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AEDE IMPACT

News, Research, Profiles and Ways to Connect

Message from Dr. Tim Haab

I sometimes wonder about the teamwork it takes to design and build a car. Starting from scratch you need engineers with expertise in engines. Others with expertise in transmissions. Still others with expertise in braking systems, electronics, structural framing, sheet metal, or safety. On top of that, you need designers who can make the car appealing to potential buyers, and marketing experts to understand what it is buyers want. While it may be easy to think of each of these experts separately, to really build a great car, you need to understand how all of these systems work together.

Similarly, it's easy to think of the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics as a bunch of individual faculty with individual expertise in agricultural economics, environmental economics, development economics, and regional economics. While we have faculty working on each of these systems, most of our faculty, classes, and programs cut across multiple systems to provide a better understanding of how the systems can work together.

How can more efficient nutrient management practices increase on-farm profitability and reduce nutrient loads in Lake Erie? How can the development of more efficient food systems, specialty crops, and reduced food



waste combat food insecurity? How can improved forest management reduce atmospheric carbon to global benefit? How can improved access to broadband in rural areas reduce migration out of rural communities? How might understanding the value

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of improved environmental quality lead to less costly and more equitable agricultural, environmental, and community

development policies? How can lessons learned studying food production and economic development in wealthy countries help reduce poverty and promote economic development, health, and equality in poorer countries? How can opening access to international markets support local producers and businesses?

The real excitement of being in a department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics is not just getting to work with world-class experts asking interesting and world-changing questions, but also in seeing how these experts fit together to study how our food systems, our environmental and natural resource systems, and our local, regional, and international economic systems can work together to promote a more inclusive, equitable, prosperous, and sustainable society. That is, to build a better car.

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

WAYS TO ENGAGE

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



CONGRATULATIONS DISTINGUISHED SENIORS

CFAES Distinguished Seniors

Zeke Miller and Todd Peterson

AEDE Distinguished Seniors

Blake Adams

McKenzie Davis

Joanna Eckstein

Tessa Pinkerton

Josh Strine

Alex Weiss

LECTURER PROFILE: DENISE KESTNER



AEDE lecturer Denise Kestner works in human resources and teaches two undergraduate AEDE courses: Principles of Agribusiness Management and Human Resource Management in Small Business. She brings her experience working with hundreds of small businesses into the classroom. And sometimes she even brings in the actual small business owners too.

"I love that she brought in guest speakers so we could hear directly from small business owners and make connections in the industry," says Cora Dorman who is an Agribusiness and Applied Economics major.

Kestner teaches her students the importance of people and how they relate to success of business. She structures her course to also include the study of relevant and recent

research that students access through the Harvard Business Review site, along with learning the practical applications of operating a business.

Students who take Principles of Agribusiness Management complete a self-assessment that identifies their unique strengths that they can bring to an employer and a job and how they can assist an organization in furthering its goals and mission.

Kestner says the students then work on communicating their strengths and experience through their resume and in interviews so they can show how they have utilized these strengths in the competitive work world through internships.

"I respect that the students have expertise in an area I know nothing about - agriculture," said Kestner. "I think what I bring from my experience is applicable in the industry, but they also teach me so much." 🍷

UPCOMING WEBINAR

"The Economics of US Forests as a Natural Climate Solution"

April 29, 12 PM to 2 PM

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

STUDENT PROFILES:



Two AEDE undergraduate students, Todd Peterson and Zeke Miller, have received the most prestigious undergraduate award our college bestows on its top seniors. The Distinguished Senior Award honors students for their success in academics, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.

“AEDE is really proud of Zeke and Todd’s academic success and their work outside the classroom,” said Tim Haab, professor and department chair.

Zeke Miller is a non-traditional student who came to Ohio State after serving in the U.S. Navy, followed by a job as a subject matter expert/contractor for the Navy where he ran a trouble call help desk for the weapon system he worked on while he was enlisted. He came to college with a career-orientated focus.

“I was very deliberate in determining how each class in my major would correlate to a career after

graduation,” said Miller. “The fact that close to 94% of Agribusiness and Applied Economics majors are employed or furthering their education within six months of graduation was very attractive.”

