

Profile: Chian Jones Ritten

Prior to moving to Laramie, I didn't appreciate the wide-open spaces that only Wyoming offers. The clean crisp air, the amazing view of the beautiful Snowy Range, and the friendly community have since made Laramie my home.

I was born and raised in Flagstaff, Arizona, which, at 7,000 feet, has the same beautiful and snow-filled winters that we experience here in Laramie. I graduated from Northern Arizona University with a B.S. in Mathematics and Political Science. After taking a few years off, I decided that I could have the most impact with a career in economics. I moved to Colorado and received my M.S. and Ph.D. in Economics at Colorado State University. I consider myself extremely lucky to have been hired at UW since I am surrounded by great colleagues and have the opportunity to teach amazing students.

Since being at the University I have taught a wide variety of courses. Currently, I teach Principles of Microeconomics (AGEC/ECON 1020), Gender and Race in the Economy (AGEC/WMST 4200/5200), Consumer Economics and Non-Market Valuation (AGEC 4890), and co-teach Environmental Assessment through the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR 5900). I try to give students the tools to help them make decisions that will benefit them in their lives outside of the classroom. The opportunity to teach freshmen in Principles of Microeconomics through graduate students in Environmental Assessment allows me to get to know students at all levels in their academic careers.

I absolutely love teaching. The most rewarding part of my career is when I see that 'ah-ha' moment in my students' eyes when they understand a new and challenging concept. I set ambitious goals for my students and am always surprised at the amount of hard work and dedication that students at UW put into achieving these goals.

My current research includes two distinct focuses that are linked through their ability to enhance Wyoming's economy and the surrounding Northern Rocky Mountains region. Honey bee populations have reached historically low levels, placing production of pollination-dependent crops at risk. This risk motivates my research focus in understanding the structure of honey bee markets. I am working with an amazing group of UW faculty and researchers on various research projects aimed to promote honey bee numbers. We are currently surveying beekeepers in the Northern Rocky Mountains to determine the costs and revenues associated with participation in pollination markets. In a related

effort, we are using experimental economic methods to determine consumer willingness to pay for local honey. We are also in the beginning stages of research to determine honey bee and beekeeper attributes that pollination-dependent crop growers value when entering into pollination contracts with beekeepers in Wyoming and the Intermountain West. In addition, we are in the preliminary stages of mapping research that utilizes agglomeration bonuses as a means to promote critical bee habitat in Wyoming. Each one of these projects has the fundamental goal of promoting profitability for Wyoming beekeepers and the sustainability of their operations, and ultimately, providing incentive structures to encourage increases in bee numbers.

My second research focus is on encouraging diversity in Wyoming's labor market. Although Wyoming is known as the Equality State, we have the second largest gender wage gap in the U.S., with women earning, on average, 69 cents for every dollar earned by men. Together with a graduate student, I am currently investigating the root cause of this large gap. Wyoming's economy has strong roots in the energy industry. While these jobs tend to be high paying, there is little gender diversity, with men holding nearly 90% of the jobs. My current research estimates the effect that Wyoming's large energy sector has on the gender wage gap. Wyoming's heritage and economy also revolves around the agricultural industry. This industry has witnessed significant demographic changes with Wyoming bucking national trends by women increasing their participation within the agricultural industry. My future research will focus on these changing demographics and the resulting labor market outcomes. I hope that this research will have important implications for Wyoming's labor markets and promoting the economy of this great state. ■

Dr. Jones Ritten can be reached at (307)633-4223 and chian.jonesritten@uwyo.edu.



International Program

By Dannele Peck, Program Coordinator

For the past 27 years, Ag Econ has taken UW students to France for a month-long summer study of European agriculture and food. Prof. Ed Bradley led the program until 2010, when he passed the reins to Prof. Dannele Peck and Tom Foulke (Research Scientist). AgEcon partners with École Supérieure d'Agruculture (ESA), a private agricultural university, located in the historic city of Angers (125 miles southwest of Paris), in the lush Loire Valley. Students earn three upper-division credits for their study-abroad experience by enrolling in UW's AGECE 4820, *International Food and Farm Culture*.

