



In the MARGINS

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

A newsletter for Alumni and friends of the UW Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

Levin honored for support of agriculture

Jody Levin (MS AGECE 1997) has been recognized as this year's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources outstanding alumnus. Jody has been (and continues to be) an incredible supporter of our department and the college (she chairs the Ag College's Advisory Board and she has created an endowment to support AGECE MS students). Many in the department have been trying to nominate her for years — she's always been too humble to accept, but we twisted her arm this year. It is an honor well-deserved and long overdue.

She grew up on a Boulder-area ranch and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the College. In 2009 she launched Levin Strategic Resources, LLC, which specializes in government and public affairs representation. Services include lobbying and advocacy, community outreach, public relations and issue management. After graduation she served as a legislative aid in Sen. Craig Thomas's office, then later became a legislative assistant and then legislative director in 2001. She returned to Wyoming and served as the state's inaugural endan-

gered species coordinator for Gov. Jim Geringer. She then represented Qwest Communications as Wyoming director of public policy, then started her own company. Department Head Ben Rashford noted her work on helping ensure authorization of the 2000 Water Resources Development Act to the 2002 Farm Bill, among her other work and said, "She has been a staunch advocate for issues affecting Wyoming citizens, and her grassroots advocacy and community outreach have made her a trusted liaison between the people and government." Congratulations Jody! 🍷



Improve Employability with Travel

The Department currently has three international programs available to students, and it may not be too late to sign up.

Scottish Rural Spaces: From Ancient Fields and Forests to Modern Food Systems (HP4152). Earn 6 credits in a transdisciplinary course featuring modern Scottish food and livestock systems, literature, textiles, entrepreneurship, and policy. June 2019. Contact mehmke@uwyo.edu.

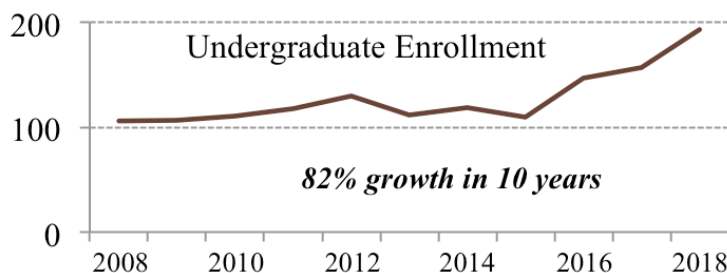
Australia's Export-led Ag Sector (AGECE 4890). Start in Brisbane and see multiple climate zones while visiting 15 ag operations, and a week at the University of New England. Wrap up in Sydney. August 2019. Contact foulke@uwyo.edu.

France's Food & Farm Culture (AGECE 4280). Stay with a host family and go on field trips and cultural visits while studying at a college in Angers, France. Now in its 33rd year! June 2019. Contact foulke@uwyo.edu.

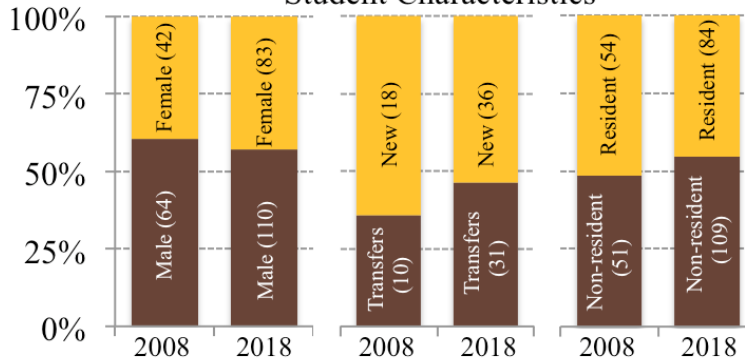
UW AgEcon alumni Martin Winchell, managing director with Schneider for Greater China and 2017 Outstanding Ag Alum, prefers to see international travel experience over internships when looking at job candidates. "Travel shows that you're sacrificing for your education," he says. Contact the program leader to inquire about open spots. 🍷



Ag Econ by the Numbers



Student Characteristics



Scholarships: \$166,563 awarded in 2018



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Agricultural and Applied Economics

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www.uwyo.edu/agecon
www.facebook.com/UWAgEcon

Department Head: Ben Rashford
Editor: Cole Ehmke

Faculty Profile: Tom Foulke

Our profile this issue is of Senior Research Scientist Tom Foulke, a long-time member of the department and general go-to person for insight on what's new and interesting in the world. We asked him to talk about his work as a multi-faceted research and teacher.
~The Editor.

