

# This Isn't Your Father's Economics Department

by Department Chair Bruce Blonigen, Philip H. Knight Professor of Social Science

If you were an economics major here in 1970, you paid all of \$408 in annual tuition, had many classes in your major with less than twenty students, and met with your



Bruce Blonigen

professors in Prince Lucien Campbell (PLC) Hall. As the table at right shows, the last few decades have brought some very large changes in a number of

dimensions for our department, though we still call PLC Hall our home.

First, educating economics majors has become a growth industry at the University of Oregon. In the past twenty years alone, our department has seen the number of majors quadruple, while the university has increased by about 25 percent. We have become one of the largest majors on campus, rivaling psychology, political science, and even the business school. Second, the university as a whole has seen a precipitous drop in state funding. While the UO has reluctantly been able to fill in some of this with increased tuition dollars (Go, football team!), it certainly has affected our relative funding levels. As a result, we see our department serving a lot more majors with about the same amount of faculty members as in the past. Thankfully,

## The UO and the Department of Economics over the Decades

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
1. UO Enrollment	7,651	15,301	17,379	18,141	17,843	22,386
2. Economics Bachelor's Graduates	18	43	35	57	133	209
3. Economics PhD Graduates	3	8	5	5	5	8
4. Economics Faculty	16	17	18	18	16	21
5. Annual Tuition and Fees (In-State)						
a. Nominal Dollars	\$270	\$408	\$969	\$1,965	\$3,819	\$8,652
b. In 1980 Dollars	\$753	\$867	\$969	\$1,236	\$1,836	\$3,367
6. Percent of UO Budget from State	n.a.	32%	31%	33%	20%	8%

that has begun to change with our recent new hires.

Managing all this growth in majors has been an interesting challenge. There is no question that class sizes have inevitably risen and even physical space is tight—we are serving nearly as many majors as the entire business school, while occupying just one-and-a-half floors in Prince Lucien Campbell Hall! Despite these challenges, I am extremely proud about the many ways we have worked to provide a high-quality education to our undergraduate and graduate students.

It all starts with a dedicated staff and an amazing and innovative teaching faculty. Only a very small handful of students come to the UO with the intention of majoring in economics, yet after taking one of our introductory economics courses for general-education credits, we see many of them signing up for the major. We historically have one of the largest groups of peer advisors on campus, and we also provide opportunities for our students to

use a meaningful internship to substitute for one of their elective courses.

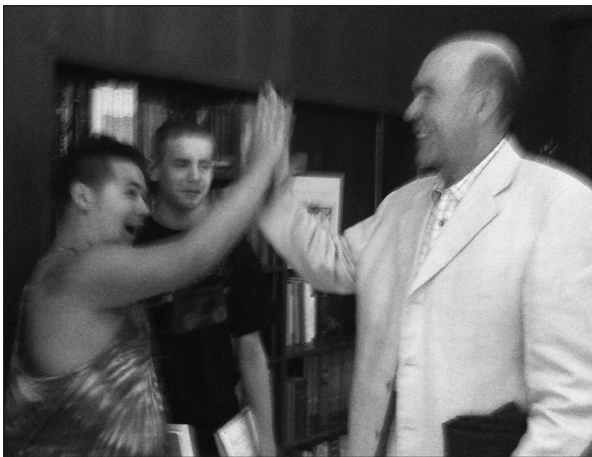
We also offer our best students an opportunity to have meaningful research opportunities with members of our faculty. We have increased the number of majors completing honors theses to about 10 percent in the last decade, primarily from offering an honors course where faculty members supervise theses centered on local community issues. It has been a boon for our students and our community. A number of other majors serve as research assistants for our faculty members or help out with the department's summer camp for local low-income students, Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL). This fall, Professor Joe Stone will teach a course on the economics of education, where students will have the chance to follow up in the winter term and help local low-income high school seniors file their financial aid forms. As a final example, many of our faculty

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# SAIL

## SUMMER ACADEMY TO INSPIRE LEARNING


**B**ack in 2005, the UO was having a big debate about diversity. Economists love to argue, but this time we decided to do something concrete, and the department started its Summer Academy to Inspire Learning to show ninth graders from low socioeconomic-status families what college was



*A SAIL student congratulates President Lariviere*

like and convince them they could succeed at it. SAIL started as a summer day camp on economics—since we figured we knew how to teach that! It has now grown to about eighty high school students and about fifty faculty volunteers from economics, psychology, physics, human physiology, and journalism. Our first SAIL “graduate” entered the UO in September. We’ll have six different weeklong camps next year, and the program is now UO’s largest effort to provide this sort of outreach to low-income Oregon students.

