Kids and Critical Thinking about Environmental Education."

Greg Gilpin presented his paper, "Reevaluating the Effect of Non-Teaching Wages on Teacher Attrition," at the Western Economic Association International Annual Conference in Portland, OR this past July.



Tim Fitzgerald

Tim Fitzgerald received a Research Enhancement Award (REA) to attend the International Association of Energy Economists Annual Conference in October in Calgary, AB to present his paper, "Tax Treatment and the Extensive Margin."

Wendy Stock presented, "What is Economics?" at the Conference on Economics, Ecology, and Ethics for Seminary Professors and Religious Leaders sponsored by the Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment.



Nick Parker

Nick Parker gave seminars on the, "Effects of Legal Institutions on Access to Credit on American Indian Reservations" at the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University in November. He also gave a talk in Chapel Hill on, "The Influence of the Tax Code on Private Land Conservation."

Randy Rucker presented, "Per Pound or Not Per Pound? The Role of Transaction Costs in Fresh Produce Pricing," co-authored with Peter Malishka (N2H2) and Keith Leffler (University of Washington) in Missoula, MT in October.

In May, **Rob Fleck** participated in Stanford University's Colloquium on the Emergence of Cooperation. The colloquium brought together scholars from different disciplines (history, political science, sociology, biology, and economics) to discuss recent interdisciplinary work on competition and cooperation. Rob was invited, along with Andy Hanssen, (Clemson University) because of their joint research on democracy and women's rights in ancient Greece.

In August, **Gary Brester** gave his talk, "The Producer's Share of Profits: Is it Measured by the Farmer's-Share-of-the-Retail Dollar Statistic?" to the Montana Feed Association's Annual Meeting in Red Lodge, MT.

Presentations cont'd.

Holly Fretwell was a panel member in October for the Society for Environmental Journalists 20th Annual Conference, "American Treasures: The Future of the National Parks." The conference took place in Missoula, MT.

In September, **Wendy Stock** led a roundtable discussion on the Global Financial Crisis as part of the Great Decisions discussion group hosted by the Montana Center for International Visitors.

Extension News



Marsha Goetting

Marsha Goetting and **Joel Schumacher** continued to run "Solid Finances," the employee education project created in collaboration with MSU Extension Economics and MSU Human Resources. This project is designed to help MSU employees make informed decisions about their current and future finances. During

2009 - 2010, twenty sessions were presented, reaching over 640 employees. The 2010 Fall series allows employees who did not attend last year an opportunity to learn how to manage family finances more effectively. To see a complete schedule and view previously recorded sessions go to:

<http://www.msuxextension.org/solidfinances>.



Joel Schumacher

2010 M.L. Wilson Lecture



M.L. Wilson

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics was pleased to present Purdue University's Wallace (Wally) Tyler as the 2010 M.L. Wilson distinguished lecturer. Dr. Tyler's lecture "Alternative Policies and Pathways to our Energy Future," was delivered to a near capacity crowd at the MSU Procrastinator Theater. Dr. Tyler has more than 30 years of teaching and research experience in the areas of energy and agricultural economics. This year also marked the 125th anniversary of the birth of M.L. Wilson. M.L. Wilson was Montana's first county extension agent; he then became a professor and department head of DAEE's predecessor department before holding several key positions with the USDA in Washington, D.C. The M.L. Wilson lecture is a great opportunity for DAEE faculty, students, alumni, emeritus faculty, agricultural leaders, and the general public to come together to learn, visit, renew old friendships and make new connections. Please join us for next year's M.L. Wilson Lecture.

AquaFish CRSP Conference



Roberto Valdivia

Roberto Valdivia organized the meeting "Assessing the Impacts of CRSP Research: Human Capital, Research Discovery, and Technology Adoption" in Seattle in October. The meeting was part of the project "Research Discovery and Impact Assessment for the AquaFish-CRSP Projects," which is funded by the AquaFish Collaborative Research Support Program-USAID.

Project leaders from China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Philippines, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the United States identified different regions of the world to conduct impact assessment analyses

and planned activities (data collection, model design, etc) for the next year. The meeting was led by John Antle (former Ag Econ & Econ Faculty, now at OSU), **Roberto Valdivia** (MSU), Steve Buccola (OSU) and Lin Qin (OSU).



Conference attendees at the Space Needle (Seattle, WA)



Roberto Valdivia helping a conference attendee



M.L. Wilson Lecture audience

Follow the Grain: Chile

This year's Follow the Grain trip certainly had to overcome unexpected difficulties. The greatest of these challenges was the loss of **Dave Buschena**, longtime leader and intellectual force behind Follow the Grain. The group also faced the seventh most-powerful earthquake in human recorded history, which shook Chile just two weeks before the class was expected to arrive in March. The DAEE managed to reschedule the trip for late May and early June, only to fall victim to a tornado at the Denver airport. After an unplanned one-day layover in Texas, students finally managed to get to Chile where they only had to deal with one additional pair of flight problems caused by fog. So when the students were asked about act-of-God contracts, we felt like we knew what we were talking about!

