

Purdue Agricultural Economics Newsletter

Keeping Track

January 2017

Calendar of Events:

January 9	Spring semester starts
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr Day (no classes)
January 23	Last day to cancel a course without it appearing on record
February 6	Last day to withdraw a course with a grade of W or to add/modify a course
March 6	Second eight week courses begin
March 13-18	Spring Break
April 29	Classes end
May 1-6	Final exams
May 9	Grades due
May 12-14	Commencement

Photo of the Month First Annual AGECE Ugly Sweater Contest



Congratulations

Raymond Florax has joined the Editorial Board of the new books series *Spatial Econometrics and Spatial Statistics* published by Elsevier.

Profiles in Teaching: [Nicole Olynk Widmar](#)

Nicole Olynk Widmar, Agricultural Economics

"Teaching should extend far beyond the classroom walls. Different learning environments, learning styles and communication modes challenge students and teachers alike."
—Nicole Olynk Widmar

Profiles in Teaching focuses each month on an individual whose work reflects Purdue Agriculture's commitment to learning.

About the Professor

Nicole Olynk Widmar, an Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, knows exactly how much work it takes to bring a career dream to life—and this understanding factors into her reason for teaching.

"I wanted to teach so I could empower my students to achieve their dreams—beyond what they may have thought is possible," Widmar said. "I wanted to help others be successful according to their own definition of success."

Growing up, Widmar did not live on a farm, but she has dedicated most of her professional life to supporting farmers. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she contributes to Purdue Extension, advising farmers in making financial decisions.

Widmar took to her Animal Sciences studies at Alfred State College and Cornell University in New York with as much passion as any other agriculture student. And she didn't stop there. Widmar continued to focus on agriculture as she earned her master's and doctoral degrees at Michigan State University. It wasn't long before she fell in love with the entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to family business that exist in American agriculture.

Teaching Philosophy

Widmar teaches AGEC 31000: Farm Organization, a basic farm management course that shares subject matter with much of her Extension work.

"In Extension, we find the question," Widmar said. "We can work on how to answer that and what tools you need to address it in the classroom and through research."

The course focuses on maximizing after-tax returns for farmers and on-farm decision-

making. Students learn how farms are best protected legally, organizationally and through farm decision-making criteria.

Widmar feels the greatest contribution she can make to her students' education is teaching them that learning is a lifelong process. She believes memorization of facts is secondary to the ability to digest new information, make connections to existing knowledge and incorporate new findings into decisions.

"I help students internalize not just the *what*, in terms of facts and figures, but the *how*, in terms of application," Widmar said.

Widmar makes sure her lectures are relevant to current situations in agriculture. This can be the hardest part of her teaching agenda because the industry changes and advances rapidly—but she says it is also the most exciting part.

"The best moments are when I bring knowledge from the students into the industry and vice versa," Widmar said. "It is rewarding to be working with an industry group on Wednesday evening and then share their insights with AGEC 310 on Thursday morning."

Course Structure

Widmar uses various approaches in her classroom to facilitate communication with students in ways most comfortable to them, but also challenges students to stretch themselves using new instructional methods. She incorporates face-to-face discussion, traditional lectures, presentations, and moderated online or in-class discussion forums into her class.

"Even in the most traditional class setting, I feel it's best if information exchange takes place with constant feedback; information delivered by peers can be as impactful, if not more so, than that delivered by the instructor," she said.

However, Widmar says a passionate teacher who truly cares about her subject area is the most essential fixture in any classroom.

"I feel that my excitement and enthusiasm for my subject area, as well as confidence and honesty in the classroom, contribute to my students' educational experience," Widmar said.

By Emma Hopkins and Jessica Harsh

Thought You Would Like to Know:

Proposal title: "Coal-power plants rejuvenated with biomass: An economic, social, and environmental sustainable transition to clean power"

PI: Michael Wetzstein

CoPIs: Sesmero, Olynk-Widmar, Preckel

Award amount: \$500,000

Funding agency: USDA-NIFA

Departmental Seminars

Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Field
28-Oct	Marin Bocic	UofMinnesota	Food/Nutrition
11-Nov	Pierre Merel	UC Davis	IO/agricultural supply
18-Nov	Roberto Protil	U of Vicosa, Brazil	Modelling of Ag Systems
2-Dec	Tim Richards	ASU	IO
9-Dec	Scott Swinton	MSU	Water pollution
16-Dec	Ed Balistreri	Colorado School of mines	Trade
3-Feb	Brian Roe	OSU	Food Economics
17-Feb	Ariel Ortiz Bobea	Cornell	Climate change and agriculture
24-Feb	Travis Lybbert	UC Davis	Development Economics
10-Mar	David Just	Cornell	Food/Nutrition
24-Mar	Rodolfo Nayga	UofArkansas	Food Policy
7-Apr	Snyder	TBD	TBD
14-Apr	Madhu Khanna	UIUC	Energy Economics
28-Apr	Marc Bellemare	UofMinnesota	Development Economics
5-May	Dan Chavas	Purdue - EAPS	Climate change and agriculture

News from Graduate Students:

Alma Cortes Selva will travel to Nicaragua.