I am somewhat of a chameleon, professionally. My career has evolved considerably since I came back to Ag Econ, 20 years ago this fall. I first arrived at UW Ag Econ for my master's degree fresh out of the Navy back in 1990. I finished up with a dual masters in Ag Economics and Water Resources. I started as a UW employee at Physical plant late in 1993 working at the Central Energy Plant (courtesy of my Navy background) and later Preventive Maintenance. I will be forever grateful to Tex Taylor and Roger Coupal for rescuing me and giving me the opportunity to work as an Ag Economist.

I was hired as an Information Specialist, whatever that means, but after a few years, I slid over to the Research Scientist track, where I have been ever since. My very first job was to build a budget for the nascent bison industry. Since then, I have worked on a broad swath of projects including everything from Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse and wolf predation impacts, through pipelines, coal gasification, and uranium to bio-diesel from camelina, and now first-grains.

Along the way, I have expanded my skillset to include teaching. A few years ago, I realized that there was no broad-based introductory investing class available to our students, so I developed one. I piloted it first as a one-credit class and then morphed it into three credits. It is now taught every spring, where I target graduating seniors, trying to nudge them onto the right track with their soon-to-be 401k's and saving and investing.

I have also grown intellectually with exposure to our international programs. Dannele Peck asked me to help her out with our France program in 2013. On my first trip, strikes in France forced me to re-route through Germany. I had to make a marathon cross-country trip (think *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*) to join the group. That was when I rediscovered my love of the French language, food and culture. Our philosophy is that international travel is a profoundly life-changing experience for our students. It gives them a different, more globalized, perspective of the world. One that is valuable in both their professional and their personal lives. I found that this is true for the faculty involved with the program as well. Twenty-

nineteen will be the program's 33rd year and my 8th trip to France (7th with the program and 3rd co-leading with Kristi Hansen).

An outgrowth of my experience in France is a new program in Australia. Nicole Ballenger and her colleague, Gary Griffith, from the University of New England (Armidale, NSW) had the idea to start a faculty-led trip down under and called for my assistance with organization. Nicole was unable to make the trip in 2017 due to health concerns, so I led *Australia's Export-led Ag Sector* myself. It was a huge success, due mainly to the engagement of our students. Because of their enthusiasm, the producers we met went out of their way to show us their operations and explain their perspectives on exporting to the global market place. We sometimes spent double our scheduled time talking about sugar cane, cattle, macadamia nuts and a host of other products. Recruitment has already begun for the 2019 trip.

My latest project is an attempt to build a niche industry in first-grains in Wyoming. This is a research and economic development project. It is applied supply-chain research. Working with a group of College of Ag faculty and private industry folks, we are trying to bring emmer wheat and spelt malts and flours to market in Wyoming and the Front Range. Our goal is to develop this niche at the brewpub and bakery/restaurant level (wholesale) and then spin off the result-

ing company to the private sector (creating jobs and income in the process). This is literally a ground up initiative, as the basic infrastructure (de-hulling and milling) does not exist in the state. Hopefully, you all will have the opportunity soon to try a micro-brew or a baked good made with Neolithic brand™ Wyoming grown first-grains. Check out our website at Neolithicbrand.com.



These are exciting times for me professionally. I am very grateful to have found a rewarding career and niche in the department. And for all my colleagues who have given me guidance and support over the years, thank you. ■

“One step away from *wild*”™

Tom can be reached at foulke@uwyo.edu and (307) 766-6205.

