Greetings! After a brief absence, the newsletter is back. Some of the information is out-of-date so let us know what has happened since the last newsletter. We enjoy hearing from you and would love to receive a note updating us on the events in your lives. The next newsletter will be put together next summer. And don’t forget to take a look at our Facebook page and the soon-to-be-redesigned departmental web page.

A number of years have passed since the last newsletter and through those years there have been many personal and professional changes for members of the department. On a sad note, the Department lost a wonderful colleague and good friend when Emeritus Professor John Wicks passed away on February 25, 2012. John came to the Economics Department in 1964 and was best known for his research seminar that he taught to generations of undergraduates. He built lifelong relationships with his seminar students and was always passionate about teaching students research by having them design and perform a team research project. John worked in the areas of Public Finance, Taxation, and the Economics of the Household. John was a productive researcher and his publications appeared in journals such as The Review of Income and Wealth, National Tax Journal, Journal of Forensic Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Applied Economics Letters, The Social Science Journal, and Urban Studies among others.

While John’s first passion was Economics and his research projects, he always found time to share a beverage with a friend or former seminar member, to go fishing, to go duck hunting, and to serve Kiwanis. His other lifelong passion was riding trains; he was one of the top train “mileage collectors” in the world (see the Summer 2011 newsletter on the department website for a fascinating interview with John). Doug Dalenberg remembers John interviewing him in Atlanta, the only time he ever saw John in a suit. Doug reports that during the interview, “John put his foot up on the table and he was wearing hiking boots with his suit. At that point, I knew I would love Montana.” John was a true character and an economist through and through and is missed by many of us who were lucky enough to call John a friend and a teacher.

After returning to UM from a sabbatical assignment at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, Jeff Bookwalter found himself conscripted to be Department Chair. Despite herculean efforts to avoid it, including flinging himself off his mountain bike and breaking his ankle, Jeff settled in for a 3-year term. In addition to chair duties, he continues doing research on economic development, and has recently written, presented and published papers on the economics of happiness and intra-household resource distribution with Amanda Dawsey and Doug Dalenberg.
**NEWS & ACTIVITIES**

**Doug Dalenberg** has been delighted and saddened by the many changes in the department over the last few years. Doug is thrilled with his new colleagues and saddened by the passing of John Wicks. Although he is happy that Kay Unger is enjoying retirement, he misses having the last of his original departmental mentors around. Doug has thoroughly enjoyed teaching two new courses: Sports Economics and Macroeconomics, in which he is focusing on time-series econometrics. Doug was honored to receive the University’s Most Inspirational Teaching Award in 2013.

**Amanda Dawsey** spent a second year managing the Economics Department Facebook page. The top post of the year was a link to an article that mapped the most popular Google searches for “What does _____ cost?” for each state. The answer in Montana was a fishing license; in Idaho it was liposuction. In addition, Amanda’s article “Externalities among Creditors and Personal Bankruptcy” was published in the *Journal of Financial Economic Policy*, and she was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

**Derek Kellenberg.** After a 3-year term as department chair, Derek Kellenberg spent this past year on a much needed sabbatical. He published two articles, spent time in Washington, DC starting new research projects with a co-author, traveled to Brussels, Belgium, to deliver a keynote address at an international research and policy symposium, and presented a new research paper at Washington State University. He also continued to serve as an editorial board member for the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, and the *International Journal of Sustainable Society*.

**Katrina Mullan.** See New Faces!

**Helen Naughton** is looking forward to a year on sabbatical to dedicate to research. With the tenure process behind her and with a bit of experience in academic publishing as well as grant writing, she hopes to complete a number of projects and plan out the next phase of her career.

**Ranjan Shrestha** was awarded a Luce Fellowship from the American Institute for Indonesian Studies to conduct research on the evaluation of the Indonesian health insurance program for the poor. He spent Summer 2014 in Indonesia at Gadjah Mada University and Smeru Research Institute. In addition to his work as a Visiting Scholar at the SMERU Research Institute, Ranjan also spent some time in April 2014 as a Visiting Professor for the Academic Leader Program at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Guadalajara, Mexico. From 2009 to 2013 Ranjan was an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (ADSRI) of Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.