News from AGEC Undergraduates:

See the success stories of our undergraduates at:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/agecon/Pages/Undergraduate-Success-Stories.aspx>

Presented papers, seminars and travel:

John Connor. Global Enforcement Directed at International Cartels: A Concise Introduction and Summary, Presentation at Session IV of the OECD's Global Forum on Competition, "Sanctions in Antitrust Cases," Paris, France, 2 December 2016.

Raymond Florax presented the keynote fellows lecture "Does Piketty Live in the US? Economic Mobility across Generations and Space" at the 63rd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, in Minneapolis/St. Paul in November.

In December **Raymond Florax** gave a talk entitled "Spatial Econometrics in a Causal Framework with Three Examples" at the World Bank in Washington DC.

Haqiqi, I., and Hertel, T.W., "A Decomposition of Economic Response to Water Shocks: Fundamental Adaptation Pathways for Sustainable Water Management" presented to the 2016 annual PIAMDDI workshop on Integrated Assessment Modeling, Stanford University, December 16-17, 2016.

Henderson, B., A. Golub, D. Pambudi, T. Hertel, C. Godde, M. Herrero, O. Cacho, H. Steinfeld, and P. Gerber. "Global Potential for Greenhouse Gas Mitigation in Ruminant Livestock Sectors". Paper presented by Alla Golub at the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium, Scottsdale, Arizona, Dec 11-13, 2016

Publications:

John Connor. Canada's International Cartel Enforcement: Keeping Score. *World Competition: Law and Economics Review* Vol. 39, No. 4 (October 2016): 553-558. [<http://ssrn.com/abstract=2869430>]

Bahador, A., **Haqiqi, I.**, "Economic Effects of Petroleum Export Reduction in Iran: Financial Computable General Equilibrium Approach". *Journal of Monetary and Banking Research* 8 (24), 251-284.

Manzour, D., **Haqiqi, I.**, "*Computable General Equilibrium Modelling for Energy Policy Analysis*". Institute for Management and Planning Studies, Tehran, 2016. [In Persian]

Gerald Shively and Ganesh Thapa, "Markets, transportation infrastructure, and food prices in Nepal", *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 17 November 2016, 10.1093/ajae/aaw086

Supply Response, Marginal Cost, and Soil Erosion Implications of Stover-based Biofuels by **Juan Sesmero, Michelle Pratt, and Wallace Tyner**. Paper listed among 5 highly-cited articles published in 2015 in *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/aep/highly_cited_articles.html

Positions, Career and Job Sites on the Internet:

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service/OSU: ag economist, southwest Oklahoma
University of Arizona: Assistant Professor
Auburn University

Purdue Extension Service: see website listed below

Career and Job Sites on the Internet

Purdue	http://www.purdue.edu/jobs
AAEA Job posting	http://www.aaea.org/employment.html
Academic Employment Network	http://www.academploy.com/
Agriculture Career Connection	http://www.ag-biz.com
Ag Careers	http://www.agcareers.com
Academic Position Network	http://www.apnjobs.com/
Academic Keys	http://www.academickeys.com
Community Colleges, misc	http://www.aacc.nche.edu/
ConAgra	(http://jobs.conagrafoods.com/
Chronicle of Higher Education	http://chronicle.merit.edu/jobs/
Education Jobs Page	http://www.nationajob.com/education
Employment/Resume posting	http://galaxy.einet.net/GJ/employment.html
EPA	http://jobs.quickhire.com/scripts/epa.exe
Foreign Ag Service	http://www.fao.org/VA/vac_en.htm
Government Career	http://www.jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/
National Job Bank	http://www.jobs.joe.org
USDA, Ag Research Service	http://ars.usda.gov http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/hr/lsgjobs.htm
U.S. International Trade Commission	http://usitc.gov

<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/323686300>

http://www.federalreserve.gov/careers/intern_research.htm

<http://www.fsdinternational.org/intlopps/programs/internships1>

<http://www.fcni.org/young/intern.htm>

<http://www.uschamber.com/careers/internships/default>

<http://www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=317257>

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTHRJOBS/0,,contentMDK:20515785~menuPK:1477648~pagePK:64262408~piPK:64262191~theSitePK:1058433,00.html>

For further information, see the Job Posting File in Room 651
Contact Lou Ann Baugh concerning information to be included in future issues of KT

As I get older I realize:

I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.

Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

When I was a child I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.

Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?