It turns out to be remarkably easy to get faculty members to volunteer to help with a program like this. An economist might say that’s got something to do with



utility functions like  $u = u(x, G, g)$  and warm glow. And while the department has happily devoted a lot of resources and personal volunteer time to SAIL, the law of comparative advantage meant that we wanted professional help administering it. This year, a big donation from alums Jim and Shirley Rippey allowed us to hire a real professional, Lara Fernandez.

Lara has a MS in social work and a lot of experience running programs for disadvantaged teens, including one for New York City kids on a ranch south of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. She is organizing new camp programs with other departments, SAT prep classes for the high school juniors, and co-coordinating our efforts with local school districts. Lara also helped convince new UO President Richard W. Lariviere to sign up as a volunteer, and he gave a talk to the students on his academic specialty—

Sanskrit. We didn’t even bother trying to convince the students that this had anything to do with economics, but both they and President Lariviere seemed to enjoy the lecture and the lunch anyway! ■



*Lara Fernandez*

## UO Economists...

*continued from page 1*

members have made substantial efforts to bring experiments and hands-on learning to our classrooms.

As the numbers show, our graduate program has stayed fairly consistent in size throughout the years, though it will naturally grow a bit with our recent growth in the faculty, and we recently received great news in the latest release of doctoral program rankings by the National Research Council. The rankings clearly show us pulling ahead of the University of Washington for the title of best doctoral program in the Northwest, putting us in the same range as departments from such fine institutions as UCLA, the University of Texas, Ohio State University (yeah, we know you won the Rose Bowl), and the University of Virginia. Out of all 118 economics doctoral programs in the United States, the University of Oregon had the highest percentage of its PhD students landing jobs in academia. We are extremely proud of these successes and the verification of what we knew already: we have a very strong department.

A major reason why the university has been able to weather the huge decline in state funding has been the generosity of our alumni. Our department has been no different. Donor gifts have been crucial in our ability to provide competitive start-up packages that are crucial for attracting top faculty talent. They have funded graduate student research and travel to professional conferences, which are critical in helping them secure employment. Finally, private gifts have supported many of the innovative things we have brought to our teaching efforts. On behalf of my faculty, and the current and future generations of UO economics majors, I heartily thank you for your continuing support. ■

# Undergraduate Profiles and Notes

Every year we like to profile the experiences of a few of our undergraduates, to give some sense of the range of their experiences and opportunities. This year we have current student Chris Rodgers, first winner of the newly created Grace Miller Economics Scholarship, and recent graduate Morgan Williamson.



**Chris Rodgers** is a double major, studying both economics and mathematics, with economics as his primary focus. Interestingly, Chris began his college career as a philosophy major, but switched subjects after he was asked to place a value on human life. He thought this was a topic more suited to economics than philosophy. Chris used his award to stay in Eugene this summer and begin work as a research assistant to Professor Bill Harbaugh, an experience he would have been financially forced to forego had it not been for the scholarship. The experience has enriched Chris' education by placing him in direct

contact with active research in experimental methods and neuroeconomics. Chris greatly appreciates the opportunity to "observe the decision-making process in a controlled environment while directly observing the cognitive processes that go into those decisions." His work this summer will directly feed into his honor's thesis.

## About the Grace Miller Economics Scholarship

Grace Miller earned an MA in business administration from the University of Oregon in 1954. She taught economics at South Eugene High School for many years and she established a sizable endowment to support students who share her interest in education. Beginning this spring, we anticipate being able to award three \$2,500 scholarships a year. This is a substantial prize, amounting to 30 percent of resident tuition, going a long way toward making education more affordable for our students. The department sincerely appreciates the support of Grace Miller and our other donors who help make high-quality education possible.



**Morgan Williamson** graduated this year and is now an analyst at Intel. We asked for a little bit about her experiences and got this reply:

"I started working this summer as a compliance financial analyst for Intel Americas Sales and Marketing Group. I am charged with overseeing compliant business practices and documentation surrounding marketing agreements between Intel Americas and their distributors in North America. My position is extremely interesting because the job is very new and I feel like I have the chance to guide processes in such a large and important

company. I also enjoy the opportunity Intel has given me to build on my interests in international business by working with business partners from all different parts of the world. When I stop and think about which part of my education in economics has anything to do with the job I ended up getting, my mind always lands back on EC 418 and 419 (Economic Analysis of Community Issues I and II), and my honors project prepared me in many ways for the real world. Intel offers tuition assistance, so who knows, a master's in econ from the UO could be the next career stepping stone . . . ." ■

The big news continues to be the rapid growth of our program—we headed into the 2010–11 school year with expectations of having more than 900 economics majors! The growing UO enrollment only explains part of what has been happening. Economics continues to rise in popularity as a major. Students leave our program with a set of tools and experiences exploring complex problems that are applicable to a wide range of career choices, from marketing to finance to logistics to law. We think this is an experience few other majors can offer, and explains why our students can be found in all corners of the economy. Apparently the word is getting out to new UO students.

