

News & Activities

Heartfelt thanks to Abby Anthony and Brandon Fuller for taking on the Alumni Spotlight as well as all of you who are ever willing to send your update...



Jon Aliri magically appears in multiple places at once – as an adjunct instructor teaching sections of our principles courses as well as running The Bookstore, doing more with less. He is also madly enjoying his granddaughters and new grandson — and, like the Virgin Mary, without conceiving a single offspring.

Doug Dalenberg remains in awe of the strong teaching and inspired research of his colleagues in economics. Jeff Bookwalter continues to transform Doug into a macroeconomist and Doug is looking forward to teaching both introductory and intermediate macroeconomics in the fall and he is delighted that ECNS 325: Sports Economics is now a permanent course. He continues to enjoy his work with Wayne Freimund in Forestry helping Glacier National Park with their planning. But, of course, all of that pales in comparison to the magic of the Chicago Cubs in 2016.

Go Cubs Go!

Derek Kellenberg is working on several papers related to trade evasion, corruption, and environmental agreements. One of these papers, titled “Misreporting Trade: Tariff Evasion, Corruption, and Auditing Standards” was recently published with co-author Arik Levinson as NBER working paper w22593.

Jennifer Muser, who came to us from Illinois, divides her time between UM Economics and Bernice’s, which is the coolest bakery ever and provides endless real-life examples for class. She also edited ancillary textbook content last year — not nearly as exciting as teaching — and spent some time warming up to run the half marathon.

Inside this issue:

Alumni Spotlight	3
Graduate Program	8
Undergraduate Program	8
Publications	11
Alumni News	12

Research Professor **Richard Erb** continues to monitor and analyze the unconventional and controversial monetary policies adopted by central banks in a number of developed countries since the 2008 financial crisis. These unconventional policies include massive central bank holdings of government bonds and other financial instruments, extended periods of negative real interest rates and in some countries experiments with negative nominal interest rates.

Dr. Erb has also been analyzing the impact of exchange rate swings on the operational decisions of companies conducting business in one or more foreign countries. Operational decisions include sales, marketing, procurement and personnel decisions. There is an extensive academic literature on the impact of exchange rate swings on company financial decisions but relatively little on the impact on company operational decisions.

Joanna Shelton continues to focus on domestic and international economic developments, writing a monthly column in the *Missoulian’s* “InBusiness” section the first Sunday of each month and in her blog, <http://joannashelton.blogspot.com>. She also has been busy promoting her new book about 19th-century Japan, *A Christian in the Land of the Gods* (Cascade Books, 2016), in travels throughout the United States and Japan. Japan’s largest publisher, Bungei Shunjū, will translate and publish her book later this year. An excerpt is available on her website, www.joannashelton.com.

Bowling Results...



Colin Murray, a major in Finance now with just a minor in Economics, won the Fall Bowling Extravaganza. Prior to Colin's victory, the trophy was held by Madison Cole.

Maddie first claimed victory in the fall of 2014 and, according to our records, was the **first woman** to win this heady prize. In 2015 Madison repeated her performance to retain the honor. Maddie could not participate this fall, but one wonders ...

Thanks to the generosity of **Trent Taher** (BA, '07), the Department is pleased to announce a new undergraduate scholarship available to Economics majors. Trent committed to a multi-year agreement to fund the Taher-Dalenberg Scholarship in order to give back to the University and honor the department's commitment to giving undergraduates individualized attention. The strong tradition of generous and successful alumni continues to support the department. This new scholarship joins the Kain-McKay Scholarship, the Louis F. Kinney Economics Scholarship, the Martin and Rhoda Farris Scholarship, the JHT Ryman Fellowship, the Baldrige Fund, and the David and Monica Paoli Fund in supporting students in the department.

Thank you Trent!

Your Contribution

Contributions from Economics alumni and friends fund a variety of departmental initiatives, student scholarships and other enrichment opportunities such as guest and seminar speakers. Thank you for your support!

If you would like to support Economics, please send a check or money order to the University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula MT 59807-7159, with a note in the memo line designating "Economics 330." Contributions can also be made [online](http://hs.umt.edu/econ/donate.php) <http://hs.umt.edu/econ/donate.php>

For more information about making a gift, but with no obligation to do so, please contact Jeff Bookwalter in Economics at jeff.bookwalter@mso.umt.edu or Marci Bozeman of the UM Foundation at marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu (406.243.2646).

