

UPDATE

Fall 2021 Newsletter

ALUMNI NEWS Department Honors Sam Summers

Iowa State's Department of Economics presented **Sam Summers** ('06 economics, marketing) the Distinguished Services for the Public Good Award at the 2021 LAS Alumni Honors and Awards Ceremony at the ISU Alumni Center Thursday, Oct. 21.

Summers graduated from Iowa State in 2006. While still a student, he established his first music promotion company, First Fleet Concerts. He now produces more than 250 concerts a year across Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota.

Sam has become a successful entrepreneur in a very difficult business. His aim is to improve the community by providing high quality entertainment, and his reach has been impressive in cities in Iowa and the Midwest, employing over 800 people.



From left: Peter F. Orazem, university professor, Joshua L. Rosenbloom, professor and department chair, Sam Summers ('06 econ), Beate Schmittmann, LAS dean.



Ned Zachar ('85 economics)

Zachar New Vice President of Pitney Bowes

Pitney Bowes Inc., a global technology company that provides commerce solutions in the areas of ecommerce, shipping, mailing and financial services, announced that **Ned Zachar** ('85 economics) has joined the company as Vice President and will be responsible for managing the Investor Relations program. Zachar will

report to Pitney Bowes Chief Financial Officer Ana Maria Chadwick.

In his new capacity, Zachar will be responsible for maintaining and expanding relationships in the investment community, while communicating the company's business model, long-term strategy, governance and financial performance.

Class Notes

Brianna Gorham ('21 ag business, international agriculture) has joined Ag Spectrum Company as the marketing communications coordinator.

Brian Lois ('21 ag business) has joined Community State Bank as an agricultural relationship coordinator.

Holly Cook ('20 ag business, '21 MS ag economics), staff economist with the National Pork Producers Council, was featured by *Successful Farming*.

Trevor Maiers ('20 ag business), farmer near Payson, Illinois, was featured by the *Quad-City Times*.

Benjamin Thomas ('20 ag business) has been promoted to junior commercial lender at VisionBank.

Gary Wynne ('19 ag business, international ag) has accepted a role as a legislative assistant for U.S. Congressman Randy Feenstra.

Josie Burgett ('18 ag business, international ag) has accepted a position as a Downtown activation manager with the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

Eric Henry ('17 ag business), farmer and partner of LongView Farms near Nevada, Iowa, was awarded the 2021 Top Producer of the Year Award sponsored by BASF and Case IH.

Luke Gosse ('16 ag business), COO of Blue Diamond Farming Company near Jesup, Iowa, was selected as a member of the 2020–2021 Young Farmer Accelerator cohort by the Farm Foundation.

Jenna Lansing ('16 ag business) has been promoted to director of the agri-food watchdesk at Aimpoint Research.

Drew Mogler ('16 ag business) has accepted a position as a business development manager at Barn Tools.

Paula Sonnabend ('16 ag business) has joined the Landus GROW Solutions Center as a solutions center specialist.



Nick Paulson ('07 PhD ag economics)



Jonathan McFadden ('15 PhD economics)

Alums Win AAEA Awards

Alumni **Nick Paulson** ('07 PhD ag economics) and **Jonathan McFadden** ('15 PhD economics) won awards at the 2021 AAEA meetings Aug. 1-3 in Austin, Texas.

Paulson won the Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award, Individual: More than 10 Years' Experience, as well as the Group Award for the Farmdoc Live Coronavirus and Ag Team.

McFadden received the American Journal of Agricultural Economics Outstanding Reviewer Award.



Kevin Kimple ('91 MS ag economics) and **Patricia Kimple** (PhD textiles and clothing)



New Book by Kimles

Kevin Kimple ('91 MS ag economics) and his wife, **Patricia Kimple**, have published a new novel, "The Only Free Road: An Underground Railroad Saga Unveiled."

Kevin currently serves as the Rastetter Chair of Agricultural Entrepreneurship, director of the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative, and teaching professor in the Department of Economics.

The couple's shared passion for history inspired a family vacation in 2005 tracing the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom run by the National Park Service. Afterwards, Kevin and Patricia wrote the book—his first work of fiction—that would become "The Only Free Road."

"Part of the purpose of this was to get it out into the world and to honor those who were part of the Underground Railroad, and to honor the slaves who were fugitives trying to get to freedom," said Kevin.

FACULTY NEWS

Endowed Professorship to Martens

The Iowa Institute for Cooperatives has provided support for an endowed professorship presented to **Bobby Martens**, associate professor, who joined the Department of Economics Aug. 16, 2021.