**Matthew Taylor.** See New Faces!

Over the past few years we were very fortunate to hire two visiting/adjunct faculty: **Brian Jenkins** and **Ryan Finseth**. Brian received his BA in Economics and Math from Clemson University and his PhD in Economics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He was on hand for two years covering a variety of courses including principles of macro, intermediate macro, Money & Banking and graduate Macro theory. After assisting us, Brian and his wife, Jade, moved to California. Brian is now an economist at the University of California, Irvine where he is Lecturer PSOE and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Economics. His research and teaching interests are in macroeconomics, monetary policy, and banking. His wife, Jade, also found a position at UC Irvine as a Postdoctoral Fellow (2013-2015) at UCI’s School of Education in the Irvine Network for Interventions in Development (INID) research group studying early childhood development policy. Jade’s work is multidisciplinary, extending through education, economics, developmental psychology, political science, public health, neuroscience, and sociology. After Brian’s departure, we were fortunate to find **Ryan Finseth** right here in Missoula. Ryan is in the doctoral program at Cornell but he is in Missoula completing his dissertation while his wife, Finley, works as a postdoctoral Research Associate at the Fishman Lab on campus. Finley’s research program addresses the consequences of reproductive conflict in the short-term on fitness and in the long-term on genome evolution. Ryan’s broad area of interest is...
dynamic optimization in the context of natural resource management. In particular, his past and current work looks at optimal investment under uncertainty. He has worked on developing optimal management plans for endangered species as well as finding optimal habitat corridors for fragmented metapopulations of endangered species. Ryan and Finley are expecting their second child in August.

**Emeriti and Research Associates**

John Duffield continues his research work and, together with Chris Neher, keeps Bioeconomics Associates a vital enterprise in the region.

Research Professor Richard Erb has been teaching “Multinational Finance” in the Accounting and Finance Department of the School of Business Administration. He finds this is an interesting and challenging course to teach given the rapid pace of change in national and international financial markets. He continues to follow developments in the European Union, including the role of the International Monetary Fund in helping EU countries deal with difficult economic problems.

In addition to his teaching and research activities, Richard Erb gives talks and writes commentaries on international economic and financial matters.

Over the past few years he also has been deeply involved in water negotiations on the large Flathead Indian Reservation where he and his wife operate a 240-acre irrigated farm. The negotiations are complex and include the State of Montana, the Federal government, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, an irrigation board and thousands of individual property owners. This local battle over water among different government entities with different degrees of sovereignty is very similar to water-right struggles taking place in many countries around the world.

Professor Emeritus Thomas Power and his son, Donovan, working as Power Consulting, Inc., received a multi-year grant from the Energy Foundation to study the likely impacts of coal exports from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming on domestic American coal flows as well as world coal flows and the implications for global greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, he continues to work on the economic implications of mineral extraction activities, including uranium mining and milling in Colorado and New Mexico and "fracking" sand mining in northwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Minnesota. Tom and his wife Pam spent Tom’s 75th birthday in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Although Tom is no longer recording commentaries for Montana Public Radio, all of his commentaries are available on the Econ website.

Joanna Shelton has written extensively on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, presenting a detailed analysis at a conference and during a live television interview in Sydney, Australia, and at a conference on US-China relations in Shanghai. She speaks and writes frequently on economic policy issues, including on “Talk Back” on KGVO 1290 radio and a monthly column for the Missoulian newspaper. In addition, Joanna maintains her own blog. Her latest course for UM’s MOLLI program (Mosher Life-long Learning Institute) was “American economic recovery: challenges and prospects.” A book about her great-grandfather’s twenty-five years as a missionary in turbulent 19th century Japan, A Christian in the Land of the Gods, will be published later this year by Cascade Press.

Kay Unger retired following Spring semester 2012. In the interim, she has lent us a hand teaching principles courses when we need her and some of the rest of her time is spent traveling the globe and enjoying some well-deserved leisure.
Katrina Mullan

**Welcome to the University of Montana. Tell us a bit about your specialty areas of teaching and research.**

My teaching and research are in the area of applied microeconomics, and I focus on topics relating to environment and development. Other interests include quantitative data collection and analysis, as well as work that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries to focus on the relationships between natural ecosystem functions and human wellbeing.

**Where were you educated? What was the title of your dissertation?**

I received my PhD from Cambridge University in the UK, and the title of my dissertation was “Impacts of land-use reforms on household behaviour and welfare in rural China”. I looked at how rural families responded to a set of large-scale policies aimed at reducing deforestation and encouraging reforestation in mountainous areas of China.

