
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

NDSU Agribusiness & Applied Economics 2017

A message from William Nganje, Professor and Department Chair

Our department will be celebrating 100 years in 2018. The department first offered a curriculum in agricultural economics in 1918. The department currently offers B.S. degrees in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Economics and an Economics/Business major (coming soon). We also offer multiple M.S. degrees in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, International Agribusiness, and an Accelerated degree (4 years undergraduate plus one year MS). The undergraduate major enrollment has increased significantly to 368 students from a decade ago. Our graduate students come from all over the world; United States (majority), Bangladesh, Japan, Mongolia, Chili, Columbia, Cameroon, India, and Ghana. It is time for students, staff, and faculty to enjoy the holidays.

The Department experienced several changes. Dr. Frayne Olson is the new Director for the "*Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives*", Dr. Jeremy Jackson is the Director for the newly created *Center for Public Choice and Private Enterprise (PCPE)*, and Dr. William Wilson is the Director for the *Center for Risk and Trading* and the CHS Endowed Chair for Risk Management. All three centers have endowment or operating funds ranging from two plus to 12.5 million dollars. Two new faculty members (Drs. David Bullock and James Caton), one communication expert (Kali Christianson – PCPE) and Research Assistant (Raheem Williams – PCPE).

The department continues to perform very well in multiple areas. Our students received top national awards, other 3rd in the nation at the NAMA competition. We house the best Commodity Trading Room (CTR) of any Land Grant Institutions in the nation. This has been instrumental in training our students well in the area of risk and trading. Our faculty also received several university and national awards for teaching, research, and extension. The department provides top extension education as well as the highest quality research possible at a land grant university. We are excited about our newly formed departmental Advisory Board.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and friends and want to stay in contact with you. Please consider sending us a message updating us on your activities and contact information, such as an e-mail address. Also, please take the time to visit us when you are in the Fargo area. Check our department website and visit us on Facebook.

Riaz Aziz

Lecturer

2017 was a wonderful year, both professionally and personally. I taught two classes in the Spring and Fall semesters and I am leading 18 students to India after Christmas as part of a Study Abroad program. Part of the year was also spent assisting Dr. Roberts with research, utilizing GIS.

This year was also significant for our non-profit foundation – BEGUNAHI (meaning innocence - www.begunahi.org). My mom-profit admitted nearly 100 underprivileged women to our new vocational school in north-center India and we are currently supporting 20 undergraduate and 1 graduate student in colleges in three states in India. Five students graduated this year – the first ever in their families to do so. There is an old saying, “You educate a man, you educate a person. You educate a woman, you educate a community.” Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

James Caton

Assistant Professor

My wife, Ingrid, and I are enjoying growing acclimated with Fargo this year. I am glad to be getting to know the staff and faculty here, and have benefited from their knowledge. This semester has been a good opportunity to continue developing my macroeconomics courses. Along with Raheem Williams, I gave a talk on the state of the macroeconomy at the Ag Lenders Conference that was organized by the Ag Extension. At the Center for the Study of Public Choice, we have completed our first Mancur Olson Scholars reading group, where we read *Organizing Entrepreneurial Judgment* by Nicolae Foss and Peter Klein. The Mancur Olson Scholars met Peter Klein in October when he visited, lectured, and joined us for an early lunch. Looking forward to the coming semester!

David Englund

Lecturer

Greetings everyone! It was another great year teaching Economics and co-advising NAMA. Merry Christmas to everyone and have a great 2018!

James Gale

Lecturer

In the spring of 2010, Stan Herren asked me to come to Fargo and teach his Macroeconomics and Money and Banking classes while he was interim chair of the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. He knew my daughter and her family lived in Fargo and that I might be interested. My wife and I were indeed interested, and so I agreed to one semester for fall, 2010. Circumstances changed over the years and other teaching opportunities came up causing us to move permanently to the Fargo/Moorhead area.

The spring semester, 2018 will be my last, I promise. But, I want to say that the time at NDSU has been even more enjoyable and stimulating than I had expected. Thanks to faculty for interesting economic and ag discussions and especially those research seminars. Thanks to Joan and Judy (retired), Shelly, Norma, Edie and lately Tracy for help, news and insights into university matters. I will miss all of those interactions, but want time to attend several national cattle shows, visit some other relatives and hunt more pheasants than classes have allowed.

The Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics is a special place. Keep it up.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Peace, Jim Gale.

