Letter from the Chair...

FRE Family,

This newsletter was written prior to the current COVID-19 outbreak. I debated whether or not this was the appropriate time for us to mail out this letter that highlights all of the good things happening at FRE. But I decided this is part of what we need right now - a little "normal" and recognition of things going well. So please everyone stay safe and healthy. And while you might be working from home (or more importantly keeping our food supply working during this crisis), here is a little light reading for you!

The academic year of 2019-20 has been a busy one in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. So far this year, we have welcomed six new faculty members, two new post-doctoral associates, and many new undergraduate and graduate students. Later in the newsletter you can read all about our new faculty and the programs they bring to UF/FRE. Our undergraduate program continues to excel, with many classes taught by new faculty bringing new and updated perspectives to topics like agricultural policy, humanitarian assistance, and agricultural sales. We are also excited to have our undergraduate NAMA (National Agri-Marketing Association) student competition team back up and going under the leadership of one of our newest faculty additions, Dr. John Lai (a graduate of UF and the NAMA team!). Academically strong students are being recognized beyond the department, like Kellie Zambito, who was recognized with the 2019 CALS Alumni and Friends Leadership Award. Kellie is now a graduate student in FRE and is working with Dr. Lai and the NAMA team to develop a marketing plan for milk from Florida. Our graduate students are also finding success in the job market. Dr. Skyler Simnitt joined the USDA Economic Research Service in 2019 and Dr. Xuqi (Ricky) Chen is a new Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee. In addition to our teaching programs, our research and extension faculty are staying busy with exciting projects. Dr. Kelly Grogan is leading a newly funded project examining wildfire management and Dr. Ariel Singerman continues to focus on the economics of the citrus industry in the era of HLB management. In this newsletter, you’ll see updates from other faculty who are working on important and exciting topics related to Florida’s agricultural and natural resource sectors. We are continuing to work on our communication and are in the process of developing a new webpage, as well as being more active on social media. We are also planning some alumni events for 2020, so please make sure we have updated information so we can let you know of plans and celebrate everyone’s accomplishments!

-Dr. Lisa House
2019-2020 Haskell Faculty and Student Research Award

Dr. Stephen Morgan and Caleb Reed (FRE Undergraduate) were selected as one of five recipients of a 2019-2020 Haskell Faculty and Student Research Award from the Bob Graham Center for Public Service. The program asks for a faculty member and undergraduate student to generate an essay on a major public issue facing society. Their project will focus on evaluating changing U.S. immigration policy and the agricultural labor supply with an emphasis on Florida production.

For additional information, please check out the following site:
http://www.bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/content/haskell-faculty-and-student-research-award

Innovative Teaching Award

Awarded to Dr. Misti Sharp at the 2019 Teaching Enhancement Symposium on August 13, 2019. This award was student nominated and required the student nomination materials demonstrate innovation, excellence and effectiveness in teaching. 10 CALS faculty received this award at this event.

Dr. Elaine Turner Presents the “Innovation in Teaching” award to Dr. Misti Sharp at the 2019 Teaching Enhancement Symposium.

PLOS ONE Article Publication

Dr. Xiang Bi and her Ph.D. student, Sangyoul Lee, wrote an article, “Can adoption of pollution prevention techniques reduce pollution substitution?” which was published in PLOS ONE. An abstract of their article can be read below:

Pollution prevention (P2) has become an integral part of the U.S. environmental policy that emphasizes the benefits of preventing pollution generation at the source over treatment or recycling after the generation of wastes. This study extends the existing literature on the effect of voluntary adoption of P2 in reducing toxic wastes by examining the extent to which it reduces pollution substitution. We use facility panel data from the Toxics Release Inventory from 1991 to 2011 to examine the effect of the adoption of P2 techniques on the ratios of water releases to air releases, amounts of treatment to total releases, and amounts of recycling to total releases while controlling for endogeneity of the adoption of P2 techniques and facility fixed effects. We find that the adoption of P2 techniques reduces toxic air and water releases equally, but it is associated with increases in treated and recycled wastes over total releases to the environment.