This strategy has paid off. Miller is fielding job offers and has applied to the department’s two-semester Master in Applied Economics program. Dr. Anna Parkman characterized Miller as a rock star student who from day one, jumped in with questions and engaged with faculty and staff.

“He brings discipline and professionalism,” said Parkman.

Todd Peterson’s list of accomplishments is long and varied. He is a recipient of a CFAES Newcomb Scholar award and Ohio Future Farmers of America (FFA) Star Farmer Award, which is considered the highest recognition Ohio FFA can award an aspiring young farmer who produces, manages, harvests, and then sells personal crops.


He completed an internship at Corteva Agrisciences in the Integrated Field Sciences research division. In this role, Todd developed hands-on skills related to planning and carrying out

agronomic research experiments such as operating research equipment, taking field measurements, and evaluating treatment effects.

He is dual enrolled in CFAES' Master's of Agronomy program and works in a lab researching yield and economic effects of high intensity winter wheat management in Ohio. This work will help Ohio farmers to better understand how agronomic inputs and decisions they make effect the bottom line of their business.

Despite his education and growing up on a farm, he has been surprised by just how complex farming can be and the myriad of decisions that go into it.

"Little decisions when combined can have big impacts," says Peterson. "For instance, deciding which source of nitrogen fertilizer (Urea, 28%, or Anhydrous) to use can have huge effects on yield and the bottom line."

This year's recognition of the CFAES Distinguished Seniors will occur on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021**, via a YouTube Premiere video beginning at 7 p.m. on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel. 

RESEARCH PROFILE: New policy brief examines how immigration affects Ohio and the U.S.

A policy brief just released by the C. William Swank Program in Rural-Urban Policy titled "Immigration, Jobs, Crime, and Workforce Availability: How Does Immigration Affect Ohio and the USA?" looks at existing evidence of the effect of immigration on socioeconomic outcomes for those born in the U.S.

The goal of the brief, authored by Dr. Mark Partridge, professor and chair of the C. William Swank Program in Rural-Urban Policy, and PhD candidate Sydney



Schreiner, is to examine the immigration landscape in the U.S. and specifically, the state of Ohio, to better understand the characteristics of the immigrant population and how policy can be adopted to maximize benefits for Ohio.


With the election of President Joe Biden, U.S. immigration policy is expected to shift towards family unification and supporting U.S. immigrants by providing resources to help with language barriers and financial management. The brief also dispels myths around how immigrants affect wages and crime rates.

“Existing economic studies show that immigrants in the U.S. have a relatively small effect on the wages of natives,” said Partridge. “Some think new migrants take jobs away from existing residents but really, their moving into an area creates economic opportunity.”

They also find that immigrants are no more likely to commit crimes than natives and have a relatively smaller impact on the tax burden of natives today than in earlier decades (it typically takes five years of U.S. residence before immigrants qualify for most welfare programs). Further, the number of immigrants coming into the country has slowed since the 2008-09 recession and today’s immigrant population looks very

different with respect to educational attainment, labor market outcomes, and industry and occupation of employment depending on the part of the country being considered.

“Ohio’s immigrant population is more educated and more likely to work in high-skill sectors and work in “white-collar” occupations in management, business, science, and arts,” said Schreiner. “They are more educated than Ohio’s native population on average, so they make an important contribution in alleviating a brain-drain out of state.”

The research suggests that the net effect of immigrants on American society is largely positive, especially in the long-run. The debate about immigration policy is likely to continue until citizens and policymakers can agree on the proper goals for the national immigration system and implement a system that is not viewed as creating significant social change at a pace that seems too rapid for large numbers of Americans. 

IN THE NEWS:

- *17% of food production globally wasted, UN report estimates*
Brian Roe, March 14, 2021, AP News
- *In her words: Joyce Chen*
Joyce Chen, March 2, 2021 Start TV
- *Re-entering Paris Agreement could reduce pollution, cost most Americans little*
Brent Sohngen, February 13, 2021, The Columbus Dispatch
- *Rushing to the coast – the wrong way to adapt to global warming*
Joyce Chen, February 10, 2021 Forbes
- *China phase one deal under review*
Ian Sheldon, February 3, 2021, Farm Progress