Message from the Chair

Greetings from Heady Hall, to which I am glad to be able to return. Last year when I wrote to you, the university had shifted to a maximum Working From Home strategy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last few months, as COVID infection rates have fallen and the percentage of people vaccinated has risen, more of the university's work is being carried out on campus and we re cautiously moving forward with some physically distanced but in-person meetings and events. Most notably, so many of us were happy to attend last weekend’s in-person graduation ceremonies in Jack Trice Stadium.

It has been a remarkable experience to lead the Economics Department during this unusual year. Faculty, students, and staff have all made exceptional adjustments in response to the challenges. I cannot fully express my gratitude to everyone who pitched in this year to take on new research projects and extension programming. In collaboration with the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, the department created a website (https://www.card.iastate.edu/covid-19/) to aggregate COVID-19 research and data. The website received over 32,000 page views, with one piece of research posted there recirculated in international news so many times that the university estimates some 1.7 billion news reader were exposed to its findings.

Before closing, I want to pause to mark two especially significant transitions for the department. The first is the tragic and unexpected death of Wally Huffman in June 2020. Wally was a unique individual and a remarkable economist whose presence is and will continue to be missed. The second is the impending retirement of Ron Deier on June 30, 2021. Ron has defined the Agricultural Business major for generations of our undergraduates. The department will not be the same without him. Fortunately, a generous gift from Farm Credit Services of America has allowed for the creation of the Ron and Lynn Deier Endowed Chair for Sustaining Excellence in Ag Business, providing resources to build on Ron’s accomplishments and support continued excellence of the Agricultural Business Management program.

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

Thamodaran Gives Hertz Lecture

Dhamu R. Thamodaran, a global leader in the agricultural industry for more than 30 years, gave the 2021 Carl and Marjory Hertz Lecture on Emerging Issues in Agriculture. Dr. Thamodaran virtually presented “Emerging Issues in Global Markets and Trade” on April 12, 2021. Thamodaran joined Smithfield Foods in 1995 as director of price risk management and was promoted to executive vice president, chief strategy officer and chief commodity hedging officer in 2016. In this role, he lead strategy development for Smithfield Foods’ vertically integrated business, managed its commodity hedging activities, and oversaw its global economics commodities research and analysis group.

Dr. Thamodaran retired from Smithfield Foods, Inc. in December 2020. During his time with the company, Smithfield Foods has grown to become the world’s largest pork producer and processor.

Widely respected for his knowledge of global macroeconomics, agricultural markets, and the pork value chain, he is regularly invited to speak to the boards of food and agriculture companies and at industry trade association events. In 2019, Thamodaran joined the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group’s Agricultural Markets Advisory Council. An avid advocate for education, he shares his professional experiences and insights with students nationally.

Dr. Thamodaran earned his PhD in agricultural economics, summa cum laude, in 1983 from Iowa State University, where he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Gamma Sigma Delta honors societies. He earned his master’s in agricultural economics and statistics in 1980 from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and his bachelor’s degree in agriculture in 1978 from India’s Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

He currently lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia with his wife, where he enjoys playing golf. He and his wife support various educational and cultural nonprofit organizations.

Dr. Thamodaran was awarded CALS’ 2019 Henry A. Wallace Award. This citation honors a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences alumnus or friend who has achieved notable professional achievements nationally or internationally and brought distinction to themselves, the college, and the university through their significant contributions.

Alumni News

Jutta Roosen (’99 PhD economics)

Jutta Roosen (’99 PhD economics) heads the department of Marketing and Consumer Research, at the World Bank, where he headed the Research Team on Agriculture and Rural Development for six years.

Roosen, Martin Named 2021 Agricultural & Applied Economics Fellows

Technical University of Munich. Her research focuses on the study of consumer behavior and demand analysis with an interest in cognitive aspects of perception and cultural influences on behavior.

Will Martin is a senior research fellow in International Food Policy Research Institute’s Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division, where his main interests are agricultural trade policy, productivity growth, poverty reduction, prioritization of development interventions, and environmental impacts of agricultural support. Prior to joining IFPRI in 2015, Martin spent nearly 25 years at the World Bank, where he headed the Research Team on Agriculture and Rural Development for six years.

Jutta Roosen is a junior research fellow in the IFPRI’s Markets, Trade and Institutions Division, where she leads the team focused on consumer behavior and demand analysis, with an interest in cognitive aspects of perception and cultural influences on behavior.

