Happy Holidays

A message from William Nganje, Professor and Department Chair

Planning to celebrate! Our department will be 100 years old soon. The department was formed in 1919 (then the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing) after offering a curriculum in agricultural economics in 1918. The department currently offers B.S. degrees in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, and Economics and M.S. degrees in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, and International Agribusiness. The undergraduate major enrollment has been relatively steady at 160 to 180 students until most recently when it has doubled to 383 students. The department has 28 graduate students from around the world—United States, Cameroon, India, Bangladesh, Brazil, Japan, Mongolia, Chili, Columbia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, China, and Ghana. It is time for students, staff, and faculty to enjoy the holidays.

The department experienced several changes. Dr. Saleem Shaik is the new Director for the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS), replacing Dr. Won Koo who retired. Two new faculty and one lecturer were hired. Dr. Anupa Sharma has been hired to start in January 2016 as a trade economist and to serve as the Assistant Director for CAPTS. Dr. Erik Hansen has been hired to replace Dr. Juan Murguia for the Farm Management position. Erik will start his appointment in August 2016. Dr. Zachary Machunda was hired for a 100% lecturer position to teach distant and continuing education courses, with a student advising component to his appointment. Diane Tronson started working in our department to replace Joan Peterson who retired in August. Lucy Radke is also working in the office on a part-time basis.

The department continues to perform very well in multiple areas. Our students received top national awards, 3rd place in the nation at the NAMA competition and 10th place in a Risk and Trading competition (at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange) out of 502 teams from around the world. We house one of the best Commodity Trading Rooms (CTR) of any Land Grant Institution in the nation. Recently, Professor William Wilson completed a $13.5 million endowment drive to sustain the CTR and create scholarships for students interested in risk and trading. Our faculty also received several university and national awards in 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 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.
**Dwight Aakre**  
Farm Management Specialist

The 2014 Farm Bill education effort is behind us and my speaking schedule has slowed considerably. Now many of the requests for information or participation on Extension programs are about how to deal with very thin operating margins. Market prices have declined much faster than input costs leaving many operations with cash flow problems.

I started my Extension career in the agricultural depression era of the mid-1980s and will retire during another agricultural downturn. In between, a lot of changes have taken place. The most obvious is the huge degree of consolidation that has taken place on North Dakota and America’s farms.

Karen and I have been attending numerous school activities, especially football and basketball games and track meets this past year. We really enjoy following the accomplishments of our grandchildren.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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**Riaz Aziz**  
Lecturer

This year has been nothing short of wonderful. In addition to teaching two classes that I thoroughly enjoyed with some wonderful students, I also started working on a research project involving GIS. The best part of the year was on a more personal level – my wife DeLana and I awarded seven more College Scholarships for underprivileged women in India – bringing the total number of women that our Begunahi Foundation serves to fifteen. The women our foundation serves live on less than $1,000 per year for a family of seven, with no indoor plumbing or electricity. These women have aspirations and hope like the rest of us and want to stand on their own.

This will be our first Christmas and New Year in India and we will have the privilege of awarding an additional ten college scholarships for 2016. I call the women we support our Bayti’s (meaning daughters in Hindi) and am proud to have 26 daughters counting our own– Chiara, who lives in the Twin Cities.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - DeLana and Riaz

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**Aaron De Laporte**  
Research Assistant Professor

It’s hard to believe that we have been here for a year, but it has been an exciting one. After settling down in our new residence, my wife, daughter and I received the news that we would be welcoming a new addition to our family. Amelia Kathryn De Laporte-Fender was born on September 24th. She has been growing well. Rosalyn, who turns five in January, started pre-school and has been a wonderful big sister. My wife and I are happily looking forward to the future, where more sleep is hopefully on the horizon. It’s been a pleasure getting to know everyone in the department. Happy holidays!
Greetings everyone! I’ve had a great year. Between teaching, co-advising NAMA, advising, jogging, photography, working on my fourth novel, spending time with family and friends, it has been a splendid year. Merry Christmas everyone and have a great 2016!