For the first time in any of our memories, we held an outdoor graduation ceremony! Eighteen of our graduates earned Latin honors, while fourteen were nominated to Phi Beta Kappa. One of our Phi Beta Kappas, Isla Globus-Harris, was designated with a special honor as a member of the Oregon Six, a select subset of this already select group. Jack Dukeminier received the NCAA's 88 Award for Division 1 Men's Golf. He was recognized as having the highest GPA among the 156 players in the NCAA Championships. Undergraduate research remained strong, with awards going to Michael Pierce for his work studying the Oregon economy and to Brett Jossis and Zach Penancho for their work forecasting revenues for the Lane Transit District.

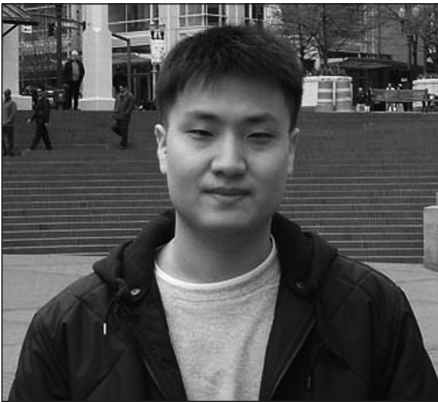
We all know that this was a very tough year to be graduating and going into the job market. Despite this, our students landed jobs at such places as Target, Frank Rimmerman Accounting, Intel, State Farm, and a variety of other financial and corporate leaders. Other students are going on to graduate school at UC Santa Cruz, Portland State University, Colorado State University, and York University.

Graduates—your professors remember you, and they appreciate an e-mail hearing what you are up to. You are one of your professors' few connections to the real world! ■

# Graduate Student Profiles



*John Kandrac*



*Donghyun Lee*



*Sean Severe*



*Toni Sipic*

We were able to entice several of our graduate students away from their busy schedules for a few minutes to get some data on how they ended up on the long road to getting a PhD—and a little bit on what they do with the four hours a month they don't devote to work or sleep.

Our first exemplar is **John Kandrac**, who grew up in central Virginia and earned a BBA from the College of William and Mary. After college, John went to work for J. P. Morgan in Atlanta, Georgia, where he developed an interest in economics. John noticed that Mark Thoma's blog was frequently consulted by some of J. P. Morgan's economists, which piqued his interest in the economics department at the UO. Since joining the department as a GTF, John's research interests have focused on the role of banks in the transmission of monetary policy and how that role is affected by financial regulation. Prior to coming to the UO, John spent his scarce free time rock climbing and working at a nonprofit to help arrange purchases of cliff faces (surprisingly worthless to nonclimbers) for use by climbers. Since moving to Oregon, his hobbies have shifted toward fly fishing and backpacking.

Next up is **Donghyun Lee**, a native of South Korea. As an undergraduate, Don's plans to become a business major were upended by his first economics class, which he found so compelling that it altered both his major and his career plans. After completing an undergraduate degree in economics, a strong interest in traveling and new experiences, in conjunction with a passion for economics, drew him to the United States for graduate study. The focus of Don's dissertation research is cross-border mergers and acquisitions driven by technology-seeking firms. Don is a soccer fan, which made the past summer particularly enjoyable, and he enjoys time on the golf course.

The underwater economist is **Sean Severe**. The picture was taken in the Philippines—a bit of a stretch in terms of both interests and geography for a guy born and raised in Montana. Sean's research focus is on banking concentration and how it affects monetary policy. Think of it as studying monetary economics through the lens of industrial organization. Sean teaches courses in the principals of macroeconomics, intermediate macroeconomic theory, and money and banking in his role as a GTF in our department. He finds it natural to relate his teaching and research, and says that teaching has helped him to focus his research. Sean recently married, which mandated time off from work for a honeymoon that incorporated Mount Saint Helens, the Olympic Peninsula, and the Oregon coast. Sean hopes to qualify for the Boston Marathon this year, enjoys hiking, and apparently never turns down an opportunity to scuba dive in an exotic location.

