KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Department of Agricultural Economics

The Quarterly E-Newsletter of the Department of Agricultural Economics • Fall 2014

From the desk of Allen Featherstone

The fall semester 2014 has certainly quickly passed. As we wrap up the fall semester, we want to bring you up to date on Departmental activities. First of all, we would like to thank the many faithful and dedicated alumni that provide scholarships to our undergraduate and graduate students. During the last year, the Department was able to provide in excess of $250,000 in scholarships to our well deserving students. As tuition continues to increase and as the number of undergraduate majors continues to increase, scholarships are certainly an important mechanism that many students use to further their education. The Departments appreciates your generosity.

During the fall semester, we were pleased to welcome Jorge Gattini back to campus to allow him to interact with our students. Jorge Gattini originally came to Kansas on a 4-H exchange program, came back to Kansas State University to receive his master's in Agricultural Economics, and know serves as Minister of Agriculture in Paraguay. Mr. Gattini is responsible for formulating and executing agricultural policy for the country of Paraguay where agriculture ranges all the way from subsistence to precision agriculture that is competitive on the global scale.

Transition continues to occur as Dr. Arlo Biere and Dr. Joe Arata will retire at the end of the semester. They have both left a lasting legacy on the Department and will certainly be missed. We thank them for the many years of service to the State of Kansas in educating future generations of Agricultural leaders. We will be welcoming Dr. Elizabeth Yeager to the staff. She will be joining us from a faculty position at Purdue University and will teach in the undergraduate program in the areas of farm management, agricultural finance, and grain and livestock marketing.

I encourage you to examine a taste of the many other exciting developments in the Department. We would love to hear about your career and family developments and share them in upcoming issues of our quarterly E-Newsletter. Please email me at afeather@ksu.edu or Amanda Erichsen, our communication coordinator, at aerichsen@ksu.edu with information you would like to share with your fellow alumni.

Go Cats!

Allen M Featherstone

Dr. Allen Featherstone, afeather@ksu.edu
Department Head, Professor,
Master of Agribusiness Program Director

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For more information about the Department or this e-newsletter, please contact Amanda Erichsen at 785-532-6994 or aerichsen@ksu.edu.
Twitter @kstateagecon • Facebook facebook.com/kstateagecon

Jorge Gattini, Paraguay's Minister of Agriculture, delights K-State with campus visit

History was written this year in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. For the first time, a Minister of Agriculture received the department's Distinguished Alumni award. This year's recipient, Jorge Gattini, is Paraguay's current Minister of Agriculture, and a 1998 alumnus of our department.

Jorge Gattini arrived in Manhattan Sept. 24, to reconnect with his former professors, and accepted his award Sept. 26. Gattini credits his successes as the Minister of Agriculture to his education at K-State, saying, "I am sure that if I were not a student here at Kansas State University, I would not be a Minister of Agriculture. I met the President [of Paraguay] two days before he appointed me, but he says he chooses the best that he can get. I think K-State gave me the skills that helped develop my professional career."

Gattini was no stranger to agriculture prior to his venture to Kansas. As an adolescent, Gattini lived on a ranch working in the fields, and learning to love the lifestyle. He moved back to Asuncion, the capital city of Paraguay, when he was 17. He then discovered the 4-H program's partnership between Paraguay and Kansas State University. That was the first time Gattini came to Kansas, as an undergraduate student of K-State. He was back in Paraguay for a few years before returning to Kansas at the age of 25, this time to complete a master's degree in the Agricultural Economics program.

"I had the pleasure of having Gattini as a Masters student, as I was his adviser," said Allen Featherstone, agricultural economics department head. "I still have a copy of his final paper over the Economic Credit System in Paraguay… I'll have to talk to him to see if he has followed through with his recommendations in his paper. Jorge was an outstanding student, he was inquisitive. It certainly shows what anyone can do if they put their mind to it."

Following Gattini's graduation from K-State, he returned to his home country and began working as a financial consultant in the government. A few years after leaving that job, Gattini had his next big achievement when the president of Paraguay, who hardly knew Gattini at the time, appointed him as the Minister of Agriculture. In this position, Gattini strives to keep small-operation farmers in Paraguay afloat in the economy. He said, "Our main challenge is to develop modern technologies for small farmers."

The Department of Agricultural Economics hosted a scholarship and alumni banquet Sept. 26 that recognized Gattini for all of his efforts, along with 70 agricultural economics students that earned scholarships. "The banquet is a great opportunity to recognize our students in the department for their accomplishments and hard work, and it is a great time to recognize our alumni, especially this year's distinguished alumnus, Jorge Gattini," said Amanda Erichsen, the department's communications coordinator. "It's a great time for everyone to interact together."

Several faculty and staff members of the agricultural economics department meet early in the year to determine who will be selected as the distinguished alumni. Criteria of the award include proactive actions to make a difference in a community or enacting programs that influence the well-being of others.

