

# Minnesota Applied Economist

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the Department of Applied Economics University of Minnesota

No. 722 Review of 2008-2009

## Department Head's Notes

Applied Economics has a long tradition of excellence in international economic development. Our faculty are currently engaged in economic research and education in countries including: China, India, Japan, East Germany, Poland, Italy, Georgia, Macau, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Tanzania, the Netherlands, Nepal and Vietnam. However, the activities we're engaged in with South Africa exemplify the breadth of our programs both in the U.S. and globally.

The beginning of our fruitful collaborations in South Africa was a post-doctoral visit by Klooper Oosthuizen, faculty member of the University of the Free State, to work with **Professor Vernon Eidman**. Subsequently, Herman van Schalwyck, then head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State, invited Professors K. William Easter and Claudia Parliament to visit Free State and other Universities to explore areas of mutual interest.

As a result of this early exchange Professor Parliament began cooperating with Herman van Schalwyck, Klooper Oosthuizen and the national Council on Economic Education (CEE) to develop the South African Foundation for Economic and Financial Education (SAFEFE) modeled on the successful programs of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE) and CEE. While Claudia provided the experiential insight from her development of MCEE programs and teaching with CEE materials and programs, she credits Herman's visionary leadership and financial support for ultimately leading to the development of SAFEFE. The economic education effort now involves all 9 provinces and 13 higher education institutions, more than half of the higher education institutions in South Africa. Professor Parliament recently returned from a leave in South Africa to continue collaborative efforts to develop programs of SAFEFE.

Professor Easter has served as a committee member on the PhD thesis committee of Bennie Grove and as a co-advisor on Robert Jack Armour's Ph.D. committee at the University of the Free State. Both projects worked on water resources

issues which are critical not only to South Africa but many other developing areas such as India and China. Bennie is continuing collaboration as a faculty member at the Free State and visited our Department this summer to explore research collaborations with other faculty.

After the initial visit by Professors Parliament and Easter, Professor Rodney Smith visited South Africa, and began working with faculty at the University of Pretoria and has, along with Professor Terry Roe, published articles related to the economic impacts of HIV-AIDS on economic growth. His work has also included research on water resource economics that is now extending to Professor Smith's ABE research fellowship in India this fall and which he plans to extend to many other water resource and development contexts. During the fall of 2007, Smith served as a Visiting International Fellow at the Center for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa, University of Pretoria. During this visit he co-advised several M.S. students and presented seminars on water resources and economic growth and on production economics.

Terry Roe, along with a team of economists from the University of Pretoria and the International Food Policy Research Institute also completed a multi-year study on the macro and micro economic aspects of water in South Africa. The

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Department of  
**APPLIED  
ECONOMICS**

## Department Head's Notes Continued

study focused on economic gains from employing water more efficiently within agriculture and the stimulus to non-farm growth in employment from reallocating water out of agriculture. The expected increased water scarcity over time is shown to change the regional comparative advantage economic activities within the country and to speed up the transfer of workers from primary agriculture to other sectors of the economy.

The exchange that began between faculty is now growing to include graduate students and other educators. In June 2009, Professor Claudia Parliament and Professor Tade Okediji led a group of seven graduate students and one extension educator affiliated with the Department on a two week study tour to South Africa in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of the Free State (UFS). To learn more about this trip and the students' first-hand experiences, please read "South Africa Trip Participants Experience Professional Growth" on page 9.

Professor Gerald Ortmann is visiting the Department from August through November 2009. He is a Professor of Agricultural Economics in the School of Agricultural Sciences & Agribusiness at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. One focus for his research is the effects of transaction costs on the marketing of crops by small-scale farmers in KwaZulu-Natal. Gerald will be working with Professor Robert King on a study of supply chains for local food products in Minnesota. This will complement Gerald's ongoing research in South Africa. It also will build on research he and Rob did in 2005 on the potential role for cooperatives in developing supply chains through which small farmers in South Africa can market fresh fruits and vegetables to consumers in nearby urban centers.