Full article can be found at:
https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/authors?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0224868
**FOOD AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS ABROAD**

FRE students Sierra Smith (left) and McKenzie Smith (right) demonstrate a Gator Chomp at the Museum Holstentor in Lübeck, Germany on July 6, 2019.

interested in studying abroad?

Contact our undergraduate Academic Advisor today!

Danielle Shu
Dshu@ufl.edu
(352) 294-7640

**MORE ABOUT THE TRIP**

Dr. Misti Sharp taught in Lüneburg, Germany in Summer B along with three UF undergraduates: Sierra Smith, McKenzie Smith, and Mariella White. She taught “Economics of Natural Resource Use” to the UF students as well as a group of students from all over the United States as part of the University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC) Germany language immersion program at Leuphana University.

Dr. Sharp (pictured 3rd from the left) took UF students (Mariella White and Sierra Smith are pictured 4th and 7th) and USAC students all studying with her in Economics of Natural Resource Use on a field trip to the Luneburg Water Tower Museum (Wasserturm Lüneburg) on July 19, 2019.

"Reduced water flows through our springsheds are contributing to increased algae growth in springs that would otherwise have crystal clear water. While kayaking at Ichetucknee Springs, we discussed the hydrology of the aquifer-fed spring shed and current threats to water flows and water quality. Students were able to observe this environmental impact firsthand. Following the trip, students in AEB 5188 participated in an agricultural water policy activity where each student managed a different kind of farm (farms included: peanuts, oranges, cattle, strawberries, and bell pepper). Each crop has different water needs, costs of production, and output prices. Students determined their optimal water use and associated profits for their particular kind of farm, and then recalculated optimal water use and profits under three different possible water policies: caps on water use, required installation of more efficient irrigation systems, and a cap-and-trade water permit system. Students were able to see how a given policy could have drastically different implications for different kinds of farms, and we demonstrated that tradeable permits led to the lowest costs possible to achieve a given target of water use. Students in AEB 7453 constructed hydro-economic models to determine optimal water use from the spring shed, considering things like Nestles’ request for permits to withdraw 1.152 million gallons of water per day from Ginnie Springs and the social benefits of taxing water withdrawals to reduce use.” -Dr. Kelly Grogan
PMA-CGT @ FFVA,
September 24-27, 2019, Palm Beach, Florida

In a long-standing partnership with CGT by PMA, UF FRE undergraduate students participated in two professional development programs with industry professionals this year. In September, five students attended the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association’s (FFVA) Annual Convention in Palm Beach, Florida. In addition to networking with many FRE alums now in industry, Carlyle Carr, Kassidy House, Garrett Josephson, Lindsay McNeal, and Caleb Reed heard from Agricultural Commissioner Nikki Fried about Florida’s agricultural industry and participated in issues forums ranging from agricultural labor issues, workable solutions to Florida’s water concerns, and leadership strategies for upcoming agricultural leaders in Florida.

More information about this event can be found on our website: https://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/

The Process of Career Pathways

The Career Pathways program identifies the top students from universities across the country to educate young professionals about opportunities in the fresh produce and floral industries. A Career Ambassador is assigned to each student to serve as an industry adviser, answer questions, and introduce them to other industry professionals. In addition to program-specific activities, students attend customized workshops designed specifically for undergraduate students.

"Attending the FFVA with the Career Pathways program was an engaging and insightful experience. After this experience, I understand the importance of networking in this industry. I met a handful of industry members who educated me briefly on their job title or simply offered career advice. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to meet the people I did and learn more about an industry I hope to be a part of in the near future." – Lindsay McNeal

"The Career Pathways program by PMA introduced me to vast industry information and contacts that will be incredibly beneficial in future careers." – Caleb Reed
Dr. Christa Court is an Assistant Professor for Regional Economics and Director of the Economic Impacts Analysis Program for the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. Dr. Court earned a Bachelor of Arts (2006) in Spanish and Bachelor of Science (2006) in Economics at Middle Tennessee State University, a Master of Arts (2008) and a Ph.D. (2012) in Economics at West Virginia University. She is a member of several professional organizations such as the International Society for Ecological Economics, International Input-Output Association, Regional Science Association International, North America Regional Science Council, Southern Regional Science Association, and Regional Science Association International – British and Irish Section. With a vast background in working within academics, Dr. Court has experience working for both West Virginia University and the University of Florida.