Alumni Spotlight

This past fall we asked both undergraduate and graduate economics students what, if anything, they would ask a past economics student about being a major, entering the workforce, whatever. After compiling the questions, we found two willing victims to respond to some of those questions — Abigail Anthony and Brandon Fuller. Abby and Brandon were undergraduate and graduate students at roughly the same time. After graduation Brandon moved to the Bay area to work for Aplia, while Abby continued her education in a doctoral program at the University of Rhode Island.

Abigail Anthony (BA '02, MA, '04) is the director of the Grid Modernization Initiative and the Rhode Island Office of the Acadia Center (<http://acadiacenter.org/>). Abigail leads Acadia Center's Grid Modernization and Utility Reform initiative, focusing on changing regulatory and economic incentives in order to achieve a sustainable and consumer-friendly energy system. A Rhode Island native, Abigail is based in the Providence office and has played a leading role in advancing the state's energy efficiency procurement policies, particularly through her appointment by Governor Chafee to the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council. Abigail received her PhD in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Rhode Island where she researched the effectiveness of demand response in maintaining system reliability under climate change scenarios and was a selected symposium scholar for the Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research. While at URI, Abigail was a fellow in the National Science Foundation Coastal Institute IGERT Program, focusing on multidisciplinary problem-solving in coastal ecosystems.



Is math that important?

Yes. At a minimum, you will be more competitive in the working world if you can analyze data and information to make decisions and recommendations. A solid grasp of basic statistics and comfort with Excel go a long way! For students considering pursuing graduate degrees in Economics, I strongly recommend mastering calculus and statistics while an undergrad, even if that means retaking a course or two. Don't try to build on a shaky foundation.

What internships they would suggest while I'm in school?

In my limited experience, I've found that the time commitment and structure of the internship is a significant determinant of how valuable the experience is. For example, the best interns at Acadia Center are those students who come to work in our office on a full- or nearly full-time basis. For example, student interns who come to the office consistently 4-5 days per week have a much better experience than students who work from home or only come in 1-2 days per week. The duration of an internship (one month, summer, a full year) is less important. Getting exposure and being part of the full "rotation" of our work is beneficial. Being physically in the office to experience our work culture, approach, issues, and relationships makes the internship experience more fulfilling.

How did you gain exposure to professional environments and networks during your time as a student?

Over the course of conducting research for my doctorate I attended every public meeting that I could find on the subject. Exposure to real world debates and experiencing how stakeholders were talking about this issue from different perspectives added depth to my understanding of the economic theory. I encourage students to seek out venues such as town council meetings; public hearings; planning boards, etc. Most of the time people are thrilled that students are interested in their work!

What non required course would you say helps the most in furthering your economic knowledge/abilities?

I took a couple of classes in the University of Montana law school that I draw on often. Lawyers are trained to think creatively in order to build arguments. Rather than looking at the information that is there, lawyers are often looking at what *isn't* there.

What's the most helpful study resource?

Your "Econ 101" text books! Again, don't build on a shaky foundation. Everything in economics builds on basic principles and theories. When I was preparing for my doctoral defense, I went back to my high school economics text books. If you're having trouble understanding a more advanced concept, return to the basic underlying theory and then build it up again by adding small pieces of information.

What kind of other schooling goes well with an economics degree

I have co-workers and colleagues with a wide range of useful combinations, including public policy; applied math; law; and philosophy. One combination that I suspect could be very powerful is engineering and economics.

What surprised you the most in the transition from the world of school to the world of work?

What I like most about the working world is that I'm surrounded by colleagues who are deeply committed to the same thing that I am (climate change), and their approach to the climate change challenge makes sense to me. In undergrad and graduate school I always struggled academically and felt as though I didn't fit in. In particular, in graduate school it seemed that my classmates all loved the research aspect of economics and I was the only one that hated it. When I left school, I found a career and job that utilized my strengths. I finally felt good at something and my colleagues and I approach problems similarly.

How did you find your job?