Finally, Professor Philip Pardey and HarvestChoice initiated a joint project with Johann Kirsten, Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development, University of Pretoria, and Frikkie Liebenberg, Agricultural Economist, Economic Services Unit Agricultural Research Council (ARC), as well as the Statistics Division of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, and other agricultural statistical agencies throughout the region to retrieve, archive and make available agricultural censuses from countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa. A team of students from the University of Pretoria assist with the African Agricultural Data Rescue Initiative (AADRI) which is available at [http://harvest-choice.org/production/data\\_rescue](http://harvest-choice.org/production/data_rescue). This ongoing project is part of a broader Gates Foundation project examining global crop research and development investments.

The legacy of commitment to international growth and development in the Department continues. As illustrated by these activities, the global community faces many common issues of food security, hunger, water access and quality, climate change and disease. What we learn in collaboration with global partners like our colleagues at Universities in South Africa, transfers to other countries, including the U.S. and most importantly builds the inter-generational and cross-cultural bridges necessary to feed a hungry planet and help people, businesses and governments to make sound economic choices.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

For further information on these and future events, see the departmental website: [www.apec.umn.edu/News\\_Events.html](http://www.apec.umn.edu/News_Events.html)

**September 21 - Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute** First Annual Symposium: "Critical Issues in Research and Public Policy," Cowles Auditorium. <http://www.hfhl.umn.edu>

**October 8 - Harry Kaiser** will receive the University's Outstanding Achievement Award as well as the 2008-2009 Department of Applied Economics Outstanding Alumni Award in a ceremony at 3:00 p.m. in the Cargill Building.

**October 21 - MN Council on Economic Education** EconFest, a recognition event for award recipients.

**October 31 - Departmental Alumni "Tailgating Party"** outside the ground level of the Classroom Office Building. BBQ food and beverages will be served before the football game against Michigan State.

## Department Staff Retire After 110 Years of Service

During the 2008-2009 academic year three of the department's key support staff retired from the University. They are missed in day-to-day work interactions, but will hopefully continue to maintain close contact with the department in special events and seminars. We celebrate their many years of service and dedication to the University, College and the programs of the Department.



**Jo Prouty**

Before her retirement in June 2008, Jo Prouty served as Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. Jo joined the University of Minnesota in 1978 as an assistant to the editor of a professional journal in the Department of Communication Disorders (now the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences). From 1987 - 1994 she was a Research Fellow in the same department serving as project manager on two consecutive National

Institutes of Health (NIH) funded grants: one examined familial risk for articulation disorders and the other looked at speech perception and production in children with cleft palate. When Jo joined the Council in 1994 and for the 14 years until her retirement, Jo made sure the Council's teacher workshops, conferences, and student economic events ran smoothly. She was the go-to person for almost everything in the Council and yet she didn't isolate herself in solely Council-related activities. She had good working relationships with departmental staff, faculty and students. Jo was the picture of professionalism and was a delight to work with. The department celebrated Jo's University career at a reception on June 3, 2008.

Marilyn Clement retired from the department in September 2008. Marilyn started working at the U, taking shorthand in the Political Science Department in 1968. Between that first position and her arrival in Applied Economics in 1986, Marilyn had a variety of work experiences at the University. This includes time in Genetics and Cell Biology with jobs ranging from Senior Clerk Typist to Senior Lab Technician performing microbiology experiments. She continued her lab experience in Ob-Gyn at the Medical School. After a three month leave to travel to India, Marilyn worked in the Animal Science Department and then decided to finish a biology degree. While doing so, she worked a number of work-study student jobs, one of which was in this department, working with Mary Strait and Vernon Ruttan. After graduating, Marilyn

worked about four years as a junior scientist in the Horticultural Science Department. When Marilyn joined the department in 1986, she supported a fluctuating number of faculty members in their teaching, research and extension activities. She also supported the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy while it was under the directorship of Bill Easter and later with Paul Glewwe as the director. Faculty, staff and students who worked with Marilyn remember her quiet demeanor and wonderfully smart sense of humor. Luncheons were held in Marilyn's honor by her faculty and her support staff co-workers.