While in France, students live with a host family, and participate in classes and field-trips about the French agricultural system and food culture. All courses are taught in English by ESA's most talented instructors, and host families speak some English, so prior French language skills are *not* necessary. Students do enjoy one hour of French-language training each weekday, and are encouraged to practice at night with their host families. For many students, this is their first time traveling outside of the U.S., so living with a host family helps them integrate quickly into the French culture, and enjoy a 'back-stage pass' experience. By month's end, students are usually quite sad to say goodbye to their host family, and some keep in touch years later.

International Travel Philosophy

Our goal for students is to gain first-hand experience as international travelers and scholars. As global trade continues to expand, US employers are increasingly looking for students with international experience and a global awareness. Equally important, though, is the appreciation



Learning about grazing practices, Normandy.

students gain for new viewpoints on important cultural, social, political, and economic issues that affect agriculture.

During the month, students visit innovative French agricultural producers and processors, ranging from an organic camembert cheese-maker, to a farmer cooperative for natural sea-salt. The most popular visit for UW students is a beef-cattle farm and breeding facility for 'Maine-Anjou' – a unique breed that originated from France's Loire Valley. Producers in France who raise registered Maine-Anjou often get generous price premiums for grass-fed cows that have calved at least once, if not more. Beef from these more 'mature' cows is renowned for its dark color and rich flavor, and is marketed with a special 'Rouge de Prés' label (i.e., 'Red on the Meadows,' in honor of the breed's attractive red and white markings). Visits to commercial and organic vineyards are also popular with students. This *is* France after all!

As part of their final project, student groups are assigned one of the agricultural companies we visit. Each group gives a presentation, discussing how the company's practices reflect concepts discussed throughout the month (e.g., economic viability, short supply-chains, local marketing, and 'terroir' – unique local characteristics that influence a good's quality). Students also reflect on how French companies' practices resemble or differ from those in the US.

More than Academics

Although students work hard to earn academic credit for this trip, it is *not all* work! The trip includes three days of sight-seeing in Paris; tours of beautiful chateaus in the Loire Valley; and a 3-day weekend at famous cultural destinations, such as the Normandy Beaches and Mount St. Michel.

In 2014, UW sent a record number of students – 11 – to participate in the France program! Word seems to be getting out about this fantastic trip! They joined 35 students from other U.S. universities, such as Texas A&M, U. of Minnesota, U. of Wisconsin, Illinois State, U. of Maryland, and U. of North Dakota. Thus, opportunities abound for cultural exchange on this trip, including amongst diverse US students!

Participants can choose to stay a second month in France, at little additional cost, to complete an optional farm internship. This year, Rikki Leuck (an Ag Business major) was placed on a dairy farm, where she milked cows, fed calves and provided animals with clean bedding. Shannon Toomey (an Agroecology major) was placed on an organic



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Expands Borders

vegetable farm, where she harvested and maintained seasonal vegetable crops. Shannon's most valuable experience in France was selling produce at the local market, where she witnessed the passion for direct-sales that small producers shared. "Food is much more than nourishment; it is a way to connect people to people," says Shannon.

For more information about the France study-abroad program, contact Dannele Peck (dpeck@uwyo.edu; (307)766-6412) or Tom Foulke (foulke@uwyo.edu; (307)766-6205). Keep an eye out for informational meetings at UW in preparation for the next summer adventure: May 26th through June 26th, 2015! ■