**What professors, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, influenced you most and why?**

Mushtaq Kahn, taught my Masters courses in Microeconomics and ‘The Political Economy of Development’, and got me excited about the role of policy and institutions in determining economic outcomes. I also had a great PhD advisor, Andreas Kontoleon, who taught me a lot about collaborative economic research and really pushed me to develop my empirical skills.

**What courses do you look forward to teaching in the next few years?**

I’ll be very happy to continue with the courses I’ve been teaching so far: Principles of Microeconomics and Environmental Economics are both great opportunities to show students how valuable an understanding of economics can be for making decisions in daily life and for understanding the implications of government policy. And I’ve really enjoyed helping graduate students think about the process of conducting research, and providing them with some of the technical skills for data analysis, in the Advanced Econometrics and Empirical Research Design classes.

**What is your favorite thing about being a professor?**

My favorite thing is being able to spend my time focusing on what really interests me. I worked as a government economic adviser before starting my PhD, where, like most jobs, you work on what you are assigned. I now really value the freedom to both teach and carry out research on things I find personally exciting.

**Tell us about your research or a particular research project that you are involved in?**

My research as a whole looks at the relationship between deforestation and poverty alleviation. Part of that, including my PhD research in China, involves examining the effect of forest conservation policies on the livelihoods of households using forest land. More recently, I’ve been studying the contribution of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon to economic development in the region. I’m working with collaborators from a number of other universities on this. We have surveyed the same households four times between 1996 and 2009, and linked that survey data with satellite images of land cover and other spatial data. This allows us to analyse complex, dynamic relationships between deforestation and household wellbeing.

**Where did you grow up and what hobbies do you enjoy?**

I’ve moved around quite a bit so far: I was born in Northern Ireland, but spent my childhood in Lesotho, a small country in Southern Africa, followed by the south of England as a teenager. I enjoy hiking and camping (which made Missoula quite appealing), as well as water-based activities including sailing and sea kayaking. Since the arrival of Ada (now 5) and Cleo (now 2), the distances have become a bit shorter, but we’re finding ways to still get out there.
Welcome to the University of Montana. Tell us a bit about your specialty areas of teaching and research. Where were you educated? What was the title of your dissertation?

I earned my PhD at the University of Oregon and the title of my dissertation is “Risk Aversion and Information Acquisition across Real and Hypothetical Settings.” I also earned a master’s degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School. I completed my bachelor’s at UC Santa Barbara.

What professors, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, influenced you most and why?

As an undergraduate, Karen Sutter probably influenced me the most. Karen was the director of the Asia-Pacific Program of the Atlantic Council, a Washington, DC think-tank. She taught me to understand the importance of doing research with relevant policy implications. She also encouraged me to pursue a military career (I guess I lacked discipline at the time?).

At the graduate level, Peter Lavoy, at the Naval Postgraduate School, was extremely influential because he provided honest, constructive criticism of my writing, which needed improvement. I am sure it still does.

I am most indebted to Trudy Ann Cameron at the University of Oregon. Without Trudy’s guidance and generosity I would not be here today.

What courses do you look forward to teaching in the next few years?

I enjoy teaching the experimental economics and/or behavioral economics course and the money and banking course.

What is your favorite thing about being a professor?

I enjoy the teaching. It is very satisfying to me when I transform a topic that students initially find very challenging into a topic that they understand and are able to apply to the world around them.

Tell us about your research or a particular research project that you are involved in?

My current research focuses on risk preferences and experimental methodology. For instance, a recent experiment explored why experimental economists tend to find that individuals with lower cognitive ability tend to be more risk averse but we also see individuals with lower levels of education and lower income betting larger proportions of their incomes on lotteries and engaging in other risk behaviors, such as smoking. I find that the laboratory results appear to be driven by the instrument that is used to elicit risk preferences and that lower-ability individuals only appear to be more risk averse in this specific context. Another project in which I’m currently engaged explores whether competitive preferences measured in laboratory experiments are correlated with competitive preferences in field experiments, in which the employer conducts the competition.

Where did you grow up and what hobbies do you enjoy?

I grew up in Southern California, but I haven’t spent much time there since 1998, which is when I entered the US Air Force. My wife, Evie, is from Santa Cruz, California and we spend a lot more time vacationing there. I have two daughters. Riley is six years old and Remy is three, so my hobbies involve playing, singing, and dancing with them. Benjamin, our third child, was born in June.

