

JANUARY 2021 | ISSUE 1

AEDE IMPACT

News, Research, Profiles and Ways to Connect

Message from Dr. Tim Haab

It seems cliché right now to say that we are living in turbulent times. A global pandemic has forced a complete remake of the way we teach, created budget tensions after a decade of upswings, and it has caused a complete re-examination of work/life balance.

Social and political upheaval has caused unprecedented stress for students, staff, and faculty, and spurred classroom conversations that go beyond textbook learning to understand the role business and economic practices can play in being both the cause of and solution to some of our most pressing challenges.

Yet through all of it, the faculty, staff, and students of AEDE have remained steadfast in their vision to create meaningful impact now and for future generations through inclusive classroom experiences, excellence in the generation and dissemination of new knowledge, mutual respect for competing ideas, constructive engagement with diverse audiences, and continual commitment to value, encourage, and reward a diversity of thought, skills, activity, and outcomes.

AEDE is committed to expecting, encouraging, valuing, and rewarding diversity of background, thought activity, and impact. We honor these commitments through constructive



engagement, mutual respect, honoring differences, and the active encouragement of varied paths to achieving excellence in scholarship for students, faculty, and staff.

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It seems cliché right now to say that we are living in turbulent times.”

While many chose to tread water throughout the storms of 2020, AEDE continued to innovate and look to the future. In the coming months, AEDE will be restructuring our policies and procedures to ensure we uphold our core values defined in Land Grant tradition: Scholarship through the

generation of new knowledge, the translation and dissemination of new knowledge through teaching and extension, and leadership in service to the University, the profession, and society.

We, as educators, have a unique opportunity to affect change through education and service. As we begin 2021, AEDE is furthering its commitment to excellence in scholarship by redesigning our curriculum to ensure we are educating students to be critical thinkers as they apply business and economic principles to societal challenges.

In this newsletter, you will find some highlights from past, current, and future AEDE efforts. From the hiring of an outstanding new faculty member in Agricultural Economics and Policy, Margaret Jodlowski, to honoring Kolesen McCoy, an AEDE student who recently completed a term as the national leader for Future Farmers of America (FFA), to the highlighting some exciting new research from some of our faculty that is sure to have a lasting impact.

It is hard to briefly summarize all of the outstanding work of AEDE faculty, staff, and students. As we proceed through the coming year, we hope to give everyone a better picture of the true AEDE IMPACT.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Haab
Professor, AEDE Chair, Dean's Chair,
Leader of the CFAES Knowledge Exchange (KX)

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CONGRATS 2020 PHD GRADS

Oudom Hean
Nattanicha Chairassamee
Asanka Wijesinghe
Sahar Yousef
Katerine Ramirez Nieto

WAYS TO ENGAGE:

We'd love to hear from you and about industry and personal updates, and answer your questions. Visit go.osu.edu/engageaede where you can also sign up for other AEDE newsletters and event announcements.

FACULTY PROFILE: Dr. Margaret Jodlowski

Margaret Jodlowski joined AEDE as Assistant Professor in August of 2020. She earned her PhD from Cornell University's Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management.

The bulk of her research explores how farms and other agricultural operations impact rural economies and environments, and how those, along with policy changes in those spaces, affect the nature of agricultural production.

She also studies issues related to labor, for example, what labor a farm uses and conversely, the labor the farm household provides to surrounding farm business and rural communities due to the fact that many farmers also work off-farm jobs to help cover expenses.

Margaret enjoys working with students and attracting them to engage in the work she is so passionate about.

"Teaching and research go together," said Jodlowski. "The problems I work on are not out of reach for them."

Spring 2021 courses: AEDECON 4001,
Managerial Economics for Agribusiness.

