YET ANOTHER OUTSTANDING YEAR

We are pleased to be able to report to our alumni that the Department of Economics goes – and grows - from strength to strength. Both our teaching excellence, as well as the standing of our faculty within the international academic community, is continually being reaffirmed. Our students are achieving great success, finding excellent opportunities in the job market, including placements in major companies, and placing in top graduate schools. We hope that you will share in our pleasure, as you read below about the many activities the Department has undertaken in the past year, and the fortunes of our faculty and emerging graduates and postgraduates.

And so it goes on, indeed from strength to strength. More than 20 of our undergraduates received academic credit for internships last year. We graduated 166 economics majors, 15 with honors, some of whom were able to turn their previous internships into full-time jobs. We also graduated ten master’s and three Ph.D. students, all of the latter gaining academic jobs. At least eight of our current Ph.D. students are going on the job market this year.

Our faculty, staff, graduates, and undergraduates all contribute to the Department’s success, and play no small part in our continued ability to recruit outstanding faculty. A testament to this is the recruitment of our newest faculty member Nicolas Magud. Nicolas joins us with a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, and with experience as a Policy Advisor at Secretary of State level in the Argentine government and at the International Monetary Fund.

Our faculty continues to generate a wide breadth of top-quality research, and to teach innovatively and imaginatively with the valued help of a hard-working team of GTFs. Our undergraduates are also prospering, several have earned Departmental and University-wide awards, and yet others have taken their expertise into the local community through our new and purpose-developed honors research class. The undergraduate peer advising continues to make a valuable contribution to making our Department student friendly.

We have indeed gone from strength-to-strength in the past year, and invite you, our alumni, to share in our pride in these achievements.

FACULTY NEWS AND NOTES

NEW FACULTY

As we have already mentioned, our Department is expanding. Our newest faculty member is Nicolas Magud. Nicolas joined us as a new Assistant Professor in September. He received a B.A. in economics from the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1995, an M.A. in economics from the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (Argentina) in 1997, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Maryland in 2001 and 2004, respectively. Prior to joining the UO faculty, Nicolas served as Advisor to several policymakers (at the Secretary of State level) in the Argentine government, and he also spent a year in the Research Department at the International Monetary Fund.
Nicolas' research fits within the areas of open economy macroeconomics (known also as international finance) and macroeconomics. In studying business cycles theory, capital controls, and financial frictions, he focuses on the macroeconomic dynamics of financial market imperfections. Related to this he characterizes the effects of choosing alternative exchange rate regimes for developed and developing economies. Specifically, he has shown that in the presence of financial frictions the choice of an exchange rate regime in a developing country is conditional on the degree of openness of the economy. Some other topics that Nicolas is currently analyzing include capital controls, debt deflation and its real effects, open economy explanations of business cycles theory, asymmetric business cycles and counter-cyclical fiscal policy.

Nicolas Magud teaches open economy macroeconomics and core macroeconomics at the graduate level and macroeconomics at the undergraduate level as well.

**RESEARCH AND TRAVEL**

Shankha Chakraborty spent the whole of the 2003-4 academic year on leave working as a resident scholar at the IMF Institute in Washington DC.

George Evans travels widely, working with economists at Cambridge University, UK; the ENS in Paris, France; the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, Germany; Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain; the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland; the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; the University of California, Irvine; and Oregon State University.

Peter Lambert was a Visiting Professor, Department of Public Economics, University of Barcelona, March 2004. The purpose of this visit was to give one week of daily seminar presentations on the distribution and redistribution of income to postgraduate students and staff.

Anne van den Nouweland was a Visitor of the Economic Theory Center in the Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, in July and August 2004.

Wes Wilson split his time this year, as last year, between the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and the University of Oregon. Wes travels at least once a month to Alexandria, Virginia where he has an office at the Institute for Water Resources. He travels also, on average once more per month, to various locations to work on projects, meet with co-authors, and present research.

