

AFRE AWARDS PROGRAM



2022

AFRE Awards Social

Welcome
Dr. Scott Swinton
Chairperson for Department of Agricultural, Food, and
Resource Economics

Dr. Laura Bix
Assistant Dean for Teaching, Learning and Academic Analytics

Presentation of Awards
Dr. Brent Ross
Associate Chairperson and Director of Undergraduate Programs

Undergraduate Committees and Organizations
Dr. Brent Ross

Undergraduate Presenters
Lisa Henry

Agribusiness Management Program
John Mann and Marcus Martin

Environmental Economics and Management Program
Dr. Brent Ross

Food Industry Management Program
Larry Zink

Outstanding Senior and Academic Achievement
Dr. Scott Swinton

Graduate Program Awards

Dr. Nicole Mason-Wardell
Associate Chairperson and Graduate Program Director

Closing Remarks
Dr. Scott Swinton

Spartans Will.

Undergraduate Scholarships

Agribusiness Management

Redmond and Edna Cotter Agribusiness Scholarship

Adam Baker, Ty Finegan, Nathan Scott, Logan Sowa, Natalie Tesluck,
and Mia Vander Hoff

Kenneth and Eleanor Coulter Scholarship

Adrian Eggleston, Corbin Haak, and James Keiffer

Harry A. Foster Scholarship

Jenna Gardner and Drew Rievert

Harsh Family Agribusiness Scholarship

Gabe Pritchard and Rachael Sena

Glynn McBride Farmers Cooperative Scholarship

Owen Boyce, McKenna Broughton, Madelyn Cary,
Noelle Chan, Michael Dodde, Emily Rood, Brice Walther, Hayley
Wineland, and Garrett Zuver

Environmental Economics and Management

Ralph and Patricia Hepp Undergraduate Scholarship

Leigha Boes, Francesca Brusca, Jennifer Cronin, Lexi DiPietro, Marley
Huijgen, Destiny Itela, Rose McAloon, Carrick Randall, and
Alex Seelbinder

Food Industry Management

The Jack Allen/Tom Pierson Endowed Scholarship

Scott Fallon, Grant Lemirande, Emily Rick, and
Christopher Scherer

James D. Giannestras Memorial Scholarship

Jesus Raya

Jake & Maxine Ferris Undergraduate Study Abroad Scholarship

Matthew Feighner

Undergraduate Policy Committee Student Representatives



Lexi Gavlas



Riyaad Ahmid

Undergraduate Recruitment Committee Student Representative



Nikunj Agarwal

National Agri-Marketing Association



MSU NAMA Team in Kansas City

Sustainable Business Association



E-Board: Noelle Chan (President), John Olson (V.P), Francesca Brusca (Secretary), Juliette Chojnacki (Treasurer), Jennifer Cronin (Social Media Coordinator), Griffin Turner (Public Outreach Chair)

Outstanding Senior Award and Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in Agribusiness Management

Ryan Stefl



Ryan Stefl is an Agribusiness Management senior with a minor in Horticulture. Ryan is from Plainwell, Michigan. During his time at MSU, Ryan was active in IM sports, and as a teaching assistant. He also worked at the Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Farm. Ryan's plans after graduation are to move to Dubuque Iowa to pursue a career in the grain industry working for Gaviion Grain.

Outstanding Senior Award in Food Industry Management

David Gordon

David Gordon is a Food Industry Management Senior from Detroit, MI. During his time at MSU, David participated in JUDO, Taekwondo, and the boxing club. After graduation David will be moving to Panama for a year to visit family.



Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in Food Industry Management

Jinlong Zhou

Jinlong Zhou is a Senior in Food Industry Management. Jinlong is from Troy MI. During his time at MSU, Jinlong had an internship with, and plans on a career with Gordon Food Service after graduation.



