We want to congratulate our student, staff, faculty, alumni and friends for all their contributions to make 2021 a successful year, amid the pandemic. We resumed face-to-face instruction for all majors (Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, and Economics) and the MS degrees in Agribusiness and Applied Economics and International Agribusiness in the Fall. Some classes were still offered using the HyFlex model, to allow those who were sick to attend classes remotely. Thanks to all our faculty for their flexibility. Our MBA in Agribusiness program had its first class of students in the Fall. Our PhD in Applied Economics is now available on the university website, https://catalog.ndsu.edu/programs-study/graduate/applied_economics/, as we look forward to the first class in the Fall of 2022. Amidst all changes with the pandemic, our department remains consistent in its dedication to excellence in teaching, research and extension.

We have great teaching faculty and in 2021 they have won several national teaching awards. Our Extension faculty continue to provide top state and regional service to our stakeholders, including three conferences in Agricultural Outlook, Lending, and Insurance at multiple locations around the state. In addition, they provided a weekly update of the COVID-19 impact on agriculture and agribusinesses. Our department continues to maintain a top 25% (41st ranking) of all Applied Economics departments globally. The department houses five research centers and several journal editors. Our research faculty published more than 2.5 journal articles on average in top peer review journals, higher than the national average. We continue to house the premier Commodity Trading Room of all Land Grant Institutions with more than $12.5 million in endowments. The department awarded more than $140,000 in scholarships, including four full ride scholarships and several AgCountry Fellowships. The department advisory board helped with recruiting and fund raising. We more than tripled our Giving Day receipt from 2020, with a fundraising luncheon organized by our advisory Board. All advisory board members donated auction items. A huge thank you to all our alums!

The Department experienced some changes. Dr. Saleem Shaik took another job with USDA-ERS. Dr. Shaik served as the Director for the Center for Agriculture and Trade Policy Studies (CAPTS). Dr. Lei Zhang also took another
Job with the University of Old Dominion. There are two active faculty searches to replace them, in addition to a new Livestock Development Extension Specialist position. On a sad note, we lost Dr. David Saxowsky and Dr. William Nelson; former department chair and Director for the Burdick Center for Cooperatives respectively. They were both retired.

Thanks to all our alumni, friends, and Advisory Board members for your ongoing support. Your help and support enabled us to accomplish the many great things I have mentioned. We invite you to our 2022 Harvest Bowl fundraising lunch that will be organized by our Advisory Board here in Barry Hall.

We extend greetings and love from the department. Stay safe and happiest of holiday wishes to all!

David Bullock—Research Associate Professor

Happy Holidays and a blessed New Year to everyone! This past year has, unfortunately, not been the complete return to normalcy that I had hoped for a year ago; however, it has been a year of progress at least! I am finishing up my fourth consecutive year of teaching the graduate AGEC 711 Applied Risk Analysis I course with a complete return to in-class instruction; however, we still require social distancing and masks in the classroom due to the lingering presence of COVID-19. The pandemic continues to provide a good real-world lesson regarding decision making under risk for the students. Currently, I have two MBA in Agribusiness students under advisement, and they are wrapping up their capstone projects and will graduate this fall semester. I will be advising two new graduate students on their MS in Agribusiness and Applied Economics research and currently sit on the committee for an additional three MS students. In terms of research, 2021 has been a very productive year. I had a solo authored article on the impact of technology, climate change, and agricultural policy on regional production changes in corn and soybeans published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*. In addition, I was the lead author (with Bill Wilson and Joseph Neadeau) on an article that examined the economics behind the research and development of gene edited (GE) versus genetic modification (GMO) in the development of new crop traits that was published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. I am a co-author (with Raj Lakkakula as lead and with Bill Wilson) on an article that examines how blockchain can impact asymmetric information issues in soybean crop quality that is forthcoming in *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. I have two co-authored manuscripts that are currently under review.