**GRANTS, AWARDS AND OUTSIDE FUNDING**

Bruce Blonigen and Bill Harbaugh won a University of Oregon Williams Council Grant that is intended to fund innovative teaching on the UO campus. Their grant will help them extend their work to have our economics courses integrate community issues into the curriculum. (e.g., to have students in our econometrics labs evaluate data and hypotheses connected with a real-world issue facing a local charity or government agency).

Bruce Blonigen and Wes Wilson received a 3-year National Science Foundation grant of $275,000 for a project entitled “Trade Protection and the U.S. Steel Industry”.

Trudy Cameron was awarded a $54,000 supplement to her existing research grant from the US EPA, titled “All Deaths Are Not Created Equal” (along with her co-principal investigator, JR DeShazo of UCLA).

George Evans holds a National Science Foundation grant, which runs through 2005, as Principal Investigator for a project entitled Expectations, Learning and Economic Policy.

Nicolas Magud won the Jacob Goldhaber Award, University of Maryland at College Park, in the fall of 2003.

Larry Singell was instrumental in obtaining a Lumina Foundation Grant for his doctoral student Brad Curs.

Glen Waddel won a Junior Professorship Development Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oregon.

Wes Wilson has two grants from the Army Corps of Engineers, for $102,000 and $130,000, to fund ongoing work.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Bruce Blonigen


Bruce Blonigen and Chris Ellis


Bruce Blonigen and Ron Davies

Bruce Blonigen and Wes Wilson

Trudy Cameron


Shankha Chakraborty

Ron Davies


George Evans


Stephen Haynes and Joe Stone

Van Kolpin

"Bayesian Serial Cost Sharing," *Mathematical Social Sciences*, forthcoming, with coauthor Dameon Wilbur (one of our current Ph.D. students).

Peter Lambert


Robin McKnight

Mark Thoma

Anne van den Nouweland


**FACULTY PRESENTATIONS**

Bruce Blonigen has made presentations at Northwestern University (Kellogg School), Institute for International Economics, Marquette University, UC-Santa Cruz, and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Trudy Cameron presented papers at the Bren School of the Environment, University of California at Santa Barbara, Stanford University (to Larry Goulder's environmental economics group), the AERE/ASSA Meetings, San Diego; the NBER Environmental Economics Meeting, Stanford; the University of Florida’s conference on “Risk Perception, Valuation, and Policy,” and the 6th CU-Boulder Invitational Choice Symposium, where she was an invited member of a group addressing issues concerned with “Endogeneity in Choice Models” (Chair: Kenneth Train).

Shankha Chakraborty gave papers at the IMF, West Virginia University, Cornell University’s “75 Years of Development” Conference, the Midwest Macro Meetings (at Iowa State University), the Econometric Society Summer Meetings (at Brown), and the SITE Conference on Development Economics (at Stanford). He also presented his work at the NBER Summer Institute on Growth and Fluctuations in Cambridge, MA.

Ron Davies addressed the DIW/GEP workshop on FDI and International Outsourcing in Berlin, Germany. He also gave seminars at the University of Iceland (Reykjavik, Iceland), Brandeis University (Waltham, MA), and made presentations at the Southern Economics Association meeting in San Antonio, TX, and the International Economics and Finance Society conference in San Antonio, TX.

Tim Duy presented an Outlook for the Year 2005 at the Oregon Economic Forum (which he directs). He has also presented Outlooks to the Excell Executive Leadership,
Chris Ellis attended the International Institute of Public Finance Meetings in Milan and presented a paper on Predation and Growth.

George Evans presented papers at the Conference on Learning and Bounded Rationality (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign IL), American Economic Association annual meetings (San Diego, CA), Conference on Dynamic Models and Monetary Policy-making (Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank) and ECB Conference on Monetary Policy and Imperfect Knowledge (Wurzburg, Germany). He also gave seminars at UC Irvine, Stanford University and the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington DC.

Bill Harbaugh presented his work at the NBER Summer Institute, UCLA.

Van Kolpin delivered a campus-wide lecture, “The Evolution of Strategy” at Simpson College, a liberal arts college near Des Moines, Iowa. The visit also doubled as a graduate student recruiting visit.

