

Keeping Track

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

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Economists Write Farm Foundation Report

The Farm Foundation, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, focuses on economic and policy issues impacting agriculture, the food system and the people of rural America. It works as a catalyst using conferences, workshops and other activities to bring together private- and public-sector decision makers to identify and understand forces that will shape the future. It has a 75-year history of objectivity as it does not lobby or advocate. Farm Foundation commissioned a report to provide a comprehensive, objective assessment of the forces driving food prices in order that the information helps stakeholders meet the challenge to address one of the most critical public policy issues facing the world today.

Written by Department of Agricultural Economics economists Wallace Tyner, Christopher Hurt and Philip Abbott, the study, "What's Driving Food Prices?," identifies three broad sets of forces driving food price increases: global changes in production and consumption of key commodities, the depreciation of the U.S. dollar, and growth in the production of biofuels. The report did not evaluate price changes versus disparate causes, but examined the interplay of the forces driving food prices to provide a clearer picture of what has been happening. From a review of current reports and studies and considering the findings of that literature as they did their own analysis of the situation, here are a few of the key findings:

Rapid economic growth in developing countries has led to growing food demand and dietary

transition from cereals toward more animal protein. China's rapidly growing oil imports have had an indirect effect on food prices by impacting world prices for crude oil.

Most commodities, including crude oil and grains, are priced in U.S. dollars, but are purchased in the local currency. The link between the U.S. dollar exchange rate and commodity prices is strong and more important than many other studies imply.

The effects of supply and demand on commodity prices are clear. Less clear are the effects of changes in the structure of commodity markets, particularly speculative activity.

Wallace Tyner is an energy and policy economist, most recently specializing in biofuels policies. Christopher Hurt works in analysis of commodity markets, and Philip Abbott in international trade and macro factors.

To read the full report: <http://www.farmfoundation.org/news/templates/template.aspx?articleid=404&zoneid=26>



Wallace Tyner



Christopher Hurt



Philip Abbott

Market Maker Locates Indiana Ag Products



Maria Marshall

The Purdue New Ventures Team, in collaboration with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana Cooperative Development Center, recently designed and released the Indiana MarketMaker, a free, online interactive mapping system that helps consumers locate businesses and markets of agricultural products in Indiana. It also allows producers to research customer demographics by income, ethnicity, household characteristics and education, in addition to searching for specific business records, find area market contacts, and network with restaurants, on-farm retailers and specialty processors.

"MarketMaker links producers to consumers and consumers to producers on a state and regional basis," says Maria Marshall, Purdue Extension small business development specialist and project coordinator. "It's important for businesses to develop a relationship with their customers, so they can understand what consumer needs truly are."

Marshall explains that people might say they want organic food, but maybe what they really want is a more natural product or to know the farmers and the farm where it came from. "Maybe what they want is to know that they're supporting a local farmer. Establishing a relationship helps uncover the real benefits people look for." Relationships are crucial to the success of small businesses, whether it's with suppliers, customers or other businesses. "When a business develops a relationship with its customers, the customers become more integrated in the business and develop a loyalty to it," Marshall says. "When that happens, it's no longer about the money." Learn more about Indiana MarketMaker at www.inmarketmaker.com.

MarketMaker is featured on Page 3 of this article:

<http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/agricultures/past/spring2008/Features/feature5.html>

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As most of you know, I have accepted the position of Director, Market and Trade Economics Division, Economic Research Service, USDA, and will start work in Washington, DC on September 2. Provost Woodson and Interim Dean Akridge have generously agreed that I may take up to three years of leave from Purdue, which I intend to do, and then return. Ken Foster is now serving as interim head. Ken will do a wonderful job and is very well prepared for this position having served as associate head and director of the graduate program since 2004. Interim Dean Akridge has appointed a search committee and a national search for a new head will commence soon.

Thank you all for six exceptional years. I have been privileged to serve as department head and to work with so many outstanding professionals in the department and throughout Purdue. Together we have accomplished great things in keeping the department strong and taking the department in some new directions that will position the department well for the future. The department is well known within the agricultural economics profession and around the world for successfully addressing all three components of the land grant mission: publishing relevant and rigorous applied economic research, producing sterling and accomplished graduates who value their Purdue education highly, and providing exceptional service, continuing education, and expertise to stakeholders in Indiana and throughout the world.

The Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue is indeed special. The “can-do” Purdue attitude, respect for each other’s various contributions, and commitment to excellence in all our programs have combined to make a unique and wonderful place to work. It has also been truly inspiring to be associated with a department with so many loyal alumni and friends. I am confident that the department will continue in this great tradition in the future, and I look forward to returning to this special place in a few years.

Best wishes and so long.

Hail Purdue!

Sally



Sally Thompson

Faculty Studying CAFO Impacts

Indiana is experiencing significant growth in the animal agriculture sector, much of it in the form of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), and many Indiana citizens are concerned about the impact that these new farms might have on their communities. With the goal to afford consumers, producers, and community leaders the ability to make well-informed decisions regarding issues that may coincide with the expansion of animal agriculture in Indiana, Purdue University has brought together a wide range of experts to address and research different concerns surrounding CAFOs. Janet Ayres and Roman Keeney have written several articles on the social and economic issues of CAFOs. With Larry DeBoer, they have a current study underway investigating swine, beef and dairy CAFOs in eight Indiana counties looking at specifics of CAFO operations and their fiscal impact in the counties. Results are expected in late Fall 08. A CAFO website can be found on the College of Agriculture’s homepage: <http://1151anscweb.ansc.purdue.edu/CAFO/> It contains faculty research and publications highlighting general information, and environmental, public health, and social/economic issues surrounding CAFOs, as well as national and international news and studies.



Janet Ayres



Roman Keeney

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Welcome to Local Decision Maker!

