Boehlje Receives Hovde Award

Dr. Michael Boehlje is the 2011 recipient of the Frederick L. Hovde Award of Excellence in Education Service to the Rural People of Indiana for helping farmers and agribusinesses modernize their management strategies. Boehlje, a distinguished professor of agricultural economics, received the award December 9 at the Indiana Farm Bureau convention in Indianapolis. The award, sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau, honors Purdue staff with a record of outstanding achievement and service to rural communities and carries with it a monetary prize. It is named for Purdue’s seventh president, who served from 1946 to 1971. “Mike Boehlje has devoted his career to helping farm and agribusiness managers and policymakers understand the economic and financial consequences of their decisions,” said Jay Akridge, Purdue’s Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture. “He addresses emerging issues and challenges that face the people of rural Indiana, and then offers researched-based options for dealing with them in a forward-looking way.” Boehlje has taught agricultural management and finance for most of his 40-year career, and has written more than 500 publications, including classroom textbooks and Extension publications. “Dr. Boehlje helps Indiana farmers and agribusiness managers analyze the issues from their own operations and use strategic planning and thinking to position their firms for long-term viability and success,” said Ken Foster, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics. To read more about this honor: http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/outreach/2011/story-print-deploy-layout-1_16991_16991.html

2012 AAEA HONORS

Purdue faculty and students earned national recognition for teaching, leadership, and research at the annual meeting of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) held in Seattle from August 12-14. Dr. Michael Gunderson received the Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Less Than Ten Years of Experience. Dr. Allan Gray received the Early Career Leadership Award from the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators, and doctoral student Elizabeth Dobis received Honorable Mention in the Outstanding Masters Thesis Award competition. Additionally, Dr. Thomas Hertel completed his three-year term of service on the AAEA Executive Committee.

Michael Gunderson joined the faculty at Purdue in August as an Associate Professor and has already received the AAEA’s Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Less Than Ten Years of Experience based on his prior position at the University of Florida. This award recognizes and encourages meritorious performance in undergraduate teaching in agricultural or applied economics at a national level. Dr. Gunderson has established himself as an outstanding classroom teacher in the areas of Agribusiness Management, Agricultural Finance, and Agricultural and Food Marketing. He serves as the Senior Advisor for the AAEA’s Undergraduate Student Section, and a Teaching Fellow of the North American colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA).

Allan Gray received the inaugural Early Career Leadership Award from the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators (a sub-section within the AAEA). The purpose of this award is to encourage interest among the members of the association in the development of abilities and skills necessary for professional leadership and administrative careers in academia, government, industry, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) aligned with the vision and mission of AAEA. Dr. Gray has demonstrated outstanding leadership as a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue. He is currently the Director of the Center for Food and Agricultural Business. As director, Dr. Gray provides strategic direction for the center and MS-MBA in Food and Agribusiness Management, a dual-degree, distance-delivered program offered in partnership by Purdue and Indiana University. Dr. Gray has also provided leadership to the International Food and Agribusiness Association as a member of its Board of Directors.

Elizabeth Dobis’ master’s thesis entitled, A Sociodemographic Analysis of Health Care Utilization in the United States, was awarded Honorable Mention status by the AAEA. Dr. Raymond Florax was her major professor. This study investigates where and how frequently different people use healthcare. The analysis is especially timely given the current debate with respect to national health care in the U.S.

David Ortega was the winner of the Chester O. McCorkle, Jr. Student Scholarship for his research, An Economic Study of U.S. Food Safety Issues from Imported Chinese Food Products. Dr. Holly Wang was his major professor. This fund supports applied research by a graduate student on economic issues relating to agriculture.

From 2009 - 2012 Thomas Hertel served on the AAEA Executive Committee, during which time he was AAEA President Elect, President and finally Past-President, working closely with Ron Mittelhammer and Robert King, the preceding and successive AAEA presidents. With the support of Executive Directors Incorporated -- AAEA’s professional management association, AAEA was able to accomplish many important initiatives during the past three years.
Dept Head Comments – Ken Foster

“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing about.” This was the advice of Benjamin Franklin. It also reflects the aspirations of the faculty and staff in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

The Mission Statement that we established four years ago to guide our decisions and actions within the department is: “To serve the citizens of Indiana, the United States and beyond through discovery that expands the realm of economic knowledge and its relevance to important issues, learning that stimulates opportunities for personal growth, leadership and advancement, and active engagement that promotes the exchange of economic knowledge and the application of discoveries for our stakeholders and society.”

Last summer was a challenging one for those directly involved in Indiana agriculture. We hope that we fulfilled our mission during the summer drought and the subsequent lean harvest. We have the good fortune to work with exceptional partners in state and national government, producer associations, various advocacy groups, and the private sector to discover and deliver solutions.

Ben Franklin also wrote, “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.” This is why we use words like discovery, learning, and engagement in our mission statement. They are meant to indicate the interaction between us and our students and partners that involve us all in the process of developing an improved society. In the pages of this newsletter, you will read about some of the things that the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Agricultural Economics did that were worth writing about.

Dooley Named Associate Vice Provost

Frank Dooley, professor of agricultural economics, has been named associate vice provost of undergraduate academic affairs effective August 13, 2012. The position was created to further implementation of a balanced trimester system. Dooley will retain his academic appointment while acting in his new capacity. In his new role, Dooley will lead campus-wide discussions and inquiries into the wide-ranging effects of switching to trimesters. http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/releases/2012/Q3/new-associate-vice-provost-to-focus-on-trimester-initiative.html
DEPARTMENT EVENTS AND HONORS

2011 PUCESA Awards

Nicole Olynk was a member of the Team Award for their role in assisting dairy farmers during difficult economic times. The Team Award was presented Thursday, November 10th, 2011 at the PDC Awards Luncheon.