Bring us up-to-date on your life. Send us a note any time to give us your news. If you send us your email address (econ@mso.umt.edu), we’ll notify you when the next newsletter is posted to the website.
Our graduate students have been very busy over the past few years. When last we looked, Colin Sorenson, Rosemary Moore and Dmitri Murfin Simmons had all successfully completed the program and defended their theses, along with Patrick Nicholson who was able to complete the coursework, as well as write and defend his thesis in a single year. Patrick is a senior consultant at ASR Analytics in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. Dmitri continues his business and culinary interests in Missoula (We love Bridge Pizza). Rosemary is married and has moved to Helena where she works for the State of Montana at the Department of Revenue. Colin lives in Missoula and works on campus for the Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

In August 2011 Joe Ramler completed his thesis, “The economic impacts of wolves on calf production on western Montana cattle ranches beyond direct depredation.” Derek Kellenberg served as his committee chair, with committee members Doug Dalenberg, Mark Hebblewhite of the College of Forestry & Conservation and Carolyn Sime of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Joe’s project analyzed a novel sample of 18 western Montana cow-calf ranching operations over a 16-year time period (1995-2010) focusing on the potential effects wolves may have on average calf weight gain. Originally from Belgrade, Joe completed his undergraduate work at UM, completed his degree, married, moved to Helena and is a senior economist with the State of Montana Department of Commerce.

Shortly thereafter, December 2011, Ross Keogh successfully defended his work, “Market power and regulatory failure in the Montana wholesale electricity market,” under the guidance of chair Amanda Dawsey and members Doug Dalenberg and John Duffield. Ross’ thesis investigates market power and regulatory failures in the Montana wholesale electrical market after the implementation of deregulation in 1997. It provides a review of the development of the Montana wholesale electrical market, federal and state market power regulation, economic theory, and approaches for regulating market power in electrical markets. Ross received his BA from Vassar College and worked as a planner and analyst for a small renewable energy development company in Wyoming. After completing his program here, however, Ross was not done with his education, and in December he received his law degree from UM School of Law and joined the firm Worden, Thanes, PC.

Gunnar Malm and Emily Klungtvedt wrapped up their degrees in May 2012. Gunnar’s project, “An Exploration into the economic impact of the wild and scenic river designation: a quasi-experimental approach,” examined the economic impact and socioeconomic effects of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, the main objective of which is to preserve the free-flowing nature and outstanding remarkable values of our nation’s rivers. Derek Kellenberg was his committee chair. Doug Dalenberg and Wayne Friemund of the College of Forestry and Conservation were his committee members. Gunnar is now working as an Energy Analyst for Alliant Energy in Madison Wisconsin.

Emily Klungtvedt, in her work, “Are perceptions reality? A look at subjective well-being in East Timor” examined the impact of perceived wealth versus measured wealth and their importance in determining well-being in East Timor. She worked under the direction of Doug Dalenberg and committee members Elizabeth Covelli Metcalf of the College of Forestry and Conservation and Jeff Bookwalter. Emily lives in Helena and works for the Department of Revenue.

In May 2013, under the guidance of Helen Naughton, chair, and committee members, Doug Dalenberg and Elizabeth Covelli Metcalf of Department of Society and Conservation, Luke Anderson defended his thesis, “Safety in Numbers? The effect of increasing numbers of bicycle commuters on bicycle-automobile collisions.” This paper applies the safety in numbers effect to bicycling and pedestrian commuters in California cities from 2005 to 2011. The “safety in numbers effect” is the idea that increasing the numbers of bicycle and pedestrians in an area lowers the automobile collision risk for individual cyclists and pedestrians. The results indicate that cities with 10% more bicycle commuters will only see about 6% more collisions between cyclists and automobiles and thus have a lower average risk to bicycle commuters.
Just a few months later, in August, it was Eric Dale's turn to shine. Eric explored the importance of parents’ incomes in determining their children’s incomes and whether this relationship matters for children in developing countries more than those in developed countries, as well as whether the linkages of wage income across generations are different from the linkages of others kinds of income. In his work, “Intergenerational Earnings Correlations in Indonesia,” Eric analyzed these considerations by quantifying the correlations in earnings between parents and their adult children in Indonesia. Ranjan Shrestha was committee chair, with Doug Dalenberg and Stephen Siebert of the Department of Forest Management, as committee members. Eric now lives in Helena and works for the State Department of Revenue.