Finally, we turn to **Toni Sipic**, who comes from Split, Croatia. Toni developed an interest in ecology early in his life, and happenstance led him to apply to Northland College, an environmental liberal arts college located in Wisconsin. He was accepted, offered scholarships, and was soon en route to the U.S. Toni earned bachelor's degrees in business economics and computer science from Northland in 2003, and a master's in economics from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2006. Toni's current research focuses on the political economy of environmental disasters and on voluntary approaches to environmental policy. Toni enjoys travel and the outdoors, and really hopes to have more time in the near future to spend time in places like those captured in his photo. ■

# UO Economics and Alumni in Portland

**B**ruce Blonigen, our department head and Knight Professor of Social Science, hosted a reception for faculty members and PhD alumni who were attending this year's meetings of the Western Economics Association International in downtown Portland. The reception was held in the headquarters building for UO's Portland programs. Yes, that building, the one with the neon white stag sign on top.

Most of the former students we hosted are now professors in their own right at other universities, or senior principals in large international firms or organizations. Alumni came from all over, including Dublin



(l to r) Chong Uk Kim, Helen Naughton, Bruce Blonigen

(Matt Cole), Murray State in Kentucky (Martin Milkman), and NYU (Dan Burghart), and from Portland State (Sarah Tinkler and Rossitza Wooster); Chong Uk Kim (Sonoma State University), Brad Curs (University of Missouri), David Davis (South Dakota State), Eric Dodge (Hanover

College), Mike Visser (Sonoma State University), Helen Naughton (University of Montana), Beth Wilson (Humboldt State University) and Ron Jarmin (chief economist, U.S. Census Bureau.)

UO economics faculty members attending included Bruce Blonigen, our host; Van Kolpin, who kept scrupulous count of the two-drink limit; Jo Anna Gray, who kept the count on Van; Joe Stone, freshly vertical and continuing his recovery from the stroke reported in last year's newsletter; Larry Singell, currently associate dean of social sciences at the UO; and two of the faculty members new to our department this year or last, Ben Hansen and Nicholas Sly. Glen Waddell was not able to attend; we think it may have conflicted with caber tossing in this year's Highland Games in Scotland.

Former undergrad Harold Watts stopped by the department

last fall. From Oregon, Harold went on to be an economics professor at Columbia, Yale, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he was the first director of the influential Institute for Research on Poverty, founded as part of Lyndon's Johnson's "Great Society" in 1966. He was legendary. After retirement, he began making wine in New York. ■



(l to r) Nicholas Sly, Ron Jarmin, Larry Singell, Van Kolpin

## An Obituary

This year marked the passing of Richard M. Davis, professor emeritus and long-time member of the economics faculty at the UO. Dick earned a BA in 1939 from Colgate College, and his MA in 1941 and PhD in 1949 from Cornell University. Dick joined the faculty here in 1954. Professor Joe Stone shares the following memories of Dick.

Those who knew Dick probably remember well that he never chose to drive, or even learn to do so. Instead, he walked everywhere, and we would see him along the river on his way to Valley River Center, or pretty much anywhere else in town you might think of. When I became department head in the late 1980s, I discovered an early history of the department written by James Gilbert, of Gilbert Hall on campus, and later UO president. Dick volunteered to update it, and added the minutes of one heated department meeting in the 1970s when faculty members voted to no longer provide blue books free to students for exams, as they had for nearly a century. My office was close to Dick's when I first arrived. He was an extraordinarily gentle and thoughtful person whose students, both graduate and undergraduate, always enjoyed a warm reception and hearing in his office, no matter the problem. The world lost a blithe and gentle soul.

# New Faculty Member Profiles

Our department head, Bruce Blonigen, mentioned the exponential growth in the number of economics majors. While growth in the quantity of professors is unfortunately only linear, we're very pleased with the quality. This year we had three new hires: Alfredo Burlando, Anca Cristea, and Ben Hansen.

**Alfredo Burlando** finds his background to be somewhat confusing, even to himself. An Italian national, he was born in Venezuela, the twin son of a Colombian mother and Italian father. His family moved



from Latin America to a small Italian town in the Alps when he was little. Alfredo and his wife, Melissa, have lived in Africa for more than

two years, and both speak Spanish, Italian, and Swahili. (Their English isn't too shabby either. —Ed.) They moved to Eugene just in time for the birth of their first child, Silvia.