I was in a dark, depressing place in the middle of graduate school and was considering quitting. I responded to a job posting at Acadia Center and met with the President for coffee. My academic research was very aligned with Acadia Center's work and I knew a few people in the industry from attending all the meetings I describe above. We ended up with a great arrangement in which I worked part-time for Acadia Center for 2 years while I finished graduate school and then joined full time.

How important is getting a doctorate in Economics to help a student's career – masters or doctorate?

Graduate school allows you to pursue research in an area that you are interested in. Your academic research can be a wonderful opportunity to meet people in the field and build a network, learn about different career options, and refine your understanding of what aspects of economics you enjoy and are good at. If you are fortunate to find a reasonable job coming out of undergrad, you

Alumni Spotlight *(continued)*

can get many of these benefits on the job. Consider working for a number of years to develop a clear reason for pursuing a graduate degree.

I recommend understanding your strengths, weaknesses, and interests and choosing degree programs and career options that align with your interests, maximize your strengths, and teach you to manage your weaknesses.

A couple of additional thoughts that don't exactly fit into your questions:

Most of my colleagues at Acadia Center went to Harvard or Yale, or other Ivy League schools. At first I was very intimidated by these top-notch pedigrees. But with time I realized that 1) I am as smart and capable as the Ivy Leaguers, and 2) my colleagues are just as insecure and doubtful of their abilities as me. We all have to be vulnerable enough to ask questions and not fear looking stupid. The University of Montana exposed me to a world that I didn't even know existed: the intersection of our environmental challenges with economic tools. I learned how microeconomic tools can be applied to water and forest management, land use decision-making, and climate change. Be confident in your skills and your enthusiasm for learning and you will get far.

When I was in graduate school, all of my peers and mentors were in academia or research. All of my classmates wanted to become professors. Everyone I knew with a Ph.D. was pursuing or had an academic career. I thought something was wrong with me because that was the last career I wanted. I didn't have any role models of Ph.D.'s in other career paths. I felt inadequate and conflicted for years until I started to meet others, like me, pursuing all sorts of careers outside academia. Looking back, I can't believe how much mental and emotional energy I wasted worrying that I was doing something wrong with my life. Trust yourself. Don't make decisions based on what other people are doing. If you can't find a role model, move forward and keep looking.



Brandon Fuller (BA, '01, MA '03) is Deputy Director and Research Scholar at the Marron Institute <http://marroninstitute.nyu.edu/>. Fuller is also part of the founding team at the Urbanization Project, a Marron-affiliated research center at NYU's Stern School of Business. The work of the Urbanization Project is focused on rapid urbanization in low and middle income countries. Fuller chairs the Board of Directors for Refugee Cities, a non-profit dedicated to expanding the options of displaced people by promoting special-status settlements in which they can engage in meaningful, dignifying, and

rewarding work. He is an adjunct scholar in the Niskanen Center's immigration department. Fuller is also an advisor to Utopia, an urban planning and design firm focused exclusively on slums. Prior to joining NYU, Fuller was Director of Charter Cities, a non-profit that focused on the potential for new cities to advance reform in rapidly urbanizing countries. Before that, Fuller was part of Aplia, an education technology start-up founded in the San Francisco Bay Area. Aplia provides interactive online problem sets and experiments designed to increase student effort and engagement in brick-and-mortar college courses.

Is math that important?

Yes. Even if you don't end up using advanced math on a day-to-day basis, math-intensive college courses are a signal of ability to prospective employers. Familiarity with math, and particularly statistics, will also make you a better consumer of quantitative analysis—something that is valuable for lots of careers paths even if you yourself aren't producing such analyses.

What internships they would suggest while I'm in school?

There's a tendency to overvalue internships with established organizations that have strong brand recognition—even if the tasks on offer to interns are pretty boring. Consider start-up organizations with a strong founder or a founding team that shares some of your interests and passions. By their very nature start-ups tend to offer a much wider and more interesting array of tasks than you'll find in an established organization—which is a good thing if you're an intern looking to pick up skills and experience. If you're more academically inclined, read up on the work of active scholars and look into research internships with those whose work inspires you. Whether you're looking at a start-up or an individual researcher (or an established org), be sure you go to them with a value proposition. Understanding their work and making the case that you can actually do something useful to advance their work will be better received than simply asking them if they'll give you an internship. In formulating your value proposition, remember the previous question about math.

