

## Water Utilities Attract Undergraduate and Graduate Alumni from 2007

*Lisa McPhee (B.S. 2007)*

In late February 2008 I packed up my car and headed west. I had been hunting and interviewing for the past several months since graduation and finally accepted a job in Los Angeles. Driving west across the vast Colorado desert, there are few diversions between the Arizona state line and the outskirts of Los Angeles. To the north, stemming from the San Bernardino Mountains, I noticed a series of pipes jutting from the mountain face and disappearing into the desert floor.

These pipes are the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant on the Colorado River Aqueduct, one of six such pumping facilities built, owned, and operated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Since crossing the Colorado River into California, I had been driving nearly

parallel to the canal for 126 miles and had only reached its half-way point. This canal provides a quarter of the four million acre-feet a year (1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons) of water needed by 20 million people spread across 5,200 square miles of Southern California. All these facts I found out later, after beginning work for the company that built this canal over 70 years ago.

In my first year I met with each of Metropolitan's member agencies to better understand, inventory, and quantify local water production. I then created a database and collaborated with colleagues to improve a technique for forecasting these resources. I have worked with regional groundwater managers to model groundwater basin functions for our compre-

hensive system-and-supply model. I have also used econometric techniques to model the Los Angeles Aqueduct. These allow us a more accurate understanding of the limitations and expectations of these resources.

Most recently, I have worked on Metropolitan's long-range resource plan to diversify the region's water sources through adaptive management principles that acknowledge increasing uncertainty in water planning. Among these uncertainties is climate change, and through the Water Utility Climate Alliance we have examined these challenges in depth. WUCA is



*Continued on page 7.*

*Miles H. Kiger (M.S. 2007)*

Ever wondered what economists really love? More than anything and everything? Data! That's right, data. Which is why I approached my former faculty and mentors at AREC with the idea to have them utilize what I possess and they covet: data. In this case, residential water consumption and price data. Wouldn't it be interesting to know how residents of metro Phoenix respond to changing water prices, and how non-price factors affect their residential water demand? Clearly I think so, and as it turns out so do Doctors Thompson, Megdal, and Aradhyula.

As a financial analyst for Arizona-American Water, Arizona's largest investor owned water utility, I prepare and support rate increase applications and file them with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), the regulatory body that sets consumer prices for most Arizona util-

ities. In recent years, the ACC has become more aggressive in its goal of encouraging water conservation through pricing incentives. Accomplishing this has meant changing water customer rate structures to "increasing block" structures, where initial units of consumption cost the least per unit, and ultimate units cost the most. The conservation idea inherent in this model is intuitive: as a customer uses more units of water they face higher marginal prices for their next unit of consumption thus creating an incentive to restrict usage and thereby conserve water. Increasing block water pricing structures are not uniform across the water utility industry, but they typically involve 3 to 5 blocks of us-



*Continued on page 7.*

Positive Externalities +

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## Graduate Doings

**Forster Okoli** (M.S. 2004) and his wife welcomed their first son, Chigozie, on December 5, 2009. Forster is in his sixth year as a research associate/data analyst for the Arizona State Department of Education.

**Bob Needham** (M.S. 2005) reports that he recently began working as a regional economist with the Army Corps of Engineers in Galveston, Texas. He and his wife, Joan, have a son Caiden, born in 2009.

**Andrea Borlizzi** (M.S. 2009) works at the Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria in Rome. He writes, "Even though this year was good from a job perspective, in fact, Italy is such a difficult country! Everything requires either a thousand permissions or more complicated things, so we are also considering the possibility to relocate ourselves some-



*Forster Okoli with wife and son Chigozie.*



*Andrea Borlizzi and wife Jehsel in Mexico.*

where else." In the meantime, he and Jehsel celebrated their wedding anniversary and the winter holidays in her hometown of Culiacán, Mexico.

**Haoying Wang** (M.S. 2010) is in the Ph.D. program at Penn State. He reports that he "miss[es] the close circle formed among AREC students at Arizona." Haoying says that the Ph.D. program is pretty small with a lot of attention from faculty. He has been working in urban economics (residential development in the Phoenix metro area) and in operation research (diffusion process and brand introduction dynamics)

once-in-a-life experience."