The group, consisting of 13 students, 4 current or retired faculty, 1 county agent, and several producers arrived in Chile as the country was entering its winter. The group observed limited winter wheat planting and had an opportunity to catch up with researchers reporting on their most recent field season. The students also visited both a malt plant and a flour mill, and then were fortunate enough to have a tour of an important agricultural port, Valparaiso. They got to see some other important aspects of Chilean agriculture, namely a fruit orchard and export packing plant, a potato research center (southern Chile is one of two native regions for potatoes), and a winery. Cultural attractions included a visit to Volcán Villarrica, a visit to the National Cathedral in Santiago, and a walking tour of Valparaiso.

The Follow the Grain trip was made possible by the effort and generosity of many people, foremost the Chilean hosts. The financial support of CHS Foundation, Montana Wheat & Barley Committee, Montana Grain Growers' Association, Barkley Ag, Westbred, and Leonard Schock is gratefully acknowledged.



Group picture in Chile

Awards



James Brown has received the 2010 Montana State University Male Graduate Student of the Year award. James received this award in April at MSU's Annual Student Day of Recognition. The award was based on James' record of leadership, community service, and academic performance.

James Brown

Katy Hansen, a graduate student in engineering at MSU, was one of 32 American students who won the 2011 Rhodes Scholarship. Katy received two undergraduate degrees from MSU (engineering and economics). She will use the scholarship to study water policy and management at Oxford University. Congratulations!



Katy Hansen



Marsha Goetting

Marsha A. Goetting received the Distinguished Service Award from the Montana Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the National Extension honorary association during MSU Extension Annual Conference in October. She also received the 25 Year Service Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

In Other News...



Teresa Snyder Borrenpohl

This summer, Governor Brian Schweitzer appointed **Teresa Snyder Borrenpohl** as the Student Regent to serve on the Board of Regents. Teresa received a B.S in economics this past Spring and is currently a graduate student in the Public Administration program on campus.

Alexey Kalinin received a University Scholars Program Award to work with **Nick Parker** on the effect of the 2006 reform of conservation easement spatial distribution in Montana. Conservation easements confer perpetual protection from development, and, with over 800,000 acres protected by state and federal easements, Montana is a leader in land conservation. Kalinin is analyzing GIS spatial data and surveys from the Land Trust Alliance to study the spatial organization of conservation easements. Kalinin notes that understanding these trends is important as conservation easements represent a significant type of land use in the state.



Alexey Kalinin

Anton Bekkerman was nominated and elected the Secretary/Treasurer of the North American Branch of the Australian Agriculture and Resource Economics Society (NABARES).



Anton Bekkerman

DAEE Students Head to Taiwan International Symposium

Teresa Snyder Borrenpohl and James Brown were selected by Montana Senator Max Baucus to represent Montana at the 2010 Exploring Agriculture in Taiwan International Symposium. James and Teresa joined 38 other students from 18 U.S. and two Taiwanese universities to learn about Taiwanese agriculture and participate in discussions on global agriculture.



Teresa Snyder Borrenpohl and James Brown

The program was jointly sponsored by Taiwan's Department of Foreign Affairs and Taiwan's National Chung Hsing University. Teresa served as leader and James served as deputy leader of the American Delegation. James received the Outstanding Participation and Contribution Award as well as the Outstanding Presentation Award.



Teresa Snyder Borrenpohl and James Brown

FFA Blue and Gold Golf Tournament

In August, the Montana FFA Foundation's *Blue and Gold Golf Tournament* was played at Bridger Creek Golf Course. Eighteen teams signed up to play the 18-hole, par 72 course. Approximately \$5,600 was raised from the tournament providing funds for activities of over 2,500 FFA Members in conjunction with their advisors and alumni chapters.

Department instructors Myles Watts, Gary Brester, and Vince Smith, along with Nick Richard participated in the tournament, and much to their surprise, won **1st Place** with a score of 56 (16 under par). All three professors gave high praise and the main reason for winning, to Nick Richard, who also won a new welding helmet for the longest drive.



Left to right: Myles Watts, Gary Brester, Vince Smith, and Nick Richard

Student Spotlights

Colleen Johnson, a current senior in Ag. Business, interned for Pfizer Animal Health this summer, offering deworming and vaccination promotions to Montana cattle producers. Colleen trained in Kalamazoo, MI for a week where she learned about Pfizer and the products she would be selling. Back in Montana, she traveled the western half of the state in a company vehicle making cold calls, visiting with ranchers, collecting fecal samples for parasite analysis, and fulfilling orders with vet clinics. Colleen also developed a list of clients who may be interested in learning more about or trying Pfizer products. The internship concluded with a trip to New York City where Colleen gave a presentation to sales and marketing executives at Pfizer headquarters in downtown Manhattan. Colleen notes that working as an intern with Pfizer Animal Health was a fun, rewarding, and challenging experience that enabled her to utilize her animal science and ag business education.