Joan Fulton was chosen to receive the PUCESA Mid-Career award for her Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program. The Mid-career award was presented at the PUCESA Annual Meeting.

University Awards and Recognitions

AgEcon faculty were the recipients of prestigious awards given at the College of Agriculture Recognition Program held Friday, April 13, 2012, in the Loeb Playhouse at Stewart Center.

W. Scott Downey received the Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award. Downey has been at Purdue since 2000. His Principles of Selling in Agribusiness course has attracted students from more than 20 majors across campus, with undergraduates from programs as diverse as engineering, education and pharmacy choosing the course as an elective. In the past five years, more than 2,500 professionals have participated as coaches for a project called “Ready Set Sell” in the course. At the Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Lecture held in Pfendler Hall, Scott presented, “Why Come? Selling Students and Industry on Coming to Class”. As an additional honor, Scott was named a Fellow of the Purdue Teaching Academy.

Gerald Shively received the Outstanding Graduate Educator Award. Shively has been at Purdue since 1996. As director of the department’s graduate programs, he oversees a combined masters and doctoral program with 130 students, including 40 in a joint program with the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. Shively has served as an advisor to 25 graduate students and as an advisory committee member for 12 others.

Benjamin Gramig was selected as a 2012-2013 Teaching for Tomorrow Fellowship Award from the Office of the Provost. This award is intended to foster continued excellence in teaching and learning and to facilitate the development of the teaching potential of the faculty.

Craig Dobbins received the David C. Pfendler Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor Award. On the faculty since 1977, Dobbins has counseled and taught hundreds of undergraduate students and served as a mentor to many as they have pursued their studies and careers. He also has provided guidance on the activities of the Farm Management Club and Sigma Alpha Sorority. Dobbins also is the undergraduate program director, involving the oversight of curriculum and counseling for more than 500 undergraduate students, as well as coordinating the teaching and mentoring of junior staff.

EVENTS AND HONORS

2011 Excellence in Research Awards

Nearly 300 Purdue University faculty and staff gathered November 1, 2011, for the Excellence in Research Awards dinner, celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of Purdue’s research community. Forty-four Agriculture faculty were recognized for having received a grant for $1 million dollars or more for Fiscal Year 2011, including Agricultural Economics professors: Paul Preckel, Otto Doering, Benjamin Gramig, Corinne Alexander, Maria Marshall, Kevin McNamara and James Lowenberg-DeBoer.
Doering Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

On November 5, 2011, Otto Doering received the William F. Eagan Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana Conference of the American Association of University Professors. This award recognizes service to education and academic freedom. Doering’s service includes a term on the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, two terms on the Governor’s Education Round Table, and Chairing Indiana’s Statewide Articulation and Transfer Committee.

Gloy Receives Extension Directors Award

On Thursday, November 10, 2011, the Purdue Extension Directors Award was presented to the Women in Agriculture team which includes Angela Gloy, Farm Business Planning Specialist. The Women in Agriculture Team was formed to help address the educational needs of women employed in, or involved with, the agricultural industry.

Patrick Honored by University of Viçosa, Brazil

George Patrick, traveled to Brazil December 9 – 21, 2011 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Graduate Programs of the Federal University of Viçosa. Dr. Nilda de Fatima Ferreira Soares, UFV President, presented Dr. Patrick with a certificate “in recognition of, and gratitude for, his many contributions, for his encouragement, guidance and support towards the development and consolidation of the graduate program in Applied Economics.”

Patrick and Uhrig Receive Certificates of Distinction

George Patrick and J. William “Bill” Uhrig received the Purdue University Agricultural Alumni Association’s highest honor in recognition of their career-long service to their profession and communities. The association presented Certificates of Distinction on February 4, 2012, during the annual Ag Alumni Fish Fry at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. The award has been given since 1938 and the recipients were recognized for “…the many ways they have gone beyond the normal call of duty to perform their jobs and to serve others,” said Donya Lester, the association’s executive director.

Martin Receives Friend of Agriculture Award

At the annual Indiana Livestock, Forage and Grain Forum in Indianapolis on February 27, 2012, Marshall Martin received the Beck Hybrid’s Beyond the Fence Award in the category of Friend of Agriculture for his service to Indiana Agriculture. Four individuals are selected each year in the categories of Friend of Agriculture, Ag Media, Community Betterment, and Ag Education Outreach.

Alexander and Olynk Part of $3.8 Million Grant

Corinne Alexander and Nicole Olynk are part of a Purdue team of researchers who have been granted $3.8 million of a $25 million grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture to determine the potential of grasses as environmentally responsible bioenergy crops and to educate farmers and others about the findings. The goal is to create production systems that will give growers information on how to maximize bioenergy grass growth on marginal or unused farmland that isn’t optimal for other crops.
Braunlich Receives Distance Learning Award

Liza Braunlich, Center for Food and Agricultural Business, was congratulated by Dr. Mickey Latour, Associate Dean for Distance Learning, for being the recipient of the 2012 Award for Excellence in Distance Learning for the online program, Syngenta myCrop: Introduction to Agronomics. The award committee was impressed by the integration of the online learning activities, and the committee also acknowledged the wide impact that the program has for individuals who complete the program.

Stanish Receives National 4-H Award

At the October 2011 National 4-H Extension Educator’s Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, Lee Stanish, Project Manager for the Center for Food and Agricultural Business, was part of a team that received the Award for Excellence in Global Citizenship Programming. Stanish’s winning poster, Building Leaders for Tomorrow’s World: An Evaluation of Indiana 4-H’s Poland Study Abroad Program, demonstrated the impact that a 14-day international learning experience in Poland had on 60 high school students from Indiana.