Robert Hearne
Associate Professor

Merry Christmas 2015 and Happy New Year 2016

So once again allow me to send my sincerest best wishes for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and a Peaceful and Prosperous 2016.

This year I have continued to teach Advanced Microeconomics, Natural Resource Economics, and Principles of Microeconomics. I feel that I am fortunate to have a semester to push all of the Department’s MS students in microeconomics. My research program went well this year and has focused more on western North Dakota. I had an article on Missouri River management accepted for publication. I submitted an article on Bakken housing, and will submit another on Bakken water supply. Otherwise my wife and I are doing well in Fargo, North Dakota.

Stan Herren
Professor

During 2015, I taught Labor Economics, Intermediate Macroeconomics (two sections), and Money and Banking (two sections). My research continues to be in the area of history of economic thought, particularly concerning the economic ideas used by the President’s Council of Economic Advisers in formulating policy recommendations. The major theme of my current research is to provide students and colleagues with a better understanding of how economic ideas have been used in the formation of monetary and fiscal policies. I continue to serve as Book Review Editor for the Journal of Economics, which Missouri Valley Economics Association (MVEA) publishes. At the 2015 MVEA meeting, I organized five sessions, chaired two sessions, discussed two papers, and presented one paper. During a summer trip along the Danube River, I explored consequences of a monetary/currency union.
**Nancy Hodur**  
Research Assistant Professor

It has been another very busy year for our research group. My colleague Dean Bangsund and I partnered with Saleem Shaik and David Saxowsky on a major study examining potential effects of the operations of the proposed FM Diversion on agriculture production. It was a very challenging project and produced some very interesting insights on the issue of temporary water storage. Our group will be doing some additional work expanding the study area in 2016. The year-long examination of characteristics and intentions of the oil and gas industry workforce is nearing completion and results will be forthcoming soon. Randy Coon continues to work in the winter months when his farming activities are done, maintains the economic base data set as well as helping out with various projects. Next year looks to be busy as our group will be examining the population implications of lower crude oil prices and examining the housing needs throughout the state. Till next year, Happy Holidays!

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**Jeremy Jackson**  
Assistant Professor

Dear Friends,

Another blessed year is coming to an end. It's hard to believe that it has now been 6 years since I started at NDSU in August of 2009. So much has changed since then both personally and professionally.

Personally, I arrived at NDSU a bachelor and am now a happily married father of two boys (ages 1.5 and 4). My wife, Elizabeth, was recently awarded tenure in the department of Communication. I am very proud of her hard work and accomplishments as well as her dedication to her boys. I'll just say she puts up with a lot!

Professionally, our department went through some hard times with leadership turnover but we are now settling in under the leadership of William Nganje. We even have a strategic plan! The department is currently doing the best work that I can recall since my arrival. I also now find myself going through tenure review and am hopeful that next year's greeting will come with good news on that front.

May you all enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jeremy, Elizabeth, Stanley, and Marc Jackson
Prithviraj Lakkakula  
Research Assistant Professor

This is my first year in the department and it has been great at NDSU. I have been working on sweeteners, barley, and pulses. The last year of my research has led to three manuscripts (of which two are under review and the other is in the final stage of manuscript preparation), and a book chapter on food security accepted for publication. This year has been very special to me as my first grant proposal (on specialty crops) was accepted for funding. I wrote this grant proposal in collaboration with Dr. David Ripplinger and Dr. Frayne Olson. I attended two conferences this year in addition to an in-state Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) tour. On the family front, my wife started pursuing an MS in Computer Science this fall at NDSU.

I wish happy holidays to the entire team of Agribusiness and Applied Economics.