Dr. Maira Reimao is an Assistant Professor for Development Economics in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. She holds a Bachelor of Science (2006) in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, a Master of Philosophy (2008) in Development Studies from the University of Oxford, and a Ph.D. (2016) in Agricultural & Resource Economics from the University of California – Davis. Prior to her Ph.D. studies, Dr. Reimao worked with the World Bank for several years. During her time there, she focused on the Brazil day care intervention that was the basis of her dissertation. In August 2016, Dr. Reimao became a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Yale University. Her research focused on development economics, particularly migration and gender. During the Fall 2019 term, Dr. Reimao will be teaching AEB 4282 – International Humanitarian Assistance.

Dr. Caleb Stair is a Lecturer of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness for the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. Dr. Stair earned his Bachelor of Science (2013) in Quantitative Economics with a minor in Mathematics at Frostburg State University, a Master's degree (2014) and Ph.D. (2018) in Natural Resource Economics at West Virginia University. His research interests include natural resource economics (specifically related to wildlife), regional economics, and spatial econometrics. His studies aim to inform policy makers about the impacts of events and policies related to wildlife management and natural resource use. His recent research focuses on the economic contributions of the American Alligator to Florida's economy. During the Fall 2019 semester, Dr. Stair will teach AEB 3281 – Agricultural Macroeconomics and AEB 4126 – Agricultural and Natural Resource Ethics. In Spring 2020, he will teach AEB 3133 – Principles of Agribusiness Management.
NEW FACULTY MEMBERS, CONTINUED

Dr. John Lai is an Assistant Professor overlooking Agribusiness Economics in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. Dr. Lai is a fellow gator, earning his Bachelor of Science (2010) in Food and Resource Economics at the University of Florida. He holds a Master of Science (2012) and Ph.D. (2017) in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University. Dr. Lai has over 10 years of teaching experience, he worked as a Teaching Assistant for the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida, Research and Teaching Assistant under the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, Post-Doctoral Research Associate with the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida, and as an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. We're pleased to announce that during the Fall 2019 term, Dr. Lai will be teaching AEB 6183 – Agribusiness Risk Management, and during Spring 2020, he will be teaching AEB – 3341 Selling Strategically and AEB 4380 – Agricultural Marketing Strategies.

Dr. Olesya Savchenko is an Assistant Professor for Agricultural Economics and Policy in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. Dr. Savchenko earned her Bachelor of Arts degree (2006) in Environmental and International Studies and Master of Business Administration (2009) in Project Management at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and Ph.D. (2017) in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Savchenko has served as a Graduate Research Assistant, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Postdoctoral Researcher. Her research interests include water economics, agricultural policy, consumer behavior, land use and nonmarket valuation, and energy. During the Fall 2019 term, Dr. Savchenko will teach AEB 4242 – International Trade Policy in Agriculture, and in Spring 2020, she will teach AEB 6385 – Management Strategies for Agribusiness Firms.

Dr. Andrew Ropicki is an Assistant Professor of Marine Economist for the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. Dr. Ropicki is a fellow gator, he earned his Bachelor of Science (2002) and Master of Science (2004) in Finance, Master of Science (2009) and Ph.D. (2014) in Food and Resource Economics at the University of Florida. His applied research program is wide-ranging and includes evaluation of fisheries management policy, social network analysis applied to natural resource management problems, and aquaculture economics. Dr. Ropicki’s professional experience consists of Teaching/Research Assistant, Instructor, Marine Economics Specialist, Assistant Professor, etc.