Dhamu Thamodaran (’83 PhD ag economics)

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Dhamu Thamodaran (’83 PhD ag economics)
Meyer Named New USDA Chief Economist
Seth Meyer ('95 MS economics) has returned to the Department of Agriculture to assume the position of chief economist. Meyer takes the place of Rob Johansson, who held the position since 2015 and departed the USDA at the end of January to accept a position as the associate director of economics and policy analysis at the American Sugar Alliance.

“This is a challenging time for the food and agricultural sector. I’m quite honored to be asked to rejoin USDA as Chief Economist,” Meyer said in a USDA statement. “I look forward to serving the American public and USDAs many stakeholders and constituencies.”

Meyer comes to USDA after a stop at the University of Missouri’s Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, where he served as an associate director and research professor. It was his second stop at FAPRI, where he also worked for 12 years prior to intervening stays at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and USDA’s World Agricultural Outlook Board.

At WAOB, Meyer was responsible for the monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report as well as the work of the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility. As Chief Economist, Meyer will oversee the Chief Economist, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit analysis, the Global Change Program Office, the Office of Environmental Markets, and the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.

In a statement, Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue thanked Johansson for his time at USDA and said, “We are excited to bring back Dr. Seth Meyer and know that he will do a tremendous job serving the people of American agriculture.”

Econ Club hosts Signoret
Genevieve Signoret ('99 MS economics), President of TransEconomics, was the featured speaker at the September 2020 meeting of the Econ Club.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Signoret was the ninth of nine children. She emigrated to Mexico in 1985. Holding economics degrees from the University of Minnesota (1985) and Iowa State University, Signoret has taught economics in the United States at the University of Arkansas and in Mexico and taught economics in the United States at the University of Arkansas and in Mexico. She taught in the United States at the University of Arkansas and in Mexico.

Signoret is the author of Quarterly Outlook, where she lays out forecast scenarios for the global economy and asset class, and edits emerging market research at GlobalSource Partners in New York.

Carolson Receives Wallace Award
Roger Carlsson ('78 ag business) received the 2020 Henry A. Wallace Award. The award was established in 1978 to honor a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences alumnus or friend who has achieved notable professional achievements nationally or internationally and brought distinction to themselves, the college, and the university through their significant contributions.

Alumni Association Awards
Jeff Plagge ('78 ag business) was presented the ISU Alumni Association’s 2020 Floyd Andre Award by CALS Dean Daniel Robison at a virtual ceremony on April 7, 2021. The Floyd Andre Award was established in 1978 to honor a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences alumnus or friend who has made outstanding contributions to production agriculture, agricultural business, or has had a significant impact on Iowa agriculture.

Jeff Plagge’s impressive career spans more than 40 years and has positively impacted all levels of Iowa’s banking industry. In 2019, Plagge was appointed superintendent of the Iowa Division of Banking by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds. In this role, Plagge leads the regulation of all state-chartered banks and has regulatory and licensing authority over Iowa lenders, mortgage businesses, real estate appraisers, and appraisal management companies.

A respected leader, Plagge has served as chief executive officer of four Iowa banking organizations, ranging in asset size from $92 million to $2.4 billion. In 2020, Plagge retired from his most recent role as chief executive officer of Northwest Financial Corporation, a family-owned bank holding company based out of Arnolds Park, Iowa.

Burton English (’81 PhD ag economics) is a pioneer in the field of bioenergy research and is recognized internationally as an expert, garnering him numerous awards including a Certificate of Merit from the U.S. Department of Energy.

With four decades of bioenergy research under his belt, he is currently focused on a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to research sustainable aviation fuel development in the Southeast. English and a team of researchers are currently analyzing three different supply chains, including a supply chain with the objective of supplying 40 percent of renewable aviation fuel for the Nashville International Airport.

He recently delivered a report to the U.S. Department of Agriculture outlining methods to incentivize the development of the bioenergy.
Zumbach Speaks to Econ Club
Steven Zumbach’s (’80 PhD economics) was the featured speaker at the Economics Club meeting February 17. He retired from Des Moines law firm Benlin McCormick in December 2020 after four decades of service.