Alfredo joined the department as an assistant professor in July, with a PhD from Boston University. His research agenda is in international development, and he has done field research in Tanzania and Ethiopia. His interests, which often spring from his experiences in the field, range from the determinants of health and education to the economic effects of social networks and interactions. His principal contribution, at the intersection of health and infrastructure economics, has been in recognizing and analyzing a "natural experiment"—an unexpected situation that changes people's behavior in an economically

interesting way. An unexpected monthlong blackout occurred while Alfredo was in Tanzania, and he collected data from several sources to analyze the effects of this event.

He showed that the blackout had a negative impact on birth weights for children born seven to nine months later, and provided evidence that this effect was not caused directly by the outage, but indirectly through its effects on household earnings. Such a result is evidence that even medium-income households in poor countries do not successfully smooth out economic shocks—even when these are of relatively short duration. This work serves also as a cautionary tale for power infrastructure development in Africa, which tends to underinvest in proper maintenance and is plagued by frequent outages in rural areas. Perhaps the most important outcome of this research is that he won a bet with his wife, who argued that the lack of fans and air conditioners during the blackout would reduce fertility. Alfredo found some evidence that the number of births increased nine months later.

Alfredo has also done work related to malaria, a disease that the UN considers to be critically disabling for the tropics, but whose impact has been difficult to estimate precisely in the African context. The starting point for Alfredo's research is the observation that the incidence of malaria in Ethiopia declines steadily with elevation, and that even villages in very close geographical proximity often have significant differences in elevation and malaria incidence. Alfredo showed that higher elevation villages have higher human capital. Moreover, this relationship disappears at altitudes too high for malaria to occur. He is currently working on expanding these results to other economic outcomes, to demonstrate that malaria caused divergent development paths for Ethiopian villages.

Alfredo is also interested in the economics of corruption and

collusion, and in the structure of social networks in developing countries. He teaches intermediate microeconomics and graduate development economics.

**Anca Cristea** joined the department as a new assistant professor in July. She received her PhD from Purdue University after having earned an MA from Clemson University. A native of Romania, Anca lived in Cluj-Napoca, the former capital of Transylvania, until she completed her undergraduate degree.

Anca's research area is international trade, with a particular emphasis on topics related to trade costs and



services trade. Her current work examines the importance of information transmission in facilitating trade among countries, and analyzes the effectiveness of policy measures designed to

improve connectivity across export markets. In her paper "Information Inputs and International Trade: Evidence from U.S. State-Level Data on Business Air Travel," Anca investigates the extent to which trading goods across national borders requires the transmission of complex information via face-to-face meetings. According to her model, information transmission represents a trade friction. This friction, once incurred by an exporter, facilitates tailoring products to foreign markets, which in turn leads to larger export sales. Differences in goods' information intensities, communication costs, and market potential determine the optimal level of information transmitted within a trade pair. To empirically test the model's predictions, Anca measures the cross-border information flows using U.S. data on business air passenger traffic to a given foreign market. By finding

evidence for the responsiveness of air travel demands to variations in the volume and composition of U.S. exports, she concludes that information transfers are an input to trade in complex manufactures.

The link between air transport and trade flows led Anca to investigate several important policy questions concerning the benefits and costs associated with an increase in demand for air transport services. In her paper “Evaluating the Gains from Services Trade Liberalization: The Case of Air Passenger Transport,” Anca estimates the effects of the deregulation of global aviation on changes in prices, quantities, and air service qualities, including the provision of international aviation routes previously not offered. The results point to significant consumer gains from air services liberalization, and provide the necessary evidence for advancing services on the international trade negotiations agenda. In another collaborative paper she quantifies the changes in transport-related pollution emissions that have resulted from a complete liberalization of world trade. Free trade induces both scale and compositional changes in goods trade, altering the size and relative use of fuel-intensive transportation modes. The results indicate that goods trade liberalization will sharply increase total CO2 emissions from international transport, primarily because of a growing fraction of shipments going on airplanes.

This academic year, Anca will teach International Trade (EC 481/581) for economics majors interested in understanding the causes and consequences of international trade. Students will develop analytical skills in the context of basic models of trade that will help them investigate broader questions such as why and what nations trade, as well as who gains and who loses from globalization. Anca will also teach a graduate course in international trade.

Once a Girl Scout, Anca enjoys

outdoor activities—one of the reasons she likes living in Eugene, in spite of it being thousands of miles away from her home country.