I continue to split my time between my permanent home in the Twin Cities and my apartment in downtown Fargo. It is nice to be able to go out and enjoy the many fine restaurants in downtown Fargo after the past year of isolation (yes, I had two shots of the Pfizer vaccine last Spring and just had my Moderna booster)! My wife, Lori, retired from her job at our church last year and now spends her time volunteering and other great things that retired folks do. My son, Michael (29), continues to work remotely at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. His apartment is just ten minutes from our home in Eagan, so it is nice to see him frequently for dinner and movies. My daughter, Shaina (25), decided to quit her job at Transamerica and follow her passion for research by enrolling as a new MS in Agribusiness and Applied Economics student this fall at NDSU! She has an apartment just a block from Barry Hall (and three blocks from Dad’s apartment). Her office is just two doors down from Dad’s. She will be doing her research under the supervision of Bill Wilson and myself. Needless to say, I am thrilled that she has decided to follow in my footsteps and also, we get to see each other on almost a daily basis! So far, she has really enjoyed her classes (including my risk course) at NDSU and also the daily interaction she has with the other graduate students in our program.
Jennifer Carney-Director of Student Services

2021 saw a return to some normal activities. Students were back on campus, so it was nice to have some in-person meetings and see our hallways busy again.

Personally, my husband and I have been doing a bit of domestic traveling. We visited my parents in Arizona in March and drove out to California in May. We visited some wineries and Yosemite. Yosemite is a place I’ve wanted to go ever since I discovered Ansel Adams. It did not disappoint.

Hoping you all have a wonderful holiday.

Jim Caton-Assistant Professor

Our family wishes you all a merry 2022! We look forward to the many opportunities emerging in the department, the university, and in the region.

The Catons

David Englund-Senior Lecturer

Merry Christmas everyone!

It was another interesting year dealing with the pandemic, but it was great to get back into the classroom! It has been wonderful to embrace the energy of the students and be able to get more engagement in classes again. My non-work life has been pretty quiet still, while we deal with the pandemic. I have been able to get out and take some photos though. One of my best shots was a photo of a red panda at the Red River Zoo (I included a B&W version below). I wish everyone a great holiday season and may this pandemic be over soon!

David
Erik Hanson-Assistant Professor

It’s hard to believe we are already at the end of 2021! In particular, it feels like this fall has flown by as more students have returned to the classroom and many familiar events have returned to our calendars. I am more appreciative than ever of the great students and colleagues I get to work with each day. This year, I have had the opportunity to begin several new interdisciplinary projects with faculty from other departments in our college - it is exciting to see all they are doing on behalf of the state and the wider agricultural community. Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022!

Ron Haugen-Farm Management Specialist

Season’s greetings. My duties, farm program education, agricultural land valuations and crop budgets have kept me busy. This year the 2021 drought has presented new challenges. I updated the Livestock Forage Program Calculator and helped develop a Silage Decision Tool. Both of these items were meant to help drought-stricken producers. I also presented information to producers on the tax consequences of forced livestock sales because of the drought. I am happy we are able to have more face-to-face meetings and that we can be with our friends and family during this holiday season. I wish everyone good health and happiness.

Bob Hearne-Professor

Merry Christmas 2021 and Happy New Year 2022 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 2022.

All of the excitement of COVID in 2020 might have abated, but 2021 was still a year that we needed to be careful. We will see how many of the old habits and institutions will remain as we become safer with vaccines and increased immunity. It was great to be back in Barry Hall classrooms in Fall of 2021. I was excited to have 16 MS students in our Advanced Microeconomics course. This is a high for the last decade. My research program continues to focus on water issues, including the Clean Water Act, and reservoir recreation.

Otherwise, my wife and I are doing well in Fargo ND.

If you would like to sign up for our
e-newsletter rather than a hardcopy, please email your request to:
association@ndsualumni.com.
Jeremy Jackson-Professor

It’s been an interesting year for us as I’m sure it has been for all of you as well. Stanley is now in the fourth grade and Marc is in the first. As you can imagine, they keep us pretty busy and entertained.

We wish you all a happy holiday and a blessed new year!

Jeremy, Elizabeth, Stanley and Marc

Thomas Krumel-Assistant Professor

The most significant change I experienced over the previous 12 months was moving to Fargo. I purchased a condo during the moving process, and for the first time in my life, I have started to set down roots in a location. I am truly grateful for the midwestern hospitality I have received from my new colleagues and the community more broadly. Professionally, I have published several peer-reviewed reports and articles since joining the faculty. I have also been named to the Advisory Board of the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development. I look forward to continuing to get to know you all better over the rest of the academic year.

