



Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/NDSUAgribusine

Our mailing address:
Agribusiness and Applied
Economics
North Dakota State
University
NDSU Dept 7610
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Our Physical Address:
811 2nd Ave N.
Fargo, ND 58108



Agribusiness & Applied Economics Holiday Newsletter

Happy holidays from our family to yours!

A message from William Nganje - Professor and Chairman

The year 2020 has been challenging with the COVID 19  pandemic. The department made the adjustment to teach HyFlex for all majors (Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, and Economics) and the M.S. degrees in Agribusiness and Applied Economics and International Agribusiness. With the HyFlex model, students had the flexibility to take classes face-to-face or remotely. This was a major adjustment for our faculty, staff and teaching assistants. We thank them all immensely. Our undergraduate major enrollment declined slightly due to limited international travel and other macroeconomic factors.

Our MBA in Agribusiness program is now operational. And, we are excited to report the approval of our PhD in Applied Economics at the department level. This will be an outcome-based PhD program where students can specialize in their area of interest, following the decision of a three-member faculty committee. The PhD program will help train instructors from other state and regional four-year colleges to advance their careers. It will also contribute to improving the NDSU research I standing.

We have a great teaching faculty. Several of them won national teaching awards. Our Extension and research faculty continue to provide top performance at the state and national levels. Our department continues to maintain a top 40 ranking of all Applied Economics departments globally. The department houses five research centers and several journal editors. Our research faculty published more than 65 articles in top peer reviewed journals. We continue to house the premier Commodity Trading Room of all Land Grant Institutions with more than \$12.5 million in endowment. The department awarded more than \$140,000 in scholarships, including four full ride scholarships. The department advisory board helped with recruiting and fund raising.

The Department experienced some changes. Dr. Thomas Wahl retired. Dr. Wahl previously served as department chair. There are two active faculty searches with the Center for Public Choice and Private Enterprise/Challey Institute affiliation. These faculty members will help with the implementation of our anticipated PhD program.



David Bullock - Research Associate Professor

Happy Holidays and a blessed New Year to everyone! Hopefully, 2021 will bring renewal to everyone as we hopefully return to a semblance of pre-pandemic normality. I don't teach in the spring, so I was not as impacted by the sudden emergence of the pandemic. In early February, I was celebrating my Kansas City Chiefs winning their first Super Bowl in 50 years (along with Bryon Parman). In a little over a month, the whole world changed. I have nothing but admiration for my colleagues in the department who had a little over a week (Spring Break) to go from in-class to totally remote teaching which was a first for many of them! This fall, I am teaching the graduate *Risk Analysis I* (AGEC 711) course using the new HyFlex (combined classroom / asynchronous remote) mode of instruction. I had all summer to prepare and prerecorded all of my lectures and lab sessions which the students can access via Blackboard. I have an excellent TA (Noah Carlson) who handles the classroom technology for me and I teach remotely (via Zoom) from my Barry Hall and home (Eagan, MN) offices. I have 8 students currently enrolled in the class and, so far, it is working although I am very much looking forward to hopefully going back to in-class instruction in Fall 2021. I do think the remote tools will prove valuable in the future but they are certainly not a substitute for the in-class interaction and instruction that comes from the university classroom experience.

In terms of research, I had two journal articles published in the past year – one on soybean export basis with Bill Wilson that was published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, and one on blockchain in the soybean export trade with Raj Lakkakula and Bill Wilson that was published in the *Journal of Private Enterprise*. Currently, I have one article (with Raj and Bill on asymmetric information and blockchain) that is conditionally accepted into *Agricultural Economics Policy and Perspectives*. I have two articles (one solo and another coauthored with Bill Wilson and Joe Neadeau) that have been revised and resubmitted to the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* and the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. I am currently advising two graduate students on their master's research and sit on the thesis committee for another 6 students in the master's program.

I continue to split my time between my home in Eagan, Minnesota and my studio apartment in downtown Fargo. My wife, Lori, retired in April from her job at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, MN. Our oldest, son Michael (28), also lives in Eagan and works in customer remediation at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. Our youngest, daughter Shaina (24), works as a risk analyst at Transamerica in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Both had to adjust to working remotely from their apartments in early April and the adjustment has been difficult for them!



Jennifer Carney – Director of Student Services

What a year...