Ryan Larsen  
Assistant Professor

2015 has been another great year. My family and I have been blessed with wonderful opportunities this past year. I presented some of my research at conferences in San Francisco and Chicago as well as traveled with some of the extension faculty to deliver programs throughout the state. I am always amazed at the beauty of North Dakota. It is truly a great place to live and work. I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Siew Lim  
Associate Professor

My husband and I were blest with another child this year. We named him Calvin, after a 16th century French theologian, John Calvin. Baby Calvin is doing well; he brings so much joy to the whole family. His older brothers continue to enjoy music and games. But what they love to do most at home is to spend time with their baby brother. We are thankful for our family and friends as always. We hope you had a wonderful year 2015, and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.
Zachary Machunda
Lecturer

For clarity, let me lay out my story in 2015 into three categories: teaching and advising students, participation in various professional development activities and travel for fun or education with my wife. In the fall of 2015, my first semester of employment at NDSU, I taught two online courses: Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 201) and Elements of Economics (Econ 105), and one large, face-to-face class in Elements of Economics. In addition, I advised 16 sophomores, who are our majors in the department. Before I began my fall semester job at NDSU, I participated in professional development activities organized by NDSU and W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. At NDSU I attended all activities of the ORIENTATION FOR NEW FACULTY on August 17 and the FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE on August 19. Earlier, on May 26, I participated in a one-day Professional Development Teaching Workshop for Economics hosted by W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. Two additional professional development activities I engaged myself in during the summer were a review of a chapter manuscript on Fiscal Policy for the second edition of Principles of Economics by Dirk Mateer and Lee Coppock and refereeing an article submission to the Journal of Urban Affairs. Finally to indulge myself in self-paced travel for fun or education, my wife and I visited the William J. Clinton Presidential Library & Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas, the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis city and the Rock and Roll Museum, also in Memphis city, Tennessee.

Greg McKee
Associate Professor/Director of Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives

I maintained the reach of the Cooperatives class during 2015. In the fall the course was available through AglDEA; more than 20 students from outside North Dakota participated. The course was offered for the first time in spring 2015 to Bismarck State College, as well as a section in Dickinson State University. Articles I coauthored on topics related to cooperatives were accepted in four journals, including research on the structure of the credit union industry, how credit unions compete with banks, CEO succession planning in cooperatives, and the effect of the Dodd-Frank Act on real estate lending by cooperative financial institutions. In addition to teaching nearly 100 students about cooperatives in the coming spring semester, I am working with a graduate student on how credit unions are affected by rapid loan growth and continue to work with the Burdick Center Advisory Board to expand the financial resources of the Center so the scope of work done by the Center can keep pace with changes affecting the cooperative business world. These activities will conclude my tenure at NDSU.

Have a happy 2016.

Greg McKee
Dragan Miljkovic
Professor

Year 2015 was eventful on a professional and personal side. I published six peer-reviewed journal articles and a book chapter, several with my former graduate students. In addition to working in the areas of commodity pricing and marketing, as well as in agricultural, food, and trade policy, my work branched to the field of energy economics and energy policy. I also presented several of my papers at various domestic and international professional meetings, as well as an invited speaker at two research seminars at two prominent U.S. universities. Finally, on a personal note, I was proud to see my son Peter graduate from Grinnell College with a B.S. in chemistry, and now working in Chicago, while my daughter Kristina has been admitted as a full-time student at the Cincinnati Ballet Academy where she is pursuing her dream of becoming a professional ballerina. My family and I wish happy holidays to all of my colleagues, our students, and friends and alumni of our program! Dragan, Tatjana, Peter and Kristina Miljkovic

William Nganje
Professor/Department Chair

This is my third year as Chair of the Agribusiness and Applied Economics Department.

Our children are adjusting well to the Fargo community. Willette is doing well in the NDSU Nursing Program. Elizabeth was admitted into the pre-pharmacy program at NDSU. Simon is a sophomore at Davis High. His love for basketball is strong. My spouse, Dr. Annette Nganje, enjoys being a “snow bird” but misses home when she travels. The year 2015 has come and gone really fast.

It has been very busy. I taught three classes; Agribusiness II (three credits), Research Methods (one credit) and Economics of Food Safety (one credit DCE course). I am also actively working on three funded grant projects. I mentor two graduate students and had two journal articles in 2015, one published and the other accepted for publication. It’s busy but I love my job!
**Frayne Olson**  
Associate Professor/Crop Economist/Marketing Specialist

2015 was another busy and challenging year. Crop prices have fallen further and faster than most people expected. The most common question I get is how long will these low prices last. I wish I knew the answer to that question. However, I do know that the long-term outlook for U.S. and North Dakota agriculture is still very strong. In the short term, crop prices will continue to be quite variable which should provide opportunities to sell at higher prices. The trick is to recognize these opportunities, which won’t last long, and take advantage of them. The main focus of my outlook presentations has been talking about changes that may create short-term price spikes and marketing techniques that can take advantage of these rallies.