**Daniel Sellen** (M.S. 1989) is now stationed in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, but as of mid-January was actually staying in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. He continues his work as a sector leader in agriculture and rural development with the World Bank. He is a contributor to some of the World Bank's blogs as seen in this recent post (<http://blogs.worldbank.org/africacan/benin-under-water>).

but not very much in econometrics.

**Li Zhu** (M.S. 2007) writes to say that he's leaving HSBC Card and Retail Services in Las Vegas and moving to Chicago for a new job with Discover Financial Services. He notes the position will still be in risk, but in the area of portfolio management instead of collections (which he has been doing). He also flew off to China last September during the World Expo. "The scale of the Expo was way beyond my expectation. It was a

**Sonam Gupta** (M.S. 2003, Ph.D. 2009) married Abhishek Sharma in Jaipur, India on February 9th. Sonam is an assistant professor in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida.

Lots of news from **Ibrahima Wane** (M.S. 2003). "I left three months ago my BD Risk Management team in Phoenix to join the RVS team in Beaverton (seven miles west of Portland [Oregon]). I am still with Wells Fargo Bank but just decided to take on a better and higher position. Obviously, it comes with new challenges. This is a switch from the Small Business Credit Card division to the mortgage side. Part of my responsibility is to conduct bi-monthly AVM (Automated Valuation Method) testing. It consists of evaluating AVM performance and constructing AVM usage tables that optimize in efficiency/cost and also meet each Line of Business (LOB) risk tolerance level (accuracy threshold). The AVM is an alternative and fast tool in assessing mort-



*Sonam Gupta at her wedding to husband Abhishek.*

gage pricing. My team assist Wells Fargo Home Mortgage & Wells Fargo Financial in assessing the latest home valuation. I am still relatively new within the team and I am learning and enjoying the change in scenery as well. My team is open to



*Haoying Wang at Penn State.*



me going back to Phoenix and working for them from there. I will go back when I feel comfortable with all phases of the position (maybe after a year). Ibrahim also reports that he recently visited West Africa. "I visited family and friends in Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal in three weeks. I had a great time! Everyone was so nice and available. I brought a lot of gifts and gave some solid cash \$\$\$\$ but it was with pleasure (so many people in need...). The infrastructure has dramatically improved in all three countries but poverty is all over [the] place. So many challenges to overcome. If you and the rest of the AREC team have some good ideas on how to tackle poverty, please let me hear them."

**Anna Rita Germani** (M.S.



*Anna Rita with daughter Sofy.*

2000) visited April 2010 with Professor Dennis Cory and his wife, Marie, during their stay in Italy. Anna Rita and her husband, Claudio, have a daughter Sofia. "Sofia is already seven years old...time flies so fast! Can you believe that ten years have passed

since Claudio and I left Tucson in December 2000?!"

**Lana Jones** (M.S. 2008) lives in Mammoth, Arizona, a small town of not many more than 2,000 people. "It is nice to be closer to the land, and the trees and birds and lizards. Having been here almost two years now I'm beginning to see Mammoth's downsides more clearly though. I imagine they're pretty similar to most small towns with very little employment for most people. That I have two local jobs amazes me sometimes." Lana works as both a reporter for the *San Manuel Miner* newspaper and a clerk for Mammoth Public Library. She's also continued to collaborate with Pro-

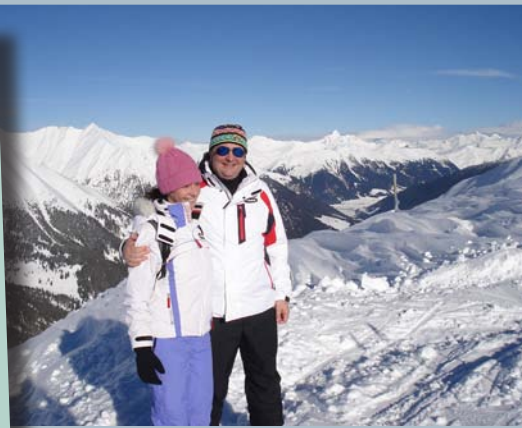


*Lana Jones now lives in Mammoth, Arizona.*

We are managing our Canada, U.S. and India commutes pretty well so far and hope we can find a way out to reduce the intra-North Amer-

currently working extensively with **Melissa Burns** [M.S. 2005] doing model reviews and validations. We basically go to different banks and review their current modeling methodology and make sure it is accurate and up to par with industry standards. The traveling is fun but tiresome. The work is very interesting, especially since I am seeing a lot of the things I learned (probability of default, loss given default, probit, logit models) from a business perspective.