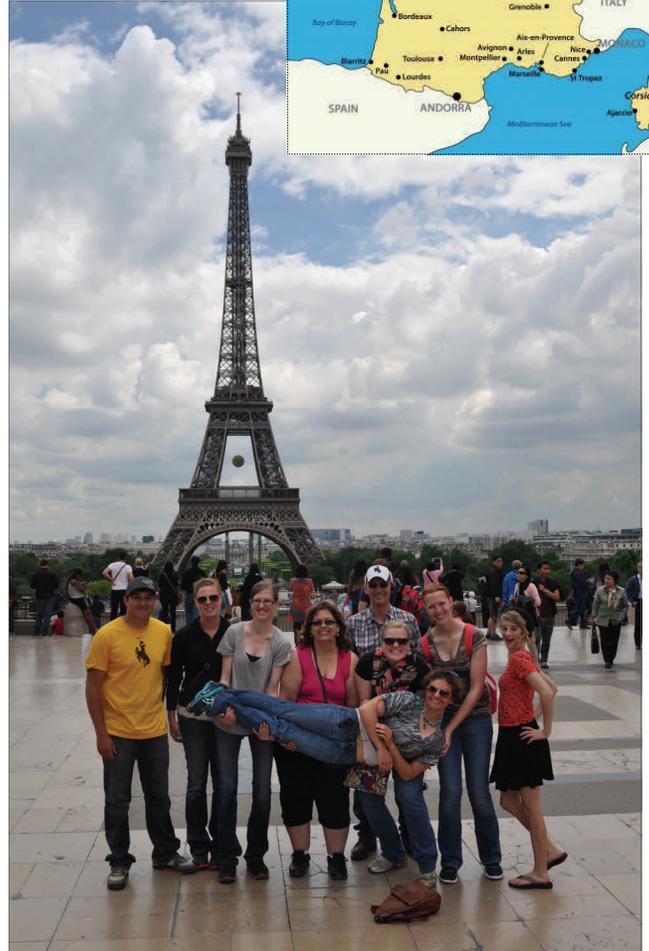
Photo Descriptions

Right. Some of the 2014 AgEcon summer program participants, L to R: Peyton Vigil (ANSC), Victoria Creager (ANSC), Hannah Gorham (AGBS/ACCT), Virginia Bartlett (AECL), Tucker Hamilton (AGEC), Rikki Leuck (AGBS), Brittany Hamilton (AGCM), Rachel Purdy (AGBS), Jessie Irish (FCSC/ENR). Not shown: Shannon Toomey (AECL), Allie Garrett Jones (AGCM), Dannele Peck (trip supervisor, AGECE), Tom Foulke (trip supervisor, AGECE).

Bottom right: 2014 AgEcon summer program participants, L to R: Tom Foulke (trip supervisor, AGECE), Jessie Irish (FCSC/ENR), Shannon Toomey (AECL), Hannah Gorham (AGBS/ACCT), Rikki Leuck (AGBS), Rachel Purdy (AGBS), Peyton Vigil (ANSC), Allie Garrett Jones (AGCM), Victoria Creager (ANSC), Tucker Hamilton (AGECE), Brittany Hamilton (AGCM) and Virginia Bartlett (AECL). Not shown: Dannele Peck (trip supervisor, AGECE).

Bottom. Mr. Artur feeds his Maine-Anjou cows during one of several company visits.

Below. Brittany samples a lychee at the world's largest fresh produce market, outside of Paris.



Graduate Program Update – Fall 2014

Thanks to the hard work of our faculty and graduate committee, and the generous support of alumni and friends, the graduate program in AGECON continues to flourish. This fall we welcomed nine new students, one of the largest graduate classes in recent memory (see below for a list of new students), bringing our current enrollment to just over 20 students.

In addition to excelling in the classroom and being excellent ambassadors for the Department and College, our students are working towards solutions to a fascinating array of applied problems – from targeting conservation to mitigate energy development impacts on wildlife (Katie McCollum) or understanding the implication of climate change for cattle production (Tucker Hamilton), to exploring the economic impacts of phosphorous runoff into Lake Atitlan in Guatemala (Dale Novotny) or explaining the gender wage gap in the energy sector (Blessing Ugwuanyi).