New Extension Bulletins Support Wyoming Agricultural Producers

New bulletins from the AgEcon department are now available, including a series on enterprise budgets for southeast Wyoming that estimate the costs for land, labor, capital and field operations for typical Wyoming crops:

- *Conventional Alfalfa (established)*, B-1315-1
- *Conventional Irrigated Dry Edible Beans*, B-1315-2
- *Conventional Irrigated Corn for Grain*, B-1315-3
- *Irrigated Sugarbeet*, B-1315-4
- *Conventional Dryland Winter Wheat/Fallow Rotation*, B-1315-5

- *No-till Dryland Winter Wheat/Fallow Rotation*, B-1315-6
- *Organic Dryland Winter Wheat/Fallow Rotation*, B-1315-7

Another new publication addresses the topic of price slide, the phenomenon that cattle prices tend to decrease as an animal's weight increases: *What is the Price Slide?*, B-1319.

The free bulletins are available for viewing or downloading by going to www.uwyo.edu/uwe and clicking on the Find a Publication link. Type in the title or number or search by department. The bulletins are available in PDF, HTML or ePub formats. ■



Obituary of Dr Larry Held

Dr. Larry J. Held, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wyoming, and long-time member of both the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and the Western Agricultural Economics Association, passed away on June 28, 2018, after battling a long illness. Larry was born on September 19, 1949, in Devils Lake, North Dakota and grew up on his family farm near Rock Lake, North Dakota.

Larry's passion for production agriculture led him to pursue and obtain both his B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics at North Dakota State University. Larry accepted an assistantship to pursue his doctoral work with Dr. Glenn Helmers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln after receiving his M.S. in 1973.

Upon completion of his PhD in 1977, Dr. Held accepted a teaching and research position at the University of Wyoming in what was then the Department of Agricultural Economics. His position responsibilities focused on the area of Farm and Ranch Management. Dr. Held's research examined the economics of sustainable integrated livestock and cropping systems, precision farming, decision-making under risk and uncertainty, and factors affecting costs of production. His methods largely used enterprise budgets, simulation and mathematical programming, including some of the early works published in the literature utilizing MOTAD and target MOTAD. His research appeared in many of the regional agricultural economics journals, as well as in the *Journal of Production Agriculture*, the *Agronomy Journal*, *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*, and was the subject of numerous extension and experiment station bulletins.

Larry was known for his ability to conduct interdisciplinary research with agronomists, agricultural engineers, and weed scientists. He was the "go-to" person for many of the other production scientists in the UW College of Agriculture when designing and analyzing interdisciplinary research related to the economics of alternative cropping and weed management strategies.

During his career he taught Farm and Ranch Business Records,

Farm and Ranch Management, Advanced Farm and Ranch Management, and Agricultural Finance. His teaching style and willingness to help students garnered him multiple teaching awards. He received both college and university level teaching awards, as well as the Western Agricultural Economics Association undergraduate teaching award and the USDA

NASULGC Excellence in Land Grant College and University Teaching Award. Larry also received the Gamma Sigma Delta Award of Merit and is listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Larry provided a model for other faculty to emulate when it came to mentoring students. His open door policy and willingness to listen to students with a patient father-like quality garnered him the respect and devotion of countless graduate and undergraduate students during his 34-year tenure at UW. Year-after-year, Larry delighted in communicating and meeting with past students, and many of his former students sought him out when they were in Laramie. It was common to find in his office a new card, letter or picture of a recent child from a past student. His connections created lasting memories for alumni and produced loyalties amongst current and past students regarding Larry, the department, UW, and agricultural economics as a discipline. Farewell Dr. Held. ▣

Contributed by Chris Bastian.



Graduate Work Focuses on Leadership

In this issue of In the Margins we begin a new feature of the work that our intrepid MS program students are doing. We begin with Eli Lindsey, a second year student working with Ben Rashford.
~The Editor.

Employers conducting job searches for recent college graduates place high value on leadership skills – and universities often offer organized student leadership classes to develop leadership skills in their students. The UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources was inspired by Ag Econ alumni and former CEO of Farm Credit Services of America, Doug Stark, and in 2017 established a course called *Elements of Leadership*. The course provides students with a basic understanding of leadership theory and practice, and – more importantly – gives students an opportunity to develop personal leadership skills by becoming more aware of their own strengths and weaknesses.