"When Iowa's cooperatives and their members gave the gift to create the Iowa Institute of Cooperatives Endowed Economics Professorship, the value of strong research and extension programs was confirmed. Leadership at Iowa's cooperatives and work done by previous extension faculty, including Dr. Roger Ginder and Dr. Keri Jacobs—among others—cemented relationships built on trust and cooperation. I am humbled to be trusted with Iowa Institute of Cooperatives Endowed Economics Professorship, but mostly I am excited to do my part to create value, solve new challenges and ensure the successful future of Iowa's cooperatives," Martens said.

Martens studies cooperative economics and was formerly an associate professor of supply chain management in the Ivy College of Business from 2006 to 2021.



Bobby Martens, associate professor

Max Cornelison ('15 ag business) has accepted a new role as a commodity broker at AgMarket.Net.

Charlie Kreis ('14 ag business) has accepted a new role as a rail transportation professional at Cargill.

Lisa Kubik ('14 ag business) has accepted a position as a district field manager at Iowa Corn.

Caleb Martin ('14 ag business) has been promoted to senior commercial credit analyst at One Community Bank.

Amanda Blair ('13 ag business, public service and administration in ag) has accepted a new role as career development center human resources program consultant at Gundersen Health System.

Zach Boss ('13 ag business) has a new role as agent for Farm Bureau Financial Services.

Alexandra Morris ('13 ag business) has accepted a position as an operations specialist for Bayer.

Joe Sweeney ('13 ag business), CEO of Eagle's Catch, was selected as a member of the 2021–2022 class of Leadership Iowa.

Megan Bierschenk ('12 ag business) has accepted a new role as grain merchandiser at POET.

Scott Henry ('12 ag business, international agriculture), farmer and partner of LongView Farms near Nevada, Iowa, was awarded the 2021 Top Producer of the Year Award sponsored by BASF and Case IH.

Dakota Hoben ('12 ag business, international ag) founded Farmers Risk.

Jared Achen ('11 ag business), co-founder of ChopLocal, was featured by the Iowa Farm Bureau.

Elizabeth Burns-Thompson ('11 ag business, international ag) has accepted a position as vice president of government and public affairs for Navigator CO2.

Charlie White ('11 ag business) has joined Innovative Ag Services as the vice president of grain.

Laura Cunningham ('10 ag business), vice president of SkyView Farms, has been appointed to the Artisanal Butchery Task Force by Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig.

New Faculty Join Econ Department

The department welcomed three new faculty members starting 2021 fall semester.

David Hennessy, professor, is from Michigan State

University College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, where he was professor and Elton R. Smith Chair in Food and Agricultural Policy since 2015. He previously worked on the faculties at Washington State University and Iowa State, where he received his PhD.

Bobby Martens, associate professor, is the new Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Economics Professor. Martens earned his PhD in Applied Economics, Purdue University, in May 2006, and was associate professor of supply chain management in Iowa State's Ivy College of Business.

Irene Jacqz, assistant professor, received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the field of environmental and natural resource economics



David Hennessy



Bobby Martens



Irene Jacqz

in 2020 and is a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University's Inequality in America Initiative. Her areas of focus are air pollution, environmental policy, environmental justice, health, education and inequality.

Visiting Faculty

The department welcomed visiting professor **Chad Cotti** this fall. Cotti is Oshkosh Corporation Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.



Chad Cotti, visiting professor

Plastina Named Agricultural Economics Fellow

Farm Foundation announced **Alejandro Plastina**, associate professor/extension economist, as its first Agricultural Economics Fellow. The new program is designed to nurture a promising leader in the field. Plastina will be engaged with Farm Foundation for one year, providing publications and speaking appearances, expanding his professional network and managing high-visibility projects. He'll participate in Farm Foundation programs and events, network with staff in the USDA's Office of the Chief Economist, and mentor and meet with participants in Farm Foundation's suite of next generation development programs.



Alejandro Plastina, associate professor

Ag Startup Engine Awarded LWBJ Impact Award

The Ag Startup Engine received the 2021 LWBJ Impact Award at the Technology Association of Iowa's annual Prometheus Award event in Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 4.

Kevin Kimle, teaching professor, is the director of the Ag Startup Engine, the agtech fund that the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative helped start in 2016. The idea for the Ag Startup Engine was born through Kimle's experience teaching and encouraging ag entrepreneurship at Iowa State University. He saw the drive and excitement in his students after they participated in the Ag Entrepreneurship Initiative at ISU and he wanted to find a way to support the students and the startup investors.



Agricultural Startup Engine

Marla Meyers ('10 ag business) has joined the ISU Ivy College of Business as the Executive MBA coordinator.

Maro Ibarburu-Blanc ('05 MS economics), research scientist for the ISU Department of Animal Science and the Egg Industry Center, was honored with the 2021 ISU Professional and Scientific Research Award.

AJ Blair ('03 ag business), farmer near Dayton, Iowa, was featured by *Progressive Farmer*.

Ryan T. Kay ('99 ag business) has been awarded the Early Career Award

Godfrey Gibbison ('95 MS economics), dean of extended learning and global programs at Cal State San Marcos, was recently featured by the organization.