In my ‘spare time’ I am working with two graduate students in our department. One is conducting research on the risks of producing alternative crops in North Dakota and the second is evaluating the economic returns to farm level storage and transportation given basis variability at alternative elevators and processors. I am also working with Dr. Prithviraj (Raj) Lakkakula to assess the current demand for food products utilizing barley and identify potential growth opportunities.

I hope that you and your family have a happy holiday season and that 2016 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 year flew by in my exciting position as Extension Livestock Marketing Economist. Cattle prices remained record high during the first half of 2015, but have declined and given up much of the phenomenal increase that occurred last year. So that gives me a lot to talk about at the many meetings that I do. Prices for other livestock have also declined from the 2014 record highs.

Last year several of you former Ag Econ (now Agribusiness) students responded to my comments in this Holiday Newsletter saying that you expected to read of my retirement. Some even said they were tired of waiting for me to retire so they retired themselves. Well, I am still working and enjoying what I do. I have had several friends retire and then get bored and take a low paying, menial job just to keep busy. So, since I am receiving a good salary, have great Extension colleagues to work with, and enjoy what I am doing I plan to keep working for a while longer. Speaking of retirement, some of you remember Larry Mack who was a long time faculty member in the Department and a friend of mine. This summer I had a meeting in Huron, SD and on the way back stopped to visit him on the home farmstead just north of Watertown, SD. He is doing great and enjoying retirement.

On a personal note, family activities keep me busy. We have three grown daughters (all NDSU graduates) and their families living in the Fargo area. We were very excited to have another granddaughter join us in October. So, one of my favorite activities is spoiling my three little granddaughters and I like to think I am pretty good at it. Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year to you all!
David Ripplinger  
Assistant Professor

Happy Holidays!

It’s been a challenging and rewarding year. I just received word that an NDSU team I’m a member of received a $3.7 million grant from USDA to study Northern Plains cropping systems. I’ll be leading the environmental and economic analyses. Half of the project funds are for Extension so there will be considerable activity across the state during the four years of the project.

In addition to continued Bioenergy Extension programming and the second Bio Industry Summit in May, Bill Wilson and I led the first delivery of an ethanol risk management course for industry in June and look forward to holding it again in 2016. I’ve also helped out with the Design Your Succession Plan team, and helped launch two regional initiatives, one focused on farmer’s use of technology, the other on farm management.

My team added two research assistant professors this year, Raj Lakkakula a talented econometrician who came from the University of Florida, and Juan Vargar-Ramirez, who is continuing work in the Ag Engineering Department at NDSU after completing his PhD in October.

On the home front, our brood count remains steady at four. Katie is nine going on nineteen; Tommy, eight, continues to be sports crazy; Michael, three, is the size of a six-year-old and likes to talk in the third person; and Tess, two, is either a joy or a terror depending on a stochastic process that I haven’t identified yet.

Ready to go to Frisco for number five if need be. This whole Bison Football thing is getting pretty ridiculous.

David Roberts  
Assistant Professor

Another year is drawing to a close, and it has been a good one for the Roberts Family. Bonny and I have had our hands full with our delightful, fun-loving children, Naomi (12) and Owen (4).

It’s been a good year for me professionally, too. I am part of a team of researchers from UND and NDSU that received a ND EPSCoR National Science Foundation grant to study the effects of climate and economics on agricultural land use change in North Dakota. I also have received three other grants to study precision agriculture technologies. Three of my graduate students have completed degrees this year: two PhD and one MS, and I had several publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Life is good in Fargo, and we’re enjoying it as much as possible. My family and I are having a joyful Christmastime, and we hope you do, too! And also, have a happy new year!
David Saxowsky
Associate Professor

Mary and I had an opportunity to “catch our breath” during a visit to Arizona and Colorado in early summer. We also traveled with friends to Hawaii in late summer. With the visit to Hawaii, I have now been in each of the 50 states. Our family also celebrated the marriage of our daughter, Stacey, and Chad in early July.