Like everyone, my year has been limited. However, I have learned new skills, like Zoom and Hy-Flex. Other than learning these new skills, it's been a quiet year. We managed to get one trip in before the pandemic hit. My husband and I went to the Azores and planned on spending a day in Boston on the way home. I was excited because we were going to be there for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Yep, March. Needless to say, that one day in Boston was pretty much wandering around a closed city. Since then it's been home improvements and adventures in cooking, which has had its advantages.

Hopefully next year will see a return to some sense of normal.

Jim Caton – Assistant Professor

My wife Ingrid have been blessed with two children, Zoe and Paul, since our arrival in Fargo. We have had a tremendous year with Paul's birth in September. Growing our family has been a true joy and has, somehow, been accompanied by improved productivity with publications in the areas of institutions, finance, and monetary theory. We are looking forward to the approaching Christmas and wish you all a joyous holiday!



David Englund – Senior Lecturer

Merry Christmas everyone! While it has been an interesting year, I am thankful to be healthy, happy, and employed 😊 This year has motivated me to be creative in finding new methods to effectively teach and engage students. I love teaching and I look forward to working on continued innovation in my classes.

On the personal side, I was not able to take any long trips this year, but I do spend a lot more time getting outside to enjoy nature and wildlife (I have included one of my best shots below).

My thoughts and prayers go out to anyone who has been affected by this horrible virus and for everyone to come out on the other side of this healthy. I wish everyone health and happiness over the next year!



Erik Hanson – Assistant Professor

A lot has changed since we wrote these updates one year ago. Nevertheless, I am very appreciative of the opportunities and support here at NDSU. Professionally, I was able to make the most of this spring and summer's solitude by publishing several papers and participating in a pair of virtual academic conferences. Personally, I have enjoyed spending more time in the outdoors and revisiting some hobbies that I don't have much time for in "normal" years. Although things have been quiet around Barry Hall this fall, it has been great to see colleagues more regularly and to interact with (some) students in the classroom this semester. I am looking forward to more of that in the months to come. Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2021!

Ron Haugen – Farm Management Specialist

Season's greetings. I am busy with my same duties: farm bill education, agricultural land valuations and crop budgets. It has been a difficult year dealing with the coronavirus. Our lives have been changed in many ways. I miss the contact with clients and coworkers. I am getting sick of doing virtual sessions. I give my sympathies to those who lost loved ones to the virus and extended praise to those essential workers and health care workers on the front line. I wish everyone good health and a happy holiday season, hoping next year we will get back to normal.



Bob Hearne - Professor

Merry Christmas 2020 and Happy New Year 2021 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 2021.

A famous curse is "may you live in interesting times." And 2020 has been an interesting year. My wife and I have been isolating ourselves, in our Fargo residence, as much as possible since March. Teaching has continued this fall with most students attending remotely. I have had to learn a few new technologies. Except for a few weeks of quarantine, I have been teaching from Barry Hall classrooms. I do believe that we have been able to maintain our commitment to our students with high-quality teaching and learning. My research program continues to focus on water issues, including: the Clean Water Act, the Pick Sloan program, and an application of the bankruptcy model to Missouri River allocation.

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

Jeremy Jackson – Professor

2020 has been both a great and a terrible year at the same time. PCPE has been able to continue its student programming successfully amidst the pandemic as well as expand the reach of research. I was also promoted to the rank of Professor. Wishing everyone the happiest of holidays and a brighter 2021!

The Jacksons

Siew Lim – Associate Professor

Unusual is an understatement for year 2020. Across U.S. campuses, face-to-face classes moved swiftly online on a week's notice in March. The pandemic has profoundly impacted our daily lives, from the way we worship to how we work, shop and interact. It has certainly taken a heavy toll on state budgets and local nonprofits. Not to mention small businesses that can't afford a large online presence.

This year, my husband and I have decided that, instead of getting Christmas gifts and other items from Amazon.com or online retail giants, we want to support local businesses. Many local retailers have been struggling for cash since March. I believe if we all come together to show our support, our state and community can weather this crisis.

Wherever you are, I wish you good health and happiness. Don't forget to go local and support your community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your loved ones.