In May 2014 Chris Bradley and Volodymyr Shemayev completed their degrees. Chris worked with Katrina Mullan, chair, and committee members Derek Kellenberg and Dan Spencer of the Department of Environmental Studies to examine “Reforestation in the Brazilian Amazon: Household Motivations and Policy Incentives.” Originally from Maryland, Chris is now in Helena working for the Department of Labor & Industry, Research & Analysis.

Volodymyr Shemayev worked with Derek Kellenberg as chair and committee members Doug Dalenberg, Richard Erb and David Firth, School of Business, to do a careful study of the impacts of improved information communication technology on the steel industry. “An alloy of steel and information communication technology: Does it facilitate trade?” was completed in the spring of 2014. Volodymyr came to us as an Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellow, sponsored by the US Department of State. Upon completion of the program, Vlad returned to Ukraine and is currently employed by steel giant, Interpipe.

In the fall of 2013 Jacob Clement, Warren Humiston, Neil Bennett and Jesse Young joined the program. Jake came to us from Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Warren came to Missoula from Utah with stops in the Philippines and Turkey. Neil attended the University of Montana to earn her undergraduate degree in Mathematics. Jesse is originally from eastern Montana and attended UM for his undergraduate degree as well. These students were joined this past fall by Anna Guay and Madison Cole. Both Maddie and Anna were undergraduates at University of Montana – Maddie in Economics and Anna in Finance. Maddie and Anna were joined by Yoonsoo Nam. A South Korean native, Yoonsoo received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a minor in Economics at the University of Oregon. Yoonsoo started the graduate program in the 2011-2012 academic year but left to fulfill his military service in South Korea. This past fall he returned to complete the remaining requirements and to write his thesis, “Does a democracy improve environmental quality?” Katrina Mullan chaired his committee with Jeff Bookwalter and Tim Manuel of the Finance Department. In a few weeks, Yoonsoo will begin a doctoral program at Washington State University in Pullman.

Eric Johnson, whose undergraduate degree was in Environmental Studies, defended his work, “Why cooperate? The effect of cross-border pollution.” Helen Naughton was chair, along with Katrina Mullan and Dan Spencer of Environmental Studies. Eric is now in Alaska working for the State of Alaska Department of the Interior.

Jesse Young, who was also one of our undergraduates, completed his thesis, “Economics and policy factors driving the adoption of institutional woody biomass heating systems in the United States,” with guidance by Helen Naughton, chair, and Katrina Mullan and Nathaniel Anderson of the USDA-FS-RMRS. Jesse will be starting a Ph.D. program in Forestry at Northern Arizona University in the fall.

Guedem Dara, a native of Chad, earned her undergraduate degree from UM in 2011. She returned to study the impact of a South African program targeting childhood malnutrition in that country. She successfully defended her thesis, “The impact of the South African Child Support Grant on children’s nutrition” this past May. Ranjan Shrestha served as her committee chair, along with Amanda Dawsey and Peter Koehn, Political Science.
Neil Bennett and Jacob Clement are just a few edits away from successful completion of their programs. Neil’s work, “Environmental shocks, differentiated households and migration: A study in Thailand,” under the direction of Katrina Mullan, chair, and Amanda Dawsey and Teresa Sobieszczyk of the Sociology Department. Word has it that Neil’s committee is the first all-female Master’s committee in department history. Jacob’s thesis, Tourist Arrivals and Large Natural Disasters: A Bilateral Panel Analysis, under the direction of Derek Kellenberg, chair, and with the assistance of Doug Dalenberg and Libby Covelli Metcalf (NRSM) is nearing completion. Jacob is taking a year off from school while Neil will be attending the Economics PhD program at UC – Irvine this fall.

Martin Twer continues to pursue his PhD in Forestry as he mulls over his work in economics. Mark O’Loughlin is back home working in Great Falls and is close to finishing up his thesis.