The course has been a great success, and it inspired me to develop a process for expanding leadership education to the whole campus. I began researching ways to improve coordination of leadership education opportunities offered in different colleges across campus. In early October, President Laurie Nichols agreed to host a leadership

luncheon, prompting key stakeholders to engage in a meaningful discussion about expanding leadership education at UW. With Doug Stark's guidance, I have brought together administrators, faculty, staff, and student representatives to continue that discussion. Our primary short-term goal is to establish a "leadership minor" or "leadership certificate", which would allow students to show employers they have invested in personal development. In the future, my hope is that leadership education becomes a prominent reality for *every* student at the University of Wyoming, helping them to become better leaders for Wyoming and the world. ▣

Industry Leaders Visit Class

Our Agricultural Entrepreneurship class (AGEC 4965) taught by Mariah Ehmke has had numerous industry visitors drop by and discuss business and trade. Guest speakers have included Rob Jennings of BeefChain on the topic of blockchain applications in agriculture; Kurt James of Bimbo Bakeries (the world's largest bakery) on supply chain management; and Jonathan Howdeshell of the Wyoming Women's Business Center. Also visiting the department was Mike Vandel (BS '94) who is a sales representative with Syngenta. ▣



Recent Department Work

Publications

- Bastian, C., C. Jones Ritten, B. Feuz, A. Nagler & S. Smutko. "Can Producers Bargain for Better Prices? Implications from Wyoming Focus Groups," *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*. 81(2018): 29-42.
- Bastian, C., J. Ritten & J. Derner. "Ranch Profitability Given Increased Precipitation Variability and Flexible Stocking," *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*. 81(2018): 122-139.
- Ehmke, Cole. ed. *Food Ventures in Wyoming: A Resource and Regulatory Guide*. Bulletin B-1324. University of Wyoming Extension. 2018
- Ritten, John, Chris Bastian & Steve Paisley. "Economic Models Show Drought Effects on Cattle Producers over 35-year horizon; Suggest Herd Diversification Helps Minimize Impact." pp. 9-11. In *Navigating Drought in Wyoming*. Bulletin B-1325. University of Wyoming Extension, Laramie. June, 2018.

Presentations

- Adding Realism to the Agglomeration Bonus: How Endogenous Land Returns, Spatial Heterogeneity, and Affordability Affect Pollinator Habitat Fragmentation*. Paper presented by Brockman at the 6th World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists. June 25-29, 2018. Gothenburg, Sweden. Authors are S. Brockman, T. Panchalingam, C. Jones Ritten, J. Shogren, M. Ehmke, C. Bastian & G. Parkhurst.
- Annie's Project: Connecting Women in Ag in the West*. Paper presented by Cole Ehmke and Hannah Swanbom at the Nat'l

- Assoc. of County Ag Agents Western Region Conference. October 22-23, 2018. Cody, Wyoming.
- Almond Growers Preferences for Pollination Services: A Random Utility Analysis*. Paper presented by Jones Ritten at the Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference. May 22-24, 2018. Tacoma, WA. Authors are C. Bastian, C. Jones Ritten, M. Ehmke, H. Bruce & V. Hovhannisyann.
- Blockchain Technology Applications in the Food System in Wyoming*. Paper presented by Cole Ehmke at the Nat'l Assoc. of County Ag Agents Western Region Conference. October 22-23, 2018. Cody, Wyoming. Authors were Cole Ehmke & Mariah Ehmke.
- Can Prospect Theory Help Explain Agricultural Producers' Disadvantage During Private Negotiation Trading?* Paper presented by Jones Ritten at the Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting. June 24-26, 2018. Anchorage, AK. Authors are C. Jones Ritten, C. Bastian, A. Nagler & K. Hansen.
- Understanding Contract Preferences for Pollination Services: A Random Utility Analysis of Almond Growers' Stated Choice Data*. Paper presented by Bastian at the Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting. June 24-26, 2018. Anchorage, AK. C. Bastian, C. Jones Ritten, M. Ehmke, H. Bruce and V. Hovhannisyann.
- Ranch Profitability Given Increased Precipitation Variability and Flexible Stocking*. A presentation by Chris Bastian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Grassland Studies. Lincoln, NE. October 8, 2018.