The 4-Step Process to Protecting Your Community's Water and Environmental Resources through Your Comprehensive Planning Process.

Mission: to assist Indiana communities in making informed and integrated land use and economic development decisions. This powerful tool was created to enhance and deliver a decision support system that assists county economic development and land use planning officials in selecting economic development opportunities most appropriate for their community and identifying the quantity and placement of the green infrastructure necessary to support these opportunities.

The Hoosier economy and quality of life are dependent on the green infrastructure that provides the base necessary to support agriculture and natural resources-based business, environmental services need to support quality of life, recreational opportunities, and tourism. In Indiana, economic development and land use change decisions are made at the county level. As rural Indiana towns strive to: 1) be energy self-sufficient, 2) explore ways to capitalize on existing agricultural infrastructures and byproducts, and 3) sustainably profit from biomass and renewable natural resources under their care, new discoveries and the transfer of new technologies resulting from these discoveries will be essential to their success.

Local Decision Maker homepage:
<http://ldm.agriculture.purdue.edu/>

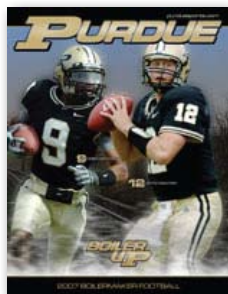
Sponsored by:

Center for the Environment -
<http://www.purdue.edu/dp/environment/about/people.php>

Center for Regional Development -
<http://www.pcrd.purdue.edu/>

Purdue Extension -
<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/index.shtm>

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program - <http://www.iisgcp.org/>



Homecoming

The Boilermakers will take on the Minnesota Golden Gophers for Homecoming on October 25, 2008. Kickoff is scheduled for noon. The College

of Agriculture will host an Ag Alumni brunch buffet in the agriculture tent on the Memorial Mall across from the Ag Administration Building, from 9 to 11:00 a.m. New and former AgEcon faculty will be featured on football trading cards. This year's honorees include Professor emeritus, Lee Schrader, new associate professor, Ben Gramig, and current professors, Chris Hurt and Jerry Shively. Contact the Agricultural Alumni Association for information at (765) 494-8593. The deadline for ordering meal tickets is Monday, October 13, 2008. For additional Homecoming information: <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/agalumni/homecoming.html>.

Jay Akridge Named Interim Dean of Purdue Agriculture



Jay Akridge

Jay Akridge, the James and Lois Ackerman Professor of Agricultural Economics and director of the Center for Food and Agricultural Business, is currently serving as the university's interim dean of agriculture. In May, he assumed the post vacated by William R. "Randy" Woodson, who is the university's new provost. "Jay has done excellent work in the agricultural economics field and has proven leadership skills that will be an asset to Purdue Agriculture," said Vice Provost for Engagement Victor L. Lechtenberg. "His vision and management experience will help move the college and Purdue Extension forward during this time of transition." For more information, visit <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/x/2008a/080415LechtenbergAg.html>

Janet Ayres Accepts Conservation and Leadership Awards



Janet Ayres

Janet Ayres was honored Feb. 12 at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual conference in Reno, Nev., attended by more than 1,000 conservationists from around the country.

The Friend of Conservation Award recognizes an individual, business, organization or agency outside NACD for outstanding contributions to the conservation of the nation's natural resources. The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts nominated Ayres for her work with the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP). She has partnered with the ICP in developing a statewide leadership development program series specifically designed to enhance the skills of soil and water conservation district supervisors. Ayres was also presented with the State Senior Faculty Continued Service Award by Epsilon Sigma Phi, Lambda Chapter, in recognition of continued leadership, initiative and excellence in Extension programming. For more information about the award and Ayres' many other accomplishments, visit <http://www.iaswcd.org/whatsnew/02-18-08nrjanetayres.html>

AAEA and Foundation Honor Boehlje



Michael Boehlje

Michael Boehlje was honored in several ways at this year's American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) Annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. He won the Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award for an individual with ten or more years' experience for his outreach programs with producers and agribusiness. Additionally, he was honored with the formation of the Michael D. Boehlje Appreciation Club in the AAEA Foundation. This appreciation club recognizes Boehlje for his teaching, research and outreach work in agricultural

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finance and agribusiness management. In honor of his accomplishments, the fund is dedicated to fostering teaching and scholarship in agricultural finance and agribusiness management, and promoting the growth and visibility of the profession.

Economic Educators Honor Harlan Day



Harlan Day

Harlan Day, executive director of the Indiana Council for Economic Education (ICEE), was selected to receive the John C. Schramm Leadership Award from the National Association of Economic Educators at their annual meetings in October 2007.

The Schramm Award is given annually to one individual whose leadership has had an extraordinary, positive impact at both the state and national levels. Day's long history with economic education, as a teacher and Indiana Department of Education economic education consultant, leadership as ICEE director for the past 10 years, and his service to the National Council of Economic Education and National Association of Economic Educators made him an obvious choice for this prestigious award. For more information on the ICEE, visit <http://www.econed-in.org/>

John Lee named Associate Director of the Purdue Center for the Environment



John Lee

John Lee, professor of Agricultural Economics, will be joining the Center for the Environment, where he will be the Associate Director for Economics and Policy.

In this position he will work to develop interdisciplinary research proposals on environmental issues. One project he is involved with currently entails the relocation of wildlife out of newly developed areas in Panama, where large tracts of rainforest are being cleared

for housing and to expand the country's canal. Other projects will have more local objectives, such as searching for least cost means of improving water quality. He will continue to teach two graduate courses in Ag Econ as well as AGECE 204, Introduction of Natural Resources Economics.

