



Distinction



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FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL CHAIR

100 Years of Ag Econ

Welcome to the centennial year for the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

According to "The Centennial Report 1870-1970 of the College of Agriculture" SB 883 by Dean Emeritus John H. Longwell, D. Howard Doane established the Department of Farm Management in 1910. This department became part of the Department of Rural Life in 1919 along with Rural Sociology, and these split in 1926 which created the Department of Agricultural Economics.

One hundred years later, we voted to change the department name in keeping with our national organization and to recognize the broad mission of our faculty. Plans for commemorating the centennial are forming, and would welcome your thoughts and suggestions. You can find a link on the departmental website where you can share thoughts, memories, and photos on Facebook. You can also contact us, and we can help familiarize you with Facebook so you can scan and post your submissions.

Relating to other features in this issue, our thanks to J. C. and Carol Headley for organizing a reunion picnic this past fall. Some pictures and the story of this event are on page 3. As Dr. Headley indicates in his write-up, the event gave us all the opportunity to wax nostalgic.

Congratulations to our faculty who bolstered our graduate program through National Needs fellowships. We welcome Randall Westgren as our new McQuinn Chair in Entrepreneurial Leadership, and Seanicaa Edwards, University of Missouri Extension Commercial Agriculture Program, swine economist, who was awarded the Albert R.



Michael Monson

Continued on page 10



News & Events

25 Years of FAPRI

By Dr. Patrick Westhoff, the FAPRI-MU Co-Director

FAPRI-MU is proud to celebrate 25 years of providing market and policy analysis. Over the years, we have looked at farm bills, trade agreements and markets for everything from beef to barley to biofuels. Our mission has always been to provide objective, timely analysis that helps people make more informed decisions.

In FAPRI's early years, we had a small staff, limited computing power, and a relatively narrow focus on a few commodities important to U.S. agriculture. Over time, we've expanded our staff and the size and scope of the models we use to analyze agricultural markets. The University of Missouri and Iowa State University continue to be the core of FAPRI operations, but we have greatly expanded our network of collaborators to include Texas A&M University, University of Nevada-Reno, University of Wisconsin, Texas Tech University and University of Arkansas. FAPRI at the University of Missouri now has active projects with several U.S. government agencies and institutions in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

We have many people to thank. Members of Congress and their staff gave us the opportunity to participate in the U.S. farm policy process. Supporters at government agencies, international institutions and in the private sector stimulated demand for our work. Administrators at the University of Missouri gave us the flexibility and financial support we needed. Colleagues

around the world helped us understand policies and markets and improve our models and analysis.

Of course, we also need to thank all of the people who have worked directly for FAPRI-MU over the years. There are a few old-timers who have been with FAPRI since the start, but many people who have made major contributions to FAPRI-MU over the years now occupy prominent positions in government, industry and academia. As much as we are proud of FAPRI's models and analysis, we're mostly proud of the people who have worked with us. Thanks to everyone who made FAPRI-MU what it is today.

More information about FAPRI-MU's 25 year anniversary celebration that was held on September 18, 2009, can be found at: http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/fapri_25th_anniversary/index.asp. In addition to having over 60 attendees at the festivities, FAPRI-MU received many well-wishes in the form of videos and letters that may also be viewed at the website address above.





Student Activities

The J.C. Headley Picnic

On September 11, approximately 50 retired staff members, spouses and a few others, attended a picnic at Bethel park in Columbia. Those invited were those who were a part of the department during the period 1960 to 1990.

It was a nice Sunday afternoon for the outing. The get-together was the first time the group had met socially since any of the staff had retired so there was much catching up to do. E-mail made organizing the event quite easy.

None of the staff, who grew up in the era of Monroe calculators and IBM electric typewriters, would have dreamed that communication could have changed so much that a simple email could reach all of them.

The food was potluck and the conversation was very active. Former department chairs Jim Rhodes and Charlie Cramer attended as well as Jane Buckler from the front office. Former graduate students Chris Boessen, Diane Drainer, Handy Williamson and Corrine Valdiiva were among the participants.