Mullen Receives Business Service Award

Kimberly Mullen received a College of Agriculture 2012 Business Office Service Award. The award, which was presented at a luncheon on June 12 to several recipients, was established to recognize the significant efforts of business office staff members who consistently exert effort above and beyond expectations to help accomplish the College’s strategic goals.

2012 Distinguished Ag Alumni

The College of Agriculture presented its highest honor, the Distinguished Agriculture Alumni Awards on March 2, 2012 to ten honorees. This annual event recognizes mid-career Purdue Agriculture graduates who have a demonstrated record of outstanding accomplishments, made significant contributions to their professions or to society, and have high potential for future professional growth. Honored alumni from AgEcon:

F. Howard Halderman, BS ‘88, of Wabash, Ind., president of Halderman Farm Management Service Inc., a third-generation, Indiana-based farm management and real estate organization that provides management services to more than 650 farms with a market value in excess of $1 billion in the United States, Canada and South America. He presented a seminar entitled, “Leading a Farm Management and Real Estate Business”. http://www.halderman.com/farm-management.php

Del Unger, BS ’84, of Carlisle, Ind., owner of Del Unger Farms, a 5,000-acre farm in southwestern Indiana. Unger was chosen as Sullivan County’s Outstanding Young Farmer in 1985, the same year Unger Farms hosted 60 Brazilian farmers. He hosted the Indiana Farm Management Tour in 1996 and 2011. Unger judges beef competitions in Indiana and Illinois. He also serves as the superintendent of the Sullivan County 4-H Beef Project. He presented a seminar entitled, “Building a Farm Production Business on Economic Principles”. http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/extension/programs/FT_files/2011_Farm_Tour_Profiles.pdf

36th Annual Snyder Lecture & Awards

The 36th Annual Snyder Lecture and Awards took place on April 18, 2012. Established in 1975 as a memorial to a deceased distinguished faculty member, the James C. Snyder Memorial Lecture is the Department of Agricultural Economics’ signature event held to support continuation of the professional efforts established by James Snyder during his brief but brilliant career. The event was attended by the late Dr. Snyder’s spouse, Mary Ruth Snyder. The Snyder guest lecturer was Dr. Robert Paarlberg from Wellesley College who presented “The Culture War in Agriculture – Who’s Winning?” To view a video of his speech: http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/files/snyder2012.mov
Following the lecture Ken Foster presented both Department and APEX awards:

**Graduate Poster Competition**

1st place-$200, Jing Liu: “The Role of Irrigation in Determining the Global Land Use Impacts of Biofuels”


3rd place-$100, Clay Davis: “Modified Unit Commitment in Response to Wind Forecasting Errors”

**Outstanding Master’s Thesis for 2011**


**Outstanding PhD Dissertation for 2011**

Miriam Otoo – “Key Factors Necessary for the Development of a Value-Added Cowpea Subsector in West Africa: The Case of Cowpea Flour”, Advisor: Joan Fulton

**Outstanding Undergraduates**

Freshman – Morgan Dawson
Sophomore – Travis Martin
Junior – Michael Baird
Senior – Danielle Haynes

**Outstanding Service Awards**

Neisha Kennedy received the Outstanding Clerical Service Award for her work in the business office managing the department travel request and reimbursement process, gift and cash processing, bi-weekly payroll, credit card and PRF reconciliation processes. [https://ag.purdue.edu/agecon/Pages/Profile.aspx?strAlias=nkennedy&intDirDeptID=4]

Jill Hufford received the Outstanding AP Service Award for her work in the business office managing faculty accounts, graduate student payroll, PARS, workshops, credit cards, telephones and billing, and supervising the business office clerical staff. [https://ag.purdue.edu/agecon/Pages/Profile.aspx?strAlias=jhufford&intDirDeptID=4]

**APEX Awards**

In recognition of those individuals with a strong connection to the Department of Agricultural Economics who have made outstanding contributions in their fields, Dr. Ken Foster presented Apex Awards to four individuals, representing the convergence of accomplishment in the lives of the honorees. “These four outstanding individuals are great examples of the impact that graduates from our department have on society, the agricultural economy and their communities,” said Ken Foster, head of the Department. “Their influence runs the gamut from providing educational opportunities for our students, improving the livelihoods of rural stakeholders, and framing policy that makes U.S. agriculture more competitive.

Nadine McGowan, Indiana Division Manager, Vector Marketing/Cutco Cutlery. Nadine McGowan is the Hoosier Division Manager for Vector Marketing & Cutco Cutlery. Nadine started working with the company in October 1998. She was promoted to Branch Manager in the summer of 2001, where she finished #1 in the company and won a silver cup. Nadine has broken 3 National records and currently holds two Region records for sales. She is a 6 time Academy of Champions achiever, 3 time SLC speaker and has promoted over 50 managers with the company. Nadine was inducted into the company Hall of Fame in 2011 and now is responsible for over $24 million in career sales.

Jim Hicks, President and CEO, Jim Hicks and Company. Jim Hicks and Company is located in Brea, California. Jim’s company is a wholesale distributor of commercial fertilizers, serving the agricultural trade in the Western United States and Mexico. They have a small manufacturing plant located at Casa Grande, Arizona, and have liquid terminals in California, Arizona and New Mexico. Jim’s company was founded in 1982 with one employee and very little money. The business has consistently grown over the years and currently sells several hundred thousand tons of fertilizer per year.
Kip Tom, Managing Member, Tom Farms LLC and President, CEO, CereServ, Inc. In addition to being active in Agri-Business operations in Indiana for the past 39 years, Kip has also served as a crop production consultant to various companies in Argentina, Brazil and Chile. Today Kip leads finance, strategy and production operations for Tom Farms and CereServ in the U.S. and Argentina. Tom Farms is one of Monsanto’s largest seed producers and is also developing into one of Indiana’s largest grain commodity production businesses.