Ag Alumni Association Recognizes Marshall Martin



Marshall Martin

Marshall Martin was honored by the Purdue Agriculture Alumni at this year's fish fry for his work in the areas of agricultural policy and the economic assessment of agricultural biotechnology and integrated pest management. He was also recognized for his work in his capacity as associate director of agricultural research programs with Indiana agricultural organizations. Martin is the executive secretary of the Indiana Farm Policy Study Group and secretary of the Indiana Pork Board. He also served on the USDA Ag Biotechnology Advisory Board. For more information about Martin and the other individuals honored, visit <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/x/2008a/080204LesterDistinction.html>.

Megan Sheely Wins Best Undergraduate Student Paper



Megan Sheely

At the AAEA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, Megan Sheely won the award for the Best Undergraduate Student Paper. Megan recently graduated from Purdue with a major in Agricultural Economics. She was a student Envoy for the department and completed an honors thesis. The title of her paper (and honors thesis) was "Global Adoption of Convenience Foods." Frank Dooley was her advisor.

Jerry Shively Among Outstanding University Faculty Scholars



Jerry Shively

Jerry Shively is among three College of Agriculture faculty members who have been named University Faculty Scholars for 2008-13. The University Faculty Scholars program recognizes outstanding faculty who are on an accelerated path for academic distinction. Shively was nominated for his contributions in the fields of agricultural economics, development economics, and environmental economics, and for his research on poverty, land degradation, and tropical deforestation. A total of 10 current agriculture faculty members have received the University Faculty Scholar recognition.

LeeAnn Williams Takes Home Triple Crown in Advising



Left: Debbi Landis Bearden, Assistant Director for Advising, Right: LeeAnn Williams

LeeAnn Williams received the Purdue Academic Advising Association's Outstanding Advisor award from her peers Feb. 12. The Awards Selection Committee chair

noted, "We were amazed and inspired by the hard work, time and dedication that LeeAnn brings to our campus, and are delighted to have someone with such notable achievements as a colleague." In May, Williams was notified by the Purdue University Student Government that she had been named the 2008 Outstanding Academic Advisor, and they presented her with a certificate and a monetary reward. In June, she received further accolades, her third award — the 2008 Indiana Academic Advisor Network Outstanding Advisor Award. To cap her efforts and accomplishments, LeeAnn has recently been appointed as Director of Undergraduate Advising and Student Services in Agricultural Economics.

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Christine Wilson Earns Highest Undergraduate Teaching Award



Christine Wilson

At the University Annual Honors Convocation held in Elliott Hall of Music, Christine Wilson received the 2008 Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award.

One of six exceptional teachers honored that day, this award is given annually in recognition of outstanding teaching in all phases of undergraduate instruction at the West Lafayette campus. The university's highest undergraduate teaching honor, the Murphy is accompanied by a \$10,000 cash award and induction into Purdue's Teaching Academy, which provides leadership for the improvement of undergraduate, graduate and outreach teaching. To read more about Christine Wilson's accomplishments: http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/connections/spring2008/04/wilson_joins_purdues_top_teachers_01.shtml

Distinguished Agricultural Alumni Honored

Eleven Purdue University alumni were honored during a ceremony that took place on March 21 at the Purdue Memorial Union. The award, presented annually since 1992, honors mid-career graduates who have made significant contributions to their professions or to society. Distinguished Agricultural Alumni from the department were: Akinwumi Adesina, Roger Hadley and David Howell.



Akinwumi Adesina

Akinwumi Adesina of New York, is an agricultural economist with over 20 years of professional experience in African agriculture, development policy and rural development. He holds a B.Sc. in agricultural economics

from the University of Ife, Nigeria, and a

master's degree and Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Purdue University. He is vice president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa – a new entity created by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to bring the green revolution to Africa. He is responsible for developing and implementing strategies for solving Africa's soil fertility problems and creates programs to address market, trade and policy issues in African countries.



Roger Hadley

Roger Hadley, II of Woodburn, Ind., is owner and operator of Hadley Farms, an 800 acre corn, soybean and wheat farm in Allen County, Indiana. He was designated "Indiana Prairie Farmer Master Farmer" in 2005. He is also a leader in agriculture, education and the community, and in the past has held board, advisory and officer posts for state and national organizations. These organizations include the American Soybean Association, Purdue Ag Alumni Association, Purdue College of Agriculture Dean's Advisory Council and the Indiana FFA Foundation. He received his Purdue bachelor's degree in agricultural economics in 1975.



David Howell

David Howell of Middletown, Ind., is owner of Howell Farms, which consists of 5,000 acres in four Indiana counties. Besides traditional corn and soybeans, Howell produces watermelons, tomatoes, and pumpkins, and apples from a 3,000-tree orchard. Each individual farming operation within Howell Farms is operated as a sole proprietorship and an LLC, with management, machinery, labor and land contributed to the group. He has served on bank, education, Extension and government boards, as well as earned several awards pertaining to Indiana agriculture. He earned his Purdue bachelor's degree in 1969 and master's degree in 1971 in agricultural economics. Find out more about distinguished alumni by

visiting, <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/x/2008a/080327WoodsonDistingAlum.html>.

James C. Snyder Memorial Lecture and Awards



Scott Irwin

The 34th Annual James C. Snyder Memorial Lecture and awards celebration took place April 11, 2008. Scott H. Irwin, Laurence J. Norton Professor of

Agricultural Marketing in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, delivered the lecture "300 Bushels in Every Field? The Rising Debate About Corn Trend Yields." The lecture examined recent research on the relationship between corn yields, technology, and weather in the U.S. Corn Belt. The implications of the research, the amount of additional acreage that will be needed for corn production in the future to meet ethanol-driven demand growth, was also discussed. Irwin is a Purdue agricultural economics alumnus, earning a Master of Science and his Ph.D. Scott's research interests are in the areas of agricultural marketing and price analysis, agricultural risk management, performance of market advisory services, forecast evaluation, commodity market efficiency and behavior of speculators in commodity markets. His research has been published in leading academic journals such as the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, and the Journal of Futures Markets.