How did you gain exposure to professional environments and networks during your time as a student?

Be sure to leave a strong impression on the professors from whom you take courses, particularly those in your major. Professors are important nodes in your fledgling network and their recommendations are important signals to anyone considering you for a job, an internship, or an advanced degree. To get professional exposure, build a body of work aside from good coursework. Some examples: write a publishable master's thesis or capstone paper, find a way to contribute to the research of one of your advisors, or write an oped on an important issue that allows you to showcase your command of subject matter in your degree program.

What non-required course would you say helps the most in furthering your economic knowledge/abilities?

Dick Barrett's International Trade course was a highlight for me. It was the right mix of challenging and topical. The course was a tipping point for me, after which I truly began to "think like an economist."

What kind of other schooling goes well with an economics degree

As a student, I always had good study/teamwork experiences with peers who were double-majoring in Economics and Business-Finance. It's a tough combo so it's no surprise that the folks who did it were especially sharp and hard working. As an undergrad, I was more inclined to use my electives in the humanities — English Literature and History in particular. My coursework in the humanities was, in retrospect, a good way to become a better writer.

Coursework in psychology — which became quite influential in economics over the past few decades — would be an interesting complement. Policy analysis and economics go well together so coursework in Political Science might be interesting too. Math and economics go well together, particularly if you plan to go to graduate school. I like the idea of a Journalism-Econ double as well — numerous journalists with some statistical capabilities are doing some of the most exciting work these days.

Alumni Spotlight *(continued)*

Which aspect of your education/experience at UM made you a competitive candidate for jobs?

Math does not come naturally to me but UM's economics department is rich with teaching talent. With help from outstanding professors, I stuck it out and excelled in math-intensive economics courses, which helped me stand apart as a job candidate. I also took an interest in the work of my professors and took advantage of the opportunity to do research with them. In graduate school, I took my role as a teaching assistant seriously, learning what I could from the department's talented educators and developing my own capacity and passion for education. Finally, a number of my professors instilled in me the value of writing and communicating as clearly as possible — something that has served me well in my career ever since.

How important is getting a doctorate in Economics to help a student's career – masters or doctorate?

For a traditional academic career—a tenure/tenure-track faculty position at a four year research university—a PhD is a must. A PhD is also a plus if you want to focus your career on research and you want the freedom to lead your research projects and teams. With a master's degree, I've made my way to a role in a research institute. My role primarily involves management but also includes some research of my own and some research in support of others. I like this mix but if I were inclined to do more research it is very likely that a PhD would help.

If you're an alum and would be willing to take a whack at these questions, please drop me a note. If you'd rather not answer these or any other questions, at least let us know what you are doing and how you have spent your time since leaving UM.



ECON WEAR!

Hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies — in stock in the Economics Office (LA 407).

Debit/credit card orders still need to be processed through the Bookstore; goods can be purchased with cash and checks in the front office .



Graduate Program

Our graduate students from 2015 have gone on to bigger things: Yoonsoo Nam (MA, '15) is at WSU in a doctoral program in Finance. Jesse Young (MA, '15) is pursuing a doctorate in Forestry from Northern Arizona University and Neil Bennett (MA, '15) is in the doctoral program in Economics at UC Irvine.

As these 4 students were completing their work here, **Erik Kappelman** (BA, '14; MA, '16) decided to begin a graduate degree, even as he was completing his undergraduate work. Erik defended his thesis, "Empowerment and Subjective and Emotional Well-being in South Africa" under the tutelage of Amanda Dawsey, together with Doug Dalenberg and David Patterson from Mathematical Science. Erik swiftly accepted a position in Helena with the State of Montana Department of Transportation.