Though his list of professional and personal accomplishments is long and varied, he is most proud of two: his work on the Partnership for Prominence Capital Campaign with the Iowa State Foundation and his involvement with the formation of the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

“The Partnership for Prominence Capital Campaign was formed in the mid 1980’s. We hadn’t had a capital campaign in almost 20 years at Iowa State, which had serious financial issues. In that campaign, we had immense adversity. The president of the university and administration members of the Foundation had resigned as we were kicking it off. But Iowa State faculty, alumni, and friends were determined and when we finished, we had raised $212M. That was the 12th largest public university campaign in history at that point.”

“Three campaigns have followed, I’ve been involved with all of them and am currently one of the honorary co-chairs, along with my wife, of ISU Forever, which will have raised $1.5B by this June.”

“The second is the formation of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. It is a configuration of local chambers of commerce but in one economic development group for all of central Iowa. That was in the early 2000s, and I was part of that formation and was chair of it in 2013. That organization has enabled us through economic development and all of its programs to help make greater Des Moines and central Iowa one of the most vibrant economies in the United States, with many national recognitions.”

Zumbach has fond memories of his time at Iowa State University.

“The wonderful help of talented, gifted, and committed faculty members and staff enabled me and others to get a tremendous education. It really prepared me for life. If you look at what I’ve done, it’s been problem solving, engagement, dealing with conflict, bringing people together, figuring out how to solve difficult problems where everyone at the table has a self-interest that they want to pursue, but are able to set those interests aside to pursue the greater good, to produce outcomes that make life better for all of us.”

Tyler Geiger (’19 ag business) has accepted a position as an insurance agent for Bear Creek Insurance Agency.

Abrah Meyer (’19 ag business) was promoted to tactical sales specialist with John Deere.

Josie Burgett (’18 ag business, international ag), customer success manager with Agrisync, was elected community relations chair for the Young Professionals in Agriculture board of directors.

Austin Pueschel (’18 ag business), senior project manager with Lessing-Flynn, was elected president for the Young Professionals in Agriculture board of directors.

Trey Forsyth (’17 ag business, public service and administration in ag) has accepted a position as a director of government affairs for Michael Torrey Associates.

Jenna Lansing (’16 ag business) was named CALS Young Alum of the Month.

David Drendel (’15 ag business, agronomy) has accepted a position as a precision agronomist at Advanced AgriTech.

Scott Theliman (’14 ag business), farmer near Lawrence, Kansas, launched Sunflower Provisions, an online grocery store.

B.J. Brugman (’12 ag business), co-founder and CEO of Dystynct, was featured by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

Courtney Knupp (’07 ag business) has accepted a position as a focus area director for animal/aquaculture nutrition meal with the U.S. Soybean Export Council.

Dana Schweitzer (’05 ag business, ’14 MBA) was named managing director for the ISU Consortium for Cultivating Human and Naturally regenerative Enterprises.

Kent Klingbeil (’05 ag business) has accepted a position as lead agronomist with Advanced AgriTech.

Ryan Pflantz (’04 ag business), owner of Victorian Pines Christmas Tree Farm near State Center, was featured by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

Chad Nelson (’99 ag business), president of Farmer’s State Bank in Northwood, has been named to the Alumni Advisory Board for North Iowa Area Community College.

Jutta Roosen (’99 PhD economics), was named a fellow by the Agricultural Environmental Leader Award.

Will Martin (’82 PhD economics), was named a fellow by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

John Garang (’81 PhD economics) is the subject of dissertation research—his classmates are requested to contact danielle.delvivar@daii.ac.uk.

Bill Northey (’81 ag business) has accepted a role as senior advisor to the General Food Rural Partners Fund for Big Idea Ventures.

Mark Meirick (’79 ag business), manager of Farmers Mill, Inc., was named to the 2021 National Pork Producers Delegate Body.

Charlie McKenna (’96 ag business), director of sales at My Yields, has been named to the 2021 Iowa Soybean Association Experience Class.

John Latham (’92 ag business), president of Latham Hi-Tech Seeds, was featured by Seed World.

Jeff Johnson (’91 ag business) has been elected to serve in the allied position role of the Iowa Pork Producers Association board of directors.

Dwight Mogler (’87 ag business), farmer near Alwood, was named to the 2021 National Pork Producers Delegate Body.

Mark Schleisman (’86 ag business), farmer near Lake City, was honored with the 2021 Iowa Soybean Association Environmental Leader Award.

Dhamu Thamodaran (’83 PhD economics), executive vice president, chief strategy officer and chief commodity hedging officer for Smithfield Foods, retired following a 35-year career in the industry.