Peter Lambert presented a seminar at the University of Colorado in Denver.

Nicolas Magud gave seminars at the following universities: University of Maryland, University of Oregon, University of Alicante (Spain), Drexel University, Columbia University, Yale University; and also made a presentation at the Bank of England (UK) and the Latin American Economic Association (Mexico).

Robin McKnight presented two papers on Medicare issues at Amherst College, Amherst MA.

Larry Singell presented work at the NBER Higher Education meeting in Boston MA, and at the Southern Economic Association meetings in San Antonio, TX.

Anne van den Nouweland gave seminars during her academic visit to Australia at LaTrobe University and Deakin University (both in Melbourne), the University of Queensland, the University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, and the University of New South Wales. She also presented papers at a Game Theory seminar at Tilburg University, the Netherlands; at the Society for Economic Design Conference, Palma de Mallorca, Spain; and at GAMES 2004, Marseille, France.

Glen Waddell presented his work at the NBER Higher Education Meetings, Cambridge MA.

Wes Wilson addressed the NETS Modeling Symposium, US Army Corps of Engineers’ 2004 National Economic and Environmental Analysis Conference and Rural Freight Transportation Conference for the TRB-DOT. He also gave papers at the Transportation Research Board’s Inland Navigation Committee, the NETS/CX Inland Navigation Modeling Workshop, and the Industrial Organization Society Meetings.

FACULTY SERVICE

Bruce Blonigen continues to do sterling service as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department. He will also serve for the next three years on the faculty of the International Studies department at UO. He has been appointed to the editorial boards of The Canadian Journal of Economics and North American Journal of Economics and Finance, and was named Department Editor for The Journal of International Business Studies.
Trudy Cameron served as Chair of the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Science Advisory Board, Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis and has been invited to serve for a second term. Trudy also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the US EPA Science Advisory Board and as Chair for an NSF Site Visit Committee to evaluate a $20m proposal for a Science and Technology Center at Indiana University.

Ron Davies served as a dissertation committee member for Helga Kristjansdottir, the first economics Ph.D. to be produced by the University of Iceland. He gave guest lectures in environmental studies, the science honors program, and the honors college during his visit to Iceland. Ron also addressed the Eugene Chapter of Beyond War and has been appointed to the editorial board of The North American Journal of Economics and Finance. Additionally, Ron was a guest on the television program “In the Public Interest,” and he continues as Faculty Advisor for Alpha Phi Omega, the National Co-ed Service Fraternity.

Tim Duy is the Director of the Oregon Economic Forum. The most significant event of his year was surely the inaugural Oregon Economic Forum, held in Portland on October 21st 2004. This conference was part of an effort designed to answer the community’s need for an informed analysis of economic issues, with presentations of research by a number of Department of Economics faculty members. Tim continues to serve as an Advisor for economics students, as well as an academic Advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences. This year he is also participating with the Freshman Interest Group program.

Chris Ellis has, over the past year, developed a new undergraduate course “Games People Play” which has been a significant hit with the students. He Chairs the Department Personnel Committee and continues to serve on several other Departmental committees, and assisted in editing this publication!!

George Evans continues as our Director of Ph.D. studies. He also heads the Graduate Admissions exercise and chairs the Awards Committee and Personnel Committee. He is also a member of the Core Theory Committee and Ph.D. Program Committee. In 2003-04 he was Co-chair of the Search Committee and a member of the Faculty Personnel Committee, CAS.

Jo Anna Gray completed her last year of service on the University Graduate Council. At the Department level, she served on the Faculty Personnel Committee and the Core Exam Committee.

Bill Harbaugh serves as a panelist for the National Science Foundation. He recently wrote an op-ed about how to make sure your charitable giving benefits YOU, for the Portland newspaper, The Oregonian.