Colleen Johnson in the field



Alena Ogg standing next to tubs of butter

Alena Ogg, a current senior in Ag Business, interned this summer with the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, KS. Alena worked directly under the Fair's general manager, who is responsible for running the 300 acre facility that is host to over 400 events annually, including many large livestock shows and Agriland, the largest agricultural education fair in the country. Alena attended board and financial planning meetings, helped with sponsor contract agreements, assisted in the launch of the new online entry system, and worked with the marketing director. Alena also selected and managed the 40 volunteers of the Community Ambassador Program. Alena notes that her classes in agricultural finance, farm and ranch management, and agricultural marketing combined with the experience of her internship has helped her "put the pieces together" as well as understand what it will take to be successful in her chosen field.



Justin Folsom

After interning for U.S. Senator John Tester, Justin Folsom (B.S. Economics, 2010) joined the Senator's full-time team this past July as a staff assistant.

Professor Doug Young Retires



Doug Young in Mumbai, India

Doug Young retired this past spring, 33 years after starting at MSU. Highlights of his career – at least in his own opinion – included outreach work on Montana taxes and spending, academic research on alcohol policy, one credit seminars reading books such as “Naked Economics” and

“Superfreakonomics,” backcountry skiing with Bill, Ron and Thomas, and of course stints abroad in Botswana,

Morocco, Egypt, China and India. And don’t forget Pittsburgh, where Doug met his wonderful wife, Laura.

Doug and Laura celebrated his retirement by joining the Follow the Grain trip to Chile in May. In June, Doug and Laura camped through central Montana – something they never seemed to have time for previously. They can verify that there are still two bars in Jordan, and that gumbo is still sticky after a rain. In July, Doug helped chaperone 30 kids on a week-long mission trip to Rapid City, South Dakota. This year he is teaching a class each semester and continuing to work with the university system health benefits. So far this season he has been skiing five times and snow shoeing twice.

Thanks for a great career, especially to Dick McConen who hired him, to Bruce Beattie who suggested he talk about taxes, to Myles Watts for many wonderful conversations, and to Wendy Stock for getting him to do the Ridge Run. I’ll miss you all. If I ever REALLY retire.



Doug pictured with Kodi

Congratulations Graduating Seniors!

Agricultural Business:

Carlton Carpenter, Allison Jenkins, Cody Joyce, Steven Mills, Jeremy Myers

Economics:

Sophie Mumford

Emeritus Breakfast

In July, at the Best Western GranTree Inn of Bozeman, the Department held its annual Emeritus Breakfast. Emeritus faculty reconnected with current faculty and received updates on department news.



Faculty Spotlight: Joe Atwood



Joe Atwood

1. How did you end up in the DAEE?

I was on the faculty at Auburn University when I received a phone call asking whether I might be interested in applying for an open position at Montana State University. Given its international reputation and the fact that MSU's Agricultural Economics department was ranked in the top ten worldwide, I was honored to have received the call and applied for the position. I was even more impressed during my interview. I received

a job offer and, although I was treated well and liked Auburn, I felt that accepting the offer here was what we should do.

2. What are your current research topics of interest?

My current research is mostly related to several areas in agricultural finance, statistics, efficiency analysis, and risk. We are continuing to examine the design and efficacy of risk management tools including insurance, different kinds of derivatives such as weather and futures derivatives, and other risk management strategies. As part of our weather derivatives research, we have put together a large spatially and temporally indexed historical weather data set and are continuing to work with the National Climatic Data Center folks with respect to questions/problems we see or find in their data. Given the current interest in potential climatic change we have also spent a good deal of time and effort examining, visualizing, and contrasting current temperatures to over 100 years of historical temperature data in many different areas of the United States and Canada.

3. What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spending time with my family and with students.

4. What are your favorite classes to teach and why?

I can't really say that I have a favorite class. My favorite classes are the ones in which the students are motivated and want to learn. I enjoy seeing the "comprehension lights" come on in the students' eyes when they finally grasp a new concept that they have really struggled with. I feel God has truly blessed me in being able to work with my colleagues and with our students on a daily basis.

5. What led you to study economics?

You might say serendipity. My undergraduate major was in animal science at the University of Nebraska. One of my required classes was a class in resource economics. I was fascinated by the way that economists identified and analyzed problems and did very well in the class. During the class, I met several of the professors in the Agricultural Economics Department and one of them offered me a small research project the summer after I graduated. The project resulted in a publication, and I was offered an assistantship in their master's program that fall. Things progressed from there.

2010 Welcome Back Picnic

The DAEE welcomed back all our undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and staff with the third annual "welcome back picnic."

Everyone enjoyed the sandwiches, lemonade, and good conversation while relaxing in the unusually warm September weather.



Help Support Agricultural Economics & Economics

A gift to the department is a great way to support student and faculty endeavors.

Donations can be earmarked for student scholarship funds, faculty research, the M.L. Wilson lecture series, and more.

For more information about making a donation to the department, contact:

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