Felix Spinelli, Senior Economist, Resource Economics, Analysis and Policy Division, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Felix Spinelli is a senior agricultural economist with the USDA at the National Headquarters Staff (NHQ), Beltsville, MD. At NRCS, Felix is responsible for conducting staff analyses and was the team leader on all the benefit-cost analyses (BCAs) of the proposed Farm Bill mandated Agency programs including EQIP, CSP, WRP, FRPP.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Indiana Council for Economic Education

Each year the Indiana Council for Economic Education network provides professional development to over 2,000 Indiana teachers and youth educators on a variety of economic and financial education topics. The ICEE is the presenter of education programs such as the Indiana Stock Market Game; the Indiana Economics Challenge; the Economic Concept Calendar; as well as numerous awards for teachers, students, and supporters. The ICEE is an affiliate of the national Council for Economic Education. This year the ICEE hosted the 12th annual Econ Camp on October 9 - 10 at Camp Tecumseh near Brookston. The popular Econ Camp is for high school teachers of economics to review economic concepts, share best teaching practices and relate concepts to current public policy, and to promote economics curriculum at the high school level. Among the events and presentations, Executive Director, Jeffrey Sanson and Assistant Director, J.W. Fansler will discuss “Entrepreneurship Economics” and “EconEd Link and Student Virtual Economics”. Otto Doering and Philip Abbott will lead a panel discussion on “Economic Issues Discussion: 2012 Presidential Election”. www.econed-in.org/econcamp.asp.

Center for Food and Agricultural Business

During fiscal year 2012, the Center for Food and Agricultural Business under the direction of Allan Gray continued its tradition of developing and delivering high-quality management education programs for agribusiness professionals from all sectors of agribusiness. Through more than 130 days of programming, the center facilitated learning activities that exposed participants to different points of view, allowing them to gain new perspectives. The center’s open enrollment programs drew 247 agribusiness managers from 30 states, and its custom programs reached 676 professionals from 33 states as well as countries spanning the globe. For more information about the center, visit: www.agecon.purdue.edu/cab

CAB Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The center celebrated its 25th anniversary on October 4, 2011, with a reception in Purdue’s Krannert drawing room. More than 150 people attended. Highlights included a slideshow of the center’s past and present activities and speeches from Ken Foster, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics; Jay Akridge, dean of the College of Agriculture; Allan Gray, director of the Center for Food and Agricultural Business; Dr. Dave Downey, the center’s executive director, and Betty Jones-Bliss, an associate director at the center.

CAB Staff
**MS-MBA in Food and Agribusiness Management**

For more than 10 years, agribusiness managers who want to earn a graduate degree while continuing to work full time have looked to the Purdue University-Indiana University MS-MBA in Food and Agribusiness Management. It is the only distance-delivered, dual-degree program in the United States with a focus on the food and agribusiness industries, and its rigorous curriculum prepares students for the challenges they will face as future industry leaders. For more information visit: www.agecon.purdue.edu/agribusiness

**Farm Management Tour**

The 80th Annual Farm Management Tour was held June 20 – 21, 2012 in Marshall County. Host farms, Homestead Dairy, Pickin Patch, Inc., Stackhouse Farms, and Marvin Houin Farms welcomed record crowds, shared their keys to successful farm management, explained how the management of their operations is changing in response to the agricultural economy and evolving family circumstances, and explained recent innovations in production practices and adoption of new technology. The Indiana Farm Management Tour is a cooperative effort of the Department of Agricultural Economics, the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and the Indiana Farm Management Association. If you would like to learn more about the Indiana Farm Management Association, Inc., please contact Alan Miller, Farm Business Management Specialist, millerwa@purdue.edu.

To read about the profiles of the 2012 host farms, and information about the 2013 Tour to be held in Clinton County, please go to our website: [http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/commercialag/progevents/tour.html](http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/commercialag/progevents/tour.html)

**Center for Commercial Agriculture**

The 45th Annual Top Farmer Crop Workshop was held July 9 – 11, 2012 in Pfendler Hall on campus. The workshop, offered by the Center for Commercial Agriculture (CCA) under the leadership of Director, Brent Gloy, is a management and technology-focused program that allows participants to evaluate their farming operation and chart a course for the future. It is unique in its focus on the business side of farming, drawing on presenters from academia and agribusiness, and with farmer producers vetting their own ideas and relating their experiences to their farmer peers. This workshop is one of the most successful and longest-running programs geared specifically for farmers. For more information view the CCA website: [http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/commercialag/](http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/commercialag/)

**Center for Global Trade Analysis**

The Global Trade Analysis Project, a global network of researchers and policy-makers who analyze international policy issues, includes data on bilateral trade patterns and production, consumption and intermediate use of commodities and services.

The GTAP database of worldwide economic information used to evaluate trade agreements between nations has been expanded to include data from 15 more countries in an updated version just released. It is used by governments, international institutions, the private sector and economists at universities. The database began 20 years ago with information on 13 countries. With the release of GTAP 8 Data Base this month, it now has data on more than 120 countries. “The new release is significant because it brings in many new countries, including a big part of the Middle East,” said Thomas Hertel, executive director of the center and a distinguished professor of agricultural economics. Full story: [http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/general/2012/120326HertelGTAP.html](http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/general/2012/120326HertelGTAP.html)

GTAP held its 15th Annual Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 25-29, 2012. The annual meeting was attended by 30 leading economists and policy advisors representing institutions in Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the United States.

The 2012 Short Course in Dynamic Global Trade Analysis was held at the Institute of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg, Denmark from July 20-25, 2012.

The objective of this course was to introduce participants to a dynamic model designed for conducting global trade analysis in an applied general equilibrium setting.