DC itself is a very interesting place. I am still getting used to not being able to wear shorts and flip flops outside, those have been replaced by jackets, scarves, and gloves. The number of tourists here is incredible, it is amazing how populated this city is and yet hardly anyone refers to it as 'home.' All of the landmarks and museums sure are a sight to see. It is a lot of fun to take our visiting friends and family out to hang out on the mall, see the Jefferson, Lincoln, and Washington memorials. I hope to make it back out to Arizona in April and if so I will be stop-



*Anna Rita Germani with husband Claudio in the Dolomite Mountains near Bolzano, Italy.*

fessor Bonnie Colby and she maintains a blog about life in the country, The Happy

Hovel (<http://thehappy-hovel.blogspot.com/>).

**Haimanti Bhattacharya** (M.S. 2003, Ph.D. 2007) notes that "[w]ith the tenure clock ticking through my third year at Utah and fourth year for Subhasish, it is definitely a crucial time for us.

ican commute in the future." She is on the Economics department faculty at the University of Utah while he is in a similar position at the University of Calgary.

**Matt Mealy** (M.S. 2010) has taken a position with KPMG in Washington, DC. "Things in DC are going well. I am



*Matt Mealy and fiancée Jamia.*

ping by for a visit." Matt also has a fiancée, Jamia. [See *Visitors to the Department.*]



**Hao Lu** (M.S. 2009) reports from Cornell University where he is in the Ph.D. program that he has passed the qualifying exam and that he is being funded as a teaching assistant. He was also able to swing a trip back home to Beijing during the winter break.



*Hao Lu on the Cornell University campus.*

Current M.S. student **Fatima Luna** had a baby girl, Metzli Sol, on November 26, 2010. Little Metzli put a slight detour in her mom's plans to finish the semester first! Congratulations, Fatima!



*Fatima Luna's daughter Metzli Sol.*



*Antonio Stasi*

**Antonio Stasi** (M.S. 2008) is delighted to share the news that he has accepted an assistant professorship at the Università degli Studi di Foggia in Italy. What fabulous news, Antonio!

After staying home for some time taking care of her new son Nikhil, **Shailaja Deva** (M.S. 2006) has moved to Chicago to work at HSBC as a credit policy and risk analyst. She works on creating various collection strategies, and strategy testing and how it affects capacity planning in collections.

After spending eight years living in Tucson, **Arif Rashid** (M.S. 2004) and his wife, Jesmine, have moved their

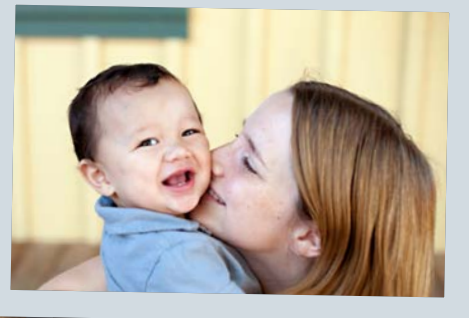
family to Washington, DC, where Arif has a new position as senior monitoring and evaluation specialist at TOPS (Technical and Operational Performance Support), a new USAID/Food for Peace-funded program. TOPS is designed to build the capacity of NGOs and UN organizations implementing food security projects. TOPS fosters collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing of food security and nutrition best practices. Prior to the cross-country move, Arif was a specialist in development economics for TANGO. "Work-wise, my current job is not very different com-

pared to what I was doing in TANGO, but it is more challenging and interesting as well. Opportunity-wise, this is a great place to be. ... [T]here is a high demand for people with quantitative skills to work in the field of monitoring and evaluation." Still, Arif laments, all family members are "finding it challenging to cope with the weather and adjust to the

high-paced lifestyle." Daughters Mashaba and Arusha "are encouraging us to return to Tucson. So you know we are missing Tucson a lot."

**Quatie Jorgensen** (M.S. 2009) writes from that she has started a new manager's job with the Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council. She says she will "travel to three different co-ops in Oklahoma and spend four months at each one. I will be learning every aspect of the co-op, grain elevators, and fertilizer, as well as managing one."