Happy holidays to you and yours.

Keri Lawson-Assistant Professor

Happy holidays, everyone! As my first semester at NDSU comes to a close, I am feeling very fortunate to have landed here for my first academic position. I am so appreciative of the warm welcome I received from colleagues and students, it has certainly made it easier to adjust here. Also, it has been great to be able to come to an office and teach face-to-face again! This has been a very eventful year. At the end of July, we moved here from West Virginia with our dog, Nelson, and hedgehog, Dorothy. Then, we bought a home, Alex started a new job, and we got married in mid-October. So far, life in Fargo has exceeded expectations and I look forward to what the future will bring!
Siew Lim—Professor

In year 2021, we went to the Black Hills, SD in the summer. We enjoyed staying deep in the National Forest with little or no Wi-Fi and cellular signals for a couple of days. My older kids and I also helped out almost weekly at a local nonprofit in the summer months. In the fall, we sent our oldest son to college, and our youngest went back to daycare/preschool after staying out of it for more than 1 year, so he started bringing some germs home to share with the family 😏. My husband and I recently celebrated our 20th anniversary with Chick-fil-A chicken sandwiches and waffle fries! Oh! We were so busy that day, and our kids love fast food. So how did/would you celebrate your 20th anniversary? Email me, please, at siew.lim@ndsu.edu. I would love to hear from you. We are so thankful for a wonderful 2021 and for our dear family and friends. We hope the year 2021 was a great one for you and your loved ones as well. Have a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Happy Holidays!

Dragan Miljkovic—Professor

The year 2021 will always be very special for me. I was honored as the 2021 Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) Fellow at the AAEA-WAEA meeting held August 1-3 in Austin, TX. The WAEA bylaws state “...the purpose of the Award is to grant the highest recognition to members making an enduring contribution over their career to agricultural or other type of applied, resource, and/or environmental economics research in the US and the WAEA....” It is a great feeling to be recognized by my peers from all around the United States for my scholarship and professional service. I would like to thank my family and colleagues in different corners of the world who helped and supported me on this most improbable journey from the humble beginnings in my home country of Yugoslavia until today.

I finished my term as the Editor of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (JARE), second most influential professional agricultural economics journal in the USA. I held the position of Managing Editor between 2018 and 2020, and Editor in 2021. During these four years, I have processed and reviewed, more than 1,300 manuscripts submitted to JARE. I also continued to serve as the faculty adviser of the NDSU chapter of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. In terms of my regular duties, I continued with my research in international trade, agricultural and food policy, commodity pricing, and energy economics, and published several peer-reviewed journal articles in leading professional journals with colleagues from NDSU, University of Illinois, Lincoln University in New Zealand, and the University of Foggia in Italy. I continue teaching agricultural prices to our undergraduate majors, and advanced econometrics to our MS students, and advise and mentor our undergraduate and graduate students. My family and I wish Happy Holidays to all friends and alumni of the Department of Agribusiness & Applied Economics at NDSU!
Edie Nelson-Administrative Assistant

Although we are in the second year of the pandemic, as of June the university is working in the office full time. It has been nice to see everyone, especially the students. With this new normal we are living, there will be some remodeling done in the main office to better keep everyone safe and healthy! On a personal level, we happily welcomed two new grandbabies. One in March and one in April—they are both happy, healthy little girls. We did not travel much this past year—just trips to see the kids and grandkids. We are hoping that 2022 brings more opportunities. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family!

William Nganje-Professor and Chair

The year 2021 was another busy but successful year for everyone in my family. Our grandson (William E. Gizzie) is now a year and a half. He is a bundle of joy, entertaining us with singing and drumming already. We see him occasionally, as both Willette and Korvah are based in South Korea. Elizabeth and Simon did very well at NDSU (studying Pharmacy and Finance) and both are anticipated to graduate in May 2022. Willann is enjoying work and sunshine in Arizona.