Zachary Machunda - Lecturer

Phyllis and I wish you and your family **Happy Holidays and good health!** I hope the New Year will give as many people as possible access to the vaccine against COVID-19 and, perhaps help to reduce the massive psychic and economic costs, as well as the numerous loss of human lives. My teaching responsibilities of two HyFlex courses and one asynchronous online course during fall 2020 fared better than I had expected. During the summer, I prepared very well for the tasks of adapting my two course syllabi and my teaching strategies to a HyFlex environment by participating in Instructional Technology (IT) trainings which were delivered remotely via zoom Blackboard Collaborate and Microsoft Teams. I attended the “*The CAFSNR Summer Teaching Circle 2020*”, IT workshops organized and led by Dr. David Buchanan, Associate Dean of CAFSNR, and other IT workshops/webinars organized or led by the Learning and Innovation Center (LAIC). I am very grateful to the University administration for providing me with the Cares Fund award, which provided me ongoing support for two Teaching/Learning Assistants. I am also grateful for the excellent leadership of our Chair, Dr. William Nganje, especially for encouraging me and other faculty in the department to apply for the Cares Fund support for adaptations of the face-to-face courses to HyFlex courses. Last, but not least I am very grateful for the very essential and outstanding support from the professional staff Edith Nelson, Jennifer Carney, and Justin Swank. Jennifer’s assistance and leadership facilitated my summer 2020 ability to help my incoming freshmen advisees receive remote/virtual advising and registration information necessary for completing their enrollment in the appropriate courses for Fall 2020.

Dragan Miljkovic – Professor

I spent first part of 2020 on sabbatical leave at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. While there, I worked with their staff and faculty on a project for the Prevention of Postharvest Losses funded by the ADM Institute which is associated with the University of Illinois. Although the experience was somewhat disrupted with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I managed to complete the first part of the project and publish a related paper in *Agricultural Systems* with Prof. Alex Winter-Nelson, University of Illinois. I published three more papers, two with my former graduate student Cole Goetz, all in top-level academic journals. These papers pertain to the stabilizing/destabilizing role of commodity future markets on commodity spot prices. I also continued my work on the topic of food addiction and obesity resulting in a solo-authored paper in the *British Food Journal*.

In the year 2020, I will complete my third and final year as the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (JARE), second most influential professional agricultural economics journal in the USA. I also continued to serve as the faculty adviser to the NDSU chapter of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. In terms of my regular duties, I continue with my research in international trade, agricultural and food policy, and energy economics, and published five journal articles in leading professional journals and a book chapter with colleagues from various US and International prestigious universities.

My family and I wish a happy holiday season to all friends and alumni of the Department of Agribusiness & Applied Economics at NDSU!

Edie Nelson – Administrative Assistant

Happy Holidays to everyone! As we all know, 2020 has been the year everyone will remember, but would probably like to forget! One thing I and some of my coworkers have learned is that we can work from home. And I, for one, like it (for the most part)—it sure saves on the miles I put on my car! Thank heavens we had a nice summer and fall. Harvest went really well, the field work got done and many of the other fall chores were completed! I am thankful that my children live nearby and am occasionally called on for Grandma duty. Those little people add so much sparkle to some of these long days. ♡



William Nganje – Professor and Chair

The year 2020 has been challenging and exciting for our family. My wife Annette and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. Our daughter and son-in-law (Willette and Korvah) wasted no time to have their first son (William Evange Gizzie), our first grandson. He brings a lot of joy and that has helped tremendously with the stresses of COVID 19. Elizabeth and Simon are doing well at NDSU (studying Pharmacy and Finance) and Willann is enjoying work in Arizona.

Academically, it has been very busy. I taught one class (AGEC 712 – Applied Risk Analysis II). I had two papers published and graduated one graduate student while serving on two doctoral dissertation committees. I gave a university-wide lecture on “Rural Health Uninsurance, A Partial Equilibrium Analysis.” This was the first lecture of the “Equity Lecture Series.” I continue to serve as Associate Editor for the journal of “International Food and Agribusiness Management. I was invited to serve on the Editor Board for the “Journal of Risk and Financial Management.” I was also invited to review a promotion to full professor package for The Ohio State University Ag Econ program. We thank the Almighty God for keeping us safe during the COVID 19 pandemic!

Frayne Olson – Associate Professor/Director QBCC

2020 has been an unforgettable year, filled with uncertainty, frustration, change and adaptation. In March, NDSU moved to on-line delivery of classes over spring break. I was teaching the Cooperatives class, Agricultural Economics 474, and had to quickly adjust lectures, term project content and exams. I want to thank the students for their flexibility and patience during the transition. Even though Zoom class discussions were different than in-person, I still enjoyed hearing various perspectives and ideas about how the coronavirus pandemic could change agriculture and the role cooperatives play in our economy.