**Kimberly Bourne Chan** (M.S. 2007) writes that her son "Marcus is doing really well. He is 16 months old and full of energy. Every day is a new adventure. Right now, he is getting four new teeth in, so it's been pretty challenging. I just started



*Kimberly Bourne Chan with son Marcus.*

pecially in a developing country context. So right now I am going through data as it slowly trickles in and trying to get as much writing done as possible. If all goes as planned, I'll finish next winter or spring, which is fine. After I finish I'd love to get a job with an international development organization (like IFPRI or the World Bank)."

**Hiromi Kasuya** (M.S. 2003), writing from Tokyo, reports that she survived the Japanese earthquake of March 11th. She and her colleagues stayed up all night in their offices, unable to get home. "The quake was nothing like I've experienced in my life."

a blog with videos and pictures. There's not much on it but check it out: <http://www.gowiththeflowmom.blogspot.com/>.

**Katie Pittenger** (M.S. 2006), currently in the Ph.D. program at UC Davis, tells us



*Arif Rashid and family.*



**Anoop Gopakumaran Nair** (M.S. 2007) reports that he has a new job in Indianapolis with JPMorgan Chase. He says the move will work out well since his wife is just finishing her studies in electrical engineering.

**Ingrid Ardjosoediro** (M.S. 2003) is living in Washington, DC, and has two daughters, Mia (6) and Amelie (4). She writes: "I have changed positions (from DAI) as of last year (July 2010) and have accepted an agricultural economist position with the FAS in the office of Global Policy Analysis Division. My portfolio includes the regions of Asia and Africa and I focus on renewable bio-energy issues. ... Working for the USDA is certainly an adjustment, but



Amelie and Mia, daughters of Ingrid Ardjosoediro.

the topic I am working on is very interesting and I am surrounded by a wonderful group of commodity experts."



Heather Waters.

**Heather Waters** (M.S. 2007) has started a new job as a relationship analyst with RABO Agrifinance's Phoenix office. She is married

to Dr. Firas Marayati, a nephrologist with the Southwest Kidney Institute.

Soon-to-graduate-with-his-M.S. **Ibrahima Sall** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Arid Lands here at the University of Arizona. Similarly, **Jorge Lara Álvarez** will be headed off for Ph.D. studies at Oxford University.

Interesting news comes to us from **Niratcha (Grace) Tungtisanont** (M.S. 2010) in Thailand. She was recently named first runner-up in the Miss Thailand 2011 beauty pageant. This win carries the title Miss Thailand-Earth 2011. Niratcha will now represent Thailand in the upcoming Miss Earth/World contest. Niratcha still has plans to do her Ph.D. and has been admitted to a number of schools in the United States.

Last July 31, **Romilee Bool** (M.S. 2008) and **Kyle Emerick** (M.S. 2007) were married in the Philippines near where Em grew up. Take a look at the fabulous wedding video the couple has online at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni\\_yvzcmSVg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni_yvzcmSVg).



Romilee Bool and Kyle Emerick.



Niratcha Tungtisanont



Kyle is currently finishing his second year in the Ph.D. program at U.C. Berkeley.

At the Western Extension Committee meeting in January, AREC's **Trent Teegerstrom** presented **Bob Ebel** (M.S. 2009) with an Outstanding Young Professional Award for his use of "new media" in Cooperative Extension education programs.

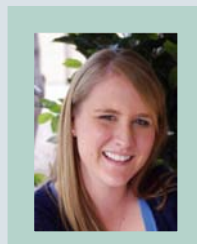
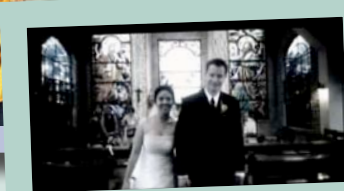
Two current AREC graduate students, **Todd Gaston** and **Kevin Ray**, have been selected to receive Water Sustainability Program (WSP) Graduate Fellowship awards. Todd is finishing as a WSP fellow while Kevin will take up his fellowship this coming year.

### Undergrad Alums

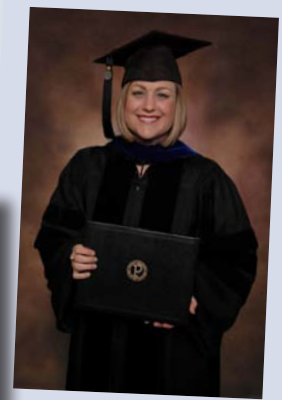
**Jamie Rovey** (B.S. 2003) and wife Kattlyn welcomed new baby girl Cait into the world in December 2010.