Outstanding Senior Award in Environmental Economics & Management

Lexi Gavlas



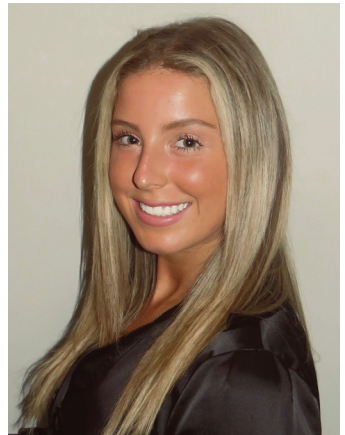
Lexi Gavlas is a Senior Environmental Economics and Management major with a minor in Spanish. She is from Portage, MI. During her time at MSU Lexi was a member of the MSU Run Club, served as president of the MSU Sustainable Business Association and a student representative

for the Undergraduate Policy Committee. Lexi has completed internships at Kalsec Inc. and Meijer Companies LTD. After graduation, Lexi plans to work in market research for Food & Beverage firms.

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in Environmental Economics & Management

Sophia Warren

Sophia is an Environmental Economics and Management major from Grand Rapids, MI. In college, she was a youth engagement representative for the UN Food Systems Summit, community volunteer for her sorority, and research assistant regarding trends in the agri-food system and consumer outcomes. During her internship at Bayer, she assisted in managing client stakeholders and consulting partnerships. She also conducted data research and worked on a project called "The True Value of Food."



She has an interest in the integration of sustainable practices and a passion for social change. After Graduation, she will be moving to Chicago to pursue a job within the consumer-packaged goods industry.

2021 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

Gregory Boudreaux

"Economic Damages of Water Quality Warnings at Great Lake Beaches"

Major Professor: Frank Lupi



Greg was awarded the 2021 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award for his thesis, "Economic Damages of Water Quality Warnings at Great Lake Beaches." Before attending MSU, Greg earned his bachelor's degree in Economics from Loyola University of Chicago. Greg's research interests include agri-environmental policy, climate economics, and political economy. In his thesis, Greg estimated the damages to consumers of poor recreational water quality from beach closings as well as harmful algal bloom warnings and bacterial warnings. He also estimated the duration of effects on beach goer preferences of such warnings by considering both current and lagged effects.

"I'm very grateful to receive this award, and for my time at MSU," said Greg. "I learned so much about how to be a researcher and colleague in this profession. I'm especially thankful for the mentoring of my major professor, Frank Lupi, who gave me the freedom within his initial project framework to brainstorm and execute the ideas which became my thesis. I'm also deeply thankful for the guidance and mentoring of my thesis committee members, Dr. Brent Sohngen and Dr. Scott Swinton, and for the friendship and advice of the 2018 AFRE graduate cohort. Alan Xu, Sophia Tanner, and the combined MSU-OSU interviewer team provided invaluable assistance throughout the process, and this research would not exist without their hard work. AFRE is an ideal academic and professional atmosphere, which provided rigorous training in applied economics while allowing me the flexibility to build the program that worked for me."

Reflecting on his experience working with Greg, Professor Frank Lupi wrote, "I had the great pleasure of working with Greg on his M.S. thesis valuing economic damages to Great Lakes beaches due to hazards like algal blooms and bacteria, which is highly germane to policy and is at the cutting edge of his field. I have fond memories of riding in a car searching for beaches (open, closed, and non-existent) as a part of this stellar work, all along getting to know Greg, his wonderful laugh, and his inextinguishable spirit."

Greg currently lives in Chicago and is an Economist with the U.S. Army Corps Engineers. Later this year, he will be joining the Ph.D. program in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California-Davis.

2021 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award

Christine Sauer

“Three Essays on the Evolving Agrifood System in Tanzania”

Major Professor: Thomas Reardon

Dissertation Committee Co-Chairs: Thomas Reardon and
David Tschirley

Christine was awarded the 2021 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award for her dissertation, “Three Essays on the Evolving Agrifood System in Tanzania.” Before attending MSU, Christine earned her bachelor’s degree at Grand Valley State University with a double major in Economics and Spanish. She then worked for Meijer as a marketing analyst, studying the store’s personalized rewards and digital coupon systems.