Chancellor Brady Deaton attended the outing. Michael Nolan, Director of the Social Sciences Division, was there as well as Mike Monson. Jim Rhodes read the names of former members who are deceased, and the group had a moment of silence to remember and honor them.

Everyone enjoyed the picnic and networking opportunity.



Awards and Appointments

New Appointments

Seanicaa Edwards, Extension Associate

Dustin J. Donahue, National Needs Fellow

James Kaufman, National Needs Fellow

Randall Westgren, Professor and McQuinn Chair in Entrepreneurial Leadership

Jarrett Whistance, National Needs Fellow

Awards

Brady J. Deaton, Prince of Songkla University in Hat Yai, Thailand, Honorary Degree.

Joe Horner, University of Missouri, 2009 Donald Fancher Provost Award for Outstanding Achievement in Extension and Continuing Education

Honorary Positions

Peter G. Klein, adjunct professor, Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010

Positions Taken by Recent Graduates

Haluk Gedikoglu, PhD, Assistant Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse

Scott Gerlt, MS, Research Associate, FAPRI, University of Missouri-Columbia

Michelle Mullins, PhD, Assistant Professor, Sam Houston State University

Suk Ho Han, PhD, Economist in the Division of Future Policy Research in the Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI)

Sang Young Jei, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Statistics, Korea University-Sejong

Srinivasa Konduru, PhD, Assistant Professor, Fresno State University

Yiyong Yuan, PhD, Assistant Professor, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China



Awards and Appointments

Visitors

Jun Furuya, Economist, Japan International Research Centre for Agriculture Sciences (JIRCAS), Visiting Scholar with FAPRI, September 2009

Ferdinand Meyer, Economist, Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), University of Pretoria, Visiting Scholar with FAPRI, August 2009

Maryna Mykhaylenko, Department of Structural Development of Farms and Rural Areas Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO), Visiting Scholar, August-December 2009

Nataliia Gerasymchuk, Borlaug Fellow, National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine, October 11-November 17, 2009

Karin Hakelius, Professor of Economics, Swedish Agricultural University, Uppsala, Sweden, Visiting Scholar, September 19-October 10, 2009

Daniel Kekana, Borlaug Fellow, National Institute of Economic Policy, Agriculture Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa, September 22-November 15, 2009

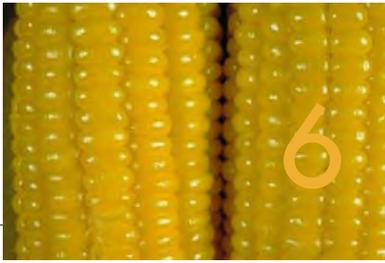
Darja Regorsek, University of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Visiting Scholar, August 2009 to February 2010

Returns from Leave

Harvey S. James

Retirements

Tony Prato, 21 years



Focus on the Faculty

Randall Westgren

Randall Westgren is a professor in Agricultural and Applied Economics and holder of the Al and Mary Agnes McQuinn Chair in Entrepreneurial Leadership. Randy joined the Department in January 2009, after 14 years at the University of Illinois where he was a professor of agribusiness management and a professor of business management. He was Director of the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) and was the PI on the \$1.4 million grant from the US Department of Education that is the principal funding source for CIBER. During his career, he has held faculty positions at Santa Clara University's Leavey School of Business and (in the Department of Agricultural Economics) at McGill University in Montréal, where he served as department chair for six years.



Randy's responsibilities at the University of Missouri include teaching undergraduate entrepreneurship -- at this time, AG EC 3283. He has worked on developing an all-campus entrepreneurship minor that will include at least three AG EC courses, including one or two new offerings that will provide new opportunities for our undergraduate students to specialize in this type of agribusiness management. He also serves as a faculty representative to new extracurricular programs to foster entrepreneurship in CAFNR, including the recently announced fellows program for students at the incubator at Monsanto Place.