Vanvig Fellowship Awarded to Kaila Willis

The Vanvig Fellowship is the premier award for graduate students in Agricultural and Applied Economics. The fellowship is made possible by a generous endowment from former Department Head Andy Vanvig and his wife Connie. The Fellowship, which includes a \$5,000 award to support the winner's graduate studies, is given annually to recognize an outstanding graduate student who excels in the classroom, as a researcher, and as a university citizen. Each awardee's name is placed on the honor roll plaque displayed in the main hall of our department. This year, the committee has selected **Kaila Willis** as the 2018-19 Andrew and Connie Vanvig Graduate Fellow. We asked her a few questions about herself and her work.

Q: What is the focus of your thesis work? The focus of my thesis work is groundwater management in eastern Laramie County. My objective is to determine the economic impacts of alternative groundwater management strategies for farming operations in the area, where groundwater levels are dropping. Based on interviews with local producers and secondary data, we have developed representative farm models to determine these impacts.

Q: Do you have results you can share – key findings? We are still finalizing our results, but we have been able to gather very useful information from local producers and specialists in eastern Laramie County. Our end goal is to help stakeholders in the area understand the costs and benefits of different water management strategies. We hope to accurately model the reality of the area, which will contribute to important conversations in Laramie County regarding groundwater management.

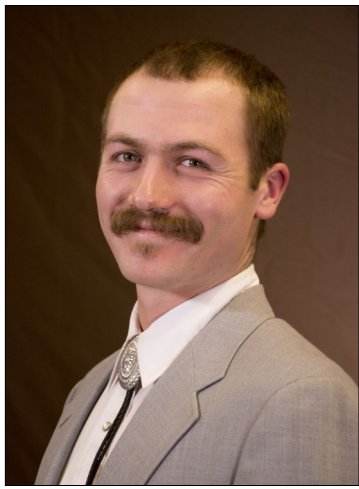
Q: What is your background – where do you come from and what do you aim to do when you finish? I grew up on my family's ranch located between Wheatland and Laramie. I attended Sheridan College, where I played basketball for two years, before transferring to the University of Wyoming. I completed my B.S. in Ag Business with minors in Finance and Psychology. I plan to pursue work in agriculture in the Rocky Mountain region following the completion of my M.S. degrees in Ag Economics and Water Resources.

Q: What brought you to UW AgEcon? I was an undeclared major when I transferred to UW. I started down the path of Business, but with my agriculture background, I was drawn to the College of Agriculture. Once I began classes in the department and meeting the faculty, I knew Ag Business was a good fit. In my final year, my undergraduate advisor, Tom Foulke, encouraged me to consider the UW AgEcon master's program. I began the program the semester following my undergraduate graduation, and I have truly enjoyed being part of such a great department. ■



Introducing Jedidiah Hewlett

Scholarships:
Henry Petz Scholarship
Fund
Frank Rauzi Range Man-
agement or Soils Schol-
arship



Where are you from?

I was born and raised in the Laramie Valley. Since the time I was about 6 years old, I have been involved with one type of agriculture or another. I started out by taking care of my family's chicken flock and gradually gained experience with sheep, goats, and rabbits on our little ranch. I began working on local cattle ranches when I was about 12 years old and found my passion for agriculture. I decided that there would be no other life that would suit me better.

What would you like to do with your life?

After I graduate from UW, I hope to obtain a management position on a farm or ranch in the Intermountain West. I love working with livestock of all kinds, but I enjoy working cattle most of all. Eventually, I would like to obtain a place of my own and hope to pass it on to the next generation so that the traditions and beliefs that I value the most may be preserved for a long time to come.

Why did you choose AgBusiness at UW?

I chose to pursue my degree in AgBusiness because I recognized my deficiency in management skills. After working so many summers on different ranches, I became very well acquainted with the many duties and tasks that needed to be accomplished to keep the operation running smoothly. I knew that I lacked the financial skills and perspective to make sound management decisions for an operation, even though I became proficient at doing the manual labor pretty well. After making my way through several business and economic classes, it is clear that this education is an excellent preparation for my future in production agriculture.

What is the best advice you've ever been given?

I think some of the best advice I have ever received came from my father and the department adviser at UW. Before I ever started taking classes, I was encouraged to look ahead and plan for the future. More specifically, my father told me to ask myself "What do you see yourself doing in 10, 20, or 30 years?" For my part, I decided that my future did not lie behind a desk but rather doing what I love in the outdoors — living and working as a rancher.