March also saw NDSU Extension meetings, conferences and programs move on-line. It has taken me a long time to adapt to on-line presentations and recordings. Once again, I appreciate the flexibility and patience of extension program participants. I hope that the materials and content are timely and help you make more informed decisions.

I expect 2021 to be another year of adaptation and change with a transition to “the new normal.” We have all experimented with new ways of doing things and formed new routines. Some of these will continue, while others will change again or fade away. My hope is that we will soon be able to return to in-person meetings, programs and conferences and can continue to learn from each other.

I hope that you and your family have a safe and joyful holiday season and an exceptional 2021.



SEASONS GREETINGS

Bryon Parman – Assistant Professor/Ag Finance Specialist

The Parman family, all things considered, had a good year. Our oldest started kindergarten and just wrestled in his first tournament for the Bison Wrestling Club. We have only lived in North Dakota for 2.5 years but it now certainly feels like home. We have made connections both inside and out of the NDSU community and have what I would consider an excellent start at building a life here since moving from Mississippi. With everything going on, we were able to spend a lot of time as a family camping and fishing during the summer and visiting the various campgrounds across North Dakota. Working in Extension this year has been strange as I typically prefer face to face interaction and it definitely took some adaptation on my part to try and deliver the same programming and content to a virtual audience that often I could not see or interact with. We are hopeful that as time passes, and things return to some form of normal, we continue to spend as much time as possible doing things as a family, and we are glad to call North Dakota home.

Tim Petry – Associate Professor/Extension Livestock Marketing Economist

What a year 2020 has been. In my almost 50 years in the old Ag Econ and now Agribusiness and Applied Economics Department, in wild wildest dreams, I could never have imagined what we have had to deal with. In the past 8 months I “ZOOMED” all over the state and country from Fargo to Fortuna and DC to Denver to California. But, for the first time ever, I did not actually travel more than a 15-mile radius of Fargo for business or pleasure. For a bit I thought the travel restrictions might be good, but soon realized that not to be the case. For example, before when I had meetings in Western ND, I would completely block out my calendar for those 2 or 3 days. But with no travel and Zoom, everyone (including Administrators) knew I was available at my desk. So, on many days I was preparing and presenting several meetings a day, busier than ever, and longing to see the beautiful ND landscape as I headed West. Without travel this summer I was glad to have my social distancing gardening hobby to help keep me sane (some would argue it didn't work, HAH!). It is interesting to note that despite all the problems the pandemic created; ND calf, hog, and lamb prices are now all higher than they were last year at this time. That is certainly a testament to the resiliency of the great livestock industry that I am proud to be a part of.

On a personal note, we had a huge garden and several Grandkids wanted to be involved. They each planted what they liked, which resulted in quite a surplus of some things like zucchini and cucumbers to give to relatives, friends, and the food pantry. In addition to my work at NDSU Extension, my family keeps me busy. All three of our daughters, sons-in-law, and their kids live in the greater Fargo area. So, I get many requests for “Dad” or “Grandpa” activities. I am very happy to do that and thankful they live so close, especially given the travel problems.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and a hope for a much more normal 2021 to you all.



Xudong Rao – Assistant Professor

As we are wrapping up 2020, an extraordinary year for everyone, I feel very fortunate for every progress I have made. Earlier this year, I completed a high-profile commissioned report with two renowned coauthors, and this work will hopefully generate a lot of citations and media coverage. Two of my submissions were accepted for publication during the summer with the follow-up projects going smoothly. I have also managed to develop new research ideas that will keep me busy for quite a while. On the teaching side, I developed and taught two courses in the spring semester with positive feedback from students. I have also completed my first-year of participation in the Gateways-ND program that assists instructors with improving their teaching in higher education.

On a personal side, the biggest achievement is my son Bowie was born and he has been growing like a weed. The innocent smiles on his chubby face are the most precious thing in my life!

I wish everyone happy holidays and a healthy and joyful year ahead.