I appreciate the efforts of Dean, Saleem and Nancy throughout the spring and summer as our group completed an analysis of the risks for agricultural producers located in the staging area of the proposed FM Diversion project. I am involved in five courses this fall and am thankful that Ryan and Kassu co-teach the real estate and agribusiness management courses. I taught Water Law this past spring for the UND School of Law and will teach Agricultural Law for Dickinson State this spring. I remain active in the multi-state Agricultural & Environmental Law program within the AG*IDEA program.

As a fan of college football, it was a GREAT year to be an alumnus of NDSU and Ohio State. I expected that someday both universities would be national football champions at the same time. I guess January 2015 was “someday.”

Saleem Shaik
Associate Professor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Just a month ago, I was selected to lead (Director) the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS). This is a great opportunity for me to contribute back to the state and also provide my vision to the Center as it is starting from ground zero. My vision to the Center is built upon three pillars – research, state clientele and stakeholders, and policy makers. Research will be focused on state economy, income and productivity, farm policy and trade.

This year was very productive, especially during my visit and presentation at the ND farm business and range management association meetings. This time, I was able to jointly look and evaluate the results with the educators (fantastic group).

Saleem
Andrew Swenson  
Farm & Family Resource Management Specialist

During the first two months of 2015 I concluded my 2014 Farm Bill education effort with 23 meetings and over 1,000 attendees, after addressing over 3,500 last year. Each year I work with the North Dakota Farm Business Management Education program to generate regional and state summaries of farm financial performance. Unfortunately, net farm income was down substantially and going forward the outlook is challenging.

I was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the North Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators in Bismarck. It was an interesting experience driving from Watford City which recorded the hottest temperature of the year for North Dakota that day, 103.9 degrees, in my old car without air conditioning to receive the award.

In July I travelled to an Agri-Benchmark international conference in Brazil and gave a presentation on world wheat economics. Visits to several Brazilian farms were a highlight. It was another year of record attendance for our outlook conference for agricultural lenders and 2015 marked the 25th year that I have organized and moderated the income tax management program for agricultural producers and tax preparers.

My youngest daughter was married this summer and I thank my wife Cindy for all her efforts in making the occasion a great success. Lastly, I had a good Canadian fishing trip. One day the resort owner had to shoot a bear that was on our porch and his wife skinned it.

Have a Great Holiday Season and 2016.

Richard Taylor  
Research Scientist/Livestock Extension Economist

2015 has been very good for us! We started out by taking a trip to Florida with our son and wife Beverly to save my hide in January. This year has brought about several additions to our family. In June, Jesse and Beverly had a 10 pound baby boy named Robye David. A baby the doctors said would not happen. Mother and baby all did fine. Grandma and Grandpa arrived in Eau Claire one day later to help with the first child. In July our oldest son and family met us in Wisconsin for a fun week. The “men” went on a two-day motorcycle ride through the backroads of Wisconsin while the girls did some sightseeing and shopping. We spent several different weeks during the summer at the lake with grandkids at different times. That keeps us very young. In October, Erik and Cheri welcomed a son Miles Henry to their family. Miles is their second son and fourth child. We went to Omaha in mid-October to visit all. Pat and I are busy, both still working, wishing the 8 grandchildren could take up most of our time! We are planning a trip to our oldest son and his family towards the end of the year. We hope you have a blessed Christmas and a fantastic 2016.
Cheryl Wachenheim  
Professor  

Hello from Beijing! We are living in Beijing for the year thanks to a Fulbright Scholarship. I am teaching risk analysis and agribusiness management at Renmin University. The students are top notch. I have had the opportunity to also visit Beihang University and Beijing Foreign Studies University in Beijing; Dongbei University of Finance and Economics in Dalian City; Zhenjiang Agricultural and Forestry University in Lin'an; Jinan University in Zhuhai; and Xiamen University in Fujian.