Young Alum of the Month
Jenna Lansing (’16 ag business), agri-food watchdesk manager at Aimpoint Research, supervises a team of analysts who monitor the disruptions, trends and innovations in the global agri-food value chain. Aimpoint Research analyzes the information and provides updates to their clients to help them make successful data-based decisions for their business.

“Aimpoint Research is a global, strategic intelligence firm empowering intelligence-driven organizations. I supervise a team of analysts who monitor the agri-food value chain and all disruptions, trends and innovations that are occurring. We collect and synthesize intelligence to inform our clients on what is really happening and provide predictive insights. As a result of this intel, we are arming them to be successful in any business environment. I also manage several client relationships which include overseeing all market research projects, intelligence assessments and activation sessions.”

“I love learning something new every day and the thought-provoking challenge of connecting the dots, understanding what the intelligence means for our clients and recommending what actions they can take to be successful.”

Darrin Rahn (’12 ag business) has been promoted to brand manager at PepsiCo.

Jared Achen (’11 ag business) farmer near Wayland and founder of ChopLocal, will provide the keynote address at the Animal Agriculture Alliance Virtual Stakeholders Summit on May 6, 2021.

Elizabeth Burns-Thompson (’11 ag business) was honored with the 2020 Altoona Area Young Professional of the Year Award.

T.J. Masker (’11 ag business) has accepted a position as a senior product manager for Tractor Zoom.

Michelle Myers (’09 ag business), owner of DIRT Road Candle Co., was featured by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

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Mark Meirick (’79 ag business), manager of Farmers Mill, Inc., was named to the 2021 National Pork Producers Delegate Body.

James Borel (’78 ag business) has been appointed to the board of directors for AeroFarms.
Zhang has implemented an extensive extension program for Iowa landowners and farmer-operators to address critical issues in land valuation. He conducts the annual Iowa Land Values Survey and organizes the Soil Management and Land Valuation Conference, the longest running conference at Iowa State. He has been active in developing new extension materials and websites, disseminating materials using both traditional and innovative delivery methods and addressing the extension and research issues faced by key stakeholders in Iowa agriculture.

Zhang also has been instrumental in establishing the Center for China-U.S. Agricultural Economics and Policy, a new collaborative research center between the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State and the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development in the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Outstanding New Professional Award to Ji
Yongjie Ji, assistant scientist in economics with the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, is the recipient of the Professional and Scientific Outstanding New Professional Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University.

Ji’s technical skills, which unite economic expertise, advanced graphic design and innovative computer programming, are highly valued by his colleagues. He is well-trained in economic theory, extremely good at quantitative analysis and data management, and well-positioned for serving the agricultural and environmental interests of the center’s stakeholders, students, constituents, and employees of Iowa State.

Of special note is Ji’s work with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on the Lakes Survey. His work on this project over the last two years contributed to Iowa State maintaining a long, important relationship with the Department of Natural Resources.

Plastina Wins ISU Remote Instruction Award
Alejandro Plastina’s title is associate professor and extension economist in the Department of Economics, but his passion is problem solving. The Iowa State Extension and Outreach Creativity in Service to All Iowans Award in 2020, ISU ANR Programming Innovation Award in 2018, and ISU Extension and Outreach Impacting Iowa Award in 2014.

“The highlights of my research-based extension program in 2019 included multiple decision tools in the form of spreadsheets and information files published on the Ag Decision Maker website, as well as interactive budgets for cover crops and maps.”

Now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Plastina has won his latest award: the ISU Office of the President Excellence in Remote Instruction. The award is part of Iowa State’s COVID-19 Exceptional Efforts Awards Program to recognize the innovative ways faculty overcame the challenges of the pandemic.

Here, too, he used his problem-solving skills to give students information to help them succeed by converting his course ECON 330: Advanced Farm Business Management to an entirely online course.

“ECON 330 has a major focus on applied financial management decisions,” said Plastina.

There is great synergy between the skills I develop for my extension program and the materials I use to teach. In-class teamwork to solve investment decision problems and individual homework involving the use of specialized farm financial software are pivotal to the hands-on approach of the class.”

He faced two major challenges to teaching ECON 330 online: finding ways to engage students in meaningful teamwork during synchronous sessions, and using just one screen to show students how new software works while implementing the analyses.

To meet the first challenge, Plastina incorporated Piazza to expand the communication channels with and between students. He designed a system that combines synchronous group discussions (in breakout sessions) and collaborative editing of documents in Canvas Collaborations.