Veeshan Rayamajhee – Assistant Professor

I spent much of my first year as an assistant professor amid a global pandemic. COVID-19 upended many of my plans for 2020. Nonetheless, all things considered, 2020 has also been kind to me in several ways. I feel more grounded now than when I started at NDSU. I am satisfied with how my courses are going and my research is also going well. I have been fortunate to serve on supervisory committees for three smart graduate students. My personal life is blissful. My hope for 2021 is the end of the global pandemic, some international travel, and a well-trained puppy.

David Ripplinger – Associate Professor

I had some really great plans for 2020.

But many were quickly modified beginning in mid-March with shelter-in-place orders and social distancing guidance. Face-to-face programs were replaced with Zoom meetings and webinars when possible, while some had to be cancelled when remote interactions wouldn't suffice.

Work with the hemp industry has continued, unfortunately at a distance for the most part. The biggest need and opportunity are those associated with carbon be it with regard to production agriculture or value-added products.

I've spent a lot of time with my family. Some of it enjoyable. My wife and I were very happy when four-year-old Carly returned to preschool in June and when Mike, 8, and Tess, 7, returned to face-to-face instruction four days a week after Thanksgiving.

Looking forward to a new year!

David Roberts – Associate Professor

Happy holidays to you all! During 2020 I have continued to pursue my research agenda studying linkages between local/regional climates and land use change. Two of my graduate students finished degrees in Spring 2020, having produced theses in this general topic area, and both have moved on to the next stages—one (Eugene Nuworsu) to the PhD program in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, and the other (Bayarbat Badarch) to a full-time position as the Farm Business Management Instructor at Lake Region State College.

My family and I are doing well, and we have enjoyed spending more time together every day than in a typical year. There was lots of hanging out together in the backyard by the pond with the chickens and the dogs. This warm December is certainly a boon.

I hope you are well, and I hope you stay well. Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Kristi Schweiss – QBCC Assistant Director

Uffda...even in the face of all the obstacles and shut-downs, we still managed to have a busy year at the Center! We were fortunate enough to hold our second annual *Cooperative Leadership Training Program* in February before all the shut-downs began; which included the addition of a second level. We look forward to holding this event again in the prospective near future as plans for a third level are coming along well. Despite the challenges we are facing at the University, I am excited for the coming spring semester as I'm expecting to have a more active role in the classroom.

Here's hoping we'll have a chance to visit at a conference or another event in the coming year. I wish you all a very happy, *healthy* holiday season and a wonderful 2021.

Saleem Shaik – Professor/ CAPTS Director

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

One more year of positive research collaboration with North Dakota Soybean and Corn Council on development of a state farm model. Additionally, developing ND agriculture sector input, output and total factor productivity from 1936 to 2019. This year I have four graduate students, one from NDSU and three from NCA&T, working on research related to US and State level trade issues.

Between me and Kwame Addey, there have been several trips within North Dakota (soybean and corn) to present an overview of historical farm bills and trade agreements. Finally, the Trade and Production Indicator Reports are complete and will be published as departmental and extension reports.

I am currently working with Joe using comparative static and econometric models to evaluate alternative farm policy scenarios using farm model for the state as part of the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS). Also, estimated rate of return of public R&D investments in ND agriculture sector from 1936 to 2019.

Anupa Sharma – Assistant Professor/ CAPTS Assistant Director

The COVID-19 has affected our lives in a way that we couldn't have anticipated a year ago. History stands as evidence that human civilization grows and progresses its way through many unpleasant and extreme events. The pandemic has once again proved that we people are compassionate by nature: At the time of need, we break past the status quo and work in unity with people who may look different from ourselves, walk a life separate from ours, and live in a place completely different from where we have ever lived. Thanks to all the people in the world, including you, who have made the world a better place. I am inspired more than ever to keep contributing in a way I can. I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.

Justin Swank – Account Tech

Just want to say Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Justin, Amanda, Lucy, & Lexi