Annual Apex Awards

David Anderson, Elizabeth Bechdol, Elena Ianchovichina and Mark Thornburg received Apex Awards during the Snyder Lecture festivities. Information about their accomplishments can be found on the Agricultural Economics Alumni and Friends Web site at <http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/alumni/>.

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David Anderson



David Anderson

Mr. David Anderson's career may have started in the automotive industry, but agriculture was calling and soon he was involved in the production of corn and soybeans, and not cars and trucks. After graduating from Purdue in 1972 with a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering, Dave spent five years with Rockwell International, where he worked in various manufacturing, management, and engineering positions. Along the way in 1975 he earned an M.B.A. from Youngstown State University.

Then, in 1977, his career path turned back to Warren County and Pine Village when he joined with his brother Alan (AgEcon'76) and father, Robert (AgEngr'49) to form of A-Plus Farms. A-Plus Farms, Ltd. is one of the 100 largest grain farms in Indiana. Superior land stewardship and long-term profitability are primary goals of the partnership. Operational focus is on crop genetics, soil fertility, weed and insect control, and farmland drainage. A modern high-tech fleet of large equipment utilizing site specific or precision farming techniques, including global positioning and in-field soil sensing, allow for timely and efficient field work. As innovators, A-Plus Farms has led the local trend to less tillage, narrow row no-till soybeans, and bulk seed and fertilizer handling. One of the strengths of A-Plus Farms is the selection and utilization of winning technologies.

Dave has been a frequent speaker in the Center for Food and Agricultural Business programs at Purdue, and host for international groups. Regardless of the time of year, Dave has graciously opened up his farm to guests from places as far flung as Malawi, Poland, Argentina, and China. To an individual, these visitors have left the farm with a richer understanding of Midwestern agriculture, and a warm feeling about Midwest hospitality. In addition, Dave has been a frequent, and much appreciated, guest lecturer to Center groups who want to better understand the

management issues facing large Midwest grain operations.

Elizabeth A. Bechdol



Elizabeth Bechdol

Ms. Elizabeth Bechdol is the Director of Agribusiness Strategies at Ice Miller, LLP, and is responsible for coordinating the firm's agricultural legal services practice. Beth was the Deputy Director of the first-ever Indiana State Department of Agriculture where she had an integral role in establishing the agency and crafting the strategic plan for Indiana agriculture put forward by Governor Mitch Daniels. She was directly involved in ISDA's international trade activities, participating in Governor Daniels' four trade missions and coordinating two of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman's agricultural trade missions.

Her dedication to public service in agriculture and her extensive trade and farm policy experience extends beyond this role in Indiana to Washington, D.C. where she served in key roles at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and on the Senate Agriculture Committee under Senator Richard G. Lugar. Beth began her career in the Washington office of Sparks Companies, Inc. As a vice president in the firm, she assisted clients in understanding critical issues such as biotechnology, changing farm structure, global trade, federal farm policy, risk management tools, among other major trends. Beth received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in international law and international affairs. She completed her master's degree at Purdue University in agricultural economics. She was raised on a corn and soybean farm in Auburn, IN and lives there today with her husband Matt and daughter Grace.

Elena I. Ianchovichina

Dr. Elena Ianchovichina is a Senior Economist in the World Bank's Economic Policy and



Elena Ianchovichina

Debt Department, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network. She joined the World Bank Group in 2000 through the Young Professional program and has since worked in the World Bank's Research Department, and East Asia and Pacific Region. Her current work focuses on country-level analysis of economic growth, growth in Emerging Asia, fiscal and trade reform. Elena has published journal articles and book chapters on a number of special topics including China's WTO accession, export processing arrangements, market access for least developed countries, trade and poverty, and sub-national fiscal reform.

Her work on the interplay between duty-drawbacks (the rebate of tariffs collected on inputs used in exported goods) and tariff reforms in China was particularly influential during that country's recent WTO accession. She showed that these tariff rebates had played a very important role in China's export boom of the 1990's, and, by incorporating them in her analyses of China's WTO accession, she was able to produce much more accurate estimates of the likely impacts of these policy reforms. Indeed, this work has been highlighted as one of the few studies that "got it right" with respect to the final impact of China's joining the WTO.

Prior to joining the World Bank, Elena was an assistant professor in international trade at Kansas State University (KSU). While at KSU, she led a cooperative research project with the US Department of Agriculture on the impact of technological progress in agriculture and land use on the global economy.

Mark Thornburg

Mr. Mark Thornburg is General Counsel and Director of Legal Affairs for Indiana Farm Bureau, Incorporated. He joined Farm Bureau in 1999 as Staff Attorney focusing primarily on land use, natural resource and environmental legal issues affecting agriculture. Currently, he performs cor-



Mark Thornburg

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porate general counsel functions, manages the Legal Affairs Team at Farm Bureau and directs the legal component of the organization's public policy and educational efforts. Mark previously worked for the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service both as an Extension Educator and as an Extension Staff Specialist. He also briefly provided legal counsel on a contractual basis to the Indiana State Chemist and the Commissioner of Agriculture's Office. In 1992, Mark served a year as USDA Extension Fellow with the National Association of Counties in Washington, D.C., working in their legislative department.

Mark received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from Purdue, his M.B.A. from Ball State University and his Juris Doctor degree from the Valparaiso University School of Law. Mark currently serves as vice-chair and editor of the Agricultural Section of the Indiana State Bar Association and is on the board of directors of the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Institute. He resides in Zionsville with his wife Julie and son Max.