Our students also continue to be successful after graduation. Recent graduates are excelling across a diverse array of sectors, including banking, ranch management, state and federal government, and private consulting. We are also excited to have six recent graduates accepted into PhD programs: Muhammad Al Amin (Univ. of Mississippi), Betty Tran (Univ. of Nebraska), Katryn Pasaribu (Univ. of Tennessee), Austin Sandler (Univ. of Minnesota), and Anthony Baffoe-Bonnie (Univ. of Georgia).

New Graduate Students

Justin Schaffer – Fort Collins, Colorado

Luke Todd – Boise, Idaho

Thadchaigeni Panchalingam – Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Tris Munsick – Sheridan, Wyoming

Abigail Castleton – Boise, Idaho/Ansbach, Germany

Ray Tupling – Richland, Washington

Eric Swanson – Colorado

Ben Beaman – Livonia, Michigan

Tim Jackson – Rock Springs, Wyoming

By Ben Rashford, Graduate Program Coordinator

Graduate Program Alumni

We want to hear from you! As our program continues to grow, it gets harder and harder to keep track of our graduates and all their successes. So please send us an email (Ben Rashford – brashfor@uwyo.edu) and let us know what you are up to.

Book Corner

Title: *The Last Crusade: The Epic Voyages of Vasco Da Gama*

Author: Nigel Cliff (2011). A *New York Times Book Review* “Notable Book of the Year” for 2011

Published by: Harper Perennial

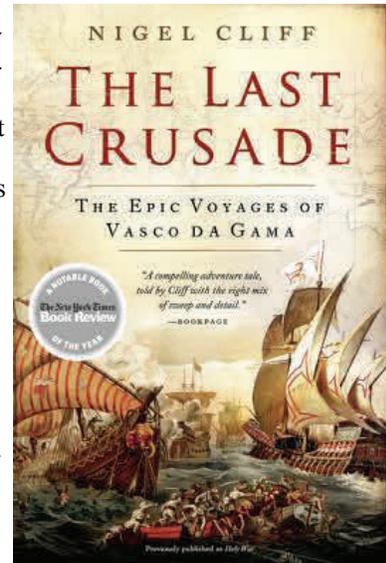
My exploration of the roots of globalization has taken me back to the 15th century. A time when economics, politics and religion were inextricably linked. So much so, it is hard for most of us in the 21st century to comprehend. In *The Last Crusade, the Epic Voyages of Vasco Da Gama*, Nigel Cliff illuminates this period brilliantly by first giving us an abbreviated history of Christendom leading up to the Portuguese voyages of discovery that explored (and exploited) the western coast of Africa. The author then leads us through Vasco Da Gama’s epic voyages to India and the beginnings of the Portuguese Empire.

That was the Late Middle Ages, and I was fascinated by some of the details the author describes of those very early voyages, and how the Western concept of the globe slowly changed to include more and more of the continent of Africa. Along the way we are introduced to a number of superb anecdotes that help flesh out the history of exploration and show us those religious, political, and economic connections. For instance, when the Knights Templars fell out with the Pope and the King of France they were arrested, tortured and burned. Those in Portugal escaped the flames because they were providing valuable banking services for the Portuguese crown. The Templars in Portugal were renamed The Order of Christ and continued their financial dealings which eventually financed Portugal’s African ventures. These started out as part of the religious wars that grew out of the *Reconquista* (driving the Moors out of the Iberian Peninsula) but with strong economic and political overtones.

Vasco Da Gama was a product of those wars with experience in the campaigns in Morocco. He took with him on his three voyages to India iron discipline, unwavering faith and absolute loyalty to the crown. These may have served him well to survive the hardships, but they did not necessarily make him a good emissary for the West. Da Gama’s first voyage in 1497 was almost a disaster numerous times due to the commander’s ruthlessness and blind intransigence to the new cultures he encountered, particularly with regard to their Muslim residents.