For additional information about the center: [http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/](http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/)
OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Ag Council Team

The Department of Agricultural Economics is thrilled to be leading the College of Agriculture. The newly elected 2012 Ag Council Officer Team includes Brooklynne Slabaugh (Leesburg, IN), President – Sales and Marketing and Ag Communications Junior; Doug Wicker (Milroy, IN), Vice President – Agricultural Economics Junior; Justin Schroeder (Mount Vernon, IN), Treasurer – Agribusiness Management Sophomore; Kyle Alcorn (Bainbridge, IN), Secretary – Agricultural Economics Junior; and Michelle Dirksen (Bryant, IN), Public Relations – Agricultural Economics Junior.

AgEcon’s Purdue Pete

Layne Koester, a junior in Agricultural Economics, has been a Boilermaker fan his entire life. He even wrote in his admission letter to Purdue that his goal was to become Purdue Pete! Last February, Layne decided it was time to make that dream a reality. As Purdue Pete, he is thrilled to raise the Purdue Spirit at sporting events.

Students Serve in Haiti

Six Agricultural Economics students traveled during Purdue’s Winter Break to serve in Haiti. This was the inaugural year for the Animal and Food Security Service Learning Program Haiti which was developed by Purdue’s International Programs in Agriculture. The students worked with Heifer International with goats and cattle, interacted with children at an orphanage, and completed projects in soil fertility and crop science with Universite Antenor Firmin. The students (Thomas Atchley, Senior – Westport, IN; Ann Bechman, Junior – West Lafayette, IN; Sarah Jordan, Senior – Richmond, IN; Travis Martin, Sophomore – Logansport, IN; Laura Stockwell, Junior - Hudson, IN; and Joey Tempel, Senior – Tennyson, IN) learned a great deal during their travels.

Five Attend the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference

Five AgEcon students attended the conference in Grand Rapids, MI, on February 18-20, 2012. All representing Purdue’s Collegiate Chapter, included Laura Donaldson (junior – Agribusiness Management - Kentland, IN); Cory Harris (sophomore – Agricultural Economics & Political Science – Portland, IN); Olivia Luse (sophomore – Agricultural Economics – Lebanon, IN); Micah Matlock (freshman – Agribusiness Management – New Castle, IN); and Leo Muhlenkamp (senior – Agricultural Economics & ASM – Bryant, IN).
AgEcon Students Celebrate National Ag Day in D.C.

Four Agricultural Economics Students and an Agricultural Economics alumnus celebrated National Ag Day on March 8, 2012 in Washington D.C.: Morgan Dawson, a freshman from Underwood, IN; Michael Baird, a junior from Scottsburg, IN; Blake Stowers, an alumnus from Frankfort, IN; Yang “Jack” Zhou, a sophomore from China; and Alicia Keller, a senior from Corfu, NY. Four of the five received funding from the Agriculture Future of America as part of the 40 students selected nationwide to share the value of agriculture, and Alicia received funding from the National Agri-Marketing Association as a member of the 2012 NAMA Team. They spent some of their time in training sessions to better prepare them to understand policy and regulations. To read more: http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/news/pressrelease_agday.asp

Student Government President

Joe Rust, a sophomore majoring in agribusiness management, was elected Purdue Student Government president, leading his competitors by more than 1,000 votes. Running on a campaign theme of bringing the campus together under a “One Purdue” motto, as president, Joe said he hopes to move forward with the plans for free student legal services. The creation of a 24-hour study area is also a priority. Joe said his biggest hope for his presidential term is to increase the connection among students on campus. To read more about this emerging young leader: http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/Connections/NOW/Pages/StudentPresident.aspx

COA Senators

Cory Harris, a sophomore in Agricultural Economics and Political Science, and Kalyn Rose, a sophomore in Agricultural Economics, were elected to serve as the College of Agriculture Senators. Cory and Kalyn raised campaign funds from their home town Farm Bureaus, FFA Chapters, and other community organizations.

Outstanding COA Sophomore

Travis Martin was named the Outstanding Sophomore in the College of Agriculture. Travis is majoring in agricultural economics. In the summer of 2011 Martin was a development intern with the Indiana FFA Foundation, where he was on a team that managed the planning and execution of the state convention programming. He also trained newly elected state FFA officers in facilitation and leadership development strategies and advised the planning and setup of educational exhibits at the FFA pavilion at the Indiana State Fair

Six Agricultural Economics Students Selected As Ag Ambassadors

Six of the ten recently selected 2012-13 College of Ag Ambassadors are students from the Department of Agricultural Economics. These students assist the College of Agriculture by leading campus tours for parents, visitors, and prospective students; giving presentations about careers in agriculture and college life; representing the College of Agriculture at information fairs; and hosting alumni and dignitaries at school events. The six students include Morgan Dawson (sophomore – Underwood, IN); Ethan Demerly (sophomore – Lafayette, IN); Elizabeth Lecher (sophomore – Greensburg, IN); Sarah Mueller (freshman – Wilkinson, IN); Morgan Murff (junior – Indianapolis, IN); and Erin Whittaker (sophomore – West Lafayette, IN).

Ag Futures of America Student Advisory Team

Jackson Troxel, has been named to the Ag Futures of America (AFA) Student Advisory Team for 2012-2013. The AFA Student Advisory Team serves as organization ambassadors, assists staff in the planning and facilitation of the AFA Leaders Conference and related events, and acts as student advisors for the organization.
Two Receive University Level Awards

Two Agricultural Economics juniors were recognized for their leadership on the Purdue campus by two university level awards: Maria Lunik received $3000 from the Class of 1937 Scholarship and $3375 from the Charles O. McGaughey Leadership Award. Laura Donaldson also received $3375 from the Charles O. McGaughey Leadership Award.