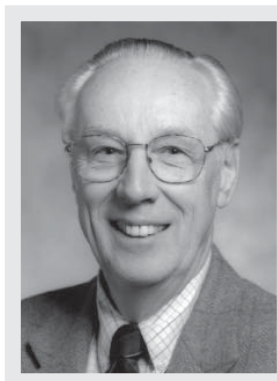


**Sylvia Holtberg**

Sylvia Holtberg retired in June 2009 after forty years at the University. Sylvia started out at the University in 1969 as a Senior Secretary in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Administration typing all the correspondence for the VP. She had several promotions during her time there and left that office as an Executive Assistant, working as the Office Manager and Supervisor. After she received a BA in Information Management from the College of St.

Catherine's in June 1985, she worked in Telecommunications as a Systems Analyst until the summer of 1986. She was then hired to provide computer support for the Law School in August 1986 and worked there for about 10 years until December 1996. Sylvia joined Applied Economics in January of 1996 and served as our computer guru (un-official title), providing outstanding service to faculty, staff and students on a whole host of computer and other technological needs. She went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure everyone had the tools they needed to get their work done efficiently and thoroughly. Sylvia also helped retired faculty and staff remain electronically connected to the department. She contributed greatly to the spirit of the department by serving as captain of the department's bowling team, Economic Forces, showing up in costume on her birthday (Halloween) and generally building rapport among the staff. The department celebrated her forty year career at the University with a retirement reception on June 4, 2009.

## Remembering Vernon Ruttan



**Vernon Ruttan**

University of Minnesota Regents Professor Emeritus Vernon Ruttan died on Monday morning, August 18, 2008 from a brief but serious illness. He turned 84 on August 16th. Vernon was surrounded by his wife Marilyn and his immediate family when he died. A memorial lecture and remembrance reception was held December 3, 2008 at the McNamara Alumni Center. Professor Anne O. Krueger from Stanford University

delivered the keynote address reflecting on the state of international development and the contributions that Vernon made to the field. The following reception offered opportunities for Vernon's family, colleagues and friends to reminisce about Vernon's impact on their lives in a more personal way.

Vernon was born on a farm in northern Michigan. He received his B.A. from Yale University in 1948 and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago in 1952 and 1954. Vern's first academic appointment was at Purdue University in the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1955 where he quickly rose to the rank of professor in 1960. In 1965, Vernon joined the faculty in Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota as Professor and Head of the Department. From 1978 to 1986 Vernon was also Professor in Economics at the University of Minnesota and was named as a Regents professor in 1986.

Vernon also had substantial non-academic experience. After serving on the governmental relations and economics staff of the Tennessee Valley Authority, he joined the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisors in 1961. Between 1963 and 1965, he was an agricultural economist with the Rockefeller Foundation at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. From 1973 to 1978, he was president of the Agricultural Development Council.

In recognition of his seminal contributions in development, Vernon served on a number of advisory committees and boards, including the Research Advisory Committee of the U.S. Agency for International Development (1968-1973 and 1980-1986), the Technical Advisory Committee to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (1973-1978), Board of Directors of the International Service for National Agricultural Research (1980-1986), the Board on Agriculture (1982-1989), the Board on Global Change

(1990-1996) and the Board on Sustainable Development (1997-1999) of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council. Ruttan was president of the American Agricultural Economics Association in 1971-72.