Above all, *The Last Crusade* is about a clash of cultures: that first face-to-face meeting of East and West in India. The Portuguese in their cultural arrogance expected the peoples of the East to just hand over their gold and spices for trinkets, for this was their experience in Africa. Instead, they found rich cultures on the east coast of Africa and in India with religions and social institutions much older and more complex than their own.

The author does an excellent job of weaving all these elements together. Several times throughout the book I caught myself wondering how little has really changed in 500 years, and how these things might impact our world today. Cliff seems to have anticipated my questions when he penned the epilogue, which neatly connects the dots across space and time from Vasco Da Gama to Ayman Al Zawahiri. History it is; irrelevant it is not.



Recommended for your library by Tom Foulke. ■



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~Special Section~

AgEcon's Scholarship Awardee Profiles

In the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, we're very proud of our students. In this special section we're profiling those who were awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 school year at this year's Brand of Excellence banquet. 23 scholarships were awarded to ag business majors, and we asked awardees to respond to four questions. As you'll see, there is plenty of achievement, dedication and enthusiasm. As alumni and stakeholders, it is your contributions that support these students' fine efforts.

— Roger Coupal, Head, Agricultural and Applied Economics

Sharissa Blackburn, supported by the Henry Petz Scholarship

I grew up on a ranch in Douglas, Wyoming. Growing up, I was an active member in the 4-H program which provided me with many opportunities to expand my knowledge base. I'm looking forward to graduating in May. I'm grateful for the experiences that the University of Wyoming has provided.

I enjoy the small class sizes; they provide the opportunity to get to know my peers and the professors. All of the professors I've had within the College of Ag and Natural Resources really make it a priority to get to know the students and to help them in whatever way possible. The career planning opportunities that are available on campus are also really valuable.

The class that I have found most valuable is rural banking. This class provided a lot of concepts that were very practical. I feel like I learned something every time I was in class. Looking forward, I would like to work in either the agriculture financial or insurance industry upon graduation.



Lane Hageman, supported by the Oletha and Loren Likins Memorial Scholarship

What is your background? Where are you from?

I am from Ft. Laramie, Wyoming and have grown up and worked on a ranch all of my life. I enjoy the outdoors and working with livestock.

What are the three best things about UW and AgBusiness?

I appreciate the large population of like-minded kids, the experience and knowledge the College of Agriculture and Animal Science professors have, and the hands-on experience that is gained from being in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

What would you like to do with your AgBusiness education?

I would like to return to the family ranch and continue to operate it with my dad and brother.

What has been a class that intrigued you, or that you found valuable?

The livestock production class. It is a deeper and more scientific understanding of livestock production, so it has helped me look at livestock and agriculture in a more in-depth way.



Ty Walter, supported by the Mark Carson Family Agriculture Scholarship

1. What is your background? Where are you from?

I was born and raised on a farm and ranch in Hudson, Colorado, which is northeast of Denver. I will be the fourth generation on the ranch. We raise corn, wheat, barley, alfalfa, sorghum and triticale. On the cattle side we have commercial and Registered Black Angus and have a bull sale every February. We also have a backgrounding lot where we can feed up to 2,500 head. My father gave me my first Angus cow when I was one year old, and since then successfully raised over 70 head of my own. The cattle business has really been a passion of mine my entire life. I owe all of my success to God.

2. What are the three best things about UW and AgBusiness?

The best three things about UW and the Ag Business department are the students, the teachers, and the community the Ag program has. Being a student here has allowed me to network with other "real-world" ag students which has given me the opportunities to do business with them now and also in the future. I have really been impressed with the teachers here at UW as well. Most of them have real-world experience, which is rarely found at any other school in the country. I also love how the department is like a family here. Whether you go to someone about a ranching problem or a life problem most everyone will help you out. I would definitely recommend any ag student still in high school to come see what the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Laramie has to offer them!