"It's a great opportunity to have one of our alumni that is in such a high-level decision making process and using his education to help him think through certain difficult

situations in his career," Featherstone said, of having Gattini receive the award.

Though Paraguay is a top exporter of many crops, farmers fear poverty daily. Gattini lectured Sept. 24 in the K-State Student Union's Forum Hall regarding this issue. He spoke about the statistics of the difficulties of agriculture in Paraguay and how he envisions working with K-State to create tailor-made programs to bring back to Paraguay.

He also met with many other departments during his visit, including the offices for diversity and international outreach.

He said he plans to return to Manhattan more, as the partnership between Kansas State University and Paraguay continues growing. Gattini is proud of where he is now, and summed up the feeling of receiving the award as being very exciting.

Gattini is shown speaking at his seminar held Sept. 24 on the left-hand side of the previous page and with Allen Featherstone, receiving his award that will hang in Waters Hall at right. Above, Gattini is shown speaking to the attendees of the scholarship banquet held Sept. 26. Second picture above, Amanda Sales, a department communications assistant, is shown interviewing Gattini after his seminar on the 26th.

Introducing Ben Schwab!

Ben Schwab joined our department as assistant professor in July 2014. He grew up in southern New Jersey and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and Middle Eastern studies from Rutgers University, and his Masters of Arts and doctoral degrees in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Schwab's research focuses on international development, health and nutrition. While at Wisconsin, he was a National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) trainee in health economics and wrote his dissertation on the adoption and impact of vitamin D fortified milk. Before joining the faculty at K-State, Schwab worked at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). At IFPRI, his research centered on the design and implementation of large scale evaluations of international development projects in East Africa and the Middle East.

"With much of my research centered on international issues, the University's orientation towards Global Food Systems was a major attraction for me," Schwab said. "The four Innovation Labs recently awarded from USAID's Feed the Future program demonstrate the abundance of expertise on global food topics in the College of Agriculture. For a young researcher, that critical mass of talented people working on related topics is quite helpful. This department not only has great professors conducting leading research in their fields, but also an astoundingly collegial environment. From my short time here thus far, I've been very pleased with the atmosphere." Schwab is currently teaching Global Agricultural Development.

Student Updates

2014 Summer internship summary

From Brazil to Colorado to Texas and right back here in the heart of the United States, eight students from the Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics embarked on memorable internships during the summer of 2014. The students utilized their education in a variety of industry sectors including agricultural lending, bioenergy, grain, livestock and machinery.

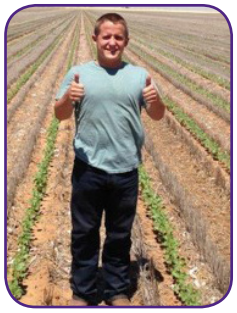
Many of the companies these students interned with operate on a global basis and work with a diverse set of commodities. The students applied their education through research, hands-on work, office work and stepping into leadership roles.

Katie Campbell

spent her summer based in Colorado. She interned at the North American Limousin Foundation (NALF) under the director of activities. Campbell's responsibilities included planning three regional shows and the Jr. National show. In order to plan these shows, she organized entries, and put together show books and packets. Campbell believes the biggest lesson she took from the summer is the ability to multi-task on big projects and conduct herself in a business setting.

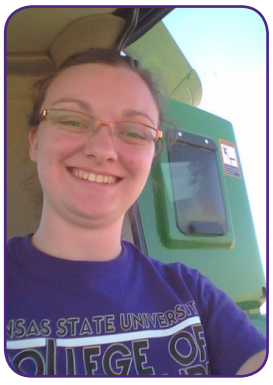
Frederick Kerr

traveled south, to Plainview, Texas, where he worked with cotton, a crop new to his repertoire. Duties of Kerr's internship with Monsanto varied from working in the seed testing lab to updating the company's operating procedures. He was also able to get out in the field to survey the cotton. Kerr valued his internship because he was able to get hands-on experience and he developed better interpersonal skills that he hopes will help him in his career.



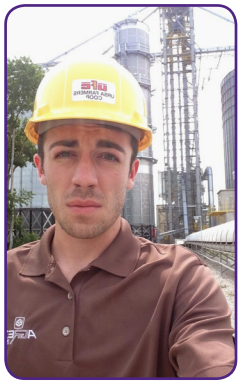
Pedro Masi

traveled to Brazil to spend his summer at Agro.Icone researching bioenergy in different scenarios. One component of bioenergy involved the use of palm oil produced in northeastern Brazil as a source of energy. Masi also looked at bio-ethanol production occurring in Mozambique and soybean sustainable production in south-central Brazil. He researched profit objectives, costs and prices on each of the three projects. Increased patience and perseverance were the biggest rewards of the experience, says Masi.