Cheryl Wachenheim – Professor

Greetings. What a unique year this has been. Ellie (12th grade) and Hunter (11th grade) were excited to learn that they would have two weeks to enjoy the spring while on hiatus as their school district readied for a plan forward. Fast forward an unexpected number of months and our family has grown closer, everyone has their home office and study areas claimed and efficiently completes their academic and work activities, and we have enjoyed some long-forgotten games, taken many long walks and bike rides, renewed volunteer activities and began new ones, and well appreciated many opportunities as the pace of life slowed. Our long-awaited planned summer trip to Europe was replaced with those closer to home and to nature including a week in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and many day trips to state parks. I am reminded of deployments where many activities that comprise our everyday life are suddenly gone, we resiliently move to enjoying what we have and especially those around us, and we are thankful each day as we are gradually reintroduced to those activities and responsibilities that comprise life. I look forward to my new military position as the Minnesota National Guard family programs coordinator and to exploring colleges with Ellie this fall. Both children took a class this summer at NDSU under the early entry program and have an expressed interest in the health field. They became Certified Nursing Assistants this summer and this reinforced their interest in medicine and helping others. Both missed their spring sports, but Ellie was able to play Lacrosse this summer and Hunter continues to make great use of his Sky Zone annual pass. We look forward to winter sports and continuing to enjoy family time. We pray for your safety, health, and families as the new year brings a renewed sense of optimism.

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

Bill Wilson – Distinguished Professor

Of course, people always ask me when I am going to stop working. But, as many of you know, there is a lot of developments occurring in world agriculture, and I am extensively involved in a number of these, and hence, it is too engrossing to leave, at least for now. Further, I have the best group of students in recent years and currently as ever. 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. The most rewarding was I was an invited presenter to the USDA Outlook Conference. As many of you know, this is probably the largest and premier event in our profession, and hence, it was an honor. Under our Center for Risk and Trading, this was a great year for job placement and recruiting. We had 8-10 B.S. students pursue careers in commodity marketing. We put out 6 students at the M.S. level and they took very responsible positions ranging from grain trading, risk modeling, procurement, decision-sciences modeling and venture capital in agriculture. We are very proud of them. COVID challenges us at NDSU as it does everybody. We now teach using the Hybrid model. At NCI, we have been teaching for many years with about 35 students per class (capacity); this year we went virtual, and cut off enrollees at 90 students, from Europe, Africa to Asia. This was indeed quite exhilarating.

Finally, I remain active in sailboat racing with my sons, bike riding with Rhonda, and snowboarding.

Ryan Yonk – Undergraduate Program Director

I wrote last year that 2019 was a great year. 2020 has been a year. Despite the ongoing issues we have continued to find ways to keep programming and classes running. I'm looking forward to the holiday before the spring semester begins and the next round of this unique academic year gets underway. Hopefully 2021 will be nothing like 2020.

Lei Zhang – Associate Professor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I have never been so eager to say Welcome to 2021 and Bye-bye to 2020. It has been an unprecedented, swamped, and challenging year for me and my family. Three kids started to stay home in March. Two older ones, Elizabeth and Victoria, are taking virtual academy classes. Whenever there is a chance, the youngest, one-year old Henry, will steal his older sister's iPad and mess up everything. I am trying my best to gain control of three young kids' behavior. Though it is hard, we all have adjusted ourselves to the new norm. We feel so blessed to be healthy and happy every day.

Believe it or not, I am making good progress on my research. I have two papers accepted for publication, have finished four new papers, and have submitted four grant proposals. I taught two courses Econ343, AGECE/BUSN347, and two new graduate courses ECON710 and AGECE701. Teaching continues to be fun and exciting.

Wish you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



The rest of our staff.....

Dean Bangsund, Research Scientist

Kali Christianson, Outreach Specialist

Paulann Haakenson, Information Processing Specialist

Lisa Mann, Administrative Coordinator

Barry Hall During a Pandemic (just to give you a little idea)

It is very different these days on campus and in Barry Hall. It is very quiet, right now I am the only person on 5th floor, on a Tuesday morning. A few of the graduate students have remained a constant since March. But, for the most part students are studying via the HyFlex technology-enhanced instructional model which allows students and faculty to fully interact in person or remotely.

For varying reasons, most of the faculty are working remotely. And the staff rotate days so that the main office is always open. I personally miss breaks with my fellow staff, getting a bowl of soup from the coffee shop (it closed), greeting people as they walk through the main office, seeing all of the students when I happen to go to first floor and just the chatter and laughter of people coming and going.

Due to the pandemic several of our international graduate students, who were admitted for the fall 2020 semester, were not able to obtain visas to come to the United States. Most of them were still able to study remotely, but that is not always the case, as not everyone has reliable internet access. As the US Embassy's start to reopen and issue visas, our students are beginning to travel and join us in person.





Agribusiness & Applied Economics
North Dakota State University
NDSU Dept 7610
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT NO. 818