**Steve Kenagy** (B.S. 1986) has recently moved back with his family to California after an interlude in Nashville.

**Lisa McPhee** (B.S. 2007) continues with her job in California for the Metropolitan Water Authority of Southern California.



Chelsea Schlittenhart



Amanda Leister.

We've also heard from **Chris Tucker** (B.S. EWRE 2008) in Chicago. He writes that he is in his second year of grad school in the environmental management and sustainability program at the Illinois Institute of Technology Stuart School of Business. He is also employed by IIT Stuart "working on developing a strategic management model for Cook County with a focus on energy efficiency and conservation, and sustainable economic development."

**Chelsea Schlittenhart** (B.S. expected 2011) is AREC's outstanding senior this semester. Her next academic move is to law school in the fall.

**Amanda Leister** (B.S. 2005) was awarded her Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Purdue University in December 2010. Her M.S. is from Texas A&M University. Amanda is at ERS in the Market and Trade Economics Division. She writes that her job "employs econometric and computable general equilibrium modeling techniques to investigate the economic implications of international trade policy, focusing specifically on the Doha Development Round negotiations of the World Trade Organization."



## AREC Grad Students in Italy

Every summer, AREC grad students have the opportunity to study in Italy. In 2010 Pete Burns (M.S. 2011), Bhagyam Chandrasekharan (M.S. 2011), and Todd Gaston (M.S. 2011) headed to Naples to study econometrics and soak up Italian culture.



My four weeks in Italy, studying applied econometrics at the Centro per la Formazione in Economia e Politica dello Sviluppo Rurale, was one of the most memorable trips of my lifetime. While days were spent attending classes and interacting with fellow graduate students from the EU, evenings were spent immersing oneself in the heart-warming hospitality of my Italian landlady and her family. Despite language barriers, I was impressed by the perseverance of my Italian counterparts towards understanding the nuances of econometrics. It was also interesting to view the European perspective on agriculture and food safety concerns during a three-day conference held by the European Union. Moreover, I found that the STATA training provided in conjunction with the lectures was crucial for my future studies as a doctoral student. The beautiful Italian coastline, delicious coffee and pizza, compounded by the fervor surrounding the Soccer World Cup 2010 were merely icing on the cake. I am very grateful to Dr. Gary Thompson and the Centro for providing this unique opportunity to graduate students in our department.

—*Bhagyam Chandrasekharan*

We were lucky enough to study in Italy during the World Cup. You couldn't find a soul on the street (or at work unfortunately) during Italy's games. While they weren't champions like 2006, it was still a great experience (and probably safer for us that they didn't win). Our days consisted of taking the train to the university and sharing the company of students from diverse backgrounds in Dr. Thompson's microeconometrics class. It seemed like Italian law dictated multiple espresso breaks throughout the day, which no one complained about. Lunches were the peak of each day, as we frequented the world famous Neapolitan pizzerias.

The program was gracious enough to invite us to the beautiful Island of Capri for a seminar on sustainability in the food chain. We attended presentations from experts across the European Union. We also took some time to explore the island, even battling jellyfish to swim into the famed Blue Grotto. Our flexible schedule allowed us other travels, as we enjoyed the Greek ruins in Sicily, sightseeing in Rome, and strolling the canals in Venice. Our accommodation outside of Naples, however, was the highlight of the trip. The three of us stayed with an Italian woman, who unofficially adopted us, declaring immediately upon our arrival that we call her "Mamma." She taught us Italian customs and, of course, how to make the perfect pasta sauce. Her daughters brought us into their circle of friends, showing us the nightlife and best kept secrets hidden from tourists. Our rooms looked over the Tyrrhenian Sea and black sand beaches from the infamous Vesuvius eruption were only a short walk away. Overall, we couldn't have asked for a better trip or a more authentic experience in one of the most unique places on earth.

—*Pete Burns*



*Bhagyam Chandrasekharan* (M.S. 2011) is engaged to marry Durgaprasad Radhakrishnan on June 12. The main festivities and ceremonies will take place in Chennai, India, with another reception the following week in New Dehli.