Introducing Lexie Dockery

Scholarship: W G Kearn
Agricultural Economics
Scholarship & Agronomy
Economics Research



Where are you from?

I am proud to be from the small rural community of Lusk, Wyoming! Growing up I was involved in every school and 4H activity that I could be and was actively involved in anything related to agriculture. I was raised on my family's cattle ranch in eastern Wyoming where I am still very involved with all tasks related to ranching and managing the ranch. I am very active at the University of Wyoming, and I am proud to represent the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as a Student Ambassador. I am currently the treasurer for the Wyoming Collegiate Cattle Association and the Vice President for the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, which are both UW student organizations that I enjoy being a member of.

What would you like to do with your life?

My goal is to graduate from the University of Wyoming with an AgBusiness degree with minors in Finance and Farm and Ranch Management in December 2019. After graduation, I hope to obtain a job in the field of ag lending. I would love to be in a small Wyoming community and be able to give back to that community like my community has given to me. My ultimate goal is one day be a bank president and to eventually move back to the family ranch and be able to help run and manage it.

Why did you choose AgBusiness at UW?

I chose AgBusiness at the University of Wyoming because there were so many options to choose from for my concentration. I am able to take classes that pertain to my focus area and a few classes that simply sparked my interest, which have helped me to experience a wide range of learning opportunities. I was also attracted to the friendly atmosphere in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources where there is always a smiling face as I walk down the hallway; the staff truly cares about their students.

What is the best advice you've ever been given?

The best advice that I've ever been given is that hard work and dedication ALWAYS pays off.



Student
Leaders



Introducing Alexi Goodnow

Scholarships:

National Western Stock Show
Scholarship

Watt Brothers Agriculture Schol-
arship



Where are you from?

I have always been involved in agriculture for as long as I can remember, my grandmother owns a ranch in Baggs, Wyoming and I think that is what sparked my love for agriculture. I started showing livestock at a very young age and fell in love with the industry. I grew up in Craig, Colorado, showing goats, sheep, and hogs. However, my main focus was goats, showing them at county fair, the Colorado State Fair, the National Western Stock show, and Arizona Nationals competitively for 13 years. I was always involved in sports through high school but I knew that agriculture and showing livestock would be the "hobby" that would take me further in life. During my first year at Casper College I decided to take a step and join the Livestock Judging Team and, for me, that was the best decision I ever made. It made me push myself more mentally than I ever thought was possible and it showed me how to work with a team to become the best I could be. After graduating from with my Associates Degree in Ag Business, I knew that the next step was to transfer to the University of Wyoming to further my education and be a member of the Livestock Judging Team.

What would you like to do with your life?

My family and I have recently purchased breeding does to start our own show goat herd to sell to the local 4-H and FFA members in Craig, Colorado to give back to the community that has helped shape me into the person that I am today. My plan is to graduate from the University of Wyoming with my Bachelors degree in Ag Business and hopefully a minor in Accounting. I hope to move back somewhere close to home to continue my dream of raising goats, and to get a job in agriculture.

Why did you choose AgBusiness at UW?

I chose a degree in Ag Business because I knew I wanted to major in something agriculture related, and I made up my mind that Ag Business would be the most marketable degree that would give me the most options.

What is the best advice you've ever been given?

My old Livestock Judging coach at Casper College, Jeremy Burkett, was a huge motivator for me. He always had something positive to say about any situation that I found myself stuck in. One of the most memorable pieces of advice he gave me was before our last judging contest in Houston, Texas. It was the night before the contest and I had just got done giving my last set of reasons in junior college, to the coaches that molded me into who I am, so nerves were at the highest and so were my emotions. I can't remember word for word what he told me but this is the closest I can remember, "Goodnow, there is a reason you are here right now. I have all the faith in the world that you will go out there and do what you have been trained to do. Mark smart cards and talk the way you know how. Remember 'Keep it simple, stupid' because this is second nature to you now. Go out there and show them what you're made of." Those words have stuck with me through everything I have done since then and it relates to so much more than just livestock judging. Everybody just needs to remember that everything happens for a reason, and just go out there and show the world what you're made of.