Stephen Haynes continued another year as Associate Head of the Department, which was more challenging than most given the skyrocketing enrollments in economics without commensurate increases in funding. At the University level, he served on the University Senate and the University Educational Technology Committee.
Van Kolpin remains our much-appreciated Economics Department Head. On the Faculty Advisory Council, he is responsible for providing counsel to the UO President and other Administration officials. He has been a Moderator for the televised Community Conversations series’ panel discussions on the subjects of: "Frankenfood" or "One Seed Feeds the World" and "UO Dollars: Getting More or Paying More?"

Nicolas Magud is a member of the Ph.D. Program Committee and Core Exam Committee.

Larry Singell is a member of the University Senate Budget Committee, Enrollment Management council, Award and Packaging Committee and Faculty Personnel Committee. He is also an Associate Editor for the journal Economics of Education Review, and a fellow of the Oregon Economic Forum.

Joe Stone continues his outstanding service as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, by far the largest college at the U of O. His work has been especially remarkable during this current biennium because of the severe budget difficulties faced by the U of O., including a pay freeze. This past year, Joe successfully Chaired the Search Committee for the Dean of the Charles H. Lundquist College of Business, a position filled by James Bean, formerly Associate Dean of Engineering at the University of Michigan. The Economics Department and the U. of O are indeed fortunate to have Joe Stone help lead us during these difficult times.

Mark Thoma served on the University’s Scholastic Review Committee and the Undergraduate Council (an elected position as social science representative). He is also serving on the 2004-05 Diversity Advisory Council, which will assist and advise the Diversity Work Group in the creation and implementation of the Diversity Action Plan.

Anne van den Nouweland is on the Dean's Advisory Committee in the College of Arts and Sciences. At Departmental level, she is a member of the Core Exam Committee.

Wes Wilson continues to do excellent work as the Department’s Library Coordinator, and at University level, he is a member of the OSRL Advisory Committee and University Career Center Advisory Committee.

BABY BOOM IN THE DEPARTMENT!

Although the Department does not currently operate an explicitly pronatalist policy in its hiring and firing, we are seeing a baby boom in the Economics Department this year and have been scanning the endogenous fertility literature for possible reasons – though without success.

Glen and Angela Waddell began the trend. Their baby daughter Isla came along last November, joining 2-year old brother Iain. Iain is delighted with his little sister, and, Glen says, he is evidently doing his best to join the ranks of junior economists everywhere, as he can often be heard uttering the words (in 2-year-old talk) "Isla, do you not re-co-nize the costs ass-o-see-ate with that?"
In April this year, Nicolas Magud contributed a second baby girl to the Departmental pool, Julieta – or rather, his spouse Marisa Vaccalluzzo did, of course, at least in technical terms. Young Julieta has a sister, 3-year old Micaela; both were born in Takoma Park, Maryland. “About the joys of being a parent,” Nicolas says, “I can only say that it is really the best thing that has happened to me (not very original, but totally real). I really enjoy spending time with them, as with my wife Marisa. A funny thing is that my 3-year-old is already correcting my English pronunciation”.

Not to be outdone, Tim Duy and his wife Heather Walloch produced a baby boy, Jack Alan, in August: “a wonderful little boy,” Tim says “who understands his parents’ needs and began sleeping through the night at 8 weeks”.

The trend towards males continued when Bruce Blonigen and wife Denice Gray adopted young Ben (full name Benjamin Aaron), who was born on August 19, 2004. Ben weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. “The adoption is an open one,” says Bruce, “with a domestic birthmother who lives about an hour away, so we plan to visit her a few times each year and hope she will play a special role in Ben’s life.” Ben is rumored to be growing very quickly - he was already 14 pounds by his 2-month check-up - his dad projects him as starting middle linebacker for the UO football team in 2024.

Robin McKnight brought the Departmental tally to five – its current total – October 2, 2004 with the birth of daughter Abigail Sarah. Abigail’s dad is an economist too – he is John Reuter in the Finance Department, so little Abigail clearly has economics in her blood from the get-go. Although this is the sum total of Departmental babies so far in 2004-5, we are not short of toddlers either, and who knows what is around the corner. Along with toddlers Iain and Micaela already mentioned (ages 2 and 3 respectively), we should include also Catie, daughter of Ron Davies and Colleen Thomas, who was born in September 2002 in Copenhagen, Denmark during Ron’s leave. Catie is therefore 2 years old. Ron clearly is enjoying life as Catie grows. “It’s amazing how quickly they pick things up. She’ll use words or phrases, and I’m left wondering where on Earth she learned that. Lately, when she really wants something, she’ll yell ‘Ron’ instead of ‘Dad’ because she’s figured out that when Mom yells ‘Ron’, I come running”.