More information about the honorees may be found at: <http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/alumni/>

Graduate Poster Competition Winners

This year's poster winners are:

1st: Sarah Brechbill
(Wally Tyner, advisor)

The Economics of Biomass Collection and Transportation and Its Supply to Indiana cellulosic and Electric Utility Facilities



Sarah Brechbill

2nd: Todd H. Kuethe and Do-Yeun Park

(Raymond Florax, advisor)

Purdue's Effect on Apartment Rents and Housing Prices

3rd: David Ubilava (Ken Foster, advisor)

Heterogeneity in Consumers WTP for Informational Attributes: Do Income and Social Awareness Drive Preferences?

Outstanding Department Thesis and Dissertation Awards

Guyslain Ngeleza, Ph.D., received the Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award for "Determinants of Real Income: New Tests Using Meta-analysis and Spatial Econometrics." Raymond Florax and Will Masters were his major professors.

Aaron Reimer, M.S., received the Outstanding Master of Science Thesis Award for "Market Segmentation Practices of Crop Input Retailers." Jay Akridge was his major professor.

Undergraduate Honors

Katherine (Katy) Bartlett of Grand Island, Fla., earned the Outstanding Freshman in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Katy is active in the College of Agriculture Dean's Scholars Program. Last semester, she participated in the campus-wide Emerging Leaders Program and was a member of the All-American Marching Band. She is currently serving as the Farm Management Club's vice president and plays in the Purdue Symphonic Band. In May, she traveled to China to perform with the Purdue All-American Marching Band for various pre-Olympic festivities.

The department selected **Maree Deventer** of Fort Wayne, Ind., as this year's Outstanding Sophomore. Maree is a College of Agriculture Dean's Scholar, working with Holly Wang on a research project analyzing the effects that the price shock in the corn market has had on farmer's choice of crop insurance. She also serves as an Agricultural Economics Envoy, horse coordinator for the Purdue Intercollegiate Horsemanship Club's show management committee and member of the Purdue Equestrian Team. This summer, Deventer has an internship with the USDA's Indiana NASS Field Office as a statistical assistant.

Ryan Crane of Exeter, Maine, received the department's Outstanding Junior Award. He is involved with the College of Agriculture Dean's



Ryan Crane

Scholars Program, and also received a Campus Undergraduate Humanities/Social Science Poster Award for his research abstract in the project titled, "Management Strategies in Farm Business." Craig Dobbins served as his project advisor. Ryan has served his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, as their noble ruler during the past two years. He is also a College of Agriculture Ambassador and is completing the College of Agriculture Leadership Development program. Last semester, he studied abroad in Italy during Spring Break and completed an internship with Precision Agronomics Inc. He has previously been recognized as the College of Agriculture Outstanding Freshman and Outstanding Sophomore.



Michael McDaniel

The department's Outstanding Senior Award went to **Michael McDaniel** of Middletown, Ind., who was also the first runner-up for the College of Agriculture's Outstanding Senior

Award. During his time at Purdue, Michael completed an undergraduate honors project, "Researching Indiana Incubators," with faculty member Maria Marshall. With a strong interest in entrepreneurship, he received a Purdue Entrepreneurship Certificate and founded his own start-up company, Q.I.D.S. (Quality Innovative Design Solutions). He served as the vice president of Order of Omega, a Greek honorary; vice president of academics at FarmHouse Fraternity; and vice president of operations for Interfraternity Council. McDaniel was involved with numerous service activities. He helped the Christian Ministry Center with Red Cross blood drives, Christmas coat drives for the Salvation Army. He taught free self-defense seminars to student organizations and living units. After graduation, McDaniel began a full-time position with Crowe Chizek in Indianapolis, Ind.

Brandon Moseley earned the highest grade point average in the department. Moseley returned to his family farm, Infinity Pork Inc./County Line Farms Inc., in southern Tippecanoe County after graduation.

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Campus Undergraduate Humanities Social Science Awards

Poster Competition Winner



Tom Adler

Tom Adler (Christine Wilson, project advisor)
"An Examination of Economic Behavior and Risk Aversion on Deal or No Deal"

Agricultural Economics Junior elected Student Body President



Eric Barnard

Eric Barnard, a junior in agricultural economics, was elected Purdue student body president. Eric is pursuing a degree in agricultural finance; as well as a minor in management, and an associate degree in build-

ing construction management. He is an Agriculture Ambassador, a member of Farm-House Fraternity, and is active in many leadership capacities on campus. He has served the past three years in student government holding positions in Governmental Relations, and as Senator of the College of Agriculture, and Student Body Treasurer. To learn more about Barnard, please visit: <http://www.cyberviewsites.com/barnardschaus/index.php?pageid=biost>

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Joe Balagtas – Organized the Spring 2008 Conference of the NEC-63 (Commodity Promotion Research Committee), held March 14-15, 2008, in Hilton Head, S.C. In addition, he presented his paper, co-authored with graduate student Metin Cakir, "Estimating Cross-Market Demand Effects of Generic Advertising."

Lou Ann Baugh – was nominated by the department for the college's Outstanding Service to Students award.

John M. Connor – presented "Latin America and the Control of International Cartels" at the 2007 International Seminar on Strategy, sponsored by the Center for Research in Strategy at IBMEC, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Larry DeBoer – was elected by the University Senate to serve on the University Resources Policy Committee for the 2008-09 academic year.

Benoit Delbecq – was awarded the Ludwig J. Kruhe Fellowship for the 2008-09 academic year.

Craig Dobbins – was nominated by the department for the college's David C. Pfendler Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor award.

Frank Dooley was nominated by the department for the college's Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher award.

Allan Gray – was promoted to the rank of professor. He was appointed as Interim Director of the Center for Food and Agricultural Business.



Allan Gray

Linda Heckaman – retired as Senior Event Manager in the Center for Food and Agricultural Business after 34 years of service.

Matt Holt – is serving on the 17-member search committee for the new Dean of Agriculture.