**Ben Hansen** joined the Department of Economics at the University of Oregon in August. He grew up in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a medium-sized city his older brother claimed would be the first to be destroyed in a nuclear war (due to NORAD, Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, the Air Force Academy, and, of course, the Olympic Training Center). Unwilling to test this claim empirically, Ben trekked westward to complete his undergraduate education in Utah at Brigham Young University, and then moved to graduate school in California, where he completed his PhD at the University of California at Santa Barbara in June 2009. After



graduation, he worked in Columbia, Maryland, as a research associate at Impaq International, LLC, a policy research firm where he worked with government stakeholders in evaluating job-training programs, the effect of OSHA safety inspections on workplace safety, and the comparative effectiveness of medical procedures.

Ben is currently investigating topics in applied microeconomics related to health, education, and labor. His job talk was on the effect of police presence on roadway safety. His analysis took advantage of a large decrease in the Oregon State Police force due to budget cuts. Following the police layoffs, highways and freeways experienced large increases in injuries and fatalities, not attributable to changes in the demographics of drivers, miles driven, or other factors. In additional analysis, he compared fatality rates

per vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington to police employment per VMT from 1979 to 2005, obtaining similar results. He was recently interviewed by *The Oregonian* for his work in this area.

The benefits and costs of longer school years is another topic of interest to Ben. His work takes advantage of exogenous variation in instructional time due to either weather-related school cancellations or test-date shifts. Using either source of variation and test results across three different states lead to similar results and conclusions: more instructional time is associated with higher student performance. In recent research, he has also investigated the potential costs of longer school years, finding that the seasonality of youth suicides is remarkably close to that of the school calendar. This same seasonal pattern is not present for adults, or young adults aged nineteen to twenty-five. He is currently investigating whether changes in school calendar policies both in the U.S. and abroad are associated with shifts in suicide rates or timing.

Currently, Ben is researching several aspects concerning the determinants and consequences of substance abuse. He is examining the “social market” for cigarettes, taking advantage of substantial variation in cigarette taxes in recent years linked with a unique survey which questions youth regarding the sources they have used for obtaining cigarettes in addition to their smoking frequency. He is also utilizing both firm-specific administrative records of hours worked and promotions along with a large-scale multiyear survey of workplace injuries to assess the effect of alcohol consumption on job performance. And last, after a recent incident while playing soccer on the department team, this term Ben is conducting in-depth qualitative field research of the effect of anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction on productivity and mobility—his mobility, that is. ■

# Faculty Notes

After adding the three new hires profiled above and regretfully subtracting Steve Haynes, the faculty now has twenty-three members. In addition to teaching, faculty members are expected to be productive researchers. These notes show a bit of the wide variety of our research—on topics ranging from “Axiomatizations of the Euclidean Compromise Solution” to “Africa’s Infectious Disease Burden and Development Challenges” to “Information Cascades and Revolutionary Regime Transitions” to “Learning about Risk and Return: A Simple Model of Bubbles and Crashes.” Faculty members presented this research all over the world, from the Oregon Economic Forum in Portland to conferences and universities from Oslo to Istanbul to China.

**Bruce Blonigen** survived another year as department head and found that it wasn’t so bad. His current research agenda includes an examination of the type of workers who favor import protection, analysis of the factors driving foreign direct investment activity, and a study commissioned by the World Bank to explore how state intervention in steel industries affects countries’ export competitiveness. He also enjoyed a month in Paris this past spring as a visiting scholar at the Paris School of Economics.

**Trudy Ann Cameron** continues on the board of directors of Resources for the Future. She has presented papers this year at the World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists in Montreal and at the biennial meeting of the American Society of Health Economists at Cornell. This fall, she will give more presentations at the meetings of the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis in Washington, D.C., and at a special conference at

Trento, Italy. She is also starting work on a book manuscript with coauthor J. R. DeShazo of UCLA on valuing environmental health risk reductions.

Over the last year, **Shankha Chakraborty** presented papers at various conferences in Madrid, UC Santa Barbara, USC, and Michigan State. His paper on Africa’s infectious disease burden and development challenges was accepted for publication at the *Journal of Monetary Economics*. He continues to work on topics in health and disease, adult mortality, and demographic and social change. An ongoing project reflects on how preferences regarding family size evolved with industrialization and modernization. Shankha continues to serve this year as the graduate director.

**Tim Duy** continues his work with the Oregon Economic Forum, publishing four measures of economic activity for Oregon—statewide, Lane County, central Oregon, and the Portland metropolitan region. He remains in demand as a speaker for groups throughout the state in both the business and public policy arenas. Tim was also recently appointed a member of the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors. He continues to blog frequently, tackling issues relating to the Federal Reserve and international financial policy, and recently the Seventh Annual Oregon Economic Forum on October 21, 2010.