Chris Schaffer ('94 ag business) has been named chief executive officer of Ag Processing, Inc.

Brian Berns ('92 ag business), sales agronomist for New Cooperative, was honored with the 2021 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award by the Green County Farm Bureau.

Skott Gent ('90 ag business), of Monmouth, Iowa, was inducted into the 2021 Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame for Jackson County.

Alan Krysan ('87 ag business) has accepted a position as an area executive director (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota) for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital/ALSAC.

Dwight Mogler ('87 ag business), farmer near Alford, Iowa, was featured by ABC News.

Keith Porter ('87 ag business, '96 MS professional ag) has joined IntelinAir, Inc. as senior agronomist.

Nick Hunter ('83 ag business), of Chariton, Iowa, was inducted into the 2021 Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame for Lucas County.

Bryan Sievers ('82 ag business), manager of AgriReNew and owner of Sievers Family Farms, has been appointed by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds to the Carbon Sequestration Task Force.

Mike Hunter ('78 ag business), of Chariton, Iowa, was inducted into the 2021 Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame for Lucas County.



Helen Jensen, emeritus professor

Jensen Appreciation at AAEA Meeting

Helen Jensen, emeritus professor, was recognized at the Aug. 2021 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association annual meeting for her many contributions to the AAEA and to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; to revising WIC packages to better serve recipients; and for her research in Food Safety and Nutrition and Federal Nutrition Assistance programs.

Retirements

Professor Ron Deiter retired from the department June 30, 2021. He said the highlights of his career were working with colleagues, students and members of the Agricultural Business Club, for which he served as advisor since 1978.

Colleague Ebbby Luvaga said, "He's had an impact on many students who have written back to tell him that they will always be big supporters of Iowa State's Ag Business Club and the Agricultural Business program because of the positive impact he had on their lives."



Ron Deiter, emeritus professor

Christian Boessen retires from Iowa State Dec. 31. He joined the department in the fall of 2016, and, through teaching and advising, has "enjoyed confirming students here live up to the reputation of Iowa nice."

His post-retirement plans are to do remote consulting work from Ames for a while, primarily working on agricultural finance related projects with University of Missouri faculty and moving to the Pacific NorthWest in 2022.



Paul Gallagher, professor

On Nov. 16, 2021, the department held a reception to honor **Paul Gallagher**, professor, who retired from Iowa State University and the Department of Economics in May 2020.



Christian Boessen, associate teaching professor



Neil Harl, emeritus professor

In Memoriam: Neil E. Harl

Emeritus Professor of Economics and Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture **Neil E. Harl** died Nov. 4, 2021, at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames at age 88 years.

Harl's appointment was divided among teaching, research and extension. Known as an excellent, innovative and effective instructor of both undergraduates and graduates, he received numerous teaching awards. Harl is widely known and respected for his prodigious output of scholarly publications. He wrote or co-wrote more than 300 scholarly articles and professional bulletins, and produced a 15-volume treatise, *Agriculture Law*, which came to define the subdiscipline of agricultural law.

Laura Krouse ('77 agronomy, '78 ag business), owner of Abbe Hills Community Supported Agriculture near Mount Vernon, was featured by *The Gazette*.

Fred Hepler ('76 ag business) has been awarded the D. Howard Doane Award.

Dwight Conover ('74 ag business), co-founder of Northwest Financial Corporation, was honored with the 2021 Floyd Andre Award from the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Student News

PhD students **Kyunghoon Ban**, **Xiaoyin Li**, **Nieyan Cheng** and **Jun Yeong Lee** have won this year's \$5000 James R. Prescott Scholarship in Economics for their creativity in their research papers.

Four department PhD students, **Anni Isojaervi**, **Ganna Prykhodko**, **Meenakshi Shekhar** and **Levi Soborowicz**, have been awarded the Iowa State University Teaching Excellence Award for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Nieyan Cheng, a 4th year PhD student, was selected as one of the ten national finalists for the 2021 AAEA Extension Graduate Student Competition.

Samuel Peters, MSAE student, has won the 2021 Elroy Webster Co-operative Studies Scholarship.

Hunter Crawford, ag business senior, has been elected as a member of the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Beatrice Maule, ag business junior, won the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Undergraduate Student Paper Competition Award.

Cale Pellett, ag business and economics, was one of ten students selected for Iowa State's Cardinal Court.

Adam Knoblock, ag business sophomore, has been selected as a 2022 Farm Foundation Cultivator.

Jackson Novak, economics senior, was selected as a session chair for the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank's virtual 15th Annual Economic Scholars Program Conference for Undergraduate Research.

Rachel Ross, ag business junior, and **Will Feucht**, ag business senior, are 2021 Iowa Institute for Cooperatives scholarship recipients.