Kaci Felstet is working on finishing her Master's Thesis on microlending and its impact on fertility in Thailand. She plans to graduate in May and find a job where she can utilize the skills she learned over the past two years. Kaci is joined by 7 other graduate students: Shefije Miftari, Sam Peevey, Tina Cummins, Parker Fleming, Anna Guay, Martin Twer and Maddie Cole. **Shefije Miftari** is investigating the socio-economic and climatic drivers of population migration in the mountainous northwestern US. She will graduate in May and find a fully satisfying and fulfilling job that perfectly utilizes all of the skills she learned as a graduate student. **Tina Cummins** is currently writing her thesis on the impacts of oil and gas booms in the Rocky Mountain region and completing required classes for her MS in Business Analytics. When she finishes in May she plans to pursue a job as a data scientist. **Parker Fleming** is finishing a thesis on the determinants of individual welfare in South Africa. After graduation in May, he is getting married this summer and looking at PhD programs. **Sam Peevey**, using the National Income Dynamics Study, is working on an analysis of whether South African households discriminated against their female children in favor of their male children. After completing his thesis, Sam hopes to find work in health analytics in the area. If that doesn't pan out, he plans to move to and look for work in the same field in the Pacific Northwest.

This past fall we welcomed **Madison Nagle** and **Dylan Cole** to the program. **Maddie** originally hails from Illinois but came to Missoula via Iowa State University where she completed her undergraduate degree in Nutritional Science. At Iowa State, Madison ran cross country and both indoor and outdoor track and competed in the 2015 Big 12 outdoor championships, the 2016 indoor championships and the 2016 outdoor championships and is completing her last year of eligibility here. She is currently trying to learn as much as she can about economics and econometrics to prepare for writing her thesis next year, "mostly by bugging Doug in his office on a daily basis." Madison is confident that the large jumble of "interests" she holds will turn into a research question. Although an Illinois native and a past-resident of Iowa, Maddie adds that Missoula is quickly becoming her favorite place. **Dylan** was an undergraduate in economics at UM who kicked around in Alaska for a year before deciding to return and spend more time with us.

Finally, **Dawson Reisig** who graduated from our program last spring decided join us this semester in the graduate program.

Undergraduate Program

A selection of senior-thesis titles from our 2016 graduates:

- Leaving the University of Montana: How student integration A/Effects probability of first-year attrition
- Economic Impact of International college students in Missoula, Montana
- Municipal Waste Kuznets Curve: An analysis on socio-economic drivers from the Netherlands
- The Federal Funds Rate and Federal Reserve Exit Strategies
- Is Montana's "24/7 Sobriety Program" Deterring Drunk Drivers?

Undergraduate Program *(continued)*

In the fall 23 students from the University of Montana participated in **The Kakehashi Project** through the Mansfield Center. Of those 23 students, four were Economics Majors: three undergraduates, Ingrid DeGroot, Jared Halvorson, Laura Sikoski, and one graduate student, Kaci Felstet, spent a week traveling around Japan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan launched the “Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs” to promote people-to-people exchanges between Japan and countries across the world and to encourage an understanding of Japan’s economy, society, history, diverse culture, politics and diplomatic relations among participants. The Kakehashi Project is the North American regional component of this exchange program.



This opportunity is designed for adventurous and mature students who have a serious interest in Asia but have not done a study abroad in or have not traveled to Japan for an extended period. The trip included meetings with government/business officials, culture tours and walking tours, lectures on Japanese society, and the opportunity to travel extensively in Japan, including in Tokyo and to other prefectures.

“As we got to know Kumamoto, one of the things I found striking is that Japan is dealing with some of the same problems when it comes to agricultural labor that rural communities across America are facing. As the Japanese experience a mass exodus of their young people to the cities, they are struggling to find other labor sources to fill ag jobs. In America, we have the same issue, we just have workers from Central and South America to ameliorate our shortage.”

Laura Sikoski and Jared Halvorson (right) experiencing Japan.



Kaci Felstet (top left) and Ingrid DeGroot (bottom left)



~ Ingrid DeGroot

“The Kakehashi Program was an amazing opportunity that allowed me to learn about different political, economic and cultural aspects of Japan. It was an honor to be selected and I hope others will have the same opportunity in the future.” ~ Laura Sikoski

Student Awards & Honors

We extend a special thank you to all of the donors and contributors who make scholarship and award funds for higher education in Economics possible. *Thank you.*

The Economics Department continues to draw outstanding students into the program. Last year's graduates consisted of 11 seniors, of whom five graduated with honors or high honors eight were double-majors, and one was a triple-major.