Three Selected for Mortar Board

Three Department of Agricultural Economics students were selected to the 2012-13 Mortar Board class. Mortar Board members are selected for their superior scholarship, dedicated service to the university community, and outstanding and constant leadership. Laura Donaldson (Kentland, IN) is very enthusiastic about serving the 2012-13 Mortar Board Barbara Cook Chapter as President. Jackson Troxel (Hanna, IN) and Breanna Walker (Flint, MI) as a member and a committee chairperson.

Murff Receives Leadership Award

The Purdue University Black Caucus of Faculty and Staff honored more than 170 African-American undergraduate students on April 14, 2012 at an awards program. The 37th annual awards program presented students with awards for academic performance and leadership. AgEcon sophomore, Morgan Murff, received a Black Caucus of Faculty and Staff Service/Leadership Award.

Haase Named Big-Ten Pitcher of the Year

Purdue baseball was rewarded for its regular-season conference title and 40-win campaign with a bevy of postseason All-Big Ten honors, highlighted by Big Ten Pitcher of the Year award for team co-leader, Joseph Haase, an AgEcon senior from Knightstown, IN.

NAMA Team wins Choice Award

AgEcon students competed against 28 other universities from the United States and Canada at the National Agri-Marketing Association competition in Kansas City, Missouri. The 2012 NAMA team was mentored by Assistant Professor, Elizabeth Yeager and marketed a fictional gluten-free beer product. The Purdue Team received the NAMA Choice Award for Students’ Favorite Product. Team members: Mathew Barnard, Lori Beeker, Christine Flaspohler, Brittany Haltom, Jared Jacobs, Apeksha Kaul, Alicia Keller, Addison Lopp, Brittany Miller, Krista Morehouse and Courtney Smith.

Five Graduate Students on IAMA Case Study Team

At the 22nd Annual World Food and Agribusiness Forum and Symposium held in Shanghai, China, AgEcon graduate students participated in the Student Case Competition. Guided by Associate Professor, Corinne Alexander, the student team of David Ortega, Yangxuan Liu, Jiangyi Qian, Zhihua Hu, John Lai and Michael Veldstra was one of four chosen to advance to the finals.

Jena Thompson’s M.S. thesis was selected to be the Purdue nominee for the 2012 Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Outstanding M.S. thesis for, Corn Stover for Bioenergy Production: Cost Estimates and Farmer Supply Response”. Jena’s advisor was Wally Tyner.

David Perkis was recognized as a Policy Maker in Purdue’s “5 Students Who . . .” feature for his research in the area of sustainability and how it interfaces with economics through the social, ecological and financial consequences of economic activity. His ongoing research and what he has already published speak to key energy policy issues and current debate. http://www.purdue.edu/fivestudents/policy/index.html

David Ortega was profiled in Purdue Today as part of the April 2012 Graduate Student Appreciation Week. The introduction to the week praised Purdue’s graduate students as “the scholars, researchers and mentors of the future.” To read David’s profile: http://www.purdue.edu/gsa/ortega.html
DEPARTMENT EVENTS AND HONORS

**Jing Liu** received the A. H. Ismail Interdisciplinary Program Doctoral Research Travel Award. The A.H. Ismail Interdisciplinary Program Doctoral Research Travel Award competition provides funds to assist students in the presentation of their doctoral research at a national or international conference.

On March 28th, 2012, **Alicia English** was named as a recipient of the D. Woods Thomas Memorial Fund Award to Support International Activities. She received the award for her proposal to work in international development in the area of energy modeling, specifically working in Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo.

The annual Celebration of Graduate Student Teaching Excellence on Wednesday, April 25, included the presentation of an award to graduate student, **Stephanie Rosch**, as the Department of Agricultural Economics recipient of the Committee for the Education of Teaching Assistants Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Francis Darko** received a scholarship from the Association of International Ag & Rural Development to attend the annual conference and the annual Future Leaders Forum in Washington, D.C.

**DEPARTMENT INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS**


**Janet Ayres** received the Carroll County Charles Carroll Award for Outstanding Leadership.

**Joseph Balagtas** was appointed to the editorial board of Agribusiness: an International Journal.

**Otto Doering** was reappointed by the EPA Administrator to the EPA’s Science Advisory Board.

**H. Holly Wang** has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Steering Committee of the University Senate. Holly also received an Emerald Literati Network Award for Excellence, Outstanding Paper.

**Faculty Service Awards**

40 years, **Otto Doering**

35 years **Janet Ayres**, **Timothy Baker**, **James Binkley**, **Craig Dobbins**, **Wally Tyner**

30 years, **Freddie Barnard**

20 years, **Michael Boehlje**

15 years, **Joan Fulton**

Administrative Professional Staff Promotions: **J. LeeAnn Williams**, **Aissa Good**, **Alla Golub**, **Andrew Oppy**, **Penny Pava**, **Danielle Quirk**

**NEW STAFF**

**Michael Delgado, Assistant Professor**

Michael Delgado received his Ph.D. in economics from Binghamton University. His expertise is in semiparametric and nonparametric econometric modeling, environmental economics, and economic growth. He is particularly interested in developing and applying generalized nonparametric regression models and tests to relevant economic policy issues to help refine the policies that are being developed to better manage the environment and to improve economic growth rates in developing countries. His current research focuses on economic policy issues that include evaluating the success of voluntary pollution abatement programs, consumer demand for hybrid cars, and the effects of education and institutions on economic growth rates.

**Michael Gunderson, Associate Professor and Associate Director of Research, CAB**

Dr. Michael Gunderson joined Purdue University as an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics in August 2012. In addition to his responsibilities teaching in Purdue's undergraduate and graduate classrooms on campus, Michael leads a quantitative methods course in the MS-MBA in Food and Agribusiness Management. He is also heavily involved in designing, developing and delivering non-credit, professional development programs through the department’s Center for Food and Agricultural Business.
Michael serves as the center’s associate director of research, as well. After earning his doctorate from Purdue in 2006, Michael spent six years in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida (UF). Michael’s research focuses on understanding the factors that influence the financial success of agribusiness firms.