Plastina solved the one-screen problem by creating introductory mini-lectures in different software modules and using existing short videos to help students familiarize themselves with the software before class, thus maximizing the synchronous session time devoted to completing the course materials.

In addition to fostering student success, Plastina’s work includes researching conservation practices, pest management, and crops-livestock integration.

“I do enjoy the breadth of work required by my position description because of the critical role those areas play in shaping the future of agriculture in Iowa. Having great opportunities to address these issues is simply the cherry on top of the cake,” he added.
and retaining agricultural business majors, encourage and lead continuous improvement in pedagogy and curriculum within the program. She will also cultivate relationships with employers of agricultural business graduates, and work with student clubs.

**Feng Joins Department**

Hongli Feng joined the economics department as assistant professor January 1, 2021. She is the Endowed Professor for Excellence in Agricultural Economics and Director of the Master of Science in Agricultural Economics program started in Fall 2020. The MSAE is a one-year professional-track program designed to yield job-ready graduates with advanced training in applied economics. Students graduating from the program will be well-positioned for careers in agribusiness finance, farm management, agribusiness extension, risk analysis, commodity market analysis, agricultural policy, and similar fields.

Dr. Feng (’01 PhD economics) conducts research and teaches in the areas of agriculture, the environment, and the interface of the two. She has contributed to the study of agriculture as a managed ecosystem and examined incentives, policies, and ecological consequences related to various agricultural and land use practices. She is also affiliated with the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development.

**Faculty Promotions**

Otavio Bartalotti was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure effective at the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. His fields of interest lie in econometric theory, applied econometrics and labor economics. He started at Iowa State University in 2014.

John Winters, who joined the faculty of the Department of Economics in August 2018, has been promoted to the rank of professor. In 2020, he was ranked by Research Papers in Economics (RePEc) among the Top 5% researchers in the world based on research activity in the last 10 years.

Wendong Zhang has been promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. His research seeks to better understand U.S. farmland market, agricultural water conservation, and Chinese agriculture. Dr. Zhang is also affiliated with Center for Agricultural and Rural Development.

**New Position for Elobeid**

The Department of Economics is pleased to announce that Amani Elobeid, adjunct associate professor, will become the new Ron & Lynn Deiter Endowed Chair for Sustaining Excellence in Ag Business, Teaching Professor, Agricultural Economics, beginning August 16, 2021. In her new role, Elobeid will teach undergraduate classes, assist the department in recruiting, advising, faculty & staff and work with student clubs.

**Elobeid New Position**

Ag Business Club Honors Deiter on Retirement

The Agricultural Business Club honored Professor Ron Deiter at its annual banquet on March 6. Deiter, who served as club advisor since 1978, will retire June 30. Current student Julia Campbell presented Dr. Deiter with a commemorative plaque.

25-Year Club Honors Choi

E. Kwan Choi, professor, was honored by Iowa State’s 25 Year Club for his 35 years with the university. Due to the pandemic, the 25 Year Club didn’t hold its 86th annual banquet in March 2020 to honor Iowa State employees who have worked at the university for lengthy stints.

Sonya Huffman, adjunct associate professor, retired from the department in May 2020.

Hongli Feng

Otavio Bartalotti

John Winters

Wendong Zhang

Amani Elobeid, academic advisor

Ron Deiter, professor

Amani Elobeid, adjunct associate professor

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Paul Gallagher, professor, retired from the economics department in May 2020.

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Zackery Leist

Zack Leist, a senior triple majoring in ag business, economics, and international agriculture, and minoring in agronomy, is one of seven outstanding seniors at Iowa State who were selected to receive the 2021 Wallace E. Barron All-University Senior Award from the ISU Alumni Association Awards Review and Selection Committee.

Zack said, “Winning the Wallace E. Barron award is an extreme honor and I am very grateful and humbled to be chosen as one of this year's recipients. I like to be involved in as much as I can to network with others and make the most of my college experience, so to me winning this award signifies that I’ve made the most of my adventure here at Iowa State University.”

When one considers his 3.85 GPA and his triple major, it would be easy to think that Zack is solely focused on his academics. But talk to anyone who knows him well and you’ll find out there's so much more to him than his grades.

In addition to taking an active role in his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, Zack has held leadership roles in several clubs, including the Ag Business Club and the Iowa Corn Grower's Club, and was active in CALS Ambassadors, Senior Class Council, the Cultural Ambassador Program, and the Alpha Zeta Honors fraternity.