Among Vernon's substantial contributions to development through authoring well over 200 books, articles and reports his book with Yujiro Hayami, *Agricultural Development: An International Perspective*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, 1971 and 1985, has become a basic reference in the field of agricultural development and has been translated into four other languages. Assessing the impact of Vernon's contributions to assuring the world food supply is not as straightforward as the development of a new variety of wheat. However, his ideas on induced innovation, development aid and institutions and science with technology policy have helped assure that public and private investment and policy contributed to the tremendous achievements in food security during the past half century.

As Regents Professor Emeritus, Vern published three books: *Technology, Growth, and Development: An Induced Innovation Perspective*, Oxford University Press, 2001; *Social Science Knowledge and Economic Development: An Institutional Design Perspective*, University of Michigan Press, 2003; and *Is War Necessary for Economic Growth? Military Procurement and Technology Development*, Oxford University Press, 2006.

*Continued on page 5.*



**Philip Pardey, Marilyn Ruttan, and Anne Krueger at Ruttan Memorial, December 2008** (Photo by Steven Dehmer)

## Department Members' Honors and Awards for 2008-2009



**Stephen Polasky**

Many departmental faculty, staff and students experienced an award-winning year since the Summer 2008 issue. We'd like to take a moment here to recognize their contributions to the department and the profession.

Ph.D. Candidate **Tonya Hansen** was awarded the top spot in the Graduate Student Extension Competition at the 2008 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting in Orlando

last summer for her project titled, "What We Know About Minnesota's Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ) Program?"

**Dr. Laura Kalambokidis** also received an extension award this past year. The National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals recognized Laura's work with the 2008 Individual Award for Excellence in Community Development Programming.

Ph.D. candidate **Kristine Lamm West** and **Dr. Elton Mykerezzi** submitted their paper, "Effects of Teachers' Unions on Qualification-Specific and Incentive Based Teacher Compensation," to the National Council on Teacher Quality's Impact of Teacher Rules, Roles and Rights on Teacher Quality (TR3) Research Competition and won First Place.

For the third time within the past four years, the department has been fortunate enough to have a student awarded the University of Minnesota's 2009 Presidential Leadership and Service Award. This year's departmental recipient was **Jason Oldenkamp**, a graduating senior who majored in Applied Economics with Rob King as his advisor. (Previous recipients were Shefali Mehta in 2008 and Amanda Kirk in 2006.)

**Dr. Claudia Parliament** was honored for her extensive international work in the area of economic education with the International Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service and Leadership by the National Association of Economic Educators and the National Council on Economic Education.

The University's St. Paul Board of Colleges awards one Little Red Oil Can Award to a St. Paul campus-affiliated student, staff, faculty, organization, and alumni to recognize outstanding contributions to the enhancement of St. Paul campus life. Departmental support staff member **Sue Pohlod** was nominated for and received this award.

**Dr. Stephen Polasky** was elected a member of the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2009. Steve and the other new members are leaders in the sciences, the humanities and the arts, business, public affairs, and the nonprofit sector. A list of the new members can be found at <http://www.amacad.org/enewsletter/a.pdf>. Steve, along with Jason Hill, was also selected as a Resident Fellow of the University's Institute on the Environment.

*Continued on page 6.*

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*Ruttan continued from page 4.*

Vernon's work was consistently recognized for its high quality and relevance to policy makers and the profession. The American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) honored him with ten awards for published research. He was elected as a Fellow of AAEA in 1974, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1976 and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1986. In 1990, he was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences.

Ruttan holds honorary degrees from Rutgers University, Christian Albrechts University of Kiel and Purdue University. He received the Alexander von Humboldt Award for outstanding contributions to agriculture in 1984 and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award in 1986.

All who knew Vernon personally or professionally were touched by his incisive insights, his tenor chuckle and his true interest in others. He was generous of his time with students and colleagues. He would often ask an assistant professor to lunch to ask 'what do you think about what's happening in [name your topic]?', continuing the inquiry because he was truly interested in learning from what a junior faculty member might be observing from a fresh perspective. He was always the first to encourage and the first to congratulate. We will miss him deeply as a friend, a scholar, a colleague and a true gentleman.