Ellie and Hunter are attending an international school in Beijing and are able to accompany me on trips throughout China. They are getting used to smaller class sizes as Hunter shares 6th grade with nine other students, and there are 14 students in 7th grade at the school including Ellie. Both are learning Chinese speaking and characters much more quickly than me although we are all trying. We are enjoying the food, the culture, and especially the people we meet. Hope all is very well for you and your family.

Keep in touch. Cheryl

Tom Wahl  
Professor  

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

My research on Chinese food consumption continues. My travels for research have taken me to Italy this year for the International Agricultural Economics Association meeting where I presented several papers. My role as Associate Dean in the Graduate School provides an exciting opportunity to engage faculty from across the University and to work with our interdisciplinary programs. I look forward to a productive year ahead!

Kassu Wamisho  
Research Assistant Professor  

This year has been exciting. I am privileged to teach AGEC 744 and 344 along with my primary research appointment. Working as a team with Dave, Aaron, and Raj has offered me tremendous challenges and opportunities. Particularly, our weekly project meeting has helped me to work on the nitty and gritty of quantitative analysis.

I have published two journal articles and submitted another two with Dave and Aaron. I have also completed two additional manuscripts which are going to be submitted before the turn of 2016. Also, I presented a paper and poster at the annual AAEA meeting in San Francisco.

Wishing you Happy Holidays
Bill Wilson
Distinguished Professor

As many of you know, changes in agriculture are very fast, dynamic and dramatic. Fortunately, I have been and continue to be involved in a number of these. It is truly a professional blessing to have this engagement. I continue to focus my research on risk and strategy with particular focus on ag marketing issues including logistics, technology, biotechnology and trading and risk management.

I was honored this year with a number of awards including the 2015 Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research Award and the Peltier Award for distinguished record as researcher and educator at the NDSU Celebration of Faculty Excellence, 2015.

In addition, I was appointed to the NCH Capital (NY) Board of Directors (one of the largest private equity funds invested in Russia/Ukraine agriculture).

My pet project for the past few years has been our Commodity Trading Room. For those who have not seen this, see our YouTube (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ErABR40OLI) and recently NDSU has created youtubes on some of the University Distinguished Professors (see the attached, you will love it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spIkxu7IOls If any of you are in town, stop for a visit sometime. This Trading Room is now a regular part of our teaching, outreach and research program. We are indeed the first Land Grant College with such a room and are very proud of it, though I know a number of other schools are seeking to replicate it in some fashion. We have been working with the Development Foundation to create an endowment to support these activities. In November we had a Donor Recognition which was a great event. The endowment will be announced later, but, it will be impressive and sufficient to fully support the trading room functions, support a number of prestigious scholarships, and an endowed chair in Commodity Trading and Risk (to be announced in early 2016).

Our students continue to do well. All of our undergrads are getting very good jobs and many of them getting a number of offers. Of course the job market is robust in agriculture, however, the competitive and commercial environment is very intense, and as such those with good credentials are finding lots of opportunity.

As you would expect, I continue to work in international agribusiness and regularly travel. This year that includes regular trips to Russia, Australia, in addition to others in Italy, Dubai, Mexico, among others. And, I continue to snowboard as much as I can, and racing sailboats with my sons and Rhonda (see utube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQwOmu6AISlTravel) and Rhonda now has me engaged in road-biking.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It has been a busy year for me and my family. Elizabeth started her kindergarten adventure in August. She was excited for the new curriculum and all kinds of fun activities. Victoria is now 15 months old. She is a happy and lovely girl. She likes chasing her sister and playing bouncy ball. Our family moved to a new house in September. After a couple of months packing, cleaning, unpacking, shopping, and millions of other things, we finally settled in our new home. Kids are now busy with decorating the new house for Christmas.

This year I published two papers, and presented two papers at a conference. One of my papers was accepted at “Intent vs. Impact: Evaluating Individual- and Community-Based Programs” conference at the Dallas Fed. I kept teaching ECON202 in Spring and Fall semesters, and started a new prep ECON410/610 in Fall. Teaching continues to be fun and exciting.

Wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Researchers

- Dean Bangsund, Research Scientist
- Randy Coon, Research Specialist
- Bruce Dahl, Research Scientist
- Ron Haugen, Farm Management Specialist

Support Staff

- Norma Ackerson
- Paulann Haakenson
- Judy Moe
- Edie Nelson
- Sandy Osborne
- Lucy Radke
- Shelly Swandal
- Diane Tronson
Other Happenings

The 23rd annual Agriculture and Extension Faculty/Staff Awards Program was held December 11, 2014. Of the 53 people nominated, two faculty from our department were award recipients. Ryan Larsen received the Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching Award, and Jeremy Jackson received the William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Excellence in Advising Award. Congratulations!

News from former Faculty and Staff

We hope you enjoy updates from our Professor Emeritus individuals. Some of you may know more of these people than our current faculty. There are a few that did not respond, but maybe they will come through next year after reading this newsletter.

Don Anderson

Jo and I continue to enjoy retirement for the past 22 years being blessed with good health and an active lifestyle. We will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary this Dec., other firsts include the wedding of our oldest grandson. We spend summers in Fargo in a senior community and winters in Sun City Arizona. Activities include weekly golf, volunteering at local facilities, consulting (MACI), family gatherings, going to grandchildren’s athletic contests, and hunting and fishing in North Dakota. We continue to be active gardeners on a smaller scale than at the lake. We enjoy visits from old friends in Fargo and in Sun City (spare bedroom available) cell phone 701-261-5650. Don and Jo Anderson.

Ron Anderson

Retirement is music to my ears. I’ve spent 23 years playing baritone in the Red River Valley Veteran’s Concert Band, along with singing in our church choir, and playing my accordion in a German Band for nursing home residents. Hallie and I spend our winters in Fargo enjoying volunteering at the Sons of Norway, taking part in Kiwanis Club activities, and enjoying breakfasts at least three times a month with other Extension Retirees. Life is good!! Ron Anderson, Retired Extension Economist.
**David Cobia**

Previous activities: retired Feb 1998, office couple at Melbourne Austrailia LDS mission 1998-99, moved to Provo Utah 2000, 2 days/week in LDS temple 6 years, helped with family challenge 2 years.

Recent activities: hobby gone wild making a 16 grain pancake mix & 3 gluten free grain products, in 2013 made 8 ½ tons pancake mix. Last year I managed a 50% reduction (there is a story about that). In about 40 stores, see out-of-date web site: treestreetgrains.com.

Family: daughter LeeAnn: 8 children (4 married w/5 children), nurse practitioner, UT
  son Rick: single, google adds, Mesa, AZ
  daughter Kathy: 4 children (one in Boston on LDS mission), special ed., Salem, OR
  Pat: helps me with Quickbooks, art work and grandmothering.

Health: I'm 81 & still pretty mobile & losing hair; Pat is 84 & slowing a bit, otherwise doing good.

**George Flakerud**

George and Kristi Flakerud live at 1385 Leisure World, Mesa, AZ. After I retired in December 2007, we lived in Leisure World, part time at first and then full time in 2011. We like to travel and have visited many countries during retirement. We also go to Minneapolis several times each year visiting our boys and occasionally Fargo to visit friends; we enjoy several weeks each summer at a Minnesota lake with friends and family. Various activities in Leisure World fill in the rest of the year.

Good to hear from you. I’ve enjoyed retirement, best wishes on yours. Merry Christmas.

**Roger Johnson**

My wife June and I are in good health. We work out at Courts Plus fitness center for one to two hours five days a week. Debbie Coon leads us in a body pump routine every week. We still do lots of international travel. We were in Thailand in January for 2 weeks and in France in June for 17 days. There we visited our granddaughter who was on a study abroad semester. We even bicycled in France for 5 days. Both our daughters live in Texas, one Dallas and the other in Houston, so we have traveled to Texas by car many times. One of our Vietnam foster sons lives in West Fargo and the other in Des Moines, IA. We keep in touch by e-mail with Qingqing and Ran two Chinese Ag Econ MS graduates. I continue in Toastmasters, University Investment Club and do taxes with AARP. Sometimes I file Carol Vavrosky’s taxes.
**Won Koo**

Warm Greetings from Carlsbad, CA.