Roehrkasse Graduate Scholarship Awarded

We are pleased to announce that **Magdana Kondaridze** has been awarded the Roehrkasse scholarship, which is made possible by a generous gift from Marion Roehrkasse in memory of her husband and former AGEC faculty member Glenn Roehrkasse. The \$1,000 scholarship is given to an outstanding graduate student in Agricultural and Applied Economics whose research focuses on quantitative or statistical modeling. Her thesis gave her an opportunity to present a poster at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting in February, 2018, and her paper "Consumer Food Preference Changes in Russia" and poster "Welfare Consequences of Food Price Increase in Russia" have been selected to be presented for the SAEA's annual meetings in February, 2019.

My thesis focuses on consumer food preference changes in Russia. The objective of my research is to study structural changes in the Russian food market, as Russian food consumption patterns have been undergoing sweeping changes over the past three decades. In my study I observe 68 Russian provinces using seven widely used food aggregates and household characteristics. The provincial-level panel data is obtained from Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) and covers the periods 2004 to 2016. The reasons underlying my choice of Russia as an empirical setting for my study are the following: First, Russia is the world's largest country, and it plays an important role in global food markets. Second, Russian economic sanctions were imposed on various agricultural products from the United States, the European Union, Canada, Norway, and Australia in 2014.



Preliminary results show that there was a structural change in Russian food market. Consumer behavior and preferences have changed from traditional patterns to Western patterns. The structural change started from 2008 and slowly stabilized in 2010. The finding is consistent with the previous literature and recent economic, socio-political changes.

I was born in Batumi, a small town located on the Black Sea coast in the country of Georgia. I received my BA degree from Batumi State University (BSU) in 2015. After graduation I continued my studies at the Agribusiness Teaching center (ATC) in Armenia, where I got my second bachelor's degree in Agribusiness and Marketing.

My goal is to continue my career in the scientific field. Therefore, after I graduate with my MS degree, I will apply to a PhD program.

Since my early childhood, I have always been interested in agriculture. The reason is the small farm owned by my family back in Georgia. My interest in agriculture has increased after my internship in AgroService Center, Ministry of Agriculture of Adjara in 2015. My courses at ATC were also oriented to Agricultural Economics, and when I heard about UW, first thing I looked at was AgEcon department. I am very happy with my decision. Wyoming is a must-visit place. The nature and the sky here are breathtaking. ■



ALUMNI NEWS FORM

We always enjoy hearing from our alumni! Please let us know where you are and who you've become. You can email updates to cehmke@uwyo.edu.

Name: _____

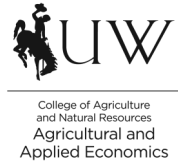
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In the Margins

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Dean Search Continues

An advisory committee has been formed and a company has been selected to run the search for the open position of Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates is providing leadership in the recruitment, evaluation, and selection of candidates for this position. Managing Partner Alberto Pimentel and UW President Nichols stopped by the annual meeting of UW Extension educators in Casper in November to seek input on the opportunities and challenges in the College, and the qualities required for the position.

There are opportunities for the College to better engage the state, such as noted in the ENDOW report (a need to strengthen and diversify agriculture), Gov. Mead's proposal to make the College of Ag into a "Tier 1" institution, and the intention to improve integration of Extension and the Experiment Station.

What does "tier 1" mean? There is no standard definition, but the college leadership team and advisory board is in the process of describing what it could mean. It certainly will mean investing resources to elevate the College's teaching, research and Extension programs. And it will likely include: innovative degree programs and teaching approaches; experiential learning and industry connections; integrating teaching, research and Extension; economic and community development; and entrepreneurship.

It is hoped that a new dean will be in place within a year. ■



College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
Agricultural and
Applied Economics

You are our foremost promoter of AgEcon degrees! Your knowledge of the Ag Business degree program is a tremendous asset when encouraging students to come and benefit from the expertise we build. So please – make an effort to promote the program with your wider field of contacts.



UW

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Agricultural and
Applied Economics



The annual department hike up Medicine Bow Peak (12,000 feet) was held on a lovely late summer day as students and faculty returned to campus. It is a two mile hike up to the summit and we saw fabulous a 150 mile panorama from central Wyoming down to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado — an excellent opportunity for everyone to get out and see Wyoming outdoors at its' finest. A potluck in Washington Park followed. ■