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For this edition of the newsletter we thought it would be nice to catch up with some old friends and colleagues, our emeritus faculty. Many of our retired faculty are still, broadly speaking, in the area and active in a wide range of pursuits. Below is the information they gave us, more or less in their own words.

Professor Emeritus Richard M. Davis
Dick Davis has been retired in Eugene since 1983 and is still enjoying it. Dick says that he should stop into the Economics Department more often, but finds his routine of daily walks by the river, seeing friends along the way, and shopping, keeps him busy.

Professor Emeritus Henry N. Goldstein
Henry Goldstein and spouse, Karen Hemmingsen, are living the active retired life in Sunriver, Oregon where --last January-- they bought a newer and bigger house "near circle 10." With three covered courts and a pro nearby, they have become tennis addicts, playing year round. This winter, Henry plans to take greater advantage of the Mt. Bachelor ski-pass rate for super-senior persons --namely free, but Karen will stick to the tennis courts. Henry's only grandchild, Susanne, daughter of older son Josh, just celebrated her first birthday. Henry is still a prodigious writer of op. ed. pieces. Did you catch Henry's recent letter to the editor of the Wall Street Journal (October 21, A19), printed under the heading, "The Taxman Comes for Thee, But Not for Teresa?"

Professor Emeritus Chulsoon Khang
Professor Khang and his wife Mae now reside next to a golf course in Port Ludlow Washington. Now proud grandparents to three grandchildren, both are in excellent health. Chulsoon is still a keen golfer who plays three times a week and admits to a handicap of 18. They take the ferry across to Seattle once a month to enjoy the facilities offered by a big city.

Professor Emeritus Paul B. Simpson
Paul tells us that "The highpoint of my life in recent months was a trip to Indonesia and Singapore made possible by the invitation of an economics student who studied with us some twenty five years ago. Kenneth Ghent retired Professor of Economics, myself, and our two daughters made up this party. Mr. Manga Liong was our host, and he was a most kind, thoughtful, and entertaining one. We spent four days in Jacarta and time enjoying the sights of eastern Java. We spent three nights in Bali, and found the beaches and mountains lovely indeed. More surprising to us was Singapore. I had expected the extensive commercial activity but was surprised by the cleanliness of the streets and buildings and by the lovely parks. Our host Mr. Liong enjoyed pointing out the economic development and providing reasons for believing that China will soon outpace the industrialized economy of the U.S."

Professor Emeritus Robert E. Smith
Professor Smith begins his day by receiving three newspapers at 4:00 a.m.; the London Financial Times, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal. The Oregonian then arrives at 6:00 a.m. He enjoys good food and wine. He loves his apartment with the view of downtown Portland, and uses the new street cars. He maintains a keen interest in economics. His recent interests include social security, privatization and plutocracy; government of, by, and for the wealthy people. He will be celebrating his 83rd birthday on October 28th, with his son, Chris, who also lives in Portland. He has two daughters that he gets to see on
regular basis, Brooke in Bend and Anne who lives in Montana.

Professor Emeritus W. Ed Whitelaw

When Ed Whitelaw is not teaching at the UO or consulting at ECONorthwest, he lives in Tumalo (about 10 minutes west of Bend) where he rides horses, does a little shooting, and watches any movie rated above 0.5 stars. He is a newly-minted grandfather, and while perhaps a little biased, claims his progeny are already at least as smart as many students and employees he has mentored. Having declined an early request to run on the 2008 Democratic ticket, he plans instead to organize cub-economist training sessions to turn the USA to a path of reason and economic justice. His belt buckle still displays a Superman-S.