**Chris Ellis** presented papers at the Royal Economic Society Annual Conference in Guildford, UK, in April, and the Association for Public Economic Theory conference in Istanbul, Turkey, in July. He also gave a seminar and workshop at Birmingham University, UK, as part of a research visit. He published the paper “Information Cascades and Revolutionary Regime Transitions” in *The Economic Journal*.

**George Evans** made

presentations in workshops and conferences at Stanford and the Universities of Oslo and St. Andrews. Current work includes the macroeconomic policy implications of deflation traps, and the role of changing estimates of risk in generating asset price volatility. In September he coorganized a conference at the University of Rotterdam titled “Expectations, Asset Bubbles, and Financial Crises.” Publications include papers in press in *The Review of Financial Studies*, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, and *Economic Theory*, and the paper “Learning about Risk and Return: A Simple Model of Bubbles and Crashes” (with William Branch), forthcoming in *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*.

**Jo Anna Gray** continues to teach macroeconomic theory and policy at the undergraduate and graduate levels. This past year, her research study on contracting in high-inflation economies was recognized for being among the top 1 percent of the most-cited economic research studies in the world, tied with a study by Nobel laureate James Heckman. Jo Anna is focusing her current research on the effectiveness of Keynesian fiscal policies in economies with large levels of government debt. Did anyone mention Greece, the EU, or the U.S.?

**Bill Harbaugh** published “The Fourfold Pattern of Risk Attitudes” in *The Economic Journal* as the lead article. The idea for the paper came from a project with UO undergrad Steve Liday. They found children weren’t as irrational as had once been thought, and this paper challenges psychological dogma on risk-taking by adults. In April, Bill spent three days in Zurich, one of three economists in a public dialogue with the Dalai Lama on compassion and economics. All went well until he told the audience that fertilizers and pesticides had helped reduce hunger in the developing world,

at which point he discovered the Swiss are even more passionate environmentalists than Oregonians are!

**Van Kolpin's** research examines issues in the analysis of strategic behavior, including contexts of asymmetric information games and hybrid nonatomic environments populated by both "large" and "small" players. In addition to solo research projects, he continues to pursue research with two UO alumni, Mark Stater (Trinity College) on strategic behavior in higher-education markets and David Aadland (University of Wyoming) on the axiomatic analysis of cost-sharing mechanisms. This year he is teaching courses in microeconomic theory, game theory, and the economic analysis of law.

**Peter Lambert** joined the editorial board of *The Review of Income and Wealth* this year, and was elected to the University Senate to represent the social sciences. In June, he was a visiting professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and examined a PhD thesis at the University of Ljubljana. In August, he gave a presentation, "Picturing Poverty," to the ninth graders in the university's SAIL program. Peter is teaching mathematics and econometrics at the 400/500 levels this year, and conducts a 600-level seminar in poverty, inequality, and redistribution. His main research focus is currently on dual-income tax systems.

In his first year at the UO, **Jason Lindo** continued his research on issues concerning children and

young adults. This has involved papers on the effects of military service on criminal behavior and on the effects of "low birth weight classification" on infant mortality. He recently presented his work on the effects of parental job loss and infant health at the University of British Columbia, the National Bureau of Economic Research, and the annual meeting of the Society of Labor Economists, among other venues.

**Jeremy Piger's** current research focuses on measuring and forecasting the business cycle, modeling inflation dynamics, and incorporating model uncertainty into econometric estimation. In the past year, he presented his research at the Federal Reserve

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## Longtime Professor Steve Haynes Retires

**S**teve Haynes began his long career at the University of Oregon in the fall of 1978, and after more than thirty years of excellent research, teaching, and service (including a heroic stint as associate department head), Steve has decided to retire from the department.

During his time in the department, Professor Haynes published research on topics as far-ranging as exchange rates and voting in presidential elections. His work appeared in the top journals in economics, including a double-digit total in *The American Economic Review* and *The Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Professor Haynes also supervised nearly 100 dissertations, PhD field papers, and master's theses, with several students now serving in other leading graduate programs or international organizations. The breadth of his graduate supervision is unparalleled among our faculty.

Professor Haynes played a key role in establishing the Social Science Instructional Lab, and his innovative development of online courses has, by any measure, established him as the most successful online instructor at the University of Oregon. Professor Haynes single-handedly teaches nearly 1,000 students a year in three different courses, with evaluations and academic standards that often surpass those of traditional lecture courses.