Roman Keeney – was accepted into Purdue's Teaching for Tomorrow Fellowship Awards Program.

Maria Marshall – was selected as part of the inaugural class for the Entrepreneurial Leadership Academy offered by the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship and the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence in Discovery Park.

Will Masters – was invited to present "Incentives for Innovation in African Agriculture" at the United Nations Oct. 18, part of an Expert Group Meeting on "Innovative Finance for Sustainable Development."

Fulgence Mishili – received the Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Fellowship, Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2008, for collaboration with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture on a study of bean supply in eastern and southern Africa.

David Perkis – received a Purdue University Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Sally Thompson – the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota presented Sally Thompson with the Outstanding Alumna Award on June 13, 2008. Thompson earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the university.

Wallace Tyner – was nominated by the department for the college Outstanding Graduate Educator award.

David Ubilava – presented "Analysis of the Soybean-to-Corn Price Ratio and its Impact on Farmers' Planting Decision-Making in Indiana" at the SAEA meeting in Dallas, Texas.

Holly Wang – participated in the Annual International Conference of the Chinese Economist Society in the capacity as president. She moderated a plenary session, "Left Behind? Rural Economic Development, Food Security and Migration," and an organized symposia "Agricultural Risks and Rural Income Security in China." She also presented a paper, "Evaluating Chinese Farm Level Yield Risks with Nonparametric Methods" and spoke at the closing ceremony. Graduate student David Ortega accompanied her. He conducted a marketing survey in Beijing in collaboration with faculty at China Agriculture University. Also on this trip, Holly prepared for a new study abroad in China course for Purdue students that will begin in 2009.



Holly Wang

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



Ben Gramig

Ben Gramig joins the department as a new assistant professor. Ben joined us Feb. 1 after completing his Ph.D. in agricultural economics at Michigan State University. Ben's teaching and research activities are focused primarily on environmental and natural resource economics. He has a strong interest in the interface between agriculture and the environment, and his work is motivated by public policy and the role of human activity in environmental change. Ben has a strong interest in applied micro-economic theory and inter-disciplinary research that integrates economics with natural or physical sciences to analyze applied problems.



Steven Wu

Steven Wu will be joining the department as an Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Wu has been an associate professor at The Ohio State University. His research and teaching interests are in the areas of Applied Contract Theory and Incentive Systems, Applied Microeconomics, Experimental Economics, Regulation and Public Policy related to Agricultural Contracting. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley in Agricultural and Resource Economics in December 2001. Much of his work centers around contract theory and applied contracting issues in agriculture. His current interests are in contract regulation and contract legislation in agriculture; the empirical testing of incentive systems; and the design of optimal pricing and incentive schemes for marketing, production, and supply contracting. He is also interested in the study of informal incentives used by individuals and organizations to manage performance and regulate economic activity. Wu is a faculty affiliate in the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at Ohio State, a Research Fellow with the Institute for the Study of Labor

(IZA) in Bonn, Germany, and a member of the Economic Design Network in the Department of Economics at the University of Melbourne.



Alla Golub

Alla Golub joins the department as a Research Economist in Climate Policy working in the Center for Global Trade Analysis (GTAP). Alla graduated from Purdue in 2006 with a Ph.D. in agricultural economics. Since graduation, Alla has worked with GTAP as a Post-doctoral Research Associate.



Danielle Quirk

Danielle Quirk is the newly hired event manager for the Center for Food and Agricultural Business in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Danielle will be working closely with the center's program managers to ensure seamless deliveries of the educational seminars and conferences specifically designed for the food and agribusiness industries. Prior to joining the center, Danielle was a program manager for executive education at the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University. She holds a bachelor's degree in organizational communications from Ball State University.



Andy Oppy

Andy Oppy joins the department as the new undergraduate academic advisor. He will be working with Lee-Ann Williams advising undergraduate students in academic, career and personal planning. He will also recruit incoming students and assist with scholarship distribution. Andy graduated from Purdue in 2003 with highest distinction in agricultural econom-

ics. While a student at Purdue, he was the department's Outstanding Freshman, Junior and Senior, and also was the top seller in the Cutco project in AGEC 431. Since graduation, Andy worked as a commercial/agricultural lender for Regions Bank in Frankfort, Ind. While working in Frankfort, he was involved with the county Extension Learning to Lead program, as well as Clinton County 4-H. Andy remains an active member of the Frankfort Jaycees and is a member of the Indiana Junior Miss board of directors, currently serving as first vice chairman.



Megan Sheridan

Megan Sheridan has taken on the role of marketing manager for the Center for Food and Agricultural Business in the Department of Agricultural Economics. In this position, Megan

manages the marketing campaigns for various professional development programs, as well as the overall marketing strategy for the center. On a day-to-day basis, Megan writes and edits copy, manages the production of printed and electronic communication pieces, supervises a graphic design team, and strives to enhance the image of the center and its programs through clear and consistent application of marketing communications tactics. Prior to joining the center, Megan worked as a communications coordinator at Purdue Marketing Communications and as the director of communications at the National Swine Registry. She holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications from Michigan State University, where she was active in the Block and Bridle Club and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.

To learn more about our faculty and staff, visit <http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/directory/>

OBITUARIES

Earl Butz

Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Purdue Agriculture Dean Earl Butz died in his sleep Feb. 1 in Washington, D.C. He was 98.



Earl Butz

“Butz served Purdue well as a respected faculty member, department head and dean,” said Randy Woodson, the Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture. “He was a tireless advocate for agriculture, and his efforts helped bring Purdue Agriculture into international prominence.”

“I think, with little exaggeration, that Earl Butz was the most popular secretary of agriculture with American farmers,” said former Dean of Agriculture Bob Thompson.