While these students completed or are completing their programs, a small number of their cohorts chose a different route. Kelly Smith moved to Helena and although she initially studied to obtain her real estate appraisal license, she finally acknowledged that her true passion is art. Kelly now has a small shop on Reeder’s Alley in Helena. Matt Betcher accepted a position with the State of Montana Department of Labor and Industry. Matt LaPalm elected to stay in Missoula as the Technology Sales and Marketing Coordinator at the Bookstore at UM, and Cody Pedro left Montana for the sights and sounds of New York City and the east coast.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

A selection of senior-thesis titles from the past several years includes:

- An analysis of the relationship between farm subsidies and unemployment rates
- The tradeoff between smoking and obesity
- The conditional effectiveness of official developmental assistance: revisiting Burnside and Dollar’s “Aid, Policies, and Growth” (2000)
- Labor production on PGA Tour
- Money supply rises, yet inflation does not follow: an economic analysis of what current long term interest rates suggest about the public’s expectation for future monetary policy
- The effect of alcohol use on income
- Effects of cash transfer on consumption patterns
- Effects of travel in National Basketball Association
- National identity as a determinant of corruption’s impact on growth
- The demand for nitrogen agricultural fertilizer in the United States
- Social value orientation and experience
- The effect of state funded scholarship programs on the price of higher education
- An examination of the role the price-earnings ratio has on volatility in the S&P 500
- Combine performance and effects on future earnings
- The effects of land titling on agricultural yields in Paraguay
- Would improved targeting of the Raskin Program increase nutrition levels among Indonesia’s poor?
- The value of foreign language study within the U.S. labor market
- NFL player performance and player salaries
- Does an individual’s party affiliation and education level contribute to their willingness to support a cap-and-trade system?
- Exploring Treatment Failures: An Empirical Analysis of Institutionalization in Children’s Mental Health
- Comparison of Well-Being of Black and non-Blacks in South Africa
• Childhood Obesity: A Problem Amongst Marginalized Populations
• To Save the Last Tree: A Case Study of the International Tropical Timber Agreements
• The Effect of Parenting on Subjective Well-being
• Creating Excess Returns in US Equity Markets Using Debt Spreads
• Has the Recession Changed Attitudes about Credit in the United States?
• Does Referee Bias Play a Role in Home Field Advantage?
• The Effect of Redistricting on Voter Turnout
• The Andhra Pradesh Microfinance Crash: A Case Study in Asymmetric Information Problems
• Buying Votes: Does Money Matter in Montana’s Legislative Elections?
• Markets: Cartel Behavior in the Everest Guiding Service Market
• Are risk preferences correlated at the firm level?
• Measuring Changes in Infant Mortality after the Institution of Mass Health as an Evaluation of Government Intervention in Healthcare Markets
• Minimalism – Utility Maximizing Behavior through Reduced Consumption
• Determinants of success on the PGA tour
• A study of the variation of the primary cesarean section rate in the United States during the year 2000
• Finding determinates of fan involvement in sports: An empirical analysis of the NFL
• Performance-based salaries: How does performance in the NBA, using advanced metrics determine salary?
• Otter Creek: A case study
• A study of U.S. Petroleum consumption
• Montana House Elections 2006-2012: An Econometric Analysis
• Do ten men do it better? The effect of red cards on game outcomes in major league soccer
• Are vouchers and charter schools the right choice for Montana? A theory-based evaluation
• Efficiency in college and professional football gambling markets: betting big home underdogs and early season betting analysis
• Maternal Healthcare and Infant Mortality in Indonesia
• Does choice of major effect how much you borrow? Evidence from the University of Montana
• Obesity in American: The impact of family structure on body mass index
• Is Government Intervention Efficient in the U.S. Broadband Market?
• Estimating Consumers’ Willingness to Pay for Food Products of Montana Origin
• Secondary Lead Waste Trade: Environmental and Distance Factors
• NCAA Enforcement and Its Impact on College Football Winning Percentage
• Is the impact of a star player on attendance the same in NPB as in MLB: Star pitcher effect on game attendance in MLB and NPB for the 2013 Season
• Will China’s Dependence on Exports Affect the Ability of the RMB to internationalize?
• Hedonic Pricing Analysis: Vehicle Fuel Economy
• The demand for college football attendance and conference realignment

Bring us up-to-date on your life. Send us a note any time to give us your news. If you send us your email address (econ@mso.umt.edu), we’ll notify you when the next newsletter is posted to the website.
We extend a special thank you to all of the donors and contributors who make scholarship and awards funds for higher education in Economics possible. Thank you.

The Economics Department continues to draw outstanding students into the program. Over the four-year period more than half of our seniors graduated with honors or high honors (37 of 66) and eleven were University Scholars.