Arissa Moyer

interned in Pratt, Kan., at High Plains Farm Credit. Her experience involved various tasks including working with credit, appraisal, crop insurance, operations, finance, accounting and technology. Moyer says some of the things she learned could never have been taught to her through coursework. She learned to work through loan documents, analyzed financial statements and completed a field report. Overall, she built a basic knowledge of diverse agriculture operations.



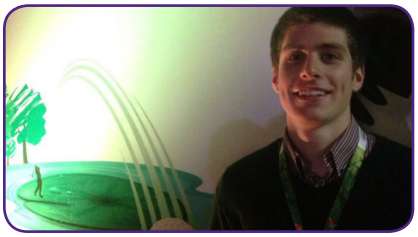
Kooper O'Brien

got a taste of the corporate life during the summer in his internship at Agrex, Inc. The company does commodity trading that deals with grain, oilseeds, feed ingredients, hay and other food ingredients. O'Brien saw the entire process from origination to marketing to finance and logistics. He also really enjoyed the opportunity to get some hands-on work as a commodity merchandiser. O'Brien hopes to apply some of these new skills in his classes.

Jake Ohlde did not spend very much time in the office. Ohlde found himself in the agronomy and grain units of MidKansas Cooperative during the summer, instead. Some of his responsibilities were to monitor weed populations in the fields, take soil samples, maintain the elevator, and document truckloads of wheat. The cooperative services 15 Kansas counties with 38 grain elevator locations. Ohlde believes the experience he had cannot be taught in a classroom.

Taylor Peterson didn't work with too many numbers during the summer. Her internship at John Deere in Olathe, Kan., was in the Media Relations Department. Her position dealt with writing news releases, coordinating a media event for a product introduction, and updating the dealer price books and kiosk systems. Peterson says that learning communication skills with customers, coworkers and media personnel are better learned in the professional world than in a classroom. She also gained a lot of perspective on professionalism and building a brand.

Sebastian Silvera interned with the Cotton Distributors, Inc., as a cotton trading trainee. His responsibilities included proofreading contracts, and calculating average prices and logistics. He was also able to visit producers in Bahia, Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul, which are states of Brazil. Silvera believes that the best part about the experience was being able to work in a different country because it allowed him to view business in a different setting. His internship was unpaid, and Silvera says these types of internships can still be beneficial because the professional skills gained pay off in the future.



Derek Betcher, marketing manager for John Deere in Moline, Ill. supervised Taylor Peterson's internship in the Rental Marketing department in the summer of 2013.

"Taylor came to John Deere with good work habits, an engaging, outgoing personality, and energy for representing the brand with a great balance of warmth and professionalism," Betcher said.

He added that she grew in many areas including customer relations, "Analytical skills and Excel proficiency are two areas I think she grew the most."

Betcher offers the following advice for students, "What you know is a great foundation, but how much you care about your work and your co-workers is probably an even bigger early career differentiator."

He concluded that his division has hosted multiple K-State students during the past two years and they have been consistently high quality, ready to work and easy to engage with.

A few of the learned skills that the students attributed to their internship experiences include confidence, motivation, strong work habits, and skills that transfer between companies. The students shared the following advice to fellow undergraduates about how to grab ahold of a beneficial internship.

It is important to realize that no one is ever too young for an internship; attending all of the career fairs can open a lot of unforeseen doors. Setting up interviews with employers at the fairs is a great idea because it makes each following interview a little easier, which can lead to stellar interviewing skills following graduation.

These students are just eight of our many students that complete internships. For more pictures and quotes from the students, and information about the companies our students interned with, visit our student internship page.

Student Updates

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!

Agriculture Alumni Association Scholarship
Brown, Benjamin

Agriculture Enhancement Scholarship
Sudbeck, Lucas

American Ag Credit Scholarship
Brown, Benjamin
Cather, Jeff
Diederich, Aaron
Haltom, Spencer

David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship
Rundel, Brady

Glenn Beck Agricultural Scholarship
Bryant, Amanda

Leslie W / Edna L Beckman Memorial Scholarship
Cather, Jeff

Dan and Beth Bird Agricultural Economics Scholarship
Alexander, Blaine

Jim and Mary Lou Birkbeck Family Scholarship
Allen, Elizabeth
Maxwell, Shannon

John and Pearl E Bullock Scholarship
Wilson, Candice

CHS University Scholarship
Allen, Elizabeth
Anderson, Kyle
Bergkamp, John
Bilberry, Linda
Clark, Emily
Hoss, Kelsie
Martin, Gylee
Wineinger, Nick

CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarship
Clawson, Kurtis
O'Brien, Cody
Wilson, Janay