- ◆ **Dawson Reisig** and **Aaron Folsom** shared the **Outstanding Senior Thesis Award**.
- ◆ **Alan Warda** was recognized for his outstanding work on the **Senior Exit Exam**.
- ◆ **Jessica Stevens** was recognized by **Mortar Board** as our **Outstanding Senior** of 2016 on Senior Recognition Day. Jessica was a double major in Economics and Philosophy/Pre-law.
- ◆ **Ingrid DeGroot** was the recipient of the **Louis F. Kinney Award**, which is given to Montanans from towns of fewer than 10,000 residents. Additional monies were available in the **Louis F. Kinney Award** this spring semester and **Sean Christensen** and **Mason Gedlaman** shared these funds.
- ◆ **Laura Sikoski** is the recipient of the 2016-2017 **Kain/McKay Scholarship in Economics**.

Finally, seniors acknowledged their fellow classmates with the following: **Aaron Folsom** was recognized by his peers with the **Positive Externality Award**, as the senior whose excellence and goodwill created the most benefits to fellow classmates. **Erika Disney** received the **Superhero Award** as the senior most likely to use her economics degree to save the world. **Henry Giem** received the **Utility Maximization Award** as the senior who received the greatest happiness from their time at the University of Montana.

*Congratulations to these students for their talent,
dedication and outstanding work.*

Presentations & Publications

Presentations:

- Helen Naughton, 5th International Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference, Portland, OR, April 2016 (poster).
- Helen Naughton, W3133 Annual Meeting, “Benefits and Costs of Natural Resources Policies Affecting Ecosystem Services on Public and Private Lands,” Portland, OR, February 2016.
- Helen Naughton, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee Whitebark Pine Subcommittee Workshop. Bozeman, MT October 2014.

Publications:

Kevin Barnett, Sean A. Parks, Carol Miller and Helen T. Naughton, “Beyond fuel treatment effectiveness: characterizing interactions between fire and treatments in the US,” *Forests*, 2016, 7(10), 237; DOI:10.3390/f7100237

Helen T. Naughton, Pehr-Johan Norbäck, Ayça Tekin-Koru, “Aggregation Issues of FDI Estimation in an Interdependent World,” *The World Economy*, 2016. DOI: 10.1111/twec.12388.

Winslow D. Hansen, M.S.; F Stuart Chapin III; Helen T. Naughton; T. Scott Rupp; David Verbyla, “Forest-landscape structure mediates effects of a spruce bark beetle (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*) outbreak on subsequent likelihood of burning in Alaskan boreal forest,” *Forest Ecology and Management*, 2016, 369: 38-46.

“International Environmental Agreement Effectiveness: A Review of Empirical Studies,” with Kendall A. Houghton, Chapter 18 in *Comparative Law and Economics*, eds. Theodore Eisenberg and Giovanni B. Ramello, 2016, Edward Elgar Publishing.

Taylor, Matthew P., “Are high-ability individuals really more tolerant of risk? A test of the relationship between risk aversion and cognitive ability,” *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, August 2016.

Taylor, Matthew P., “Information Acquisition Under Risky Conditions Across Real and Hypothetical Settings,” *Economic Inquiry*, August 2016.

News from Alumni and Friends



Jen Alix-Garcia, an assistant professor with us from 2005 to 2007, is now in her 8th year at the University of Wisconsin. An Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics in the Ag and Applied Economics Department, she and her family spent last year on sabbatical in northern Spain, which was fantastic! In an effort to ensure the kids remain bilingual, they spent the holidays in Cuba and will be in Spain for most of next summer. Jen also occasionally still goes to work by bike, has a terrific group of graduate students, and some research that keeps her travelling back and forth to Mexico frequently. According to Jen, “We miss Missoula, the mountains, and the UM Economics

Department, which remains home to my moral compass (Doug) and my exercise inspiration (Jeff).” Visit AAE's new 10-month Professional Master's Program in [Resource and Energy Analysis \(REDA\)](#).



Luke Anderson (MA, '13) is working remotely for United Healthcare as an Economics Consultant. He still lives in Missoula. In 2014 he married Lauren and she is now the Director of the USTA Montana. Luke is still very active in the local cycling community and he and Lauren recently got a puppy!

Britt Carlson (BA, '06) and **Kyle Stetler** (BA, '06) continue to work at the US Government Accountability Office in Seattle. Other than full-time oversight of the two older children, Harriet (4) and Fritz (2.5), they added another one in September, Margaret (Mae) Stetler. They also bought a 720 square foot house (for way too much) and plan to build a triple bunk bed when the time is right!