Academically, it was very busy. I taught three classes (AGEC 712 – Applied Risk Analysis II, AGEC 701 – Research Philosophy, and AGEC 760 – Research Seminar for our MBA in Agribusiness students). I had two papers published in the Journal of Risk and Financial Management. I graduated one graduate student while working with two other students on their thesis. I continue to serve as Associate Editor for the journal of “International Food and Agribusiness Management Review and the Journal of Risk and Financial Management, where I served as the editor for a special issue on Agribusiness Risk Management. I was also appointed the Administrator for NC-1198, a national group helping with ESG and value creation for medium size farms. We thank the Almighty God for keeping us safe during the pandemic again!
Frayne Olson-Associate Professor/Director QBCC

2021 was another whirl-wind year. It feels like time is speeding up as I get older.

The 2021 drought in the region changed the type of questions I received about the crop markets. Increasing market prices provided some optimism, but hot dry weather created a lot of uncertainty about yield potential and the risks with pricing grain before harvest. Most of the questions today are about how quickly the U.S. is using grain supplies, global trade and planting intentions for 2022.

We also started to return to in-person meetings this fall. It has been fun to re-connect with people after many months of on-line meetings. Zoom is a great tool and provides a lot of flexibility for sharing information and providing training. However, in-person meetings make it easier to exchange ideas and engage in discussions. Hopefully, we can continue to meet in-person moving forward.

I am also enjoying my role as Director for the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives. Over the past several years, the Center has expanded its mission to include more outreach and executive training activities for leaders of cooperatives. There has been a lot of planning and program development going on behind the scenes. We have received very positive feedback from the training programs the Center has conducted so far. I want to thank Kristi Schweiss for all of her hard work helping to develop these programs and teach the Cooperatives class at NDSU and Dickinson State University.

I hope that you and your family have a safe and joyful holiday season and an exceptional 2022.

Bryon Parman-Assistant Professor/Ag Finance Specialist

For our family, this winter will be the 4th living in the Fargo area. We are both very happy here in North Dakota and enjoy the outdoors when the weather permits and are heavily involved in youth wrestling during the winter. My wife Sara and I have two sons who love wrestling and are excited that the season has begun, and we are already involved in local and regional competitions. 2021 seemed to get back closer to normal as we got back to many face to face delivered programs in Extension while still utilizing some virtual delivery when it was necessary. It has been great seeing some of the familiar faces in extension which was not possible last year, and I hope it continues into 2022. We hope everyone has a great holiday and new year.
Another year quickly “ZOOMED” by. We started 2021 with many Extension Zoom meetings, but then transitioned to more face-to-face which was certainly welcome. It became a challenging year in North Dakota agriculture with all the issues that affect prices, and then compounded by the severe drought in much of the state. That led to many more meetings than usual during the summer. Thankfully, both crop and livestock prices improved significantly from the pandemic depressed levels. Although we are still dealing with pandemic issues, let’s use this Holiday Season to be thankful for the opportunities that agriculture has provided us. And look ahead to better times that will surely come.

I am thankful for my wonderful, supportive family. All three of our daughters and sons-in-law graduated from NDSU, one daughter and a son-in-law also work at NDSU, and a Grandson is in NDSU day care. So, we are truly a Bison family. They all live in the greater Fargo area, so I get many requests for “Dad” and “Grandpa” activities. We welcomed a new Granddaughter this year which makes six Grandkids now. Watching the excitement and enthusiasm of Grandchildren as they go about all the activities they are involved in is certainly a blessing. But it makes for a challenging schedule (for example three different soccer matches the same evening).

Happy Holidays and a hope for better moisture conditions, and a more normal New Year to you all!

As we are wrapping up 2021, the second year into the pandemic, I feel very fortunate for every progress I have made in spite of all the challenges. Two of my submissions were accepted for publication during the summer with the follow-up projects going smoothly. On the teaching side, I taught one course in the spring and two courses in the fall, likely with positive feedback from students. I have also completed my two-year participation of the Gateways-ND program that assists instructors in improving their teaching in higher education.