Christine’s research interests include supply chain analysis, agrifood system transformation, food security, and development economics. In her dissertation, Christine studied the spatial patterns of processed food consumption, the dynamics of

the maize flour value chain, and whether the poor pay more for food, all in Tanzania. “It is an incredible honor to win the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award,” Christine said. “AFRE is a world-renowned community of scholars, and I am very grateful to receive such recognition for my dissertation. Thank you to the departmental committee for this distinction. I would also like to thank my committee members, and especially my major professor, Tom Reardon, for helping me throughout the Ph.D. It takes a village, and I wouldn’t be the researcher I am without them. Finally, I must acknowledge the support of my cohort-mates, friends, and family, because I don’t know how I would have gotten through without their love and friendship.”

Reflecting on the experience of working with Christine on her thesis, University Distinguished Professor Tom Reardon notes, “Christine is the supreme combination of academic rigor, field survey experience, supportiveness of field collaborators, intellectual creativity, tremendous enthusiasm for her work and discoveries, and an infectious joie de vivre. Her work on food system transformation in Tanzania is ground breaking, and already resulted in the publication of an article in a top field journal (*Agricultural Economics*) and others in the pipeline. She is a dynamo!”

Christine is currently a Research Agricultural Economist in the Crops Branch in the Market and Trade Economics Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service.

2022 Graduate Research Symposium Best Presentation Award

Caitlin Herrington

“Rural Bangladeshi Consumers’ (Un)Willingness to Pay for Low-Milled Rice: Implications for Zinc Biofortification”

Major Professors: Mywish Mareedia and David Ortega



Caitlin Herrington joined the AFRE Ph.D. program in the fall of 2019. Her research is focused in international development and food and agricultural policy. Prior to joining AFRE, Caitlin spent five years working as a research analyst with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), based in Washington, DC, in the HarvestPlus Program. Caitlin's professional experience also includes working as a research and evaluation associate in agricultural finance at Opportunity International, a global microfinance institution based in Chicago, IL. She holds an M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from Kansas

State University and B.S. degrees in Plant Biology and Agricultural Business Management from North Carolina State University.

As zinc is considered a severe public health issue in Bangladesh, the paper Caitlin presented at the Graduate Research Symposium focused on rural Bangladeshi consumers' acceptance of two zinc-rich rice products. One rice product is a variety bred to have greater zinc content while the other achieves increased zinc via less milling. Nutritional information was varied to assess its impact on consumers' willingness-to-pay for these products with and without information. Results of the economic experiments suggest that with nutritional information, consumers are willing to pay a premium of nearly 5% for zinc biofortified rice compared to non-biofortified rice, when milled at the same level. However, results confirm the strong preference for high-milled rice by Bangladeshi consumers who discounted low-milled rice by 8-10% even after receiving information on the nutritional benefits of biofortified or low-milled rice. Given the consumer preference for high-milled rice, this study also points to the need for exploring the rice fortification strategy, in addition to biofortification, to address the challenge of malnutrition.

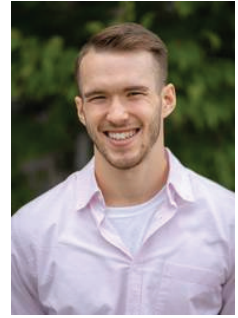
Recipients of an A. Allan Schmid Fellowship in Institutional Economics



Valerie Kilders



José Quintero



Aaron Staples

AFRE Graduate Student Organization Leaders and Graduate Policy Committee Student Representatives



Hanna Carlson
President



Judhajit Chakraborty
Vice President



Sampriti Sarkar
Secretary-Treasurer



Dahye Kim
Office Representative



Valerie Kilders
Social Chair



Rania Lachhab
Webmaster



Kelsey Hopkins
Brown Bag Chair



Carolina Vargas
First Year Liaison



Rubait Rahman
Co-Op Treasurer



Sibbir Ahmad
COGS Representative



Ian Fisher
M.S. Representative



The Department of Agricultural,
Food, and Resource Economics



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