## Frances Homans Receives Promotion



**Frances Homans**

It is with great pleasure that we announce the promotion of Dr. Frances Homans from associate professor with tenure to professor with tenure in Applied Economics. Frances has distinguished herself in research, teaching and service.

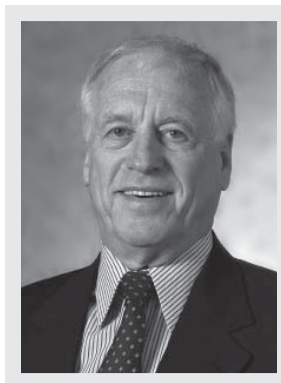
Dr. Homans' primary disciplinary research area is in environmental and natural resource economics. She has applied her efforts to issues of open access resource use, the economics of land use, and more recently to the economics of invasive species. Her research has resulted in disciplinary research awards, and she has mentored several PhD students in environmental economics.

Dr. Homans also has developed a distinguished and award winning teaching program. She teaches courses at the undergraduate levels in intermediate microeconomics and environment and natural resource economics. At the graduate level she now teaches dynamic optimization, but has also taught our PhD natural resource economics course. Dr. Homans is also a strong contributor to interdisciplinary teaching collaborating to teach courses in the area of Introduced Species and Genotype which resulted from a multi-disciplinary NSF Grant.

In addition to her outstanding academic contributions, Dr. Homans exhibits the spirit of service and leadership. She has provided excellent leadership to our Applied Economics undergraduate program as Applied Economics Major Coordinator. She has also been a willing and engaged member of numerous departmental, college and university committees and initiatives.

Dr. Homans is an outstanding colleague and friend. Congratulations to Frances on her many accomplishments and her well deserved promotion!

*Honors and Awards continued from page 5.*



**Terry Roe**

**Dr. Terry Roe** received the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Postbaccalaureate, Graduate and Professional Education, the highest honor for graduate teaching at the University. A few of his sixty former Ph.D. advisees were able to attend the awards ceremony.

**Dr. Ben Senauer** was selected a Fellow of the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association at last year's meetings in Orlando. Ben also received, along with co-authors Dr. C. Ford Runge and alumna Barbara Wagner, the AAEA's Outstanding Review of Agricultural Economics Article for, "An Empirical Analysis of and Policy Recommendations to Improve the Nutritional Quality of School Meals."

Congratulations to everyone on their much-deserved awards!



**Donald Liu, Rodney Smith, and Tade Okediji congratulate their colleague Terry Roe.**

# Undergraduate Program News

## Outstanding Major Coordinators

With the appointment of Brian Buhr as Department Head, the position of Coordinator for the Agricultural Food Business Management (AFBM) major would be left vacant had Glenn Pederson not agreed to step in. Glen has served in this role previously and the department is delighted that he is managing the program again. Last fall he jumped right back into the role in the first of his two-year term and has been looking at ways to attract more students to the program.

Frances Homans has served for eight years as the Coordinator of the Applied Economics (APEC) major, which continues to be a popular major in our college. During her tenure as Coordinator, she helped to develop two new annual events for undergraduate students – a scavenger hunt at the beginning of each school year and a luncheon for graduating seniors and their families on commencement day. For these activities, and her great work advising and mentoring students, she was given the Little Red Oil Can Award by the St. Paul Board of Colleges in 2008.

Gary Cooper continues to be the department's coordinator for the undergraduate programs. He acts as the program coordinator with CFANS student services and serves as intake advisor for our incoming freshman. In 2007-2009 Gary received the University's highest award for undergraduate advising – the John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising. Congratulations and thank you Gary for the extraordinary service you give to our undergraduate students.

