

UPDATE

Fall 2020 Newsletter

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Awards

Fichters are Cyclone Family of the Year

The Fichter family of Shenandoah has been selected to receive the 2020 Iowa State University Cyclone Family of the Year Award.

This honor is given annually to a family that has strong connections and a strong sense of pride for Iowa State.

Heidi Fichter, the daughter of Jean and Corby Fichter, is a senior at Iowa State. The family selected to receive this award is required to have a student attending ISU during the year the award is given. Students attending ISU can submit their applications and a committee chooses the recipient. In addition, Corby Fichter III ('78 ag business), of Farm Credit Services of America, was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Award for 2020 by the Iowa State University Agricultural Business Club.

The Fichter family members include: Heidi, and her fiancé, Chris; brother Adam, and his wife Marissa; brother Austin and his wife Jourdan; and their parents, Jean and Corby. Each of these family members attended Iowa State. Also, more than 25 additional family members attended Iowa State over the past 100 years.



Fichter family, from left: Chris Mandt (2018 ISU graduate), Heidi Fichter (2020), Adam Fichter (2015), Marissa Fichter (2015), Jourdan Fichter (2015), Austin Fichter (2015), Jean Fichter (1981) and Corby Fichter (1978).

Alumni Win Environmental Stewardship Award

The 2020 Iowa Cattlemen's Association's Iowa Environmental Stewardship Program Award winners are the Cass County Euken-Myers family including **Michelle (Euken) Myers** ('09 ag business) and **Steve Myers** ('10 ag business).

Beef production has been a life-long learning opportunity, passion and revenue stream for the Euken-Myers family. Randy and Jill Euken grew up with cattle on family farms and showed cattle as 4-H'ers. They launched their own farming operation in 1978 when

Randy started his farming career and purchased half of the cow herd from his landlord. For 40 years, they have continued to grow and improve their cattle herd by carefully selecting replacement heifers and bulls, keeping and utilizing an extensive set of records, implementing the best practices for environmental stewardship, and carefully tending to beef nutrition and herd health. These efforts have resulted in continued improvement in the performance and ROI for their operation and their reputations as good stewards of natural resources, life-long learners and good neighbors.



Euken-Myers family

Student News

2020 Prescott Awardees

The graduate student Prescott Scholarship recipients for 2019-2020 are **Raj Chandra**, **Jiwon Lee**, **Haoran Li**, and **Liyuan Ma**.

Brent Kreider, LAS dean's professor and director of graduate education says, "Raj, Jiwon, Haoran and Liyuan have shown exceptional promise and creativity in their ongoing Ph.D. research."

Boyle Winner of Lyon Scholarship

Trey Boyle, MSAE student, is the winner of the Barbara and Thomas Lyon Scholarship for the Study of Agricultural Cooperatives for 2019-2020. The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to a promising graduate student in the Department of Economics who demonstrates an interest in the study of cooperative business enterprises, and agricultural cooperatives in particular.

Grad Student Teachers Win Excellence Award

Hannah Wich, **Miracle-Rose Toppar**, **Kyung-hoon Ban**, and **Seung Jin Cho** have been awarded the Iowa State University Teaching Excellence Award for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Durbahn Paper Places Second in AAEA Competition

MSAE student **Grant Durbahn's** paper, "The Determinants of Farmland Rental Contract Choice in Iowa," took second place in the 2020 AAEA (Agricultural & Applied Economics Association) Undergraduate Paper Competition.

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Initiates Six Department Students

The six 2020 undergrad inductees from the economics department are **Riley Arthur** (ag business, econ), **Holly Cook** (ag business), **Garret Hemesath** (ag business, econ), **Alex Goranson** (econ), **Lucy Dougherty** (econ), and **Joshua Redmond** (stat, bus econ).

Cunningham Wins Young Farmer Leadership Award

Laura Cunningham ('10 ag business), a farmer near Nora Springs and marketing manager for Latham Hi-Tech Seeds, has been honored with a 2020 Iowa Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leadership Award.