Erik Hanson

Assistant Professor

I enjoyed getting to know our department's students, faculty, and staff better during my first full year at NDSU. During the spring semester, I began instructing our Farm Credit Fellows class, which combines academic coursework with training from Farm Credit System institutions. It was great to interact with those students and see them take advantage of a unique opportunity offered by our department. Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2018!

Bob Hearne

Professor

Merry Christmas 2017 and Happy New Year 2018 from Bob Hearne

So once again allow me to send my sincerest best wishes for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and a Peaceful and Prosperous 2018.

I continue to be busy at NDSU. This past year I was promoted to full professor. As a former advisor told me this is the best job in academia. My research continues with a few projects on the Missouri River and its basin. I am now advising two MS and two PhD students. I like it when they push me. I continue to teach Advanced Microeconomics, Natural Resource Economics, and Elements of Economics. And I continue to enjoy these defenses.

Otherwise my wife and I are doing well in Fargo ND, where I am a committed but unskilled golfer. You can often find me at Edgewood Golf Course in evenings and weekends when weather is suitable.

Jeremy Jackson

Associate Professor/Director PCPE

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!!

from the Jackson's and faculty/staff of PCPE

Prithviraj Lakkakula

Research Assistant Professor

2017 has been a fun year at NDSU. I have been working on sweetener economics, and fertilizer price analysis along with other projects. My research has led to three publications and two manuscripts, which are under review. Additionally, I presented at two international conferences and another at the ND soybean council. I look forward to having another wonderful year ahead.

On the personal front, we had a new addition to our family this year. My wife and I were blessed with a baby girl, Reeva.

I wish the entire family of Agribusiness and Applied Economics very happy holidays.

Siew Lim

Associate Professor

This past summer, my husband and I welcomed our precious newborn baby into the family, so we are now officially parents of four boys. Vincent Kaiyue Lin was born in July. He is beginning to roll his body this month, and he has started to show a lot of interest in our food. His older brothers have different interests. Brother #1 enjoys violin music, brother #2 is a big Star Wars fan, and brother #3 enjoys the company of Thomas and Friends. But what they love to do most at home is to spend time with each other and especially with their baby brother. We are thankful for our family and friends as always. We hope you had a wonderful year 2017, and wish you a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Zachary Machunda

Lecturer

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

During 2017, I had great student learners in all my face-to-face courses and my online courses. My face-to-face students told me they preferred using the *Top Hat Monocle* to the traditional clicker devices by *Turning Point Technologies*. When I asked them why they made such a preference, some told me: "With *Top Hat* I can use my device of choice, my lap top or my iPhone to view any slide I want to review, before I answer the professor's question on the projector in class." Other students told me, "With *Top Hat* and I can work on review questions assigned by the instructor after class, and I can download all the lecture slides for review to get ready for my next day of class meeting."

Admittedly, I do not adopt new digital learning tools just to "wow" students. Like all other educators, I continuously seek digital tools that will increase student engagement in learning, help them to raise their grades and contribute to student retention. My hope is that the introduction of a new digital tool for teaching large classes will help students to feel that class attendance is a more rewarding and fun-filled experience. In addition, I like digital tools that improve the productivity of educators and students alike. This summer Shelly Swandal introduced me to such a digital tool, the *Schedule Planner* at one of the Freshmen Orientation and Registration Sessions in July 2017.

The *Schedule Planner* has made freshmen advising and registration much more efficient. Indeed, the *Schedule Planner* has also increased the ability of freshmen students to tailor their semester class schedules to include times for lunch break, travel from one class to the next and time for work. Unbelievably, I am not the only one who feels that way about the *Schedule Planner!*

My Professional Development story is short and threefold. First, I attended the NDSU Annual Faculty Conference for New and Returning Faculty on August 16, 2017. Secondly, on October 27, 2017 I attended morning and afternoon sessions of the 54th Annual Conference of the Missouri Valley Economic Association. Thirdly, I recently submitted a book review manuscript to the Book Editor of the Journal of Economic Insight. The book I am reviewing is Ogden, T. M. 2016. Ed. **EXPERIMENTAL CONVERSATIONS: Perspectives on Randomized Trials in Development Economics**, the MIT Press.

I continue to cherish my rich memories of two fun things I did during the summer of 2017. Firstly, during the second week of June, 2017 I traveled to Washington D.C. to help Phyllis move back to Moorhead, after her sabbatical research at the Smithsonian Institution ended. For the first time, I visited four museums in the nation's capital: The United States Holocaust Memorial Union, The Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, The National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of the American Indian.