3. What would you like to do with your AgBusiness education?

I still have not decided what I am planning to do after graduation. I plan to either go back to our ranch and continue to grow our registered herd or go on and pursue a Master's Degree. My father has also encouraged me to go experience other sectors of the ag industry to better diversify myself. Whatever plan God chooses for me I know it will make for an exciting life!

4. What has been a class that intrigued you, or that you found valuable?

One class that I have found really useful in our family operation was Agricultural Commodities and Futures Markets with Dr. Chris Bastian. This class teaches about how to reduce risk with different commodities using the futures markets. Over the summer I was actually able to make more money on our wheat crop by using some of the strategies we learned in class. After this my father gave me most all the responsibility when it comes to marketing our products.

Four Questions for AgEcon Scholarship Winners

1. What is your background? Where are you from?
2. What are the three best things about UW and AgBusiness?
3. What would you like to do with your AgBusiness education?
4. What has been a class that intrigued you, or that you found valuable?



Michelle Bartlett, supported by the Lee Wiegand Excellence Fund in Agriculture

I was born and raised in Parker, Colorado. I have lived there my entire life until coming up to the University of Wyoming. I actually did not come from an agriculture background. I came into the University as a history major, but quickly found that history was not for me. After taking a few Agricultural Business classes, I realized that they were better suited for me.

What are the three best things about UW and AgBusiness?

- No matter what season it is, the UW campus is always beautiful. Fall is my favorite time here at UW.
- I appreciate the hands-on experience that students get through the AgBusiness classes.
- I like that the AgBusiness classes are challenging but engaging at the same time.

In the end, I would like to own a small cattle ranch, but for right now, I hope to work in marketing or sales for a cattle company. One class that I have found valuable in my AgBusiness education is Farm and Ranch Business Management. I really enjoyed this class and think it will be an asset to my future.



Ryler Lerwick, supported by Farm Credit Services of America Scholarship

1. What is your background? Where are you from?

I grew up 25 miles northeast of Cheyenne where I enjoyed the plenteous space outdoors where I began working on the family farm at a young age while raising a small group of calves on my own each year. I attended Albin Elementary School before concluding my secondary education at Burns JR/SR High School. I was active in varsity football, basketball, and track as well as Future Business Leaders of America and Future Farmers of America. Upon completion of high school I obtained my associates degree in agriculture at Laramie County Community College, which brought me to the University of Wyoming to complete my bachelors degree in Ag Business.

2. What are the three best things about UW and AgBusiness?

1. The people at the University of Wyoming's College of Agriculture are a great group to spend substantial time around. The faculty is very friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful in all areas. The students are friendly and share a common interest that helps form friendships that I expect to last well beyond my time at the University of Wyoming.

2. The Ag Econ courses that I have been a part of at the University of Wyoming have all captivated my interest and proven to be of value. I am very glad to see a group of professors that genuinely care about the education that they are providing to the students at the college of Ag.

3. The affordability of the education that students benefit from is an extremely important and valuable asset to students. I have been very thankful for the funding that keeps the cost of a good education to an affordable measure for Wyoming residents as well as out of state students.

3. What would you like to do with your AgBusiness education?

Upon completing my undergraduate coursework for the AgBusiness degree I would like to do one or more of three things. I hope to receive an internship offer from Farm Credit Services of America to spend ten weeks of the summer working as an ag loan officer. I also plan to "leave the doors open" for graduate school in the near future. I also one day hope to end up in production agriculture as an owner/operator of a farm and/or ranch of my own.

4. What has been a class that intrigued you, or that you found valuable?

AGEC 4640 (Advanced Farm/Ranch Management with John Ritten) was a very intriguing class that I am certain will prove to be valuable throughout life. It is Advanced Farm and Ranch Management and we utilized linear programming to determine optimal inputs to minimize cost or maximize profit.

AGEC 4890 is Rural Banking (with Bill Biles), which I am currently enrolled in. It is very interesting to me as I have interest in the ag lending industry as well as interest in the lending process as a producer within agriculture.