**Farzad Taheripour, Research Assistant Professor**

Dr. Farzad Taheripour is a Research Assistant Professor and an associate of the Center for Global Trade Analysis (GTAP). Dr. Taheripour’s research interests are in the areas of energy, natural resources, macro and microeconomic modeling, and econometrics. He has published several papers and book chapters in these areas in recent years. His current research focuses on developing macro and microeconomic models to analyze and quantify economic and environmental consequences of biofuel production and policy. He received his Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2006. His Ph.D. dissertation was selected as an outstanding dissertation by the Department of Consumer and Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Elizabeth Yeager, Assistant Professor**

Dr. Elizabeth Yeager holds Ph.D. and B.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University. Elizabeth’s research and teaching activities are primarily related to agribusiness management and marketing. Elizabeth is the faculty advisor of the Purdue University NAMA team. Elizabeth’s dissertation research examined the impact of risk and risk preferences on cost- and revenue-based efficiency measures. Other research interests include firm productivity, competitive advantage of firms, and the production and marketing of value-added products.

**J.W. Fansler, Assistant Director ICEE**

J.W. Fansler is the Assistant Director of the Indiana Council for Economic Education (ICEE). His primary responsibilities include coordinating youth and educational programs such as the Indiana Stock Market Game, supporting K-12 economics teachers from around the state, and assisting with ICEE development through various fundraising efforts. Prior to joining the ICEE, J.W. worked for Purdue University Extension as a Small Business Development Specialist in Clinton County and an Extension Educator in Scott County.

**Wendy Kincaid, Research Account Coordinator**

Wendy Kincaid joined the Department of Agricultural Economics as the Research Account Coordinator for the Center for Global Trade Analysis (GTAP) in September 2012. Her primary responsibility will be to manage the Center’s research portfolio. Her other duties will include documenting and promoting the center’s research impact, documenting strategic planning activities, oversight of the GTAP technical paper series, analysis and reporting of the center’s full financial portfolio, and monitoring funding sources for the center’s graduate staff.

**Michael Langemeier, Director of Cropping Systems Economics and Assoc. Director, CCA**

Michael Langemeier joined Purdue University and the Center for Commercial Agriculture in July 2012. Michael’s Extension and research interests include cropping systems, benchmarking, strategic management, cost of production, and technical and economic efficiency. Most of Michael’s research has focused on the efficiency of farms and ranches, and crop and livestock enterprise production costs and efficiency. He has also conducted research related to tillage systems, biomass crops and the tradeoff between crop rotation profitability and water quality. Prior to arriving at Purdue, Michael spent 22 years in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. He is currently involved in Agribenchmark, an international benchmarking group centered in Germany. Michael received a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His doctorate is from Purdue University. Michael’s family operates farms in eastern Nebraska.
Abbey Moorman, Event Manager, CAB

Abbey Moorman serves as an Event Manager in the Center for Food and Agricultural Business. In this role, she is responsible for managing the logistical details pertaining to hosting a center seminar, workshop or conference. Abbey manages these programs on campus, statewide, nationally and even internationally depending on the location and needs of her clients.

Katricia Sanchez, Event Manager, CAB

Katricia serves as an Event Manager in the Center for Food and Agricultural Business. In this role, she works as a team with a project manager to develop and deliver center programs. Katricia is responsible for managing logistical arrangements pertaining to the center’s conferences, meetings and events. She manages these programs on campus, statewide, nationally and even internationally. Katricia assists with planning the logistical details for the MS-MBA program including admissions, residencies and graduation. Katricia also serves as the AgEcon Departmental Event Manager.

Jeffrey Sanson, Executive Director, ICEE

Jeffrey Sanson is the Executive Director for the Indiana Council for Economic Education. In this position he oversees a viable network of 11 university centers for economics education located throughout Indiana. Jeff holds a BA in Social Studies Education and a MS.Ed in Educational Studies (International Education) from Purdue University. He is currently completing a PhD in Learning Design and Technology at Purdue University.

David Widmar, Research Associate, CAB

David Widmar is a research associate in the Center for Food and Agricultural Business. He is a graduate of Purdue’s master’s program in agricultural economics. David’s research within the center will focus on helping agribusinesses improve their decision-making process and business performance by understanding and examining the key issues impacting the agribusiness sector.

OBITUARY

David Howard Bache - June 4, 1924 - January 10, 2012

David Bache was the fourth of six children born to Thomas Cartwright Bache and Edith Louise Davies in the coal mining community of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. His parents were grocers and farmers and his childhood spent assisting with both ventures affected the rest of his life. Despite a difficult family life and death of his mother at age five, he found mentors and surrogate parents in his maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Elmy Bache, and among his father’s employees, and always credited these people for shaping him and his life, and instilling the values of honesty and the joy of work. He came to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, to study agriculture, and here he met the McKee family—Professor James Hugh McKee, his wife Emma, and their daughter Emma “Molly” McKee, whom he married on March 9, 1945. David enlisted in the military during WW II and after his military discharge, David and Molly returned to Pennsylvania with their infant son, William, to manage and work on Maywood Farms, owned by his father. David and Molly loved farming and the family grew; daughters Molly “Jane”, Susan, and later Sally. When David’s farming career ended, the family returned to West Lafayette and Purdue, moving into the McKee household, where David and Molly both lived out the rest of their lives under the McKee family roof. David acquired a PhD in Agricultural Economics in 1968, and secured a position on the faculty of Purdue University, primarily working with Purdue’s Agricultural Extension Service. His special area of expertise was in the economics of pork production. He received the Hovde award in 1985. His work was also recognized by awards from: the Indiana Farm Management Association, the Purdue Extension Specialists Association, the American Agricultural Economics Association, and the Indiana Pork Producers. David retired from Purdue University in 1988. After the untimely death of Molly in 1986, David married Mary Eleanor Shoaff, and they created a lasting marriage of mutual affection and respect. David was graced with a keen intellect and a gentle wit. He would rather work than play; always the farmer at heart, he loved maintaining his West Lafayette property. His devotion to family history inspired him to research the genealogy of both sides of his children’s family. He is survived by his wife Mary Eleanor Bache of Asheville, NC; two siblings; four children; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.
David Downey Receives AFIA Distinguished Service Award