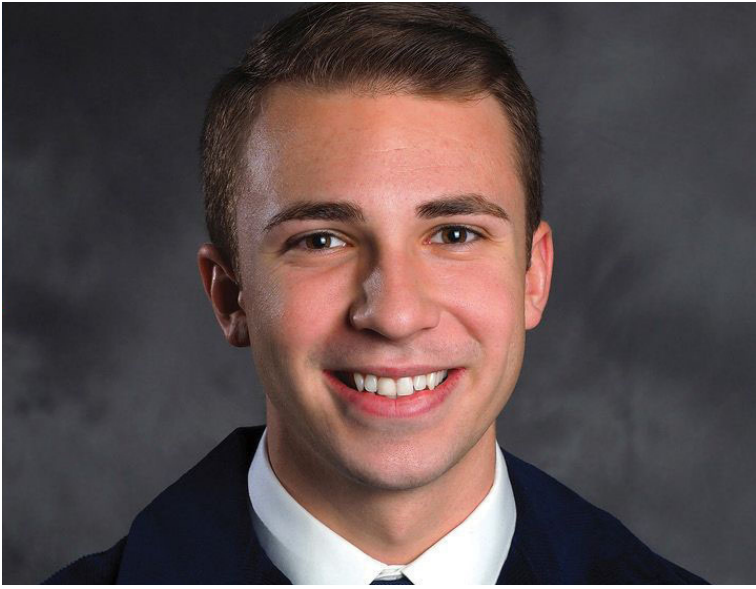
jodlowski.1@osu.edu



IN THE NEWS:

- *Trees Can Help Slow Climate Change, But at a Cost*
Dr. Brent Sohngen
December 1, 2020, Environmental News Network
- *Solar Farms In Ohio*
Dr. Brent Sohngen
December 1, 2020, WOSU Radio
All Sides with Ann Fisher
- *How Off-farm Labor Plays a Role in Helping Farm Families Stay Afloat*
Margaret Jodlowski
December 11, 2020, Ohio Weekly, Ohio Farm Bureau
- *Grant Funds Received to Support Food Entrepreneurship in Wayne County*
Dr. Wuyang Hu
January 8, 2021
thebarginhunter.com

STUDENT PROFILE: Kolesen McCoy



Agribusiness and Applied Economics student's path paved by his trust in himself, his future and FFA

Kolesen McCoy thought sports would be his ticket to success. But then he had a change of heart, quit varsity soccer, and joined the student organization Future Farmers of America (FFA), known today as the National FFA Organization. As he embraced the leadership and educational experiences offered, he took on leadership roles, first as an officer for his home state of Ohio, and then most recently, as president of the national organization which necessitated him taking a year off from college to serve in the role.

"It has all been worth it," said McCoy. "The going to college, leaving, coming back. I learned so much as a leader of a nonprofit that educates over 760,000 student members and those working in the agricultural industry."

During his tenure as president, McCoy spent 2020 in Indianapolis and then Texas, developing content, addresses, meeting with industry leaders, and executing the first-ever virtual annual FFA convention. When the pandemic derailed plans for gathering in person, they were prepared to move into the FFA warehouse to execute the convention. Instead, RFD-TV stepped in and offered up the use of their state-of-the-art television production facilities in Fort Worth, Texas to ensure FFA could still deliver a student-focused and student-led convention for over 70,000 attendees. RFD-TV's support took things to the next level.

"In the virtual setting, we could see live reactions of competition members," said McCoy. "We zoomed into classrooms and delivered student recognition on a national level."

McCoy said he now better understands the role students, education, and business play in the ag industry. As McCoy transitions back into life as an Agribusiness and Applied Economics student, he looks forward to furthering his education and reconnecting with the Ohio State Community.

"I love AEDE," said McCoy. "I think ag business and applied economics are well suited to compliment my passions."

Passions that include people, thriving in business, and being a part of a well-grounded land grant institution that is so networked into the ag industry and throughout Ohio's 88 counties.

McCoy believes classroom learning will complement the experiential learning he received through FFA and assist with his latest undertaking – co-founding a nonprofit that focuses on ag education, the furthering of religion, and food relief for the underprivileged. AgriCross Ed is housed in a

homestead on a farm in Springfield, Ohio where 75 acres are used to farm corn and soybeans using progressive farming practices, like soil testing after each harvest which McCoy believes will benefit students wanting to complete internships and experience progressive farming firsthand.

"I think I am in a cool position to continue ag education as a student and *for* students down the road," said McCoy. "I am really confident in where I am headed from here."

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RESEARCH PROFILE: Downscaling the measurement of sustainability



The theory of sustainability was developed with a global framework in mind.