Living in CA after retirement, has been good for us. Our daily routine has been fun, but a bit busy with morning beach walks, chatting with a group of retirees after walking, golfing and some reading which I was not able to do before retirement. In addition, gardening also keeps me busy. We have a fairly big back yard with many trees, rose bushes, etc. A gardener comes once every two weeks, but there are many things that need my attention.

Ji started to play golf several months ago, but is resting for a few months because of tennis elbow. She also is very actively involved in yoga and other exercises.

Our daughter still lives in New York as a fashion stylist and my son is a surgery resident at the University of California San Francisco hospital. They are doing very well and came to Carlsbad for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We miss you all very much.

We wish you and your families a happy holiday season.

**Jay and Becky Leitch**

Jay left the department in 1997 to be dean of the college of business until July 2005. He then worked 1/2 time in the natural resources management program, retiring fully in December 2010. Since retiring from NDSU he has done consulting, which he tries to keep to no more than one day a week. He is a part-time catfishing guide on the Red River, consistently catching whopper catfish (up to 25 pounds). He published a book on catfishing last year. He fishes, hunts, travels with Becky, fixes things at the farm, reads non-fiction, and putzes.

Becky left the department in May 2008 after 12 years of teaching. She keeps busy doing custom machine quilting on her long-arm quilting machine and winning ribbons on her own quilts. She looks after her gardens and her dad at the farm and encourages her twins, Forrest and Rachel, who are sophomores at NDSU. She and Jay continue to travel, most recently spending three weeks driving around southern Italy. Becky and Jay still live on the river north of Moorhead.

**Larry Mack**

Larry Mack now lives on the home farmstead where he grew up just north of Watertown, SD. He has made many improvements including landscaping and planting many trees that he takes pride in caring for. Several of his relatives including two brothers live in the area and provide family functions for him to attend. Larry reads the Wall Street Journal daily so he continues to be up to date on macroeconomic issues. He enjoys retirement and sends best wishes for a happy holiday season.
Hugh McDonald

We still live in north Fargo and keep busy doing the things most NDSU retirees do—enjoying friends, Bison athletics, traveling a bit and trying to keep track of what the children and grandchildren are doing. I still do some woodworking and Wilma Jean has gotten heavily into quilting which she really enjoys. We are active in our church and do some volunteering with a couple of civic organizations. We are thankful that we are in reasonably good health and go to the gym regularly to try to stay that way. Life in retirement is good. We wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Bill Nelson

Bill and Karen moved to Middle Cormorant Lake one year before retirement and remain at the lake. They have five grandchildren, three at Winona, MN (parents are Jennifer and Dean) and two at Ames, Iowa (Scott and Marna, parents). Bill and Karen have been active in Valley Christian Church, south Moorhead and Western Minnesota Steam Engine Reunion, Rollag. Bill also has been very active in Minnesota Deer Hunters Association and Mid-America Consultants International. The key to a successful retirement is to keep busy. They can be contacted at 218-532-5193, or gaar1912@gmail.com

Rich Rathge

Season’s Greetings from Little Canada. We have a lovely lake home in this northeastern suburb of the Twin Cities. It offers a wonderful small rural community setting but is a short 20 minute commute to downtown St. Paul or Minneapolis. Retirement life is equally wonderful. My time is spent on a variety of activities including homemaking, hobbies (woodcarving), recreational exercise (sailing, boating, hiking, biking, yard work in the summer and skiing and snowshoeing in the winter), and community service. It is delightful to have the diversity of opportunities for activities in a large metro area. Surprisingly, you do keep very busy and the best part is that you don’t have to report what you accomplished in an annual report. Polly is enjoying her position as Director of Institutional Research at Macalester College, so all is well. We wish you all a blessed holiday season and the hope that 2016 brings you good health and enjoyment. Richard Rathge, Professor Emeritus
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