Charles Fremont Crews Scholarship
Britton, Logan

Joseph T / Ann L Davis Memorial Ag Scholarship
Meenen, Shane

Ruth McClanahan Dotson and John Dotson Scholarship
Warriner, Emily

Donald P Edson Memorial Scholarship
Britton, Logan

Farmers National Company Foundation Scholarship
McClelland, Bailey

Flinchbaugh Agriculture Policy Scholarship
Friesen, Jacob
Kays, Kenneth "Garrett"

George R. Hanson Scholarship
Damme-Longinaker, William
Horn, Abigail
Meder, Taylor

Hosea S Harkness Agricultural Economics Scholarship
Finley, Jonathan

A Eugene Harris Memorial Scholarship
Clawson, Cooper
McClaren, Matthew

Ted Heath Memorial Scholarship
Alonso, Nathan
Frederick, Karly
Hodgson, Tanner

Thomas G. Hobbs Memorial Scholarship
McKinney, Samuel

J. Adair Hodges Memorial Fellowship
Finley, Jonathan
Schmidt, Ryan
Seiwert, Matt
Wiltse, Morganne

Frank W / Gwendolyn R Jordan Scholarship in Agriculture
Wilson, Janay

Lawrence E. and Gertrude E. Kern Family Scholarship in Agriculture
Roush, Kaden

E. Robert and Donna Kern Agriculture Economics Scholarship
Smart, Nathan

Koch Nitrogen Company Agriculture Economics Scholarship
Kays, Kenneth "Garrett"
Pracht, Wyatt
Stinson, Nathan
Troendle, Jason
Zimmerman, Rachel

Kansas Ag Bankers Scholarship
Otott, Bryan
Reeves, Gabrielle
Stucky, Connor
Sumerour, Jessica

Cleo Harvey Kuhn Scholarship
Grommet, Alexander
McClaren, Matthew

Duane and Pauline Murphy Scholarship
Fowler, Ethan

Joseph Lieber Memorial Cooperative Scholarship
Warriner, Emily

Tim Lim Undergraduate Scholarship
McClaren, Matthew
Schmidt, Jonathan

David / Ruth Martin FarmHouse Fraternity Scholarship
Finley, Jonathan

William S. May Scholarship for Ag Finance Scholarship
Pracht, Wyatt
Seiwert, Matt

Charles Dean and Harriet McNeal Memorial Scholarship
Carls, Emily
Davis, Emily
Fowler, Ethan
Long, Janellys
Minnix, Luke
Peoples, Hunter
Reeh, Kenan
Seiwert, John Paul
Unruh, Nathan
Yang, Youwei

Fred / Virginia Merrill American Royal Association Scholarship
Kays, Kenneth "Garrett"

John and Madeline Miller Scholarship
Buelt, Caitlin

Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship
Maxwell, Shannon

Aaron Patrick Morrison Scholarship
Alonso, Nathan

David J / Lois Mugler Scholarship
Brown, Benjamin
Wilson, Candice

Gaylord Munson Memorial Scholarship
McClelland, Bailey

Darrell W. and Zola F. Myers Family Agriculture Scholarship
Crosson, Dylan

Charles W. and Lois H. Nauheim Ag Economics Scholarship
Bilberry, Linda
Harner, Elizabeth
Sudbeck, Lucas
Zimmerman, Rachel

Adrian John Polansky II Scholarship
Boeschling, Aaron

Stroupe Family Agriculture Scholarship
Moyer, Arissa

James E. Pruden, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Tyler, Kathleen

Gladwin A. Read Memorial Scholarship
Beachner, Craig
Beer, Jessica
Boeschling, Aaron
Braun, Emily
Buelt, Caitlen
Bulk, Lindsay
Busse, Craig
Capoun, Sam
Carollo, Connor
Cromwell, Kalen
Crosson, Dylan
Delano, Katlyn
Ellis, Broc
Findley, Sean
Frederes, Max
Gabel, Austin
Gaw, Trenton
Gleason, Reed
Gum, Bret
Harden, Nathan
Harris, Emily
Hodgkinson, Dalton
Kays, Reagan
Kimzey, Leah
Koester, Garet
Lee, Clint
Lockwood, Kurt
McClelland, Bailey
McKenna, Kaid
Mortimer, Mackenzie
Neville, Jacqueline
Olsen, Jacob
Ott, Shaina
Pechanec, Brandon
Peterson, Taylor
Riegel, Nicholas
Rockers, Gracen
Roush, Kaden
Schmidt, Jonathan
Stroberg, Amy
Sullivan, Ronald
Sutter, Alison
Troendle, Jason
Tyler, Kathleen
Wilson, Candice
Wineinger, Nick

Risk Management Center Scholarship
Clawson, Kurtis
Curran, Kassie
Dasenbrock, Joseph
Einck, Thomas
Griebel, MaryLynn
Higgins, Jonathan
Hill, Shelby
Mashange, Gerald
Ortez, Mario
Rogers, Laura
Ward, Lacey

Rodman (Dale A) Alpha Gamma Rho Agriculture Leadership Scholarship
Fowler, Ethan

Leonard W. Schruben Agricultural Economics Scholarship
Clawson, Cooper

The Scoular Company Scholarship in Agriculture
Findley, Sean
O'Brien, Cody

Seaton (Garrett) Memorial Scholarship
Clawson, Cooper

Shoemaker-Burson Scholarship
Herrmann, Nicholaus

Silvius Family Scholarship in Agriculture
Peoples, Hunter

Matthew Kent Stamper Memorial Scholarship
Stinson, Nathan

Clark B. "Steve" and Laverne Inman Stephenson Scholarship in Agriculture
Britton, Logan

Streitline Rural Entrepreneurship Scholarship
Nelson, Jacob

Student Scholarship
Garr, Dillon

Stanley G. Wendland Memorial Scholarship
Harner, Elizabeth
Koester, Garet

Robert & Marjorie Tobald Memorial Scholarship in Agriculture
Koester, Garet

Triangle Insurance Scholarship
Bogner, James

W.L. 'Bill' Webber Memorial Scholarship
Troendle, Jason

Stanley G. Wendland Memorial Scholarship
Harner, Elizabeth
Koester, Garet

Dave Woolfolk Scholarship
Britton, Logan

Zeta Schippel Memorial Scholarship in Production Agriculture
Lee, Clint
Sudbeck, Lucas

Thank you very much to all of the donors that make these scholarships possible. It is great to know that our students can reach their goals with the help of wonderful supporters.

K-State Center for Risk Management Education and Research announces a new class of Student Fellows

The Kansas State University Center for Risk Management Education and Research has announced its third class of student fellows. The center works to enhance the understanding of economic risks inherent in the global society through experiential education and research.

The 18 students selected for this class represent both undergraduate and graduate levels and include:

Dustin Aherin, master's student in animal science and industry, Phillipsburg, Kansas;
Cheyanna Colborn, public relations, Iola, Kansas;
Christa Deneault, mathematics/economics, Concordia, Kansas;
Ryan Goetzmann, agricultural economics, Gardner, Kansas;
Adam Hancock, master's student in agricultural economics, Indianapolis, Indiana;
Emily Harris, agribusiness, Abilene, Kansas;
Brady Heidrick, finance and accounting, Olathe, Kansas;
Pedro Masi, agricultural economics, Asuncion, Paraguay;
Christa McKittrick, finance and accounting, Mission Hills, Kansas;
Claire Newman, master's student in agricultural economics, Auburn, California;
Cody O'Brien, agribusiness, Cherryvale, Kansas;
Samuel Power, finance and accounting, Lenexa, Kansas;
Nicholas Scherrer, economics, Overland Park, Kansas;
Jayce Stabel, agronomy, Lakin, Kansas;
Kylie Sturgis, public relations, Wilcox, Nebraska;
Tucker Styrkowicz, bachelor's and master's student, industrial engineering, Leawood, Kansas;
Lucas Sudbeck, agricultural economics, Seneca, Kansas; and
Morganne Wiltse, agribusiness, Wichita, Kansas.

"This is another stellar class of talented and accomplished student fellows. They will be a great group to work with," said Ted Schroeder, director of the center and professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics. "The new student fellows will experience guest lectures and industry visits, conduct student research projects and receive tremendous interest from industry leaders."

The new student fellows begin their program in January 2015.

By providing students and business professionals with the information and tools necessary to identify, quantify and manage risk, the center complements K-State's strategic plan. Additionally, the center supports the greater university mission of advancing the well-being of the state of Kansas, the United States and the international community.

Shown above are the attendees of the fall 2014 Risk Management Center advisory council meeting, including current student fellows to share their experiences with the council members.

Lynes attends Fifth Lindau Meeting

Picture the Bavarian countryside of Germany, the quaint little town of Fussen looking out on the Alps, bustling Munich with its Marienplatz centre, and the ancient Bavarian castles. Now imagine that the reason for exploring all of this beauty is to network with several of the most revered economists in the world. This opportunity of a lifetime became a reality for Melissa Lynes.

The brightest economic students from around the world gathered in Lindau, Germany, for the fifth Lindau Nobel Laureates meeting August 19-24. Out of 29 student delegates selected from the United States, Lynes represented Kansas State University and the Department of Agricultural Economics, where she is a doctoral student.

The Lindau Meeting is an open exchange of economic expertise that connects different generations and cultures. The heart of this year's conference was 18 laureates of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences, who addressed the delegates in formal lectures and master classes and hosted panel discussions. In addition to the laureates, Lynes heard words of wisdom from the Queen of Sweden and the Chancellor of Germany.

Though the entire student delegation consisted of 460 students from 80 countries, Lynes was the only economist in an agricultural program. "I did come across some natural resource economists from third-world countries that are focused on farms," Lynes said.

Lynes' current research in agricultural economics includes renewable energy policies such as the Renewable Portfolio Standard. She hopes to determine if policies like this increase the price of electricity and whether utility companies are operating efficiently. The outcome of the research will provide information to policy makers about the feasibility of renewable energy policies and their impact.

Jeff Williams, professor for K-State agricultural economics and advisor to Lynes, said prior to the Lindau Meeting, "Melissa Lynes is an excellent and enthusiastic researcher. She will be fully engaged in discussions with the Nobel laureates at the conference."

Lynes was not only engaged in discussions with laureates, but with other young economists at the meeting. "I wasn't sure how many people with similar interests would be there and who might be using similar methods I'm using. It was incredible seeing people doing similar things as me from all around the world," said Lynes.

Evidence of Lynes' success in economic research is exhibited through her publication in the Journal of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, her forthcoming article in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, and her presentations at various conferences across the country, including the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, International Oil Spill Conference and the United States Association of Energy Economics.

Looking back on her trip, Lynes noted the lasting connections she made with the other delegates, and she hopes to meet up with many of them again. Lynes also enjoyed the theme nights and boat trip that were part of the meeting. Theme nights embodied food, dancing and clothing traditions of many cultures, including the Bavarian region that houses Lindau. Lynes also took a boat trip out on the waters of Lake Constance, which borders several European countries.

Being selected to attend the conference is no easy ride for any applicant. "I applied in October and did not hear back until March so it was a very long time and I had to do two rounds of application," Lynes said. "I heard back from the first round in December and then applied again and heard back from the second round in March. It was a very long process and we were all anxiously waiting."

Prior to the Lindau Meeting, Lynes had the opportunity to be a tourist around Germany, spending most of her time in Munich and Fussen. Munich provided more of a city perspective with a lot of traffic, people and tall buildings, while Fussen's location at the base of the Alps and the cobble streets provided more a country feel. Lynes also toured old castles around the Bavarian countryside.

To sum up her entire experience in August, Lynes said, "It really was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I am very thankful that I was able to be a part of, and I was very excited when I found out that I was actually selected."

Lynes was accompanied to the meeting by a second K-State student, Hedieh Shadmani (shown at left). Shadmani is a doctoral student in economics from Iran. Travel and registration costs were sponsored by MARS Candy Company.

Barkley's new book 'Depolarizing Food and Agriculture'

Conventional versus organic? Local production or global food sourcing? For one reason or another, those involved in growing and raising our food are often at odds with one another.

A new book, *Depolarizing Food and Agriculture: An Economic Approach*, takes a look at the origins, validity, consequences, and potential resolution of the different and often opposing stances taken by groups involved in the food business.

"Many issues in food and agriculture have become disputes – some of them serious conflicts, with no end in sight," said Andrew Barkley, a professor of agricultural economics at Kansas State University and one of the book's authors. "The economic approach offers a greater understanding of why these disagreements came about, and how they can be resolved. We wrote this book to share the economic approach, which provides greater appreciation for both sides of these important issues."

Barkley, who is also a university distinguished teaching scholar at K-State, co-wrote the book with his father, Paul W. Barkley, professor emeritus of agricultural economics at Washington State University and adjunct professor at Oregon State University. Paul Barkley earned a Ph.D. at K-State in 1963.

The divide between industry groups often stems from political or legal actions that confuse consumers, many of whom are considering the impact of their food choices on nutrition, health, the environment, animal welfare, and hunger, Andrew Barkley said.

The book summarizes and extends Paul Barkley's 50 years of research and Andrew Barkley's research on agricultural labor markets, wheat markets, and public policy in his more than 25 years at K-State. Their research emphasizes that the one constant in food and agriculture markets is change. Changes in technology, production practices, consumer desires, and policies occur constantly, and change is often disruptive. Since change has both winners and losers, it can be polarizing, especially in a rapidly-evolving sector like food and agriculture.

Based on a United Nations prediction that the world's population will grow from the current 7.2 billion people to 9.6 billion by 2050, it is more important than ever for agricultural producers to figure out the best ways to meet the demand for food, Andrew Barkley added. In some cases that might mean working together or at least understanding a different perspective.

The book is available at http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415714235/ and http://tinyurl.com/mgzxdwl.

OLG uses market approach for pollution reduction

Since 2007, the Office of Local Government (OLG) has been assisting local Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) stakeholder groups to make conservation investments using an innovative and flexible market-based approach called a best management practice (BMP) auction. A BMP auction encourages producer/landowner conservation participation by offering greater flexibility to implement self-selected BMPs while targeting funds in a cost-effective manner.

To date, OLG has conducted several dozen auctions involving both crop and livestock BMPs, and is currently preparing to conduct two more in the Milford Lake and the Cottonwood River watersheds.

According to Anatoliy Oginskyy, OLG Agricultural and Natural Resource Economist, producers use a field sign-up sheet to identify soil erosion and/or contaminant reduction BMPs they are willing to use in high-priority sub-watersheds. They have the flexibility to identify anything they believed would enhance water quality and name the price they required to install and maintain the BMP.

Working together with the NRCS District Conservationist and county Extension agent, Oginskyy calculates the estimated pollution reduction per dollar invested for the BMP. All of the bids received are then ranked from most pollution reduction per dollar to least. Projects are then awarded using this ranking system until the available budget is exhausted.

This approach ensures that scarce conservation dollars are invested in the most cost-effective manner possible by means of a voluntary pollution reduction program.

To learn more about using a BMP auction as a pollution reduction strategy, contact Anatoliy Oginskyy at 785-532-3035 or aoginsky@ksu.edu.

MAB program and staff earn honors

Kansas State University's Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program and communications staff have received regional awards through the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. Awards were presented at the association's conference Oct. 22-24 in Denver.

Mary Emerson-Bowen, at left, received the association's support specialist award. In her role as a program associate for the Master of Agribusiness program since 2005, Emerson-Bowen develops and executes the program's marketing and communications plan, including online, print and social media advertising campaigns. She also is responsible for coordinating the program's extensive international and on-campus events and meetings, as well as assisting with student recruitment, enrollment and communications.

"We are pleased, but not surprised, at Mary's successful nomination for this award," said Deborah Kohl, MAB program coordinator. "Mary is one of the most loyal and thoughtful professionals I have worked with and she consistently puts the needs of students above her own. She also is innovative and committed to moving the program, its brand and our level of service forward."

Emerson-Bowen has supported the program by designing and maintaining its website, developing and implementing a social media plan and continuing frequent communication with students, alumni and potential students.

"Mary chose to center the capstone project for her master's degree on social media in the MAB program and we continue to reap the benefits of that effort, having just recruited our first student solely through this stream," said Kohl. "She always is on the lookout for ways to improve the service we provide to students, alumni and industry. Her dedication is one of the reasons for the program's enduring success."

That success is evident through a new honor for the MAB program, which received the association's regional mature credit program award. The award recognizes an established credit program that has demonstrated sustained innovation, cost effectiveness, diversity, quality and exceptional measures of success through evaluations and graduate success.

The MAB program at K-State began in 1998 and was the first graduate agribusiness program in the nation offered through distance education. Not an MBA, and not an Master of Science in agricultural economics, the MAB program was developed to teach food and agribusiness professionals working in related fields the strategies for making informed decisions based on a thorough understanding of current issues.

Originally an outreach to largely underserved food and agriculture employees, the MAB program met a need for these employees living in rural areas who needed to complete an advanced education through an online option. Since its inception, the program has attracted more than 375 students from more than 40 states and 30 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Ghana, Grenada, India, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Senegal, Singapore, Uruguay and Venezuela.

"With classmates from North America, South America and Africa all involved in the agriculture industry, I gain a perspective that I would not normally have working for an aid program in Zambia," said Lydia Mtchotsa, Master of Agribusiness student.

The program utilizes online learning technologies and a combination of learning styles including audio, visual, text-based and face-to-face cohort sessions to provide professionals with a global agribusiness experience. The program's on-campus sessions provide valuable experiences for students to interact and connect with each other, program faculty and industry leaders.

During the past 17 years, the program has sustained itself and has had a successful revenue stream allowing for the development of two additional program cohorts: one with an animal health focus at K-State Olathe and an international cohort in Southeast Asia. The program continues a high graduation rate and current student population that is almost equally distributed through the agri-industries supply chain. The knowledge and experience of MAB students create a professional environment for learning and keep discussion focused on industry challenges. The program produces creative leaders with analytical abilities in an increasingly complex global economy.

Learn more about the Master of Agribusiness program at mab.ksu.edu.

Mykel Taylor and Art Barnaby to decipher Farm Bill at state-wide workshops

Congressional legislation can be hard to interpret. So when faced with 357 pages in the form of the Agricultural Act of 2014, it is tempting to skip reading it altogether. However, doing so means a lot of important information would be missed. From the Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics, assistant professor Mykel Taylor, professor Art Barnaby, and extension associate Robin Reid are providing the answers producers need to understand the legislation.

The Agricultural Act of 2014, more commonly known as the 2014 Farm Bill, covers policy on commodity programs, crop insurance, and conservation. Policies on trade and credit, research and extension, rural development and many more are also laid out.

For producers familiar with the previous version of the Farm Bill, some programs have been eliminated, including direct payments, counter cyclical payments, Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE). These programs have been replaced with the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

The rules of these two new programs are crucial information to know and are not always straightforward to understand. Farmers or landlords who aim to skirt around understanding the bill may actually hurt their operation because failure to choose between the ARC and PLC programs could result in losing their 2014 program payment.

Taylor and Barnaby's solution to helping people better understand the rules of the bill are meetings in various locations across Kansas. The meetings are intended to be open-ended discussions between the producers and Taylor and Barnaby, who will be the instructors for all of the sessions.

Sessions will provide vital information about the Farm Service Agency's ARC and PLC programs as well as interpretation of market information and economic factors to consider in making program enrollment decisions. Choosing a program becomes simpler with the use of a computer-run decision aid tool, which will also be demonstrated at the meetings. This decision aid tool helps the producer sort through all of his or her options in order to make the most suitable choice.

All questions about material not covered by the instructors will gladly be accepted to optimize understanding of the policies by everyone the bill affects.

"Everyone with FSA program base acres can enroll in one of the programs. Other than crop insurance, these programs are the only government support producers will receive in either production or marketing disaster years," said Taylor of reasons to attend one of the meetings.

Participants will need to contact one of the program sponsors or their local county Extension agent to receive a ticket in advance, which allows free entry to the program.

The AgManager.info website lists much more information about the Farm Bill and these meetings as well. The site is the best resource for finding all the materials presented at the meetings, which may be helpful for anyone unable to attend. For information about times in each location or contact information of area Extension agents, visit http://www.agmanager.info/events/FarmBill/default.asp.

Farm Bill meeting dates and locations

- Jan. 12 • Wichita
- Jan. 13 • Pittsburg
- Jan. 14 • Emporia
- Jan. 15 • Ottawa
- Jan. 20 • Salina
- Jan. 21 • McPherson
- Jan. 22 • Pratt
- Jan. 26 • Goodland
- Jan. 27 • Scott City
- Jan. 28 • Liberal
- Jan. 29 • Dodge City
- Feb. 10 • Phillipsburg
- Feb. 11 • Hays
- Feb. 12 • Frankfort
- Feb. 13 • Atchison

Upcoming events

Dec. 15 – 19 • Finals week
Dec. 24 • Grades available online for students
Dec. 24 – Jan. 2 • Department office closed for Christmas break and New Year's holidays

Jan. 4 – 9 • Master of Agribusiness program week on campus, Manhattan
Jan. 12 – Feb. 13 • "The 2014 Farm Bill: Making the decision" see Farm Bill article in this e-newsletter for details.
Jan. 16 • New Student Orientation and Enrollment
Jan. 19 • Martin Luther King Day, University offices closed
Jan. 20 • Spring semester begins

Feb. 1• K-State scholarship application deadline for continuing and transfer students
Feb. 5 • Excel Workshop at Lyon County Extension Office in Emporia
Feb. 9 • Last day to drop a class with a 100% refund
Feb. 13 • Summer/Fall 2015 course schedule on web
Feb. 16 • Last day to drop a class with a 50% refund
Feb. 24 • Last day to drop classes without a "W"

For a full list of our events and more information, please visit www.ageconomics.k-state.edu/events/index.html

Gifting opportunities with Agricultural Economics

About our funds

Ag Econ Departmental Support Fund • D15290 • All-around fund for departmental enhancement.

Ag Econ Emeritus Faculty and Friends Fund • O50290 • A fund established by departmental emeritus faculty to provide scholarships for outstanding graduate students.

Ag Econ Master of Agribusiness Fund (MAB) • O01137 • Master of Agribusiness program

Arthur Capper Cooperative Center • C55950 • Arthur Capper Cooperative Center

Coolidge (J.H.) Farm Management Fund • D58235 • Enhancement of the Kansas Farm Management Association, especially recruitment, orientation and training of KFMA economist

Risk Management Center • D84855 • Center for Risk Management Education and Research

Undergraduate Student Funds • If you would like to create a special scholarship for undergraduate students, please don't hesitate to contact Kim Schrier at kims@found.ksu.edu.

https://www.found.ksu.edu/agriculture/onlinegiving.html

Donations can be made online or submitted to the Department or Foundation by Dec. 31 to be included for the 2014 tax deductions. For information about the opportunity to give to the Department, please contact Allen Featherstone at afeather@ksu.edu or 785-532-4441. You are also welcome to mail this form to the office at the attention of Allen Featherstone, Department of Agricultural Economics, 342 Waters Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

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Department of Agricultural Economics
Kansas State University
342 Waters Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS
66506-4011
785.532.6702

For more information about the Department or this e-newsletter, please contact Amanda Erichsen at 785.532.6994 or aerichsen@ksu.edu.

Article contributions by Elaine Edwards, Mary Lou Peter, Rosanna Vail, *Amanda Sales, Communications Assistant, Sophomore in Agricultural Communications & Journalism*