Steve Cleverdon (MA, '09) lives in Olympia, Washington with his wife, Raechell, son, Henry (7 years), daughter, Lucy (5 years), and cats Bean and Bob. He's a Tax Policy Specialist 3 — a tax analyst/data geek with the Department of Revenue in the Research Division. He analyzes legislative proposals and estimates the impacts they may have on tax revenue. He also works a lot with data, whether building data sets or pulling information for stakeholders, mostly using SAS and SQL. So far he's managed to survive Washington's gloom and rain, in exchange for the ability to run or ride his bike year round in between rains. Raechell and Steve both miss Missoula and would love to find their way back someday for good beer and company. Steve spotted a bumper sticker that said, “keep Missoula beard” ...



Harriet, Fritz and baby Mae Stetler

News from Alumni and Friends *(continued)*

Brandon Fuller (BA, '01; MA, '03) and wife, Allison, gave their son, Mac, a baby sister, Elizabeth Dana, born 12 December 2016.



Ben, Yona, Netta and Zuri

In June, **Ben Cerf Harris** (MA, '07) uprooted his family — Yona, Netta and Zuri from Washington D.C. and moved to Seattle to run the Census Data Center at the University of Washington. The family loves being back in the Pacific Northwest, and Ben loves being able to once again bike to work...and he's still doing fun research.



Sue Holmberg (MA, '00) has recently pivoted from Research Director at the Roosevelt Institute in NYC to Roosevelt fellow and is conducting inequality research in the areas of climate change and corporate governance. She also has plans to teach in the Economics Department at John Jay College. Her major 2016 project was "Rewrite the Racial Rules: Building an Inclusive American Economy," a report for the Roosevelt Institute. Sue continues to live in a lively, tree-lined Brooklyn community with her husband, Tom, and children, Thea and Henry.

Caleb Lande (BA, '06; MA, '08) is still with Northern Plains Resource Council in Billings as Director of Grassroots Fundraising, working at the grassroots level to engage people in Montana to work for a variety of conservation related causes. When not working, Caleb and his wife Kristin are raising two amazing girls Nora (4) and Ava (2). The family spends as much time camping as possible during the summers, and finding whatever adventure they can during the winter months.

Dr. Gary Libecap (BA, '68), Distinguished Professor at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UC Santa Barbara, was made a Fellow of the Cliometrics Society, 2016, for statistical analysis in economic history; appointed as Research Fellow in the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 2016; named as an associate in the Global Think Tank on Wild Ocean Fisheries Management, World Wildlife Fund, 2016– ; named to the Advisory Board of the Ostrom Workshop at Indiana University, in honor of Elinor and Vincent Ostrom (Elinor Ostrom received the Nobel Prize in Economics, 2009); named to the Advisory Board, Water in the West, Stanford University, 2015; named a Fellow in the Economics and Science Group, Australian National University, 2015 – . Whew!

Adam Loewen (BA, '06) is a writer in Portland, Oregon, plays guitar for the band, Stein, is the creator of several films and web series and has just published his first book, *The Spiral Stairs* (<https://www.facebook.com/events/685879281572430/>).

Eric Mackey (BA, '09) is the Business Intelligence Developer at Benefis Health System in Great Falls where he has been working as a data analyst for several years.

Kate Marcille (BA, '10) is back! Kate landed a job with BBER as a Research Associate with the Forest Industry Research Program last January (2015) and moved back to Missoula a year ago. Kate says it feels great to be back in Missoula.

News from Alumni and Friends *(continued)*

After working for seven years as Senator Baucus' legislative director and policy advisor, **Heather O'Loughlin** (BA & BS, '03; JD, '07) is back in Montana serving as the director of research for the Montana Budget & Policy Center, a non-profit based in Helena focused on research and analysis of state tax, budget and economic policy impacting low- and moderate-income Montanans. More information on MBPC can be found at www.montanabudget.org. Heather added, "I'm spending most of my days right now hanging out with Dick Barrett in the Senate Taxation Committee. Some things don't change. Ha!"

Dawson Reisig (BA, '16) is very excited to begin his graduate program in economics this semester after completing his undergraduate degree this past spring.