Butz was part of the College of Agriculture since enrolling as a freshman in 1927. He maintained an office in the Krannert Building and reported each day for work well into his ninth decade. He earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture in 1932 and earned Purdue’s first doctoral degree in agricultural economics in 1937.

In 1999, Butz donated \$1 million to Purdue’s Department of Agricultural Economics, which was headed by Wally Tyner.

“When I became department head, I didn’t really know Earl that well,” Tyner recalled in a 2004 interview. “I was pleased and surprised when a number of times he offered to take me to important meetings around the state and introduce me to key leaders. He was always helpful and supportive, without being intrusive.” And he was a great benefactor to the department, too. “One day Earl asked me to come down to his office. I had no idea why, and when I sat down, he told me he wanted to give the department \$1 million. I nearly fell out of the chair.”

Butz joined the ag economics faculty in 1937. He served as head of the department from 1946 to 1954. Butz became dean of Purdue Agriculture in 1957, serving until 1967. He was dean of continuing education and vice president of the Purdue Research Foundation from 1968 to 1971. In his governmental posts, Butz was assistant secretary of agriculture from 1954 to 1957, under President Dwight Eisenhower. He was secretary of agriculture from 1971 to 1976, under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

A native of Albion, Ind., Butz married Mary Emma Powell, from North Carolina, in 1937. They met in 1930 at the National 4-H Camp in Washington, D.C. She died

in 1995. Surviving are sons William Butz and Tom Butz.

(This information was originally reported in the Winter 2008 issue of “Purdue Agriculture Connections”)

Charles French

Charles French, former head of Purdue Agricultural Economics, died peacefully in his sleep April 16.



Charles French

He was a loving husband and father, devoted educator and committed public servant. Born near Edgerton, Mo., in 1923, the son of Charley and Ruth French, he grew up as one of seven children on a farm near Smithville, Mo. After graduating from Smithville High School, he entered the University of Missouri but left during his second year to join the Army Air Corps, where he became a fighter pilot and rose to the rank of captain. He flew numerous combat missions in P-47s in the European theater and was one of the pilots chosen to escort President Truman’s plane to the Potsdam Peace Conference.

After the war, he returned to the University of Missouri, where he completed his bachelor’s degree and earned a master’s before moving to Purdue University, where he earned his doctorate. He stayed at Purdue and served as the head of the Agricultural Economics Department from 1966-73. He left Purdue in 1974 to pursue government service, working for the U.S. Agency for International Development and the National Academy of Science. During the Carter Administration he served as study director for food and nutrition in the Executive Office of the President. He then returned to university teaching and administration as director of the Institute of Agribusiness in the Leavey School of Business and Administration at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, Calif.

During his long and rich career, he inspired and mentored hundreds of students, helped develop many new courses and programs, wrote scores of articles for popular magazines such as Farm Journal and scholarly journals such as the American Journal of Farm Economics, and co-authored two books, World Food and Nutrition Study: The Potential Contributions of Research and Survival Strategies for Agricultural Cooperatives. He was deeply involved in international educational and agricultural development and the battle against world

hunger. His travels took him to every continent except Antarctica, and he taught in Brazil, Australia and New Zealand. He was also a Fulbright Scholar and represented the United States at the U.N. World Food Conference in Rome.

French married Dolores Albers of Dundas, Minn., in 1948, and they had three children, Ned, Hugh and Sarasue. He and Dolores divorced in 1976, and three years later he married (Lovina) Jeanne Blair and became the stepfather of her daughter, Paulette.

His family was a great delight to him, and he especially enjoyed teasing them with his dry humor and taking them on travels throughout the country and the world. He was a handy carpenter who built everything from extra rooms to tree houses; an avid sportsman who loved to fish, hunt, bowl and golf; and a sports fan who followed the Purdue Boilermakers and St. Louis Cardinals.

He and Jeanne retired first to the Shenandoah Valley, where she had grown up, and later to Williamsburg to be near Paulette and her family.

French is survived by his wife, (Lovina) Jeanne French of Williamsburg, Va.; sisters Mildred Lucille Holtzclaw of Leavenworth, Kan., Mary Martha Taylor of Columbia, Mo., and Margaret Ruth Little of Winston-Salem, N.C.; brother Donald Ray French of Smithville, Mo.; sons Ned Carleton Stuckey-French of Tallahassee, Fla., and Hugh Nathan French of Portland, Ore.; daughter, Sarasue French, of New York, N.Y.; stepdaughter, Paulette Murphy, of Williamsburg, Va.; and grandchildren, Flannery and Phoebe French and Brianna, Kennan and Ryan Murphy.

G. Edward Schuh

University of Minnesota Regents Professor Emeritus G. Edward Schuh died May 4, from complications following heart surgery on May 1. He was 77. When he died, Schuh was surrounded by his wife, Ignez, and their three daughters, Audrey, Susan, and Tanya.



G. Edward Schuh

A true Hoosier, Schuh received his bachelor’s degree in agricultural education from Purdue University in 1952. He went on to study agricultural economics at Michigan State University, where he was awarded his master’s degree in 1954. After two years in the U.S. Army, he entered the graduate program in economics at the University of Chicago, where he completed his doctorate in 1961.

OBITUARIES

Schuh joined the agricultural economics faculty at Purdue University in 1961 and quickly rose to the rank of professor in 1965. He was a visiting professor at the Federal University of Vicosa in Brazil from 1963-65, and it was there he met his lifelong love, Ignez. This also was the beginning of a lifelong connection with Brazil that continued until his death. In July 2004, Schuh was honored by the Brazilian Society of Agricultural Economics with a new award – Legendary Member of the Society – in recognition of his lifetime contributions. In April 2005, he received the National Order of Scientific Merit, Grã Cruz, from the Brazilian Academy of Science and the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology. This is Brazil's highest scientific award and is considered the equivalent of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Schuh remained at Purdue University until 1979, but during that time he served as program advisor to the Ford Foundation, senior staff economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisors under President Ford and deputy undersecretary for international affairs and commodity programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 1979, Schuh joined what was then the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota and served as department head until 1984. He played a key role in establishing the department's first endowed chair – the E. Fred Koller Chair in Agricultural Management Information Systems. Later, he was successful in raising endowment funds for the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy – a center that has contributed significantly to the department for more than 20 years.