Rabya Hein is an Academic Assistant III for the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. Rabya initially started her professional career working for the University of Florida's Information Technology – Academic Technology Department. There, she worked as a Technology Consultant and was promoted to Training Specialist and Operations/Training Supervisor. Over the years, Rabya worked at different professional offices across Gainesville, and returned to work at the University of Florida in 2017. She worked for UF Online's OneStop team under the Division of Enrollment Management as an Admissions Assistant and was promoted to OneStop Coordinator. Currently, Rabya is pursuing her undergraduate degree in Educational Sciences through UF Online.
**GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS**

### NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS FOR SUMMER/FALL 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Masters</td>
<td>Cheyenne Pohl</td>
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<td>Dana Terrell</td>
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<td>Jose Cayo</td>
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<td>David Hall</td>
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<td>Alexandra Mendez</td>
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<td>Daniel Moore</td>
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<td>Catherine Morse</td>
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<td>Zhangbai Xia</td>
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<td>Kellie Zambito</td>
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<td>MS Thesis</td>
<td>Leticia Braune</td>
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<td>Carter Cosgray</td>
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<td>Eyrika Orlando</td>
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<td>Audrey Rizk</td>
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<td>Cecilia Vega</td>
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<td>PhD</td>
<td>Ting Cao</td>
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<td>Simon Codjo</td>
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<td>Fei He</td>
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<td>Mengming Li</td>
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<td>Glory Okpiaifo</td>
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<td>Azhar Uddin</td>
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### Fall 2019 Graduates

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Masters</td>
<td>Delaney Fuhrmeister</td>
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<td>Nadeza Ivanova</td>
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<td>Eduardo Mondragon</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Carlos Pitta</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Essays on the Economic Impacts of Huanglongbing on Florida’s Citrus Industry”</td>
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<td>Piyawong Punjatewakupt</td>
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<td>“The Emergence of the Thai Food Manufacturing: Trade and Productivity”</td>
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<td>Xumin Zhang</td>
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<td>“Three Essays on Investigating Homeowners Preferences for Environmentally Friendly Residential Landscapes”</td>
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### Honors and Awards for Lauriane Yehouenou

- Research Abroad for Doctoral Students Grant
- Pre-dissertation award from the Center of African Studies
- J. E. Ross International Travel Award
- First Prize of Natural Resources Management Symposium presentation competition
- NAREA Conference scholarship Award

### GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Kelly Grogan and Dr. Misti Sharp (along with Raelene Crandall from the School of Forest Resources and Conservation) received a USDA AFRI Foundational Program grant to study wildfire management in the southeastern United States.

### PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Olesya Savchenko had two articles published—one regarding Land Economics and the other in Food Policy.

### ALUMNI NEWS

#### ALUMNI GUEST SPEAKERS

**PIERCE GINZBERG**

Pierce is a 2017 Food and Resource Economics (International FRE) graduate. During his studies, he was heavily involved in Chi Phi Fraternity, Action Student Government, and Dance Marathon at UF. Upon his graduation, he was hired the following summer as SharpSpring’s Business Development Representative before being promoted to the Onboarding Account Manager 6 months later! In these roles, Pierce was heavily involved in establishing client connections and relationships while providing knowledge to accurately measure the needs and desires of each client. Long term, Pierce has also been able to continue working with clients to communicate and monitor long term performance and metrics to ensure continued success. Outside of SharpSpring, it’s also great to note that Pierce has been working on his own business and freelance work while he travels!

**TORI BRADLEY RUMENIK**

Tori is a 2017 Food and Resource Economics graduate. From 2015 to 2017, Ms. Bradley was enrolled as a FRE graduate student. She discovered her passion for FRE by walking in to McCarty Hall and talking to our Graduate Advisor, Ms. Jessica Herman. During her time in her graduate program, Tori conducted research in increasing the marketability of Florida peaches and blueberries. Shortly after graduation, she landed a job with the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association (FFVA) as a Business Analyst. After nearly 2 years in that role, Tori was promoted as the Commodity Services & Supply Chain Manager for FFVA.

**MARBELL SEWELL**

Marshall is a 2012 Food and Resource Economics graduate. Mr. Sewell currently works for Seminis Seed Company, which is owned by Monsanto and recently purchased by Bayer. Marshall Sewell was invited to speak to our Plant City students for the AEB 3935 Food and Resource Economics Seminar to discuss his academic and career journey.
FRE ALUMNI? TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Name/Maiden Name:
Year Graduated:
Degree Earned:
Email:
Mailing Address:
Updates or news you would like to share?

Please email information to Candace Kaswinkel at Ckaswin@ufl.edu or to Rabya Hein at Rabya7494@ufl.edu

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