## Welcome Week

Last fall the University initiated a new orientation program for all first-year students entering the University. The program started one week before classes started and offered the students many opportunities to become familiar with the campuses and the services available to them. One day during the week, all of the students were bused to the St. Paul Campus for a scavenger hunt day. They were also exposed to the types of research and instruction done on our campus. This year, Welcome Week will be back September 2-7 and the incoming freshman and transfer students will be on the St. Paul Campus September 3.

## Scholarship Recipients for 2008-2009

Students in the Applied Economics and Agricultural Food Business Management majors are eligible for several scholarships: the Willis Peterson scholarship for lower-division undergraduate students in either AFBM or APEC; the Routhe-

Christiansen scholarship for upper-division undergraduate students interested in agricultural finance in either major; the AgStar scholarship and internship program for students interested in agricultural finance; and the new CoBank scholarship for students with career goals to work in agricultural finance or agribusiness management.

In 2008-2009 we congratulated the following students on receiving these scholarships and thank our generous donors for offering this wonderful opportunity.

Peterson Scholarship: Kari Opdahl

Routhe-Christiansen Scholarship: Jonathan Slinden

AgStar Scholars: Kathryn Church, Shane McFadden, Kari Opdahl, Daniel Roberts, and Erica Seitzer

CoBank Scholars: Daniel Roberts, David Stolper, and Erica Seitzer

## Commencement

Every Mother's Day (and fishing opener) the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences graduating seniors participate in commencement ceremonies at Northrop Auditorium. Prior to the ceremony, the department hosted graduating seniors and their families at a luncheon held in the McNamara Alumni Center. We wish our graduates well as they make their ways in the world and welcome them as proud alumni of Applied Economics.



**Happy Graduates Andrew Shimota, Justin Ewens, Colleen Nauer, and Caitlin Taylor Sharp**

# Graduate Program News

## Fellowship Recipients in 2008-2009

The Sam Chung Hsieh Fellowship was awarded to Daniel Hawes. Daniel has a degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Bonn, Germany. He obtained his M.Sc. in Water Management while working on a research project at the German Center of Development Research (ZEF). Before joining the Applied Economics Ph.D. program in 2007, he worked for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as a Senior Research Assistant and part of the Harvest Choice team. Currently, he is interested in the economic analysis of how institutions evolve and public goods are managed. Because of his strong interest in the natural sciences, sociology and psychology, he is especially interested in interdisciplinary research projects.

The Mary and Robert Litterman Fellowships were awarded to Sarah Humpage Kristine Lamm-West, and Renato Revina Sanchez. Sarah entered the Applied Economics Ph.D. program in 2007 after completing a B.A. in Latin American Studies at Macalester College and a Masters in Public Policy at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. At Humphrey, Sarah concentrated on Economic Development. After graduating from Humphrey, Sarah worked as a journalist for Inforpress, a Guatemalan magazine covering economic and political issues in Central America. She then worked as a consultant in statistics and program evaluation for Guatemala's Ministry of Education. In the Applied Economics department, Sarah plans to work with Professor Paul Glewwe on educational program evaluation methods in developing countries, and is beginning a research project on the impacts of PRONADE, a decentralized school management program in Guatemala.

Kristine completed her B.S. in economics at Macalester College in 2001. After working for seven years as a teacher for Minneapolis Public Schools, Kristine joined the Applied Economics Ph.D. program in 2007 to do research to better understand the economics of education. Currently, she is involved in two projects. One project investigates issues of financial strain facing rural school districts in Minnesota. The second project looks at the impact of unions on teachers' pay structure.

Renato earned his B.S. in economics from the Universidad del Pacifico in Peru in 1999 and a Master in Public Policy from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota in 2007. He joined the Applied Economics Ph.D. program to do research on development economics, program evaluation, and applied econometric methods.