Randy brought his enthusiasm for international experiences to campus. In July 2010, he will lead the international study tour for the Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow class to France and Spain. He also promotes the summer program for CAFNR undergraduates and other MU students at the École d'Ingénieurs de Purpan. This is a two-month summer experience that includes classroom study of the EU food system (including winemaking!) followed by a 4-week internship. One of the pleasures of working in the Department is having so many colleagues who share this passion for overseas experiences.

His research and outreach activities are directed toward strategic management and strategic marketing for agri-food firms. Among his new ventures is a three-year project funded by USDA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program to develop and offer an entrepreneurship development course for Missourians who wish to enter the production sector with new, innovative enterprises seeking to meet the needs of the highly fragmented consumer sector. The first cohort of learners will start this summer in a program of four intensive modules in Missouri and northern California.



Student Activities

Agricultural Economics- Agribusiness Management Club

The Agricultural Economics – Agribusiness Management Club at the University of Missouri – Columbia is open to any student who has an interest in agricultural economics, agribusiness, farm management, or agriculture in general. While most of our members are Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness Management majors, we also have members majoring in Biochemistry, Animal Science, Agricultural Education, Plant Science and Finance.

The purpose of the Agricultural Economics – Agribusiness Management Club is to:

- Broaden the Ag Econ students' knowledge and understanding of their field of study
- Stimulate interest and enthusiasm for learning beyond the scope of the classroom
- Promote student-faculty relations
- Promote scholarship, fellowship and leadership
- Provide an opportunity for wider acquaintance among students and professional workers in the agricultural social sciences

We participate in a wide variety of activities throughout the school year. Some of these include:

- Community Service activities include donating items to Adopt A Family and repairs at the Ronald McDonald House.
- Each fall we take an Agribusiness Trip. This road trip allows us to visit agricultural companies throughout the Midwest. The club has visited places such as Informa in Memphis, Tennessee, Riceland in New Madrid, Missouri, Chicago Board of Trade, and Mercantile Exchange, and Anheuser Busch headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.
- America Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) National Convention, Quiz Bowl.
- Social Activities include hayride, bowling, BBQ and softball game.

Each of our activities provides excellent opportunities to meet other individuals with common interests and to build life-long friendships.

Throughout the year we host a Labor Sale Fundraiser where faculty and staff of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources have the opportunity to “buy” a few members of the club to assist them with lawn care, house work, or other odd and end jobs. The proceeds help minimize the costs of our trips: the Agribusiness Trip and American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) National Convention. We have moved the spring Jerry West Memorial BBQ to the fall during the Mud Volleyball Tournament so more students can take advantage of the event. We take great pride in our annual BBQ fundraiser benefiting the Jerry West Memorial Scholarship for Agribusiness and Ag Econ majors. The BBQ is a great way for students to interact and have fun!

Meetings are held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month in 217 Mumford Hall at 7:00PM. We generally have a professional from the industry come and speak once a month. These speakers allow members to expand on networks and to gain insight on internship/career opportunities.



Retired Faculty

Albert Ross Hagan, 1908 - 2009

We were saddened with the loss of Albert Hagan this past June and extend our sympathies to his wife, Melva, and family.

Excerpts from the Columbia Daily Tribune obituary, Friday, June 26, 2009:

“Albert Ross Hagan, University of Missouri Professor Emeritus, 99, of Columbia passed peacefully from this life on June 25, 2009. Albert was educated in rural Mercer County, Northwest Missouri State University and received his Bachelor and Master’s degrees in Agriculture from the University of Missouri and PhD from Michigan State University. He was a Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri from 1940 until his retirement in 1980. For many years Albert also served as an agriculture advisor to many countries around the world on behalf of the USDA, United Nations FAO and the University. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to the Albert R. Hagan Scholarship fund at the University of Missouri’s Department of Agricultural Economics.”