RAY WAS THERE

As those that have taken his classes over the years will know, Professor Ray Mikesell was one of the participants at the Bretton Woods Conference, that shaped the post-war international financial system. Recently Ray attended the conference’s 60th anniversary and agreed to share with us his insights. What Ray modestly fails to mention in what follows is that he was both individually singled out for recognition during the ceremonies, and that no less a figure than Colin Powell sought him out to solicit his opinions.

“This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Bretton Woods Conference at which the charters for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or World Bank) were negotiated. Last September this anniversary was celebrated in Washington, DC at a meeting of the Fund, Bank and US government officials. As the last living participant in the Bretton Woods Conference, I was invited to participate in the meeting. Speeches were given by the President of the World Bank, Jim Wolfensohn; the Managing Director of the IMF, Rodrigo de Rato; the US Secretary of State, Colin Powell; and John Snow, US Secretary of the Treasury, among others.

The Bretton Woods Conference, held at a resort in New Hampshire in 1944, was organized by the US government and was attended by 44 delegates of countries interested in the creation of international financial institutions.

The IMF was designed to stabilize exchange rates after World War II and to provide financial assistance to countries in periods of balance of payments deficit. The IBRD was mainly designed to provide loans to countries devastated by the war, but it could also finance economic development. However, neither institution has performed in accordance with the original design. Member countries no longer maintain their currency values at a fixed level, and the Bank played almost no role in financing post-war reconstruction. Both the IMF and the Bank are mainly concerned with the development of poor countries.

The recent anniversary meeting dealt with the evolution of the two institutions and with suggested changes in their policies and operations. One issue considered was improving coordination of the Fund and World Bank in assisting developing countries. Some economists have suggested that the Fund be abolished, while others believe the Fund and Bank should be merged. Another issue dealt with the role of the Fund in reviewing and making recommendations on the economic policies of developed countries, such as the United States, Britain and the European Union, since the economic policies of developed counties have important effects on the economies of poor countries. For example, it was suggested that the Fund criticize the United States’ large fiscal deficit on the grounds that it may lead to a financial crisis that could
cause world-wide depression. No conclusions were reached on any major issues.”

**OUR MAN AT THE IMF**

During the 2003-2004 academic year, Shankha Chakraborty visited the IMF Institute in Washington DC as a resident scholar. Below is his report of his experiences.

“The IMF Institute is a research and training branch of the IMF. Its main job is to train officials from the IMF's member countries in economic management.

I taught a couple of courses at the Institute’s training facility in DC and then for two weeks in Singapore where the IMF has a permanent training center for its Asian participants. The Singapore course was two weeks long and was on financial and banking crises. Since the Asian crisis of 1997-98, the IMF has been actively promoting prudent financial management in developing countries. As part of this push, a selected group of 29 central bankers and government officials from Asian countries came to attend the course. The idea was to promote policies that avert the severe problems some Asian and Latin American countries have faced since the 1990s. Issues ranged from why and how financial crises happened to how financial management can be tightened and more crucially, reformed, in developing countries. The course was a lot of fun and involved quite a bit of give-and-take with the participants. While economic theory rarely allows for the imperfections of the real world, it was instructive and humbling to find out how policymakers in the real world grapple with the political and economic challenges of decision-making. Singapore, with its unique blend of Chinese, Malaysian and Indian culture was also a unique experience. And the food, absolutely great!

I worked on research for the rest of my stay in DC, and started several new projects with people at the IMF Institute. It's good to be back in Eugene though!”

**FACULTY PROFILE - George Evans**

In 1994 a gift from a former University of Oregon economics undergraduate created a new endowed chair, the John B. Hamacher Professor of Economics. George Evans has been holding this chair since its inception.

George received a bachelor's degree in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University in England in 1972, and a B.A. in mathematics in 1974, an M.A. in statistics in 1976, and a Ph.D. in economics in 1980 from the University of California at Berkeley. He taught at Stanford from 1981 – 1987. In 1983–84 he visited the London School of Economics in London, and then went there “permanently” in 1987, but left in 1993 to spend a short period as a Chair at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He joined the University of Oregon faculty to be the first John B. Hamacher Professor of Economics in 1994, and we hope he will stay in this position for many more years.