Congratulations, Bhagyam!





## Undergrad Alum Spotlight: Patricia Grant

I am an Arizona native who was raised a Wildcat fan. I graduated from the University of Arizona in May of 2005 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and management with the business option. While at the University of Arizona, I was a CALS Ambassador, Sigma Alpha member, and a student worker for the AREC department and Dr. Bonnie Colby.

Prior to graduation I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do with my degree, but I did know that I wanted to stay in Arizona and in the agriculture industry. During one of my senior-level AREC courses, I learned of a summer internship with Farm Credit Services Southwest (FCSSW) in the Tempe office. I began the internship right after graduation in May 2005. As an intern, I was able to interact with all positions and see first-hand that a

career with FCSSW was definitely something I was interested in. It allowed me to stay in Arizona, remain a part of the agriculture industry, and utilize my degree.

I was fortunate enough to be hired full time as a loan officer trainee for the Tempe Branch in July of that summer. In this position, I worked with the Credit Analyst Department learning how to spread and analyze financial information and underwrite loans. I was able to put all those hours of accounting, business, and financial management and economics to good use. I moved into a loan officer/portfolio manager position within the Tempe Branch in 2007, at which time I was given a portfolio of various-sized agricultural loans, including crop, dairy, and livestock, to manage. This position allowed me to get out of the office and interact more with our borrowers, in addition to underwriting loans. As a portfolio

manager, I was also responsible for marketing for new business.

I am currently an assistant vice president/portfolio manager in the Special Assets Department, working closely with impaired loans that have deteriorated for various reasons, often the economic downturn. I am responsible for developing and implementing strategies for impaired loans including restructuring, monitoring, and when necessary, collection. I am still utilizing skills obtained through my degree; I often think about Dr. Wilson's AREC 450 course when I am completing a least-cost analysis on one of my accounts.

Even though it has landed me living in the middle of "Devil" territory, FCSSW was the right career path for me; I enjoy knowing that I am apart of an association that is helping to keep agriculture alive. Bear Down!

—Trisha Grant

*Lisa McPhee continued from p. 1.* a collaboration of ten national drinking water utilities serving over 40 million people. We have engaged federal policy makers and influenced legislation, met with climate scientists and modelers, researched climate modeling and downscaling, and worked to incorporate climate data into water planning models.

The past few years have seen unprecedented challenges in water resource management and I have been active in developing, implementing, and evaluating Metropolitan's shortage allocation plan. I have also worked with agencies throughout the state to model their systems and integrate these models to inform studies evaluating the economic impact of water shortages in California. In the three years I have been at Metropolitan working in resource

analysis, I have regularly gotten to work and collaborate with other top professionals, scientists, and researchers on rewarding and relevant challenges in modeling, demographics, climate, ethics, economics, law, policy, risk evaluation, resource development, politics, and hydrologic forecasting. I have continually applied and built on the skills I learned during my studies in environmental and water resource economics at the University of Arizona.

A few times a year I repeat the pilgrimage I made in February 2008 as I return from visiting family in Arizona. I mentally follow the water from a snowflake in the Rocky Mountains, run off past countless water rights in the Colorado River Basin, into Metropolitan's canal, across the desert, stored in a number of possible destinations, fed to

819 miles of distribution network via one of five treatment facilities, and out the tap of some unsuspecting Southern California resident. A resident who, like me three years ago, may occasionally take note of an incongruous set of pipes coming from a mountain north of the I-10 freeway.

*Miles H. Kiger continued from p. 1.* age, with each block containing a certain allocation of units (with a unit typically equaling either 1,000 gallons or 100 cubic feet), and each block possessing a higher unit price than the prior block. As the ACC and utilities continue to pursue a water conservation agenda through alternative pricing structures, it will be important to document the extent to which higher marginal prices affect water consumption and thus conservation.

Participating in the aforementioned conservation pricing developments has been an exciting element of my job at Arizona-American Water. Furthermore, it has piqued my academic interest in a fundamental water resources economics question once again (my thesis examined the effects of the arsenic standard on Arizona public water systems), which is why I chose to reach out to AREC. I have access to reams of residential water consumption and price data, and because I don't have the time or proper resources to analyze these data myself, I offered them to AREC and AREC graciously agreed to analyze them. I know there could be some fascinating implications buried in all that data and I look forward to facilitating AREC in this interesting and relevant water resources project.