This past academic year Nate Williams was recognized for his work on his thesis with the Outstanding Senior Thesis Award as well as being recognized as our Outstanding Senior on Senior Recognition Day. Gavin Hagfors received the highest score on the senior exit exam. Aaron Folsom was awarded the Kain/McKay Scholarship and Henry Giem received the Louis F. Kinney Award in Economics.

Cody Pedro was the recipient of the Outstanding Senior Thesis Award in 2012 and Brennan Folsom in 2013, while Ashley Tombelaine and Dylan Cole shared the honor in 2014.

Bryce Nelson was recognized by Mortar Board as our Outstanding Senior of 2012 on Senior Recognition Day, Kendall Houghton received recognition in 2013 and Ashley Tombelaine in 2014.

Bryce Nelson had also been the recipient in 2011-2012 of the Louis F. Kinney Award, which is given to Montanans from towns of fewer than 10,000 residents. Two years later this award was given to Donna Van Derveer.

In 2012, Mark O'Loughlin was recognized for his outstanding work on the Senior Exit Exam. Timothy Butterfield was honored in 2013 and Toby MacDonald in 2014.

The recipient of the 2012 Kain/McKay Scholarship in Economics was Travis Vincent who, although he completed his economics thesis in the spring, returned in the fall to complete additional coursework in Economics and his second major, Russian. Toby MacDonald was honored with this award in 2013 and Jessica Hurd in 2014.

Finally, in 2013 we awarded the Martin & Rhoda Farris Scholarship to Jesse Young — the same Jesse Young who has now completed our graduate program and will begin his doctorate in Forestry this fall.

Congratulations to these students for their talent, dedication and outstanding work.
PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Presentations:


Derek Kellenberg, University of British Columbia Workshop on Environmental Economics and Climate Change, Vancouver, BC, October, 2011.

Katrina Mullan, World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists, Istanbul, Turkey, June 2014.

Katrina Mullan, Economics Department Seminar, University of Montana, November 2013.

Katrina Mullan, Montana Institute on Ecosystems Rough Cut Seminar, University of Montana and Montana State University, October 2013.

Katrina Mullan, 13th Occasional California Workshop on Environmental and Resource Economics, February 2012.

Helen Naughton, Large Wildland Fire Conference, Missoula, MT, May 2014.

Helen Naughton. Montana EPSCoR/Institute on Ecosystems Annual Science Summit, Helena, MT, August 2013 (poster).


Mathew Taylor, UM Economics Department Seminar, University of Montana, April 2014.

Mathew Taylor, UM Philosophy Forum, University of Montana, April 2014.

Ranjan Shrestha, SMERU Research Institute, Jakarta, Indonesia, July 2014.
Publications:


Mullan, Katrina, “Detecting and interpreting secondary forest on an old Amazonian frontier” (with Jill Caviglia-Harris, Michael Toomey, Daniel Harris, Andrew Bell, Erin Sills and Dar Roberts), Journal of Land Use Science, forthcoming.


Stay in touch. Send us a note any time to give us your news.
ALUMNI NEWS

Abigail Anthony, BA, ’02, MA, ’04, is the Director for the Grid Modernization Initiative and of the Rhode Island Office of Acadia Center in Providence, Rhode Island. Abby leads Acadia Center’s Grid Modernization and Utility Reform initiative, focusing on changing regulatory and economic incentives in order to achieve a sustainable and consumer-friendly energy system. A Rhode Island native, Abigail is based in the Providence office and has played a leading role in advancing the state’s energy efficiency procurement policies, particularly through her appointment by Governor Chafee to the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council. Abigail received her PhD in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Rhode Island where she researched the effectiveness of demand response in maintaining system reliability under climate change scenarios and was a selected symposium scholar for the Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research. While at URI, Abigail was a fellow in the National Science Foundation Coastal Institute IGERT Program, focusing on multidisciplinary problem-solving in coastal ecosystems. Abby and her husband initially filled their spare time with home ownership, and then adopted a small dog, Winston, who smelled terrible but filled their days with joy. Now, however, Abby enjoys being mom to their son, Benjamin, who turns two in September. Abby frequently works with fellow UM Econ alum Henry Yoshimura and now they have matching UM Econ hats!