## New Schuh Graduate Fellowship Established

Dr. G. Edward Schuh passed away in May 2008, and in memory of Dr. Schuh, his wife, Mrs. Maria Inez Schuh provided a gift to establish the G. Edward Schuh Fellowship. The endowment fund will provide funding for graduate fellowships for Ph.D. students in the Applied Economics Graduate Program who have an interest in international food and agricultural policy. We thank the Schuh family for establishing this fund in support of our graduate students. It will carry on Dr. Schuh's passion for working with and training future generations of economists. Other gifts may be contributed to the fund by the donors, or by others, at any time.

## In Memorium

We were saddened by the death of Spiros Pina, an Applied Economics Ph.D. student, in March of this year after a four-year battle with a brain tumor. Spiros was a remarkable individual who counted among his achievements: representing Greece in the 1994 and 1998 Olympic luge competition, fluency in six languages, student of public policy and economics, husband and father. He had an international network of friends who remember him for his ability to connect with people and for his dedication to his sport, his education and his family.

## Change in Program Leadership

At the end of the 2008-2009 academic year, Terry Hurley stepped down after his three-year term as Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). Terry did a remarkable job of administering a new joint program between our department, and units in the Humphrey Institute, the School of Public Health and the Carlson School of Management. Terry made great connections with the students and we thank him for his outstanding service to the program.

Jeff Apland will be serving in an interim role as DGS, a role he also filled during the years of 1997-2000. Beginning the 2010 academic year, Elizabeth Davis has agreed to serve a three-year term as DGS. Dr. Davis is just now returning from a year-long sabbatical in Sweden and has some projects to wrap up. With Jeff agreeing to serve in the interim we are able to continue our tradition of exemplary leadership and service for our Applied Economics graduate students. The job of DGS is no small task so the commitment of these individuals is greatly appreciated.



## South Africa Trip Participants Experience Professional Growth

An extension of the Department's collaboration with universities in South Africa, Professors Claudia Parliament and Tade Okediji led a group of seven graduate students and an Extension educator on a two-week trip to South Africa this past June. The trip was designed to enhance understanding of the history and culture of South Africa and to explore collaborative research projects with UFS. The tour consisted of presentations, meetings, and site visits to HIV clinics, schools, former homelands, emerging farmer programs, water projects, experiment stations, cooperatives, cultural centers, and large farming operations. Even from travelling within a single province in South Africa, it was obvious that differences in ethnic make-up, infrastructure and natural environment have a major impact on development paths.

The true measure of the success of these exchanges is the impacts on students and their professional growth. Student comments included:

*Prior to the study tour, my research interest was on public health issues, with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS and its impact on labor force participation in South Africa. However, the experience I gained during the study tour has changed my perspective when looking at the problem in this country. More specifically, I realize that it is important to first understand the institutional context of HIV/AIDS problem that is closely tied to education and economic inequality. Hence, I have become more interested in studying the channels through which education can effectively control the HIV/AIDS prevalence.*

Another student reported:

*The trip renewed my interest in the research areas of sustainable development and resource management. Additionally this trip exposed me to the complex social dynamics that face South Africa and other developing countries on their path to economic development.*

and finally a third student suggested the experience might affect her research in other countries:

*Prior to this study tour, I had never found myself interested in agricultural issues. However, after the many wonderful presentations by the UFS students on their current research, I found myself thinking deeply about the multitude of agricultural subfields in India that I could get involved in the future. The one area that stands out is Land Reforms, an issue that had acquired immense focus after Independence but somehow*

*receded to the background, especially after the Information & Technology revolution in India. The South Africa study tour was almost an awakening for me, bringing me face to face with issues that need urgent attention of young economists trained in modern research techniques and cutting-edge skills.*

As a result of this study tour, likely collaborations include the application of a model developed within the Department to climate change research effort at UFS. Two graduate students have agreed to coordinate a workshop on data for UFS through the use of Skype. Based on insights gained during the trip, one student is modeling stock theft; another has a renewed interest in water management modeling. The study tours will soon be in both directions because cross-cultural relationships are essential for meaningful academic research related to economic development issues. A UFS group of students and faculty is expected to visit the University of Minnesota in November.