As we approach the centennial year for the department, any retrospective must recognize Dr. Hagan. I decided that a list of those numerous awards and contributions that Albert made through his career will not say enough about the man or the impact he had. You can simply drive up Highway 13 to see how Dr. Hagan shaped the people and the countryside. The tribute from one of his former students, Don Day, probably says it all.

“Dr. Hagan’s name was mentioned often in our home when I was growing up. My dad was a balanced farming agent and worked with Dr. Hagan. He was held in high regard by my dad. When I decided to major in agricultural economics, Dad told me to try to get Dr. Hagan to be my advisor. I made an appointment to go in to talk with Dr. Hagan. My image of him was of a very large man because often when we hear someone talked about with the high regard they did of Dr. Hagan, you just imagine someone very tall. For those of you who knew him, you know he was very short. In fact, I was even taller than him.

I soon learned why he was so respected by the people I know. He agreed to be my advisor even though he really wasn’t taking any more advisees at that time. He was my advisor for both my BS and MS degrees. When it came time to enroll for the next semester, Dr. Hagan would go over my entire program. He knew which classes were taught in the fall and which in the spring. With the careful planning that he did, I was able to graduate in four years with my BS while some of my friends had to go extra semesters.



Retired Faculty

During my senior year of college, I was fortunate to be able to work on a project studying the effect of the growth of Kansas City on counties surrounding it. This project involved Dr. Hagan and I travelling to Kansas City about once a month. I always learned a lot on those trips. Dr. Hagan knew almost every farmer who owned land along I-70. He would tell me about their operations and how he and the extension agents had worked with them.

Dr. Hagan's farm planning class involved us touring farms and doing a plan for one farm. This was very valuable experience for me. It was a very practical class and it helped prepare me for my job as an extension specialist. Later, I helped line up farms for the classes to visit after we moved to Boone County. He could walk a farm faster than anyone I know.

My first assignment in extension was in Bates county where I had a Farm Management Association (Balanced Farming Group). Watching what my Dad did with his Balanced Farming Group and the education I received under the guidance of Dr. Hagan really helped prepare me for my career in extension.

Dr. Hagan also took credit for my marriage. While I was in Bates County, I started dating Fran Wetherell. Fran was just starting college as I was graduating. One year, a family from Bates County was presented an award by the Ag Economics club. I was able to attend the banquet where they received the award. Dr. Hagan introduced the family and told about their operation. Then he said, 'Don Day, Farm Management Agent, and his wife, Fran are also here.' Then he looked up and said, 'No, that is Fran Wetherell. Don just told me he wanted to get married.' I was so embarrassed that I was afraid to even look at Fran. Many people thought he had made a mistake, but it was just his dry sense of humor at work. Fran and I did marry, and I am glad to give Dr. Hagan credit for it."





From the Department Chair

Continued from page 1

100 Years of Ag Econ

Hagan Award in Agricultural Economics. Stephen Matthews and Glenn Grimes are retiring. I would ask readers to watch for more on Glenn in next year's issue because we still don't believe Glenn can keep out of the office.

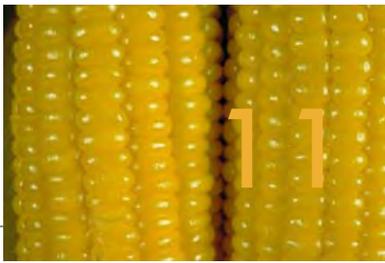
As for Dr. Matthews, I think of all the students he inspired and mentored who went on to law school. I will miss the opportunity to joke with Steve and his students in 133 Mumford as classes changed. Perhaps my favorite from Steve was that his ag law test questions were always the same, just the right answers changed from year to year. Steve's legacy includes thousands of students who learned about fence law and trespass and numerous guide sheets written on legal topics for extension. Over the years, he expanded his courses to cover biotechnology, hospitality and environmental law. He also covered estate planning for the department's Returning to the Farm program in years past. We wish Steve all the best in his retirement.