Secondly, in July 2017, Phyllis and our two family friends completed a one-day tour of the Dwight Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home at Abilene, Kansas (KS).

I thank everyone in the department for your contributions to making our department an exceptionally vibrant and civil community of professional development staff, educators and researchers who are dedicated to serving our students, while focusing on doing what you do best.

Dragan Miljkovic

Professor

In year 2017, I was honored with several important professional recognitions. First, I was named Managing Editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (JARE)*, second most influential professional agricultural economics journal in the USA. My three-year term begins in January of 2018. Second, I served my first year on the Executive Board of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC), world's premier agricultural trade research group. It is comprised of almost 250 trade economists from more than 30 countries worldwide. My role is to represent interests of the members from all US universities. Third, I was invited and presented in October of 2017 my research on impacts of regional trade agreements on both the EU and the US agriculture at the University of Zaragoza and at Mediterranean Agronomical Institute, both located in Zaragoza, Spain. Fourth, I was elected by students of all majors in our college to serve as the faculty adviser of the NDSU chapter of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. All of these recognitions made for a very exciting 2017. My family and I wish Merry Christmas and Happy New 2018 to all friends and alumni of the Department of Agribusiness & Applied Economics at NDSU!



William Nganje

Professor and Department Chair

January 3, 2018 makes me five years as Chair of Agribusiness and Applied Economics Department. The department has made major strides in starting two new Centers, completing a strategic plan document, developing new programs (e.g., MS/MBA, Accelerated MS, and a Business-Economics major), engaging in Executive education programs for mid-level management, and developing a departmental Advisory Board.

It has been very busy! I taught two classes: Agribusiness II (3 credits graduate course) and Economics of Food Safety (one credit DCE course). I worked actively on a grant-funded project to develop mid-level Executive education for an industry partner. I mentored two graduate students and had one journal article and one book published. Our book, "US Agricultural and Food Policies: Economics Choices and Consequences" has been adopted by some major universities, including the university of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It is busy but I love my job!

We could soon be empty nesters. Simon, our last born, is a senior at Davis High. He is planning to major in Accounting in college. That is the closest I got to having one of our children follow daddy's path, yeah! Willette has one more semester to complete her BSc-RN Nursing Program at NDSU. Elizabeth is applying to the pharmacy program at NDSU. She has done very well in the pre pharmacy program. Willann is enjoying working for a Lexus Dealer in Arizona. My spouse, Dr. Annette Nganje, enjoys been a "snow bird" but misses home when she travels. The year 2017 went by fast!

Frayne Olson

Crop Economist/Marketing Specialist/Director QBCC

My responsibilities as the NDSU Extension Crop Economist/Marketing Specialist have kept me very busy. I really enjoy being able to travel the state and visit with farmers, ranchers and other agricultural professionals about the economic forces that are impacting North Dakota's agriculture. Even though there are short term challenges, I am still long term bullish on agriculture. Agriculture has always been a cyclical industry, the hard part is understanding when the cycle is shifting.

I also really enjoyed returning to the classroom to teach the senior/graduate level *Cooperatives* class. It has been several years since I helped teach this class, but the student feedback is that "I'm not too bad a teacher." I plan to keep adjusting the class materials to make it as interesting and useful as I can.

The past year has allowed me to re-connect with the cooperative community as Director of the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives. I am looking forward to expanding the education, research and outreach functions of the Center to help address key issues facing cooperatives in the region.

I hope that you and your family have a happy holiday season and that 2018 will bring good health and happiness. I also hope that there will be an opportunity to cross paths and visit as I participate in meetings across the state.

Tim Petry

Associate Professor/Livestock Economist

Another interesting year has flown by (or maybe I should say "blown" by with the strong winds we have had this year). The old adage "if you are having fun, keep doing it" seems to apply quite well to me. It seems like not a day goes by when some new factor impacts livestock prices. So that makes coming to work exciting and generates many media requests for interviews. I certainly enjoyed traveling around the state talking to livestock producers, marketing clubs, lenders, and other industry participants this past year. Some of you are aware of my website, but if not, it is at: www.ag.ndsu.edu/livestockeconomics. There you can find my presentations, livestock budgets, and other livestock marketing information.