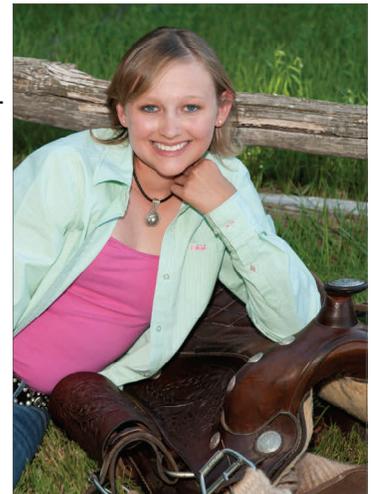
Ryler Lerwick and his father at the Scholarship Banquet.

Jessica Heller, supported by the Mark Carson Family Agriculture Scholarship and the Henry Petz Scholarship

I am from Cheyenne Wyoming, but I spent my summers on my great grandfather's farm helping with the cattle (especially at branding time) and doing little things to help my great uncle and grandfather in the crop fields.

The three best things about UW and AgBusiness are: the support from the professors, the friendly community, and the abundant opportunities that are available through UW. I would ultimately like to open an agriculture-based business with my degree in AgBusiness, and I would also like to work for the state to help others with their ag ventures.

I find all my Ag Econ classes valuable, and the wide variety of them is amazing. Currently my favorite class is my Agriculture and Development class (taught by Felix Naschold) because it looks at the role and impact agriculture has in other countries and how it is important in the development of those countries.



In the Margins

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Congratulations!

Spring 2014 Graduates

Perry Baptista	Sarah Notti
Jeffery Clark	Jenna Ramunno
Lydia Coe	Irene Richardson
Nicolas Consulo	Katie Schmidt
Jeffrey Frei	Colby Sturgeon
Sarah Gordon	Justin Solaas
Carson Hessenthaler	Kyle Thoman
Travis Kern	Rachel Torres
Layton Lawrence	Cinnamon Smith
Eli Lilley	Emily Voigt
Cassie Nelson	Rob Wiley



Summer and Fall 2014 Graduates

Cody Intermill	Samantha Heitsch
Rikki Lueck	Carolyn Hageman
Jenny Beiermann	Anna Scofield, M.S.
Brayden Connour	Matthew Johnson
Eric Gewecke	Andrew Mills
Katie Richardson	Justin Moldaschel
Julia Vold	Joshua Pierce
Logan Young	

In the Margins is the semiannual newsletter of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wyoming. The editor is Cole Ehmke. To make a contribution to the department, contact Roger Coupal, Associate Professor and Department Head: coupal@uwyo.edu or (307)766-5539.

Applications Sought for Asst. Professor

Applications for a nine-month, tenure-track, Assistant Professor position (50% research, 45% teaching, 5% service) for agribusiness marketing, sales, or management; agricultural market structure and performance; agricultural supply chain management; or US or international food/agricultural distribution systems are being sought. Apply by January 26, 2015. For details contact Chris Bastian at bastian@uwyo.edu.

Recent MS Thesis Presentations

Abby Perry

An Economic Framework for Analyzing Reclamation after Energy Extraction in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming

Austin Sandler

On Land-Use Change: A Treatise of Satellite Imagery Data and Misclassification Error

Choong Kim

Understanding Subsidy Incidence in Imperfect Energy Markets Using Experimental Economics

Katryn Pasaribu

Incorporating Risk and Uncertainty into Policy Planning: Prioritizing Indonesia Adaptation Options

Anthony Baffoe-Bonnie

Stacking Subsidies in Factor Markets: Evidence from Market Experiments

Tucker Hamilton

Increased Climate Variation: Management Implications for Cattle Production in Southeast Wyoming

Susan Wells

An Economic Analysis of Different Water Supply Policies under Altered North Platte River Hydrology Scenarios for Goshen Irrigation District