For Cunningham, life on the farm can be a blur of activity as she and her husband, Aaron, work to scale up their operation near Nora Springs. Along with working full time for Latham Hi-Tech Seeds, Cunningham strives to expand the farm's cow-calf herd and build their direct-to-consumer beef business, called [SkyView Beef](#).



Laura Cunningham

"We strategically pick farm enterprises to add diversification," Cunningham said. Improved margins attracted Cunningham to launch SkyView Beef. "I observed that for the farmer, margin is lost to the packer-retailer exchange. By vertically integrating our cow/calf and feedlot enterprises and focusing on quality, we've been able to recapture margin with a focus on scope over scale," Cunningham said.

The young farmer works to establish direct connections with consumers through the retail beef business. She also has been a leader of the Floyd County Farm Bureau efforts to engage the community through "Farm to Fork" dinners.

"We want to put a face on farming and answer questions about agriculture for people in our community, and the best way to do that is over good food," she said.

Agricultural education is another passion for Cunningham. She works with others in her community to establish an agricultural education program and FFA in their local school district, Central Springs. Cunningham strongly believes that ag education can be an engine for rural vitality because it shows young people there are career options in rural communities. — *Reprinted with permission from the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman.*

Alumni News

Sweeney and Kimle Bring Aquaculture to Iowa

Iowa is best known for growing corn and soybeans and raising hogs. But there's a new kid knocking on the barn door, if you listen to people involved in fish farming, also known as aquaculture.



Joe Sweeney

Sweeney said his company wants to build a network of smaller family farms and a cooperative to expand production and eventually get into processing.

"I think there's an incredible opportunity to grow aquaculture in the state of Iowa," he said. "I think Iowa farmers and Iowa people are the right folks to build this industry and become world class at it."

"I believe we can become the leading seafood-producing state in the country," said **Joe Sweeney** ('13 ag business), CEO of [Eagle's Catch](#), a facility in Ellsworth that produces tilapia for live sales of fish to specialty markets across the country.

At Eagle's Catch, a large greenhouse facility built in Ellsworth's industrial park along Interstate Interstate 35, Sweeney and his staff are in the middle of an expansion. When that is done, Eagle's Catch will be producing about 5 million pounds of live tilapia a year.

"At the finish of our expansion, we will have the largest indoor fish farm in the country," Sweeney said.

Sweeney said his company wants to build a network of

Ag Bus Club Wins 2020 Creative Club

The award was from the Undergraduate Student Section of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA). The club's submission was Member Recognition, which is how members are recognized at meetings for their contribution to the club.

Faculty News

Rosenbloom Reappointed Economics Department Chair

Joshua Rosenbloom has been reappointed for a second five-year term as chair of the Department of Economics. Joshua enjoys the strong support of faculty and staff, as evidenced by the survey created, administered, and distributed by the Economics Council.

Eloheid Named Principles of Economics Coordinator

Amani Eloheid, adjunct associate professor, has accepted the role of Principles of Economics Coordinator. This new position was proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Principles of Economics Instruction in order to review the principles of economics instruction (ECON 101 and 102), identify ways to document performance, and recommend improvements in content, structure and organization of the courses.

Bhattacharya Wins NSF Award

Joydeep Bhattacharya, professor, has been awarded a National Science Foundation Standard Grant in support of his COVID-19-related project, "RAPID: Failure to Predict Infection Risk and its Impact on the Spread of COVID-19."

Faculty Mentor Awards:

Peter Orazem, university professor, exemplary mentor award

Dermot Hayes, distinguished professor, faculty mentor award

Kevin Kimle, teaching professor, Pappajohn mentor award

Faculty Changes

Paul Gallagher, professor, retired in May 2020.

Sonya Huffman retired as adjunct associate professor emerita in May 2020.

Wallace "Wally" Huffman, professor, passed away in June 2020.

Edward Balistreri, associate professor, left Iowa State in July 2020.

Mark Edelman retired as emeritus professor in August 2020.

Keri Jacobs, associate professor, leaves the department, effective January 2021.

Jackson Kimle ('16 ag business)

Just north of Ames, another ISU alum is developing new technology to raise shrimp in the old outlet mall in Story City.