Dr. David Downey has been named the 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) from the American Feed Industry Association. Dr. Downey is the founder and executive director of the Center for Agricultural Business (CAB) at Purdue University. He was honored at the October 2011 American Feed Industry Association’s Board of Directors meeting in Kansas City, Mo. AFIA’s Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor the organization bestows on members. Since 1981, only 27 individuals have received this elite award for outstanding, long-term support to AFIA and the entire feed industry.

Retirement of Dr. George Patrick

The Department feted George Patrick on February 12, 2012 in the Krannert Drawing Room in honor of his retirement from the Department of Agricultural Economics. Dr. Patrick joined the faculty in May 1973. He received his Masters (1966) and PhD (1970) degrees in Agricultural Economics from Purdue. Risk attitudes and risk management have been the areas of focus in Professor Patrick’s career. He pioneered the development of stochastic simulation models of farm firms. Recent activities have focused on the interactions between crop insurance, pre-harvest pricing and other responses to risk. This research has been the cornerstone of Dr. Patrick’s “Risk Management in Your County” Extension program. He has directed the Purdue Income Tax School since 1976 and has become a national leader in the development of educational materials, especially with respect to the effects of tax laws on farmers. Materials developed are shared among some 28 states and nearly 30,000 tax professionals through the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, Inc. Dr. Patrick has provided leadership in a variety of departmental, regional and national positions. Dr. Patrick was a founding Director of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) Extension Section and also served as President. He serves on the National Farm Income Advisory Committee that works with the IRS to improve Pub. 225, The Farmer’s Tax Guide, and meets with the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation, having served on this Committee since 1981. He represented Purdue University on the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee from 1988 to 2011. Dr. Patrick is a founding Director of the non-profit Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, Inc., and served as President of the Board of Directors from 2001 to 2008. Dr. Patrick was the Extension Coordinator in the Agricultural Economics Department from 2002 to 2010. He won the Western Agricultural Economics Association Group Extension Award in 2011, and the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Certificate of Distinction in 2012. To read more about Dr. Patrick: http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/directory/history/PatrickGeorge.asp

Sam Cordes Retirement

A retirement celebration was held for Dr. Sam Cordes on August 25, 2011. Dr. Cordes joined Purdue University in 2003 and served as Associate Vice Provost for Engagement, Co-Director, Center for Regional Development; Assistant Director and Program Leader for Cooperative Extension, and Professor of Agricultural Economics. Dr. Cordes’ programmatic focus at Purdue was in regional economic development and rural community and economic development. The programs he led received national awards and accolades and significant external funding from both Federal and state sources. Dr. Cordes played an active role in the creation and development of several major organizations and initiatives, including the Purdue Center for Regional Development. To read more about Sam Cordes see: www.pcrd.purdue.edu/documents/bios/Cordes.pdf and to learn about the PCRD: www.pcrd.purdue.edu

Harlan Day Retirement and Special Award

Harlan Day retired as ICEE Executive Director November 30, 2011. He had been the Executive Director of the Indiana Council for Economic Education for the past 14 plus years and prior to that was an Economic Education Consultant for the Indiana Department of Education for 13 years. Before his retirement, Harlan was presented with the “Seal of Indiana” by State Representative Sheila Klinker at the Indiana Council for Economic Education Annual Awards for Excellence program to honor him for his many years of exemplary service to Indiana teachers, students, educators and citizens.

John Connor received the 2012 Antitrust Writing Award by the Institute of Competition Law for the Best Academic Anticompetitive Practices Article for “Has the European Commission become more severe in punishing cartels? Effects of the 2006 Guidelines.”
Steve Erickson Scholarship Celebration  
November 15, 2012

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  Scholarship Announcement & Seminar in Krannert Auditorium  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  Reception in Krannert Drawing Room

STEVEN P. ERICKSON (1949-1997)

Professor Steve Erickson was a dedicated teacher, advisor, and friend of Purdue students. He joined the department in 1976 after completing his B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics at Purdue and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He served the department from 1976 to 1996 in a number of capacities, including Assistant Department Head for Teaching.

He received many teaching and counseling awards, including the Outstanding Agriculturalist Award from Illinois State University (1976), Best Purdue Agricultural Economics Teacher (1979), Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher in the Purdue School of Agriculture (1983), Alpha Gamma Rho Outstanding Purdue Teacher (1979 and 1984), the American Agricultural Economic Association's Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award (1992), Outstanding Counselor in the School of Agriculture (1993), the Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Purdue Undergraduate Teacher (1995), and was posthumously elected a Founding Member of the Purdue Teaching Academy (1997).

Steve was a major contributor to the growth and development of the department's agribusiness management program during the 1970s-1990s. His work in financial management of agribusinesses and retail food merchandising was widely recognized. He was co-author of the popular text, Agribusiness Management, and the author of over 150 professional publications. He was a leader in developing computer applications for business and classroom training. In addition to consulting with many of the leading agribusiness management firms, he participated in numerous executive education programs and was a frequent speaker at food and agribusiness industry meetings.