I wish everyone happy holidays and a healthy and joyful year ahead.
Veeshan Rayamajhee-Assistant Professor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2021 has been an extraordinary year for me. I got engaged to an amazing woman during a backpacking trip in Minnesota this July and married her eight days later in Montana. I got a chance to hike in Colorado, Montana, Minnesota, South Dakota, and West Virginia. My wife and I are also completing the North Dakota hiking challenge, which has been a lot of fun. My puppy is now a year old. We are very fond of him. We also moved to a new house.

Things are great on the professional side as well. I published half a dozen papers in well-respected journals. I am guest co-editing two special issues. I have also greatly enjoyed working with and learning from my new collaborators. Advising graduate students has been rewarding. Classes are going great.

I hope to continue working on some exciting projects, teach a new course, and do some international traveling in 2022.

David Ripplinger-Associate Professor

It’s been a busy, unique year. I think for the first and last time in my career I will put more miles on the road than any of my Extension Agribusiness colleagues. I’ve had an extremely active summer and fall with hemp and carbon programming. The topics, especially carbon, are very important and timely to North Dakota agriculture and have required me to get of Fargo regularly. Which after a year of not traveling much has been much appreciated (my wife, Traci, whole-heartedly agrees).

This summer I also led the first 4-H Energy Camp at the 4-H Camp in Washburn. It was an experience for me and the campers. Visited many energy assets including Milton Young Station and the DAPL terminal near Watford City – it was amazing to think how much oil moves through that facility a day. The camp also had a variety of activities including building a flashlight and how to start a fire (as opposed to having to put them out which I continue to gain experience with on-campus).

My kids are growing. Now with two high schoolers, two elementary schoolers, and a five-year-old who missed the cut for kindergarten by a couple of weeks. Our oldest, Katie, got her driver’s license, first job as a restaurant server, and somehow my car? We again spent a week at a small resort in northern Minnesota which was great family time. Looking forward to 2022 when will be spending Easter and my oldest son, Tommy’s, birthday in southern California visiting Disneyland and Dodger Stadium on Jackie Robinson Day, and who knows what else.
David Roberts-Associate Professor

Happy holidays from the Robertses! It’s hard to wrap my mind around the events of the past year. We grieved the passing of loved ones and comforted each other through dark times. We took pleasure in such things as gardening, canning, cider-making, and even a bit of leisure travel to South Carolina during summer. One thing I really enjoyed this fall was returning to in-person instruction in a real classroom. I hadn’t realized just how much I missed that social interaction with students and colleagues. Have a wonderful 2022!

Kristi Schweiss-QBCC Assistant Director

It was a very busy year for us at the Center! We were able to hold our first Capstone level of the Cooperative Leadership Training Program in July. Every year we will be holding all three levels of the Director training program with the Foundation and Enhanced in February and the Capstone level in July. We also held our first annual Co-operate 2021 event which brought together cooperative leaders from different industries. We were also able to attend some events that had been put on hold and it was so great to be able to reconnect with the co-op community in person. I will have an active role in the classroom again this spring semester and am looking forward to that.

We have many more things planned for the coming year so keep an eye out for more events and such from us! I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful 2022.

Anupa Sharma-Assistant Professor/CAPTS Assistant Director

Happy Holidays! This past Spring, I taught classes through HyFlex. Many of us will agree that in-person classes provide more interactions and student-instructor connection opportunities. But, with the experiences and lessons from spring 2020, my students and I had an excellent teaching-learning experience and smooth interaction through HyFlex. I am spending this Fall at the Graduate Center, the City University of New York (CUNY), as a distinguished visiting scholar. I want to thank Dr. Nganje and the University for approving my developmental leave to spend a semester at CUNY. As an economist, meeting and interacting with accomplished researchers from related but interdisciplinary areas has been an enriching experience. Coming Spring, I can’t wait to see my students in person in classes.

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www.facebook.com/NDSUAgribusiness
Cheryl Wachenheim-Professor

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Another amazing year has passed. I continue to teach Introductory Agricultural Finance and Agrisales. I also had the opportunity to teach Real Estate, an amazing field with considerable student interest. I have enjoyed working with undergraduate and graduate advisees. Haley Coffield completed her MS this year, having worked on a wetlands program contract; Abiodun Idowu and Mohsina Jahan are completing their theses related to precision agriculture this spring; and Elias Addom began a project on agricultural land values. I have been enjoying my year as an Office of Teaching and Learning Fellow. I write a regular teaching blog (https://www.dce.ndsu.nodak.edu/otlweb/blog/) and am organizing a mentoring experience for those interested in pedagogical research.