"Shrimp is the No. 1 seafood consumed in the United States," Kimle said. "Secondly, shrimp, although it's the highest consumed, it's also very low quality, or the majority of shrimp that comes in is. There's generally not fresh shrimp available outside of seasonal shrimp from the Gulf of Mexico, and that's not consistent. By doing shrimp, we can tap into the biggest market and tap into premium markets. Essentially, people can't get their hands on fresh shrimp today, so if you can provide that, people are willing to pay a high premium for that."

Kimle's company, [Midland Co.](#), plans to begin selling fresh shrimp directly to consumers in early 2021, Kimle said. Pre-orders are being accepted on the company's website. As the



Jackson Kimle

company grows, it hopes to reach out to restaurants and distributors, he said.

He believes being located in the middle of the country also is favorable to Iowa aquaculture, helping the state compete for fresh seafood that otherwise would have to be shipped in from the coasts.

Midland Co. currently has three full-time employees and one part-time employee, however, it hopes to expand that to six full-time employees in the next year or two, he said.

The goal is to grow and expand to develop turnkey operations statewide that raise shrimp through a contract grower system, the 26-year-old Kimle said.

Kimle said relatively low energy prices, due in part to the development of the state's wind energy industry, and work going on in the feed sector to develop ingredients that use byproducts from ethanol and soy will help aquaculture long term in Iowa. — *Reprinted with permission of the Business Record.*

DEPARTMENT NEWS

CARD, Econ Launch COVID-19 Resource Website

In May 2020, faculty members of the Center for Agricultural Research and Rural Development (CARD) and the Department of Economics launched a new [resource website](#) with COVID-related research, information, and resources that examine the impacts of the pandemic on local, regional, and global economies.

The joint service webpage, accessible from the home pages of [CARD](#) and the [Department of Economics](#), is devoted to economic analysis from research that is taking place at Iowa State University.

Moschini Wins Publication Awards

GianCarlo Moschini, professor, has received the 2020 Publication of Enduring Quality Award from the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society. The award is to recognize the article, "Modeling the pattern of structural change in US meat demand," co-authored with Karl Meilke, which was published in 1989 in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

Moschini also won the 2020 Quality of Research Discovery Award from the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) with Edward Perry, Kansas State University and Federico Ciliberto, University of Virginia.



GianCarlo Moschini

Class Notes

Riley Arthur ('20 ag business) is a marketing representative in precision ag tactical marketing at John Deere and was the subject of a Why Iowa profile on [Cultivation Corridor](#).

Adam Legred ('20 ag business), was hired as an ag credit analyst/junior lender at Farmers State Bank in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Andy Albrecht ('19 ag business), owner and operator of Big Cobb Enterprises, LLC in Mapleton, Iowa, was featured by the [Maple River Messenger](#).

Gary Wynne ('19 ag business, international ag) has been promoted to special assistant on the staff of U.S. Senator Charles Grassley.

Kayleigh Koch ('18 ag business) has been promoted to financial officer at Farm Credit Services of America in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Austin Pueschel ('18 ag business) has been promoted to senior project manager at Lessing-Flynn.

Reed Bures ('17 ag business, international ag), co-owner and agent of AgriPeril Insurance and Risk Management, was featured by the [Ford Dodge Messenger](#).

Jackson Kimle ('16 ag business) has started his own company and serves as founder and president of Midland, Co., a seafood company raising shrimp in Iowa.

Tory Mogler ('14 ag business) has been promoted to futures and options trading lead with Cargill.

Joe Sweeney ('13 ag business), CEO of Eagles Catch, was featured by AgriPulse.

Scott Henry ('12 ag business), business development manager for LongView Farms near Nevada, Iowa, was featured as one of six Midwest farmers to serve on the Farmer Progress Show's Virtual Experience FPVX Farmer Panel.

Brenda Sellers ('05 ag business) has been promoted to manager for pork trim sales for Tyson.

Amanda De Jong ('02 ag business) has accepted a position as an executive vice president with Landus Cooperative.