Steve was appointed an associate head by five different department heads, a time span covering twenty-one years. His meticulous attention to both the needs of students and the interests and talents of faculty members in scheduling courses in economics has helped to make economics one of the most effective and productive instructional departments on campus. As associate head, Steve was also responsible for GTF assignments, and a large part of the department's teaching success can



be attributed to Steve's dedication, judgment, and skill in managing and mentoring the department's graduate student fellows. A similar story can be told about his mentorship of new faculty members.

Professor Haynes' record is especially remarkable for its balance of contributions across research, teaching, and service. ■

# Faculty Notes

continued from page 9

Bank of St. Louis and West Virginia University, served as a discussant at numerous academic conferences, and was named an associate editor of the *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*. He also served as the director of the master's program for the Department of Economics.

**Larry Singell's** research focuses primarily on human capital topics, particularly in higher education. A paper published this year with John McDowell at Arizona State University and Mark Stater (a former graduate student) uses data for economists at top research departments in the postwar era to study the timing into and out of a department chair position and its relation to subsequent administrative positions. The paper shows that the rate at which knowledge depreciates in an economist's field of study reduces the entry and exit rates for the chair position and raises the probability of moving into upper-level administration. Overall, the findings suggest that administrators are made, not born, and that the growing specialization and technical nature of many professions could affect who chooses administrative careers and when these career choices are made. Ironically, Larry is currently serving as associate dean of social sciences.

**Nicholas Sly** continues to work on issues of labor market structure and international trade. In recent projects he has turned attention to the provision of performance payments (such as commissions, productivity bonuses, and stock options) in a global economy. During the last year, he has presented at conferences at Northwestern, University of Wisconsin, and at the Leverhulme Centre in the UK. This year Nick will teach an undergraduate

course on current economic issues as well as a course on international trade for students in the graduate program.

**Joe Stone** is extending his research on the impact of government tax and expenditure policies on income growth by examining the role of balanced budget rules. Joe also began a new course on the economics of education, along with a student internship workshop organized in collaboration with the university's Office of Admissions and Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships designed to prepare economics majors interested in pursuing careers in applied, client-oriented fields in banking, finance, insurance, or consulting.

**Mark Thoma** gave a presentation on U.S. fiscal policy during the recession to a UN committee in Beijing, China; he spoke at and participated on a panel with Robert Solow at the What's Wrong with Modern Macroeconomics? Conference in Munich, Germany; he chaired a session featuring Joe Stiglitz at the Institute for New Economic Thinking in Cambridge, UK; and he continues his research on monetary policy. Mark has been a regular contributor to *The New York Times* "Room for Debate" page and *The Economist's* guest network during the past year, and he has a new biweekly column at *The Fiscal Times*. Mark continues his daily blogging at *Economist's View*.

**Anne van den Nouweland** continues her work in economic theory, with a focus on stability in network formation, equilibrium for local public goods, and axiomatic approaches to coalitional problems. She serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Public Economic Theory* and the program committee of the Public Economic Theory conference. She participated in the Coalition Theory Network workshop in Marseille, France. Her paper

"Axiomatizations of the Euclidean Compromise Solution" with Mark Voorneveld and Rich McLean was accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Game Theory*.

**Glen Waddell** recently published a paper that explores how adolescent sexual activity is contributed to by peer's alcohol consumption, where he finds that girls are more inclined to engage in sexual activity the more alcohol their male classmates consume. Also coming out of his research on adolescent behaviors, he recently addressed whether there is a deterrent effect of school-imposed penalties on adolescent drug use. Among other ideas, he is also considering the implications of a minimum-drinking-age policy on academic performance with graduate student Isaac Swensen. He continues to serve as a coeditor of *Economics of Education Review*.

**Wesley Wilson** continues to conduct research for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and also the Surface Transportation Board (formerly, the Interstate Commerce Commission). He also continues his activities in the Global Alliance for Port Benchmarking, remains on four different editorial boards in transportation and industrial organization, and continued on the program committee of the Industrial Organization Society. He travels extensively and has given a number of presentations. These include the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (where he was the concluding rapporteur for a roundtable on information investments in transportation), conferences, and seminar programs. ■

# Pledges and donations

Pledges by alumni and others to our department continue to be crucial for supporting students and faculty members in their teaching and research activities. We continue to be honored and humbled by the generous giving our department receives. The following is a list of contributions received from September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2010 (our apologies for any inadvertent errors or omissions).

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*The 2010 cohort from the department's Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL). These students are now high school freshmen, and they will be returning to campus every summer for a new academic subject. They seem extremely happy to have finished their week of economics!*