Ellie is in her first year of pre-med at Baylor University in Waco, Texas (go Bears!). Hunter is completing his final year of high school and has had the opportunity to take several college classes through the Minnesota Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program. He has been working at Sky Zone and enjoys both the work and the fellowship. Both Ellie and Hunter hope to complete their private pilot’s license during the summer.

I entered my 24th year of service in the Minnesota National Guard, currently serving as the Family Programs Officer as well as the Selective Services Officer. Being a member of the military has provided me many opportunities for personal and professional growth, leadership, friendship, and exhilarating and enjoyable experiences. I have been blessed with two wonderful careers, but my favorite role remains as a mother. We hope you will stop by the office or our home when you are in town. We enjoy catching up! Have a blessed season and spring. All the best, Cheryl, Ellie and Hunter.

Bill Wilson-Distinguished Professor

Of course, people always ask me now when I am going to stop working. But, as many of you know, the changes occurring in world agriculture are phenomenal and I am extensively involved in a number of these, and hence, it is too stimulating to leave, at least for now. Further, we continue to have a great group of students in recent years. For these reasons, it is too engaging to not be involved. Simply, I continue to have a positive impact on my students, with my research and for all my clients I advise. That is rewarding and provides a reason not to slow down.

I had the normal list of activities this year. These include the NDSU Faculty Lectureship in April 2021 and the Phi Kappa Phi Lecture in February 2022. I am also presenting at the 2022 USDA Agricultural Outlook Conference. These are in addition to a number of presentations to academic audiences, and agribusiness organizations and firms. Our students had very good placement this year into a broad diversity of firms and career paths ranging from trading, to data science, logistics and ag technology private equity. We had our MS student dinner this week with 13 current/recent students and representing 7 different major agricultural companies. That is rewarding. Our NCI programs continue with success and are seemingly expanding. This past year, due to COVID we were virtual and had over 100 participants from around the world.

We had a successful year last year in sailboat racing and we are hoping to get in more skiing this winter, though there is currently a lack of snow.
The rest of our staff....

Dean Bangsund, Research Scientist
Kali Christianson, Outreach Specialist
Paulann Haakenson, Information Processing Specialist
Prithviraj Lakkakula, Research Assistant Professor
Lisa Mann, Administrative Coordinator
Justin Swank, Account Tech

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The North Dakota Agricultural College was founded October 15, 1890. A formal Department of Agricultural Economics appeared in September 1, 1918, when the Department of Farm Management and Marketing was organized. Cap E. Miller was elected chair of Farm Management. A considerable delay in securing a person for this position reflected the limited number of thoroughly qualified people in that line of work and the correspondingly strong demand for their services.

A Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing was established early in 1919. Its organization was broadened on November 3, 1921, to include not only the Experiment Station, Extension, and College workers in cost accounting, farm management, farm organization, and marketing, but also the collegiate staff in Social and Economic Science. Like other institutions and the structure of the United States Department of Agriculture, the broad term "Agricultural Economics" was used.

A farm management course was listed in the 1892 College Catalogue. Agricultural economic-type courses were offered by several departments or divisions before being organized under the title "Agricultural Economics" in 1918. Farm management in the late 1800s was taught by the Division of Applied Agriculture. Dean Waldron in 1924 wrote feelingly of the trials of the faculty during the initial years of the college:

"With a total faculty barely exceeding an even half dozen only a man with diversified talent and boundless erudition could perform his appointed tasks/ and in the course of a year that same instructor might be expounding to the same students the mysteries of the starry heavens and the heights and depths of the earth and the living things therein the doings of the Greeks and the Romans not to mention the Dutch and the Irish/ the solemn satisfaction that lies in the solution of different equations and the secrets of the skill by which writers and orators moved the multitudes. Whether the early students obtained a liberal education or not, most of the first faculty certainly did and it is safe to say that most of their midnights found their oil still burning. "

SORRY, SON...THERE'S NO APP FOR THAT
HAPPY Holidays