He resigned in 1984 to become the director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank. He returned in 1987 to the University of Minnesota as dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. He later became the Orville and Jane Freeman Professor in International Trade and Investment Policy, a position he held until his retirement in November 2007.

Schuh received the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) award for Best Published Research in 1971 for his book, *Agricultural Development in Brazil*, and three years later his article on "The Exchange Rate and U.S. Agriculture" received the best article prize from the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. Schuh

served as president of AAEA in 1981-82 and was elected a fellow of the association in 1984. He was also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received honorary doctoral degrees from the Federal University of Vicosa and Purdue University. Schuh was also the 2008 recipient of the University of Minnesota President's Award for Outstanding Service for providing exceptional service to the university community.

University of Minnesota Regents Professor Emeritus Vernon Ruttan died on Monday morning, August 18, 2008 from a brief but serious illness. He turned 84 on August 16th. Vernon was surrounded by his wife Marilyn and his immediate family when he died. A memorial service will be planned for a later date and I will provide further details as they are available.

Vernon Ruttan

Vernon was born on a farm in northern Michigan. He received his B.A. from Yale University in 1948 and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago in 1952 and 1954. Vern's first academic appointment was at Purdue University in the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1955 where he quickly rose to the rank of professor in 1960. In 1965, Vernon joined the faculty in Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota as Professor and Head of the Department. From 1978 to 1986 Vernon was also Professor in Economics at the University of Minnesota and was named as a Regents professor in 1986.

Vernon also had substantial non-academic experience. After serving on the governmental relations and economics staff of the Tennessee Valley Authority, he joined the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisors in 1961. Between 1963 and 1965, he was an agricultural economist with the Rockefeller Foundation at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. From 1973 to 1978, he was president of the Agricultural Development Council.

In recognition of his seminal contributions in development, Vernon served on a number of advisory committees and boards, including the Research Advisory Committee of the U.S. Agency for International Development (1968-1973 and 1980-1986),

the Technical Advisory Committee to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (1973-1978), Board of Directors of the International Service for National Agricultural Research (1980-1986), the Board on Agriculture (1982-1989), the Board on Global Change (1990-1996) and the Board on Sustainable Development (1997-1999) of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council. Ruttan was president of the American Agricultural Economics Association in 1971-72.

Among Vernon's substantial contributions to development through authoring well over 200 books, articles and reports his book with Yujiro Hayami, *Agricultural Development: An International Perspective*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, 1971 and 1985, has become a basic reference in the field of agricultural development and has been translated into four other languages. Assessing the impact of Vernon's contributions to assuring the world food supply is not as straightforward as the development of a new variety of wheat. However, his ideas on induced innovation, development aid and institutions and science with technology policy have helped assure that public and private investment and policy contributed to the tremendous achievements in food security during the past half century.

As Regents Professor Emeritus, Vern published three books: *Technology, Growth, and Development: An Induced Innovation Perspective*, Oxford University Press, 2001; *Social Science Knowledge and Economic Development: an Institutional Design Perspective*, University of Michigan Press, 2003; and *Is War Necessary for Economic Growth? Military Procurement and Technology Development*, Oxford University Press, 2006.

Vernon's work was consistently recognized for its high quality and relevance to policy makers and the profession. The American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) honored him with ten awards for published research. He was elected as a Fellow of AAEA in 1974, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1976 and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1986. In 1990, he was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences.

Ruttan holds honorary degrees from Rutgers University, Christian Albrechts University of Kiel and Purdue University. He received the Alexander von Humboldt Award for outstanding contributions to agriculture in 1984 and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award in 1986.



Vernon Ruttan



From Interim
Department Head,
Ken Foster:

We are all sad to bid Sally Thompson farewell, even though it is only for a few years. Her leadership has been instrumental in the department's ability to meet the many challenges that face agriculture and rural communities. At the same time, it is exciting to have a close colleague in Washington D.C. where we know that she will have the same positive impact on national agricultural policy and research that she did here at Purdue.

Replacing Sally will not be easy. Plans are moving forward to search for a new department head. A search committee has been appointed and is being chaired by Professor Bernie Engel (Head of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering). The current intention is to complete

the search for the College of Agriculture's Dean prior to interviewing candidates for Department Head.

I am personally very excited about the potential for our department in the coming months and years. Last spring we began work on a new strategic plan to guide the department over the next five years. This fall we will finalize that plan and begin its implementation. A group of stakeholders will be consulted this fall and their feedback and advice incorporated into the final plan. Don't be surprised if we call on you to participate!

The fall semester has begun, and as usual the most commonly uttered phrase on campus is, "the summer was too short." As you all know, this sense of time warp doesn't last long. The vibrancy that Purdue students bring to the campus is inspirational, and we all soon replace the regrets over the things we didn't accomplish during the summer with the excitement

that a new classroom full of eager students creates. Our undergraduate enrollment and classroom contact hours continue to grow in response to the incredible teachers among our faculty. The residential graduate program maintains its diverse flavor by being evenly split along the lines of domestic versus international (from 30 different countries), M.S. versus Ph.D., and male versus female students. The distance based MS/MBA program that we operate in collaboration with the Kelley School of Business at IU has become a much sought after program among early career executives, and highlights our commitment to new methods of educational delivery.

I am convinced that the department is prepared and eager to seize the opportunities, and face the challenges, that the future presents to us.

Sincerely,
Ken

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