## New Arrivals



There are some new faces around the Department these days. **Amanda Vescovo** came to AREC last fall as our new Undergraduate Coordinator and has had an unending stream of undergrad majors flowing into her office. Amanda is a UA alum (B.A. 1998, sociology) and also has an M.Ed. from National University in San Diego. She was a teacher before she came to us. Amanda is married and has three small children including twins.



**Paula Schachter** has also joined us as our new business manager. She has many years' experience as an office manager and part-owner of an aerospace R&D firm. Paula and her husband (a music professor) are recent transplants from Pennsylvania, moving to Tucson "because we fell in love with the Sonoran Desert and wanted to be able to enjoy it while we are still young and able." Paula is also involved with animals

and wildlife. She volunteers at an animal rescue facility, and at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum she can be found in the Interpretive Animal Center doing "really glamorous stuff like cleaning animal pens and hand feeding kestrels."

## Departures

**Heather Jepsen**, who was our undergraduate coordinator, has moved to a new position in the Department of Computer Science.

AREC research associate **Rosalind Bark** (Ph.D. 2006 Arid Lands, water resource economics) has joined CSIRO (Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organization) in Adelaide, Australia. Rosalind is a resource economist in the Water for a Healthy Country program. She notes that the program is highly interdisciplinary, with contributions by resource economists as well as social scientists, hydrologists, and climatologists.

## Friends of AREC

**Rafiq Fahs** has been promoted to vice president at JP Morgan Chase in Phoenix.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean **Eugene Sander** is retiring after 24 years.

## Grad Students Field Team Again

Continuing on from the 2009–2010 academic year, the AREC intramural sports team had another "season" playing basketball in fall 2010. Pete Burns tells us that "Despite our 0-3 record, we played hard

and had fun. Jacob was especially disappointed in this picture, as we had just lost our last game to the Law School team by 3 points." A disappointment certainly, but there's always next season!



Top row, left to right: Jacob Kavkewitz, Pete Burns, Todd Gaston, Ben Albright. Bottom row, left to right: Tom Bower, Jorge Lara Alvarez, Dave Watson.

## Visitors to the Department

**Steve Kenagy** (B.S. 1986 in agronomy with a concentration in agribusiness) dropped by in November to chat with Paul Wilson. Steve was in the process of relocating to southern California. Steve reminisces, "After graduation, I worked with Dr. Wilson on a few case studies, which he is still using today. Amazing. That was a fun project. I have very fond memories of my 3 years at the UA. A wonderful time of working hard and having fun. I miss those days of going to class, working, studying and socializing. What a great place to go to college. I financed much of my college tuition (which is I am sure next to impossible today!). I spent quite a bit of time in the Ag

Econ dept. working in the computer lab and taking as many of those courses that I could. Should have majored in ag econ as I loved the subject."

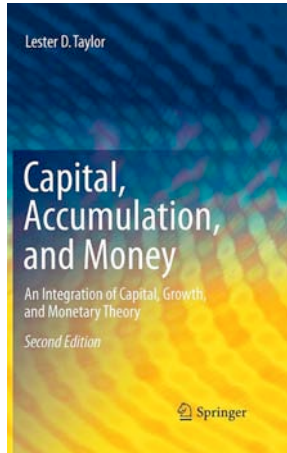
Steve spent 19 years working in commercial banking in California before switching to a commercial real estate brokerage in Nashville. He, his wife, and their three daughters are anxious to get back to California although they love Tennessee. Steve says, "[I'm] looking forward to the challenge of banking as it has changed a lot in the last five years, but I know the So Cal market and the people I work with so the transition should be manageable."

Also visiting the Department were

**Patricia Grant** (B.S. 2005) and **Lisa McPhee** (B.S. 2007). Trisha, who came through in February to talk with Paul Wilson's AREC 450 (financial management) class, is an assistant vice president/portfolio manager with the Tempe office of Farm Credit Services Southwest. Lisa paid a visit in March. She is with the Metropolitan Water Authority of Southern California and a few years ago was named a "Water Leader in the Class of 2009."

In April, **Matt Mealy** (M.S. 2010) swung through briefly on his way to a wedding while **Heather Waters** (M.S. 2007) came by the next day to lecture to Paul Wilson's Finance Management class about her job with RABO Bank.