Former faculty members Jesse Grady, Albert Hagan, and Stephen Whitted passed away in 2009. Dr. Grady left the faculty for the Federal Reserve in Dallas in 1963. Dr. Hagan was a faculty member from 1940 to 1980 and Dr. Whitted from 1951 to 1977. The department appreciates the gifts given in their memories.

I also want to recognize new gifts in the past year. FAPRI received several significant contributions in recognition of their 25th anniversary. Other donors include Mark Langworthy, Ray and Lynda Greb, and Lois Thomas supporting the Bruce Bullock Fund, Linda & Steve Sowers and Mike Nolan donating to the Ag Econ Development Gifts Fund, and Frederick Breimyer supporting the Harold F. Breimyer Agricultural Economics Scholarship Fund for upperclassmen. Continuing gifts came from Justin Roberts, Joe & Julia Parcell, Dave & Cathy Maupin, Mike & Juanamaria Cook, and Steve & Jill Newcom.

As always, I urge every alumnus to remember the department when considering donations and gifts to MU.





Student Update

Ag Econ Students: Past and Present

Andrew Burst, who is a 1982 graduate with a MS in Agricultural Economics, is with USDA-FAS in Washington, DC, and is the chief agriculture adviser on the US Trade Representative's team when the World Trade Organization meets in Geneva, Switzerland.

Jim House, who has a BS and MS in Agricultural Economics from the early 1980s, just joined Landes Trucking as the CEO. Landes Trucking is a recent acquisition of a private equity group out of Detroit, Michigan. Jim was the senior vice president at a food company, in Memphis, Tennessee., but chose to join the small company for its entrepreneurial aspect combined with a need for big company management, strategy, and finance skills.

Dr. Mark Jenner, PhD from Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri in 1995, has recently joined the California Biomass Collaborative at the University of California, Davis. Mark has been living in Illinois and just moved to California to take the position.

Morgan Kueckelhan, a sophomore Agricultural Economics major at the University of Missouri, was crowned Missouri Beef Queen in December. Morgan was raised in Boonville, Mo., on a commercial cattle and diversified crop production farm. Morgan is involved on campus as the Student Council Representative of Collegiate CattleWomen, President of Block and Bridle, and Recruitment Chair for Sigma Alpha, a professional agriculture sorority.

Ken Roberts, MS'78, now works for Kraft in Washington, DC. Ken retired three years ago as the #2 person at FAS. Prior to serving as Associate Administrator, Ken had the position Andrew Burst now has on the US Trade Representative's team.

Chuck Alexander, BS'69, MS'77, retired as Deputy Director of the USDA-Foreign Agriculture Service in Dec. 2009 and has moved to Tampa, Florida in a new FAS capacity. He is now FAS liaison to the U.S. Army Central Command and expects to assist with the agricultural initiatives of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Chuck has been with FAS for 30 years.

Caleb Jones, BS '02, JD '07 has announced his candidacy for the 117th district representative. Caleb majored in Agricultural Economics and was a member of the Student Council, CAFNR Ambassador, Ag Economics Club, and Collegiate Farm Bureau. He also studied Economics in Reading, England at the University of Reading. After graduation he worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Kenny Hulshof and was appointed by President Bush to serve as a Special Assistant in the United States Department of Agriculture. Caleb graduated from the University of Missouri Law School and currently practices law with his brother with law offices in California, Columbia, and Kansas City. His campaign website calebmjones.com



Extension Update

Ag Economics Extension Program in 2009



Nature was kind to crop and livestock producers this year, but problems in the general economy and ongoing political issues continued to cause anxiety. Excessive rainfall and cool temperatures were a challenge for some crop producers, and lower milk and livestock prices were bad news for livestock producers.