I have been having some fun with audiences this year talking about how consumer tastes and preferences (former students of economic principles classes should remember that is one of the determinants of demand) change over time. For example, 20 years ago chicken wings were the cheapest wholesale cut on chickens. Now due to the chicken wing craze, wings are the highest priced cut on a chicken. Currently wholesale wing prices are \$1.70 per pound compared to wholesale boneless chicken breast prices at \$1.00 per pound. That is why we see a lot of boneless wing advertising specials, because breasts are now cut up to make wings. I jokingly say 20 years ago the industry was trying to breed the wings off of chickens, and now are trying to breed four wings on each chicken!

In addition to my work here at NDSU, my family keeps me busy and we are a Bison family. All three of our daughters and sons-in-law graduated from NDSU, and one daughter and a son-in-law also work at NDSU. All four grandchildren go to NDSU day care. So, I'll let you guess the color of many gifts that are opened at our family Christmas party. Happy Holidays and a very prosperous New Year to you all.

Dave Ripplinger

Assistant Professor

Happy Holidays!

Things are keeping busy with bioenergy. This past year I helped organize and deliver new corn economics workshops across the state. In my role as Chair of the National Extension Energy Initiative, I am leading an effort to increase coordination between Extension and the US Department of Energy.

And domestic ethanol production reached a record level this December...

At home, Carly (1), Tess (4), Michael (5), Tommy (10), and Katie (11) are keeping things busy. Go Bison.

Dave Ripplinger

David Roberts

Associate Professor

2017 has been pretty good for me and my family. We had all the flooring in our home replaced with a substantial upgrade this year, so now we're living our best possible lives. I've been working on research projects for the National Science Foundation related to agricultural land use change in North Dakota and the effects of climate volatility on maximum yield potential in wheat, corn, and soybeans. Naomi (8th grade) and Owen (kindergarten) are enjoying school and learning plenty. We love the holiday season because there's so much to celebrate. For example, Bonny and I are celebrating 18 years of the very best marriage this December 22 . . . and then there's Yule, too!

Happy holidays to all y'all from the Robertses!

David Saxowsky

Associate Professor

David Saxowsky is looking forward to retirement sometime between August 2018 (when the current parking permit expires) and December 2019 (at which time he will have been at NDSU for 40 years). Until then, he will continue to teach several courses, but is not likely to teach any courses beyond those assigned as part of his employment responsibility. In terms of research and outreach, David is working with colleagues interested in applying production theory concepts to data emerging from precision ag technology. The ultimate goal is to help producers apply such economic concepts to their farm operations.

Saleem Shaik

Associate Professor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

This year was tumultuous and busy with traveling and meeting state clientele groups, stake holders, and policy makers in the state. As the director of CAPTS, in cooperation with U.S. Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp, and Congressman Kevin Cramer, I organized the 2018 Farm Policy and Bill: Issues and Opportunities Conference, https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/capts/copy_of_Capts2014Conference in Fargo, N.D. on April 12, 2017.

Once again, this year I had several trips within North Dakota (soybean, corn, FM agribusiness committee) and Minnesota (farm groups) to present an overview of historical farm bills, farm programs and farm income and trade along efficiency benchmark estimates. I had the opportunity to travel to NDSU REC with the state during summer to further collaborate on economics of crop yields using precision agriculture.

Look forward to development of farm model for the state and regions as part of Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS).

Anupa Sharma

Assistant Professor/Assistant Director CAPTS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Professionally this year has been an exciting year. I have completed two solo-authored papers and have a pipeline of other individual and collaborative research. These days I am working with a historical data set to uncover the relationship between land use patterns and international trade. I also continue to present my new works at professional conferences, I presented one at AAEA 2017 and another at IATRC 2017. I am very excited to have received positive feedback and interest in my work. In talking to my mentors and seniors in my field, I am convinced that it takes time and effort for your research program to bear results. I am glad that I am in this journey with higher motivation and greater satisfaction.

I also had a wonderful classroom experience while teaching International Trade and few classes in Agricultural Policy. Each student is unique in his/her approach to learning. I have experienced that teacher should be patient enough as students take time to realize their own potential. It also has been great to work with my graduate students Joseph and Mohammed and see them make progress in their work.

This year has been an exciting year for our family too. My son Sakshat has started his Kindergarten; and his energy and curiosity continues to grow. At home, I and Sandip try to ensure that he receives the best environment for his overall growth.

Andy Swenson

Farm & Family Resource Management Specialist

These are my last few paragraphs in the Agribusiness and Applied Economics Christmas letter. I'm retiring on December 30, 5 days shy of 33 years with the NDSU Extension Service. However, I will work part time until summer to finish some projects.