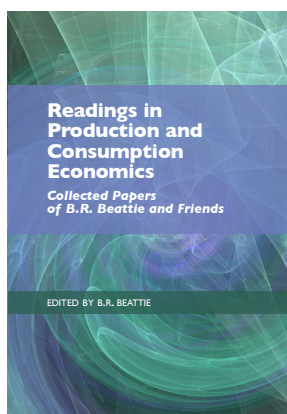
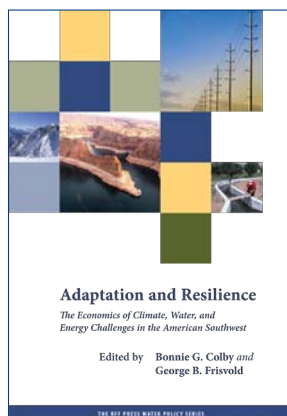


## Recent Books from AREC Faculty and Alumni

*Capital, Accumulation, and Money: An Integration of Capital, Growth, and Monetary Theory* (Second Edition) by **Lester D. Taylor**. Published by Springer, 350 pages, 2010, ISBN-13 978-0387981680.

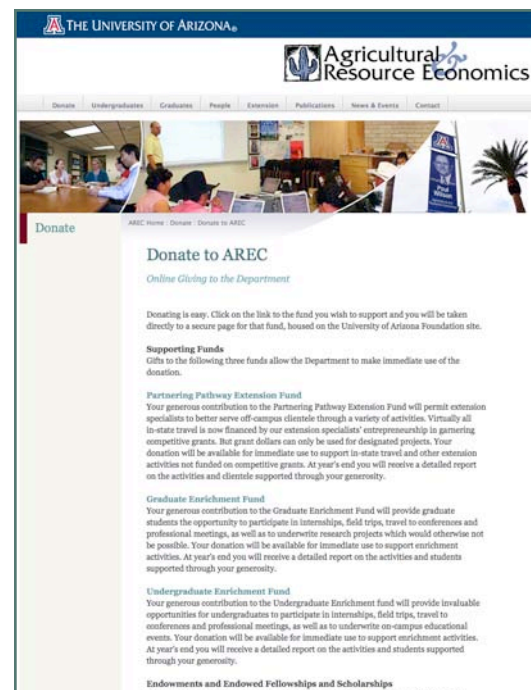
*Adaptation and Resilience: The Economics of Climate, Water, and Energy Challenges in the American Southwest*, **Bonnie G. Colby** and **George B. Frisvold**, editors. Published by RFF Press, 356 pages, 2011, ISBN-13 978-1933115931. Other contributors to the volume include AREC alums **Rosalind Bark** (Ph.D. 2006), **Elizabeth Basta** (M.S. 2010), **Shailaja Deva** (M.S. 2006), **Kyle Emerick** (M.S. 2007), **Lana Jones** (M.S. 2008), **Xudong Ma** (M.S. 2009), **Anand Murugesan** (M.S. 2008), **Katie Pittinger** (M.S. 2006) **Srinivasa Ponnaluru** (M.S. 2005), and **Paulo Tanimoto** (M.S. 2008).

*Readings in Production and Consumption Economics: Collected Papers of B.R. Beattie and Friends* by **Bruce R. Beattie**. Published by the Department, 100 pages, 2011. This volume is available in print or for download. For details, please visit the publications section of the Departmental website.



## Sharon Megdal Honored

C.W. and Modene Neely Endowed Professor for Excellence in Agriculture and Life Science, AREC professor and director of the Water Resources Research Center **Sharon Megdal** was named 2010 Leader of the Year in her capacity as a member of the Central Arizona Project board of directors. The award, presented by *Arizona Capitol Times*, was in the government category. Congratulations!



## Easy, New Way to Give to the Department

In these times of endless budget cuts and withdrawal of state support, AREC is pleased to announce that you can now support the Department *directly* through online donations. When you visit the Department homepage (<http://ag.arizona.edu/arec/>), you'll see a new "Donate" button on the left side of the horizontal navigation bar. This leads directly to the **online donation page**. Your gift can be made in three different areas: the Graduate Enrichment Fund, the Undergraduate Enrichment Fund, and the Partnering Pathway Extension Fund. Donations to these funds allow the Department to make immediate use of the monies. Your gift is highly appreciated!

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