Shao Hsun Keng ('99 PhD econ) was promoted from dean of the College of Management to vice president of Academic Affairs, National University of Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Angie White ('99 ag business) has accepted a position on the management information excellence team with Farrell Growth Group.



Ebby Luvaga

Luvaga Named Woman Impacting ISU

Ebby Luvaga, teaching professor, has been selected as one of the twelve 2021 Women Impacting ISU. The honorees, whose leadership has made a difference at Iowa State University, will be honored on the fifteenth annual Women Impacting ISU calendar.

The committee chooses from the nominees based on their achievements in service, teaching, research, administration, and involvement in campus activities, depending on each nominee's role on campus.

Fuller Named 2020 Citation Laureate

Distinguished Professor Emeritus **Wayne Fuller** was named a 2020 Citation Laureate for Economics.

Each year, Clarivate (the Web of Science group) identifies [Citation Laureates](#): "This small group of highly cited scientists and economists represents a research elite whose influence is comparable to that of past and future Nobel Prize recipients."



Wayne Fuller



Leigh Tesfatsion

Kendrick Distinguished Service Award to Tesfatsion

The Society for Computational Economics (SCE) has awarded the 2020 David A. Kendrick Distinguished Service Award to **Leigh Tesfatsion**, research professor and professor emerita, for her pioneering contributions to different areas of computational economics, in particular, to agent-based computational economics. She is also a professor emerita (courtesy) of mathematics and a professor emerita (courtesy) of electrical and computer engineering at Iowa State.

Edelman Receives Extension Award

Mark Edelman, emeritus professor, is this year's recipient of the North Central Region's Excellence in Extension Award. The award is presented to individuals who have strived throughout their careers through their local, state, regional, or national responsibilities to achieve the benchmarks reflective of excellence in extension educational programming.



Mark Edelman

In Memoriam

Wallace "Wally" Edgar Huffman, Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture and Life Sciences, passed away on June 10, 2020, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota.

Wally received numerous awards for his research. The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) awarded him the Publication of Enduring Quality Award, as well as (four times) the Quality of Research Discovery Award. He supervised 30 doctoral dissertations and 18 master's theses. Many of these students went on to successful careers in academia, government, and industry, and their successes are a tribute to Wally's teaching and guidance.



Wally Huffman

Justin Akers ('97 ag business, '08 MS ag and life sciences education) has been hired as the regional director for ISU Extension and Outreach region 23, serving Adams, Union, Taylor, and Ringgold counties.

Duane Kleve ('95 ag business) has accepted a position as general manager of Nedap Livestock Management.

John Latham ('92 ag business) was named chair of the American Seed Trade Association.

Brad Oelmann ('87 ag business) joined the Farrell Growth Group team in summer 2020.

Roger Vos ('84 ag business) has been promoted to plant manager at the Hormel Foods plant in Beloit, Wisconsin.

Roger Underwood ('80 ag business), was featured by WHO Newsradio 1040.

Bill Boggess ('74 ag business, '79 PhD ag economics), has retired from his role as executive associate dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University. He will continue to serve in an emeritus faculty role.

Alan Tubbs ('66 MS ag econ) won the Bruning award, which recognizes bankers that demonstrate outstanding leadership and dedicated service to farmers, ranchers, and their fellow agricultural bankers.

Bruce Lease ('59 ag business) was featured by *The Bemidji Pioneer*.

Lee Teng-hui (ag econ), president of Taiwan, passed away July 30, 2020, due to septic shock and multiple organ failure. He was 97.

Contact:

Department of Economics
Iowa State University
260 Heady Hall
518 Farm House Lane
Ames, IA 50011-1054
econadmin@iastate.edu
515-294-6740

For prospective students:

Undergraduate
econundergrad@iastate.edu
(515) 294-6740

Graduate

econgrad@iastate.edu
(515) 294-2702

Connect with us on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/ISUEconDept>
and Twitter at: @ISUEconomics

Department of Economics Update

Editor, Joshua Rosenbloom
Managing Editor/Layout, Deborah Gruca
<http://www.econ.iastate.edu>