It has been an interesting year knowing it was my last Lender Outlook Conference (I am the only person who participated all 27 years) and my last Income Tax Management for Ag Producers program which I started with the IRS (also 27 years).

Currently, I'm working on developing the annual crop budget publications and the Farm Bill payment estimator for next year. It's amazing how much crop production practices have changed over time and how quickly new farm bill legislation runs its course. I used to construct budgets for wheat on fallow, and have developed decision aids after each of the last six Farm Bills of which the latest expires at the end of next year!

Some of the interaction I'll miss the most is working with North Dakota Farm Business Management Education Program instructors and the program planning board of Northwest Farm Managers Association.

I'll always be very thankful for the opportunity to work for you with the NDSU Extension Service.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Andy Swenson

Skip Taylor

Livestock Extension Economist/Research Scientist

After much thought and deliberation I have decided to retire in January from NDSU after 28 years. This past year my wife, Pat retired from Sanford to become grandma to our 10 grand kids. She baby-sat for the two youngest ones, first in Omaha, NE and then in Eau Claire, WI. We are planning a trip this Christmas to the east coast to visit our oldest son and his family. We have no other set plans for this next year.

We have two new granddaughters this past year. Charlotte Grace was born last October to our youngest son Zach and his wife Tasha, and Johanne Dorothea arrived in March of 2017, to Jesse and Beverly. Numerous weekends were enjoyed at the lake this past summer as everyone tried to partake in the warm weather.

Pat and I attended my 50th high school reunion in July, which about 1/2 of the class returned. We had a good time and were able to reunite with some good friends from Valley City. Merry Christmas to all and have a great 2018.

Skip Taylor

Chery Wachenheim

Professor

Happy New Year! It was another great year, professionally and personally, working with great colleagues and enjoying time with my beautiful family. I notice as I age, the lack of notable changes in either area provide considerable comfort. I did enter the career field of public affairs in the military, beginning with a ten-week intensive course in Maryland covering everything from how to write a feature article to developing and implementing talking points when being interviewed by radio or television media. I will never look at the news the same. From our family to your family, we wish you a most wonderful year filled with great family memories. I hope our paths cross again soon.

Tom Wahl

Professor

Happy Holidays!

My Chinese food consumption research continues. Travels for research have taken me again to China and Italy this year to explore agricultural markets, trade policy, and wine production. I look forward to a productive year ahead as ND's role in NAFTA and international trade are becoming important to producers and policymakers.

Bill Wilson

Distinguished Professor

I don't have much to add this year. It has been a great year and feel blessed to be doing what I am doing. I am teaching two courses in commodity trading, and another graduate course in risk analysis (measurement and strategy). We added an additional sophomore/junior level course to attract more students to that career path. In addition, I am supervising a couple grad students. The job market continues good in agribusiness and in commodity marketing, though, things are tightening. Despite that, for good and well-prepared students, they are doing well in getting jobs and their careers. MS students finishing this year went to Gavilon in risk, ADM and CHS and GreenPlains (Ethnol) in trading.

Research continues a major focus of my job. My projects are all related to modeling risk and strategy. This year we did (or are doing) projects on logistics competition between the US and Brazil in soybean marketing, fusarium in wheat and barley, the US rail car market, impacts of default risk in international grain marketing and energy (oil) trading and risk.

Bruce, as many of you know, is fighting cancer, and is doing well. Our hearts and prayers go out to him. He remains valuable to our program and we are finding ways to continue our work.

My pet project is the Commodity Trading Room which has been in operation for a couple years now and most of you have heard about it. If not, see it at (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ErABR40OLQ>).

The Trading and Risk initiative is taking off. We have a big scholarship program, we are sponsoring 3-4 MS students per year, we have recently hired Dr. David Bullock from AgriBank who is one of the best in the business of risk modeling and he begins Jan. 2, and we created an endowed chair, the *CHS Chair in Risk Management and Trading*.

Besides work, I am sailboat racing a lot with my sons—we race a J70 every weekend and about 4-5 regional regattas a year, and, do quite well. Of course, they should since they have been sailing since they were in diapers and I am M&M (Money and Mechanic!). Rhonda is fully retired, but busy and focused on being an artist, and road-bike-riding, now including Italy in her resume!. Finally, I am trying to snowboard as much as I can for many reasons, and last year I began with a new twist...see the attached, I am the guy in black and on the snowboard. <https://youtu.be/yqBlfmFJESg> and <https://youtu.be/vxFmZPTyblo>. Unexpectedly, this has gone from being a bucket list, to what appears an annual event.