CALS alumnus Andrew Lauver has witnessed, “Zackery’s ability to lead by example, coach, and motivate others through public events hosted on campus. He has an innate ability to relate to others through his polite and humble approach to each individual and group conversation.”

In his time at Iowa State, Zack has traveled internationally to Brazil, Paris, London, Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, and Australia for study abroad and the EF Cultural Education Program, but has still found time to volunteer with Meals on Wheels, Highway Cleanup, the Senior Life Project, and AGR Philanthropy, and at the 2020 ISU Commencement.

my next adventure will be a good one because of everything I’ve taken away from Iowa State University,” said Zack.

With his final spring semester at Iowa State in mind, Zack considered graduate school, but has decided to take a position with Syngenta following graduation in May.

Danielle Youngblut

Econ Student Award Finalist

Ag business senior Danielle Youngblut is a finalist for the statewide Iowa Farm Bureau second annual “Grow Your Future Award.” The student entrepreneur's business, Gravel Road Sunflowers, started as a “quarantine project” and blossomed into a sunflower business.

“I am extremely grateful for everyone I’ve gotten to interact with in the last four years, especially those who’ve made it such a memorable experience. The lessons and experiences that I had here at Iowa State University have ultimately shaped the person that I am today. Wherever I end up and whatever I am doing, I am confident that Zackery’s performance during his initial summer internship impressed those at Syngenta so much that they changed his position the second year to allow him more of the governmental affairs experience that he wanted.

Zack’s biggest contribution to Iowa State and his proudest moment was being chosen as the Board of Regents student member in 2019. Out of nearly 72,000 students, Zack was honored to be appointed to serve as a full voting member on the Board by Governor Kim Reynolds.

In his role as vice chair of the Campus and Student Affairs Committee, Zack helps provide oversight and policy recommendations from a student perspective. Serving as a Regent is an extremely challenging and time-consuming position, especially while being a full-time student.

“Zack is an energetic young leader who has set ambitious academic goals for himself. Though he has a lot of energy and passion, he is also methodical and works through possibilities while seeking input before making a final decision,” said his advisor, Amy Brandau.

“I want to focus on writing a book that I could work on, it gave me a project that I could work on, it gave me goals that I could focus on.”
Three PhD Students Win CARD Award

The CARD Dissertation Award committee, consisting of CARD faculty affiliates, has decided that the three dissertations submitted this year were equally worthy of the sixth annual CARD Award for Best PhD Dissertation in Agricultural, Environmental, and Energy Economics Policy. Their names will be inscribed on the plaques in Heady 578, and each nominee receives a $500 honorarium.

“The awards committee considered the submissions for the CARD dissertation award, finding each to be highly-quality, worthwhile research. Given the variety of topics covered and connections to the CARD mission, the individual rankings of the submissions were different. Thus, the committee did not arrive at one consensus winner, but did agree that all three of the deserving of the award.”

Yulong Chen “Three Essays on Human Capital in China”
Jining Luo “Essays on Differentiated Products in Oligopoly Markets”
Wendiam Sawadgo “Land Tenure, Agri-Environmental Policy, and Conservation-Practice Use in Iowa”

Campbell Elected Student Government President

Ag business senior Julia Campbell and her running mate, ag and society sophomore Megan Deckner, were elected as Iowa State Student Government president and vice president for the 2020-21 academic year. After voting finished Thursday, March 25, the Campbell-Deckner campaign had received 2,716 votes, accounting for 54.4 percent of the vote.

Chism Wins Scholarship

Ag business junior James Chism has been named a 2021 Young Leader Scholarship Program recipient by the Mid America CropLife Association. Chism is one of eleven Land Grant University students selected to participate in the MCAA 2021 Young Leader Scholarship Program. Participating students’ focus is agriculture, and each has secured a summer (2021) internship in agriculture. Students will receive $2,000 to assist with their tuition expenses.

Harle Wins Ag Scholarship

Ag business junior Cheyenne Harle is a recipient of MaxYield Cooperatives’ $1000 Ag Scholarship. MaxYield Cooperative annually makes scholarships available to graduating high school seniors and college students pursuing degrees in agriculture. Students completed applications forms answering questions about their career goals and why cooperatives are important to agriculture. They also submitted essays titled “Why I selected agriculture as my career.” Recipients must be dependents of MaxYield Cooperative clients or clients themselves and can receive the scholarship up to two times during their education.
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