We learned that Griffin Brown, BA, ’11, was recently accepted into medical school to begin this fall. In the beautiful Pacific Northwest Britt Carlson, BA, ’06 and Kyle Stetler, BA, ’06 continue to work at the US Government Accountability Office in Seattle. Britt works on the Healthcare Team while Kyle spends his time on the Natural Resources and Environment Team. They have moved around Seattle a couple of times, living in Ballard for a stint (almost three years), and then moving to Rainier Beach (in SE Seattle). Along the way they added two little ones, Harriet—in January 2013—and Fritz—in July 2014 (photos below). Most of their time now involves kid wrangling (this includes the dog), looking for adventure, and perfecting peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. They routinely get home to Montana so that Harriet and Fritz will be thoroughly confused about where they grew up. Other than that, a solid investment in two hiking backpacks has been paying dividends in the form of several hikes to nearby lookouts!
Ben Fitch Fleischman, MA, ’09, completed his PhD at the University of Oregon and is moving to Cleveland, Ohio, with his new wife to begin teaching at Oberlin College.

Ardina Hasanbasri, BA, ’12, is entering her second year in PhD studies in Economics at Washington University in St. Louis.

Sue Holmberg, MA, ’00: “For the past 3 or 4 years, I’ve been bouncing around in the mosh pit of the national economic inequality debate. I work as the Research Director and a Fellow at the Roosevelt Institute in New York City. I recently co-authored a report on economic inequality with Joseph Stiglitz called Rewrite the Rules. In general, I write on inequality, corporate governance, and sustainability issues for various magazines and blogs, including the Atlantic, Democracy, Salon, and Grist. My husband and I live in Brooklyn with our 6 year old daughter and 3 year old son. I dearly miss Montana and the annual econ department’s bowling extravaganza.”

Justin Johnson, BA, ’04, works for the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection.

Rob Lester, BA, ‘10, completed his doctorate at Notre Dame University and has accepted a tenure-track position at Colby College, a liberal arts college in Waterville, Maine.

James Ottomeyer, BA, ’11, is living in Spokane and working for Consolidated Electric Distributors, one of the largest electrical wholesale companies in the nation. They have a large cohort of UM grads working for them. James was recently in Missoula to man a job information booth and stopped by the department. We had a great visit; it is always fun to catch up with our graduates.

After working for the Montana Department of Revenue for 3.5 years, Matthew Larson Silbaugh, MA, 07, moved to the Colorado Legislature, where he works as an economist forecasting state revenue. Specifically, he works with sales taxes and the state’s excise taxes on liquor and cigarettes. He also writes fiscal notes and responds to information requests, hopefully contributing to smart public policy. Recently he has been busy forecasting the tax revenue on legal marijuana and answering questions from legislators and other states. It is both the hardest and the easiest forecast that he has worked on: there is no data to use when modeling the legal marijuana market but he has accepted that he may not have a very accurate forecast. Larson never envisioned that he would be making a name for himself as a marijuana economist. On a personal note, he and his wife had a baby boy in May 2014. They are having fun learning how to be parents.

Colin Sorenson, MA, ’09: “I am enjoying my role as a research economist at UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research, with most of my work funded through agreements with the US Forest Service. We are staying busy with our two energetic boys, Sebastian and Mateo, now 6 and 3. This fall they will both attend the Missoula International School, where mom works. Finally, Patricia became a US citizen this year! We look forward to taking her new passport for a spin the next time we travel out of the country, likely to Colombia next summer.”

ECON WEAR!


Debit/credit card orders still need to be processed through the Bookstore, goods can be purchased with cash and checks in the front office.
Ryan Turpin, BA, ‘09, works for Ernst & Young in New York City.

Brian Vander Naald, MA, ‘07, finished up his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon and “scored an assistant professor gig” at University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, where he teaches principles of micro and a senior seminar in resource economics. Brian has also been drafted to be part of a core EPSCoR team working to value ecosystem services associated with glacial estuaries in Southeast Alaska. He and his wife, Anne, are thrilled with their first child, Isaac. Lucky for Brian, Anne and Isaac, Maude likes him just fine.

Brian Vander Naald with his son, Isaac, under the ever watchful eye of Maude.

Travis Vincent, BA, ‘12, was working for the Hoover Institute at Stanford but will begin graduate studies this fall at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies.

ALUMS, where are you now? Please let us know what you are doing and how you have spent your time since leaving UM. Send us a note any time to give us your news.

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