"The earth is a shared system with many interacting parts, so it isn't possible to consider any action to address sustainability in isolation," said Elena Irwin, distinguished

professor of food, agricultural and environmental sciences in economics and sustainability and faculty director at Ohio State's Sustainability Institute (SI).

The long-term goal of sustainability is to ensure that our actions today are in balance with the needs of the future, Irwin said. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

"It's impossible to draw a boundary around any one state or region that would separate it from other regions. We have to somehow account for this fundamental interdependence when applying the theory of sustainability at a regional scale."

RESEARCH PROFILE: Continued

To determine how to classify regional efforts, Irwin and Sathya Gopalakrishnan, associate professor, and Alan Randall, professor, and SI resident scholar, started with two different existing sustainability theories, that lie at different ends of the spectrum.

The strong sustainability approach emphasizes the notion that sustainability is defined by development that does not exceed certain biophysical limits or agreed upon pollution limits. This suggests that the preservation of earth's natural resources and capital stocks is the primary goal regardless of the economic or other social costs.

Weak sustainability accounts for multiple forms of capital: natural capital, such as land and other natural resources, as well as manufactured capital, human and health capitals. This approach recognizes that innovations in one type of capital can often substitute for losses in other types of capital. For example, advances in technology that improve resource efficiency can offset losses in natural capital. Weak sustainability emphasizes the importance of sustaining the aggregate value of all capitals, called inclusive wealth, over time.

"Weak sustainability makes sense as a basic framework for regional sustainability,"

said Irwin. "Regions are open economies with trade and migration flows of financial capital, goods and services, and people across space."

The distribution of capital and wealth can be very uneven across regions and cities are extreme concentrations of built and human capital. If a region lacks a resource, they rely on trade with other regions to fill the need.

But what if the resource is water, and it cannot be traded or bought? To acknowledge the constraints of essential or critical resources, Irwin, Gopalakrishnan, and Randall came up with the term weak sustainability plus. This includes the weak sustainability framework of non-declining inclusive wealth, with the addition of strong stability constraints, as needed. This means if a resource like water is limited and cannot be obtained through trade, other strategies must be developed.

A strong sustainability policy example is the State of Ohio's efforts to reduce total phosphorus loads in Lake Erie by 40%, based on 2008 levels, by 2025. Lake Erie is a unique resource and it is not possible to replace it with other types of capital.

Another way to downscale regional

RESEARCH PROFILE: Continued

sustainability efforts is to focus on the things that make one place different than another, which means place-specific or place-bound capitals that are not mobile. Irwin and Randall are pursuing this work in collaboration with other Ohio State researchers through a grant from the National Science Foundation that is supporting this work in the Great Lakes region. For Irwin, downscaling global sustainability and theory approaches to a regional scale is a worthy cause.

“At the end of the day, the decisions that are being made are being made at these local and regional scales.”

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AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Dr. Sathya Gopalakrishnan
2021 Board of Directors Association of Environmental and Resource Economists & 2021 Earth Leadership Program Fellow
- Dr. Elena Irwin
Food Systems Leadership Institute Fellow
- Dr. Wuyang Hu
AEDE Honors Coordinator & Vice Chair, College of CFAES Promotion and Tenure Committee
- Yongyang Cai
Editorial Board, Computational Economics
- Dr. Zoë Plakias
Chair-Elect, S-1088 Multi-State Research Project & Executive Leadership Board Member, OSU STEAM Factory
- Dr. Ani Katchova
New Course, Econometrics Academy

- Dr. Brian Roe
Partnership with SWACO to study local food waste

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- Climate and Grain Market Outlook
FEB 19, 2021, 10:00AM - 11:30AM
MAR 11, 2021, 10:00AM - 11:30AM
- Food Waste: Trends & Updates
MAR 5, 2021, 11:00AM - 12:00PM
- Local Food and Direct Marketing
MAR 5, 2021, 12:00PM - 1:00PM
- Farm Income and Financial Outlook
MAR 15, 2021

For information and registration,
go.osu.edu/outlook2021

- ARC/PLC for the 2021 Crop Year
FEB 25, 2021, 9:00AM - 11:00AM

To register, visit
go.osu.edu/2021cropyear