George’s principal field is macroeconomics and he greatly enjoys teaching undergraduate intermediate macroeconomics, as it is the key undergraduate course that presents the theoretical framework for analyzing the determinants of inflation, unemployment, and growth and for examining the impact of monetary and fiscal policy. One of the attractive features of this course is that the relevant topics in the news change every year. For example, in the late 1990s, during the longest US expansion on record, George would focus on the question of whether the boom would eventually end (macroeconomists knew to say that at some point there would be a downturn), and to list the most likely ways a recession would arise. More recently, of course, he spends time on the causes of the last recession, the reasons for the very aggressive monetary loosening over 2000-2003, and an assessment of recent fiscal policy changes and the newly emergent deficits. At the graduate level, George teaches core macroeconomics, time-series econometrics,
and an advanced macroeconomics field class that stresses his research interests. One of the interesting things about core macro is that the material doesn’t vary radically across Ph.D. programs. There really has evolved a common core of material in macroeconomics that all PhD students need to learn, regardless of whether the macroeconomists in the Department have a “Keynesian” or “Classical” or some other viewpoint. This wasn’t true, say, 30 years ago. The difference now is that there is a huge body of techniques – emphasizing dynamic stochastic equilibrium models – which are shared by almost all macroeconomists. As a consequence, Real Business Cycle and “New Keynesian” macroeconomists, for example, who often disagree violently on policy issues, can nonetheless talk easily to each other because there is a 90 percent overlap in the tools that they use.

George is an incredibly productive researcher with very high visibility. One of the many attractions that made our Department successful in attracting George Evans was that the Hamacher Chair provides research funds enabling him to travel (or to have people travel here) to continue joint research with colleagues in Europe and the United States. Currently, George is working with economists at Cambridge University, UK; the ENS in Paris, France; the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, Germany; Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain; the Federal Reserve Banks of Cleveland and St. Louis; Oregon State University, the University of California, Irvine; and Princeton. George’s collaborations with Seppo Honkapohja, whom he met during his time at Stanford, have been especially fruitful. Seppo visits the UO often and spent the spring term here in 1999 to work with George. George and Seppo have written a book *Learning and Expectations in Macroeconomics* (Princeton University Press, 2001) and 30 papers together; George informs us that there is no end in sight. In fact, Seppo was sighted in George’s office just a few weeks ago.

In the last five years, George’s research with Seppo and other colleagues has seen an increasing emphasis on practical macro policy issues. The latest generation of “New Keynesian” macroeconomic models has turned out to be an ideal setting in which to study bounded rationality and learning dynamics, George’s main research interests. As an example, certain types of Central Bank interest rate policies (those that react in part to private sector expectations) facilitate stability under private agent learning while other, apparently very natural rules (those looking only at fundamentals) can lead to instability. The learning viewpoint also has a lot to say about the interaction between monetary and fiscal policy and, for example, the possibility of the economy getting stuck in a liquidity trap. Within US and European central bank research departments, there is now a great deal of interest in learning and expectation formation, and it is exciting to watch it grow in influence. Recent conferences organized by the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta; and by the CFS in Eltville, Germany; as well as an earlier workshop sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, centered on the implications of adaptive learning for monetary and fiscal policy.

For George one of the big advantages of the University of Oregon is that we get some terrific graduate students. Two of George’s students, and now coauthors, Bruce McGough and Bill Branch, are now assistant professors at Oregon State and UC Irvine respectively.

**VISITING FACULTY**

**Professor John Fender**

This fall we were pleased to welcome back an old friend, John Fender from the University of Birmingham in the UK. John, who is one of Britain’s leading macroeconomists, spent a week in our Department working on a project about corruption and growth with Chris Ellis. During his stay John gave a brown bag seminar.

**Professor Seppo Honkapohja**

Another old friend back on campus this year was Seppo Honkapohja. