

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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ALUMNI NEWS

The Alumni News features past graduates from the College of Liberal Arts and Science and the College of Agriculture and Life Science who have been recognized by the University and community for their outstanding achievements.



DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

The Department News section contains the faculty who have been recognized and awarded for their hard work and dedication to our department. Our Department Updates page features the new faculty and staff who have joined us this past year.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Joshua Rosenbloom, department chair

Greetings from Heady Hall! I am once again writing to you in the midst of the Fall Semester. The weather has begun to cool down, the leaves have begun to turn, and there is the energy that comes with the beginning of classes and the return of students.

This year marks my tenth, and last, year as department chair. And it will be a busy year. In April the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences welcomed a new Dean, Benjamin Withers, who was previously the dean of the college of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University. Dean Withers has embarked on developing a strategic plan for the college and challenged departments to identify how they can contribute to sustaining and extending the College's land grant mission through research excellence and interdisciplinary approaches while increasing enrollments.

At the same time, we are gearing up for an external review of our academic programs. These Board of Regents mandated reviews take place every seven years and are an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness, progress, and status of the department's academic programs, while ensuring their alignment with the larger university mission and strategic plan. This Fall faculty will prepare a self-study describing and assessing our programs, and a review team of four prominent economists will spend two days on campus this Spring to conduct the review and report their findings.

As strategic planning and preparation for the external program review require us to look forward and plan for the future of the department, they also encourage me to look backward and assess the changes that have taken place during my term as chair. Perhaps the largest changes over the last nine years are in the people who make-up the department. Looking back over the last nine years, I

realize that I have hired virtually all the staff who support and make possible our work. Among the faculty, we have filled 15 tenured or tenure-eligible faculty and 7 term faculty positions during my term. Over the same period, there have been 28 retirements or resignations among the tenure-track faculty and 6 among the term faculty. As you can see from this math, rising costs and tight budgets have obliged a reduction in the size of the department.

Among the major initiatives the department has undertaken during my time as chair, perhaps the most consequential are the re-orientation of the M.S. programs from a focus on preparing students for advanced graduate study to a more applied focus, and our ongoing effort to improve instruction in principles of economics. In its first year, the newly re-oriented M.S. programs enrolled 7 students, we welcomed 13 students this Fall for our fourth cohort. I am also pleased with the work we have been doing to improve instruction in principles of economics. Faculty and graduate instructors teaching principles of economics now meet under the leadership of the principles coordinator for lively monthly conversations about curriculum and teaching challenges, as well as sharing tips and tricks for teaching these foundational courses.

As I have described in previous newsletters, we have also made important investments in the physical infrastructure of Heady Hall to create undergraduate and graduate student lounge spaces. And finally, I am continuing the work necessary to establish a branch of the Central Plains Federal Statistical Research Data Center (RDC). This project started before I arrived at Iowa State and remains a work in progress. The enhanced access to restricted federal data that it will provide to researchers across campus is an important contribution to supporting cutting edge research in the social sciences. I remain confident it will be completed before I turn over the department to my successor.

As always, I appreciate your continued interest in and support of the Economics Department and Iowa State University. Please stay in touch during the coming year.

ALUMNI NEWS



Katharine Abraham

Katharine Abraham, class of 1976, was elected president for the American Economic Association. She is a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, and has been a Distinguished Fellow for the AEA since 2020. Her focus is in labor economics, and she's done seminal research on unemployment, the measurement and diagnosis of labor market slack, and other accomplishments led to her election in 2024.

Julia Campbell

Julia Campbell, class of 2023, was named the 2023 Wallace E Barron All-University Senior Award. Campbell's outstanding academic achievement and influential leadership in both university and community activities makes her a deserving recipient of the prestigious award.



Gavin Tindle

Gavin Tindle, spring 2024 ag business grad, is introducing his goat meat business. Goat meat is leaner than beef, chicken, and pork, and has a similar taste to bison or deer but without the game flavor. Tindle partook in the Start Something college of Agriculture and Life Sciences to develop his business and management skills, and found the Student Incubator program particularly beneficial as he built his business.

Samarendu Mohanty

Samarendu Mohanty, who worked with CARD and FAPRI in the 1990s, was recognized this year at the World Food Prize in Des Moines for top Agri-Food Pioneer. Mohanty is a prominent agricultural economist specializing in international development and rural livelihoods, and was awarded for his work in potato seed innovation.



CLASS NOTES



Hocheol Jeon, 2014 PhD graduate, is an assistant professor in Resource/Environmental Economics in Chungnam National University's Economics and Management Department.

Sher Afghan Asad, 2020 PhD graduate, is a visiting assistant professor at Iowa State University's Economics Department for the 2024-2025 academic year.



Terrance Hurley, 1995 PhD graduate, Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota, stepped up and became interim department head of the Department of Applied Economics.

CLASS NOTES



Paul Maass, 1988 ag business grad, spoke at the Ag Business Club as the director of strategic leadership for Scoular, a company focused on global supply chains.

Roger Underwood, 1980 ag business graduate and co-founder of ag specialties company Becker Underwood, presented a Leadership and Life lecture to the Ag Bus Club.



Simon Gilchrist, 1984 grad and current professor of economics at New York University, gave a university lecture at Iowa State during the fall 2024 semester on the impacts of transitioning to a greener economy.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

New Faculty and Staff



John Reasoner joined the team in time for student orientation in the summer as an academic adviser for agriculture business students.



Jenna Blochowicz came on board as an assistant professor from the University of Virginia, specializing in applied econometrics.



Sher Afghan Asad is the department's visiting assistant professor and will be teaching microeconomics for the year.

368A Heady Hall Renovation

The seminar room in 368A Heady Hall was renovated over the 2023-2024 winter break! It now boasts state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, making seminars accessible to viewers at a distance while maintaining ease of use on campus.

FACULTY NEWS



Rabail Chandio conducted and presented the 2024 Land Value Survey.



John Winters co-founded a newly released academic journal with multi-university support: Reaching Regions.



Peter Orazem and Patti Cotter won “Art in the Workplace” award for the various prints, portraits, and paintings displayed throughout Heady Hall.



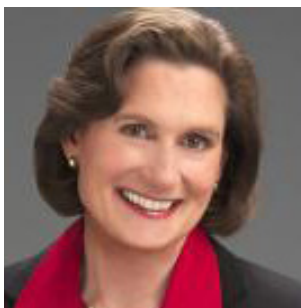
Amani Elobeid won the Interdisciplinary Team Research Award.



Darin Wohlgemuth received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Impact on Student Success Award.



Dermot Hayes was awarded the 2023 “Honorary Master Pork Producer” title by the Iowa Pork Producers.



Betsy Hoffman was honored at the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business with a workshop discussing the focus of her studies and the breadth of her impact in economics.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Midwest Economics Association



13 economics MS and PhD students presented at the 2024 Midwest Economics Association Conference in Chicago.

Pictured: Spandan Roy, an econ Ph.D. student presenting research on his analysis of the distribution of skilled and low-

skilled workers in the agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors in China and India.

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation

T. Jake Smith won the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's prestigious Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award for "Agricultural production in the 21st century: technology adoption, adaptation, and market power". He was honored at the 2024 AAEA Annual meeting in July alongside major professor Gian Carlo Moschini.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Soybean Study USA



A group of MS AgEcon and senior ag business students went on a “Soybean Study-USA Trip: Cooperatives and Soybeans” journey in mid-December. Together with Darin Wohlgemuth, Amani Elobied and Bobby Martens, the group followed soybeans from the farmgate in Eagle Grove, IA, through crush facilities, a biodiesel plant, and to ports in Washington state. The trip included visiting facilities and learning about topics such as renewable fuels policy, freight trading, and global markets from industry experts.

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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Department of Economics deeply appreciates the generosity of all the wonderful friends and alumni who help fund the needs of the department. Your help plays an important role in making possible cutting-edge research by our faculty, new equipment, funds for student groups to travel to conferences, and other events.

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