Lei Zhang

Assistant Professor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It has been a super busy year for me and my family. Elizabeth started her 2nd grade adventure in August. Her life is filled with a variety of knowledge and activities. She likes dancing, singing and playing piano. Victoria is now in preschool. Time flies! You may still remember her baby looking. She is now quite different!

This year is a normal year for my research. I have two papers accepted for publication, and now busy with revising another two papers, and working on many new projects. I taught ECON202, Econ343, and ECON410/610 in Fall. Teaching continues to be fun and exciting.

Wish you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Researchers

Dean Bangsund, Research Scientist

Randy Coon, Research Specialist

Bruce Dahl, Research Scientist

Ron Haugen, Farm Management Specialist

Elvis Ndembe, Research Scientist

Raheem Williams, Research "Specialist"



Support Staff

Kali Christianson
Tracy Fuller
Paulann Haakenson
Edie Nelson
Sandy Osborne

Norma Ackerson

Information Processing Specialist

I started at NDSU on September 1, 1993 in the former Ag. Engineering Department., which is called the Ag & BioSciences Department now. I worked with the extension side of the Department with some great guys. After a year I moved to the International Programs at Ceres Hall and after 7 months a position came open in the Ag Econ Dept, which was changed to Agribusiness and Applied Economics a few years ago. As you can tell by the years I have remained in our department ever since. I know that I work in one of the greatest departments on campus. I will make the Quarter Century Club next September 1, 2018. Through the years we have seen many changes in technology, faculty, staff and administration. I miss all of you who have retired or moved because of better jobs. It is always fun to see you when you come to visit or send a card or email!

Last year my husband Marlin (Pete) and I celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in July. We have 4 children, Scott, Julie, Rachel and Elizabeth. They are all married and have given us 19 grandchildren. Our daughter Rachel has 10 children ranging from 10 months to 21 years, 6 boys and 4 girls with 3 of the boys being adopted in 2016.

My hobbies include crocheting, gardening (both vegetable and flowers), scrapbooking and fishing. We live on a 10-acre farmsite so keeping the yard mowed is never ending. We only live off I-94 a mile and a half, so my commute from Barnesville to Fargo is usually good. We love living in the country with our 8 cats, 2 miniature horses, golden lab. and all the wildlife we see regularly.

I want to wish each of you a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!**

Shelly Swandal

Director of Student Services

Greetings,

2018 brings me to 32 years of service at NDSU. In three short years, I will have put in as many years as the age I started here. Feel free to do the math. □ A big highlight of my year was the new class scheduler the University introduced. The class scheduler is a program used by students to register for classes. Students simply plug in the titles of the courses they want and the program arranges all the different schedules available. I cannot stop singing the praises of this little tool and what a difference it has made to the registration process. On a personal note, my husband Stu and I remain blessed to have our son Matt and his family nearby and our daughter gainfully employed in California. We plan to spend time with each of them during the holidays. I hope you had many wonderful moments in 2017 and that 2018 will bring even more.

Best wishes,

Shelly

Other Happenings

Arlen Leholm passed away on October 16. He earned his B.S. and M.S. in agricultural economics at NDSU. Early in his career, he established the Center for Rural Revitalization at NDSU. He trained 50 financial analysts to work with over 3,000 farm families with severe financial stress, providing one-on-one counseling. The program was nationally recognized because of its creative nature and benefits. He received the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus in the College of Ag at NDSU.

The Northern Crops Institute hired Mark Jirik as director to replace Mark Weber who will retire in December. Jirik and Weber are both alum of our department.

NDSU alumnus David Berg, recently retired president and CEO of American Crystal Sugar Co., was the recipient of the 2016 Agribusiness Award. He was honored during the annual Harvest Bowl awards program. David received his master's degree from Agribusiness.

The team of NDSU's National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) students is among the best in the nation. They took third place in a student competition held during the NAMA conference in April. For three years in a row, NDSU's NAMA team has made the finals –placing third, sixth and third. Their advisors are David Englund and Tom Wahl. NDSU finished above institutions such as Ohio State University, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Iowa State University, Arizona State University, University of Tennessee and University of Florida.



Dave and Pat Cobia stopped by for a visit in August. Several former (& current) faculty and staff came to have coffee and catch up as well. Pictured l-r are Eddie Dunn, Roger Johnson, Dave and Pat Cobia, JoAnn and Don Anderson, Judy Moe, Mary Altepeter, and Lucy Radke.



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