Last year came and went like a whirlwind for **Joe Ramler** (BA '09, MA, '11): "In July, my wife Kody and I were blessed with our first son, Sawyer Hilgard. As many will say but nobody truly understands until they experience it, parenting proves to be both the most rewarding and challenging adventure I've tackled... And sleep is over rated. Now over seven months old, Sawyer is coming into his own and Kody and I are simply trying to keep up. Kody finished her Masters of Social Work and is now the assistant director and residential therapist at the Friendship Center here in Helena – a women's shelter and resource center for victims of domestic violence. I'm going on six years as the senior economist for the MT Department of Commerce. In that capacity, I've been lucky enough to work on a range of interesting topics. Most recently I've taken the lead on destination market analytics for our Montana Office of Tourism; trying to understand leisure traveler behaviors and their interactions with advertising has exposed me to an exciting new realm of analysis techniques and methods. Let's just say Google really does know everything about us. All in all, life is good. We're looking forward to the new adventures Sawyer has in store for us and child proofing the house."

After completing his degree, **Volodymyr Shemayev** (MA, '14) returned to Ukraine to work and last year got married! Vlad started working in the transportation sector and finally moved to the maritime industry. Just recently he was appointed as head of strategic development department at Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority. There are 13 Sea Ports in Ukraine and his responsibilities cover strategic development of port infrastructure and facilitation of stevedores' investment projects in sea ports.

Since earning his B.A. (Econ & Pol Sci, '02) and J.D. ('05) degrees at the University of Montana, **Matt Slonaker** has had the opportunity to work in a number of interesting settings. His first career stop was working on Governor Brian Schweitzer's budget team serving as an economist and tax policy analyst. In 2006, Matt began work for Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus. While serving as nonprofits policy adviser and outreach coordinator, Matt had the opportunity to work on two pieces of landmark legislation: the Affordable Care Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Matt went from staffer to advocate in 2010 upon taking a position in New York City at Care for the Homeless. At Care for the Homeless, he helped coordinate a coalition of providers of health care for the homeless in dealing with vast changes to state Medicaid policy. In August of 2013, Matt became the Executive Director of Utah Health Policy Project, after serving a year as Medicaid policy director for the organization. During this period of political transition and potential turmoil for the nation's health care system, Matt is working hard with his team and partners in the community to develop strategies that protect health care access for Utah's most vulnerable residents.

News from Alumni and Friends *(continued)*

Colin Sorenson (MA, '10) who was a research economist with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana, is now working for the US Forest Service and looking forward to this next step in his career. Colin works at the new Region 1 headquarters at Fort Missoula, under the supervision of **Jordan Larson** (BA, '04) who is the Regional Economist.

In late June, **Brian Vander Naald** (MA, '07) and his wife Anne and son, Isaac, made the short ferry trip to Skagway, Alaska and then the



Isaac, looking just a bit like his dad...

long drive to Des Moines, Iowa where he had accepted a position at Drake University. Brian and his family have found the folks in Iowa quite friendly. They bought a house and are settling in well. Isaac is 19 months old, "...very stable on his feet, and babbling about as proficiently as I did during my UM thesis defense. Anne is beginning a private massage practice and raising Isaac. Maude is not particularly happy that we moved her away from canine nirvana, but she's a lab so she's still quite agreeable."



The quite agreeable Maude keeping a vigilant eye on Isaac Vander Naald.

Schuyler Watt (BA, '14) settled on UCLA Law because his willingness to pay high tuition was low and the Bruins offered a full-tuition scholarship. First, however, Schuyler deferred his application so he could spend the fall filming hunts for the outdoor media company, Eastmans' Hunting TV. He has subsequently become a writer for their magazines. Schuyler is thrilled to have found a way to be paid for hunting. Schuyler recently married Mariah Gondeiro of Raynesford, Montana, who is at Pepperdine University Law School, and they are settling into Los Angeles. Schuyler closed with, "I'm thankful to have received such a quality education at UM. I never feel out of place amongst my "elite" classmates here at UCLA."

Bring us up-to-date on your life. Send us a note any time to give us your news. If you send us your email address (econ@mso.umt.edu), we'll notify you when the next newsletter is posted to the website.