The graduate students will provide an overview of their study tour experience during a "2 Tuesday" program hosted by the University's Office of International Programs this December. We are very grateful to our South African Colleagues at UFS who partnered with us on the tours.



**David Bael, Uttam Sharma, Daniel Hawes, Phatta Kirduang, Claudia Parliament, Thaddee Badibanga, Clint Pacenka, and Jaya Jha.**

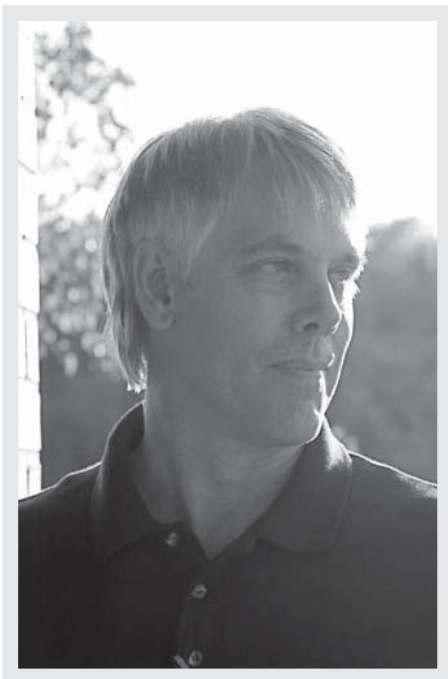
## A Year in Photos: 2008-2009



*Sally Thompson (far right) received the Outstanding Alumni Award in June 2008 and is pictured here with her proud parents, Polly and Peter Thompson.*



*Applied Economics major Kristy Mussman began her reign as Princess Kay of the Milky Way at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair.*



*New Department Head Brian Buhr enjoying the Annual Picnic in August 2008.*



*Jane and Rob King at a September 2008 reception honoring Rob's four years of service as Department Head. His photo was added to the Department Head Wall of Fame in room 119 Classroom Office Building.*



*Sue Pohlod, Elaine Reber, Diane McAfee, and Linda Schwartz are among the departmental staff honored at the annual Holiday Luncheon in December 2008.*



*Ignes Schuh wished her friend Willard Cochrane a Happy Birthday at his 95th birthday party in May 2009.*



*Students and their families enjoying themselves at the annual International Dinner in April 2009.*

## Recent Publications

For information on locating a copy of a publication not available on the Internet, contact the underlined author at the department by calling 612-625-1222.

### Departmental Publications for 2008

Weite Library annually distributes a list of publications, unpublished papers and presentations, and web resources submitted by department members. Also included in the list are publications of former department members where the publications are based on work conducted while at the University of Minnesota. You may view a list of the publications for 2008 and earlier on the departmental website at <http://www.apec.umn.edu/publist.html>.

### Consumption and Household Economics

**Chisago-Isanti-Pine Biofuels Feasibility Study** by Kenneth Valentas, Victor Gauto, Peter Gillitzer, Marc Von Keitz, Clarence Lehman, **Steven Taff**, and Donald Wyse. St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota, 2009. [http://www.bti.umn.edu/WE\\_CIP/images/CIPreport200.pdf](http://www.bti.umn.edu/WE_CIP/images/CIPreport200.pdf).

**Climate Change and Health Costs of Air Emissions from Biofuels and Gasoline** by Jason Hill, **Stephen Polasky**, **Erik Nelson**, David Tilman, Hong Huo, Lindsay Ludwig, James Neumann, Haochi Zheng, and Diego Bonta. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, v.106, no.6, February 10, 2009, pp. 2077-2082.

**Ecosystem Services in Decision Making: Time to Deliver** by Gretchen Daily, **Stephen Polasky**, Joshua Goldstein, et al. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, v.7, no.1, February 2009, pp.21-28.

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