Needless to say, our extension faculty were busy. Joe Horner, Ryan Milhollin, and others on the Commercial Agriculture Beef and Dairy teams worked on special projects funded by the Missouri Corn Growers, Missouri Beef Industry Council, and the Missouri Department of Conservation involving a range of topics – from dairy sharing arrangements to improving wildlife habitat. They also organized the Missouri Dairy Grazing Conference, a 3-day event in Joplin and over 300 people came. The 11th annual Agricultural Lenders School, targeted at new lenders, continued to draw attendance from

surrounding states as well as Missouri. Joe Horner was presented with the 2009 Donald Fancher Provost Award for Outstanding Achievement in Extension and Continuing Education for his work on many projects over the last few years.

Vern Pierce switched the focus of his extension program from cattle to legal issues.

Ray Massey, Commercial Agriculture Crops Economist, did extensive work on greenhouse gas issues and developed four MU Guide sheets explaining implications for Missouri agriculture. Seanicaa Edwards joined the Crops/Swine teams, replacing Ann Ulmer.



Extension Update

2009 was the 30th year for our statewide Ag Lenders Seminar series. The impact of the weaknesses in the general economy on agriculture was a popular topic. The Business/Farm Tax Schools were again held at 6 locations, showing continued interest, attendance, and profit. The Computers on the Farm Conference, organized by John Travlos, was held in January and continues to be popular with a wide audience. It now receives some financial support from FCS Financial.

MU Guide 302 on farm custom rates was updated, by popular demand. Most rates had increased some since 2006. Ron Plain and Joyce White conducted the annual farm land values survey in July. It indicated average values had fallen some from last year with less productive land falling more than good cropland.

We continue to hold at 17 Regional AgBusiness Extension Specialists in Missouri. On last count, over half of these were MU graduates. Our newest is Whitney Wiegel who graduated with an MS in Ag Econ in December this year and is located at Higginsville.

After being an employee of MU Extension for 57 years, Glenn Grimes retired at the end of 2009.





The Last Word

Ag Econ Study Abroad Students 2009

CAFNR Programs

Agricultural Economics, Rural Sociology, and Humanities
 Agriculture and Natural Resources
 Agriculture and Natural Resources
 Animal Science and Humanities
 Animal Science and Humanities
 Biodiversity and Conservation
 Biodiversity and Conservation
 EARTH University
 Intro to Agriculture and Natural Resources
 Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
 University of Reading

Country

Prague
 Prague
 Prague
 Prague
 Ireland
 Ireland
 Australia
 Australia
 Thailand
 Thailand
 Costa Rica
 New Zealand
 New Zealand
 New Zealand
 New Zealand
 Canada
 United Kingdom

Time Period

Summer 2009
 Winter Break 2008-2009
 Winter Break 2008-2009
 Summer 2009
 Spring 2009
 Spring 2009
 Winter Break 2008-2009
 Winter Break 2008-2009
 Summer 2009
 Fall 2008

Name

Jordan Hubach
 Tyler McAllister
 Daniel Plain
 Lauren Gerke
 Jake Meyers
 Blaire Vandiver
 Kelsey Peterson
 Brad Eisenbath
 Ryan Niemeyer
 Craig Solomon
 Wesley Delaney
 Hannah McClure
 Rachel Brunner
 Melanie Lowry
 Samantha Wilkerson
 Sarah Downing
 Joe Tvrdy

2009 Ag Econ Social

The 2009 Ag Econ Social Gathering yielded success again this year by a great turnout of faculty, staff, graduating seniors and mid-Missouri alumni. Graduating seniors were able to make contacts, speak with alumni about current jobs, take advantage of networking opportunities and reminisce about memories in Mumford Hall.

We would like to invite you to the 2010 Ag Econ Social Gathering so please mark your calendar. Again this year it will be held at the Heidelberg in the side room on Thursday, April 29, 2010 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. We are again inviting graduating seniors, faculty, staff, and alumni to attend. We want extend an invite to all of our alumni to attend the 2010 Social Gathering, but we realize time and travel constraints may limit your chance to attend. For this event, come and go as you please; no RSVP required. We will be providing appetizers during happy hour. We hope you can attend this wonderful opportunity to meet and greet students and alumni. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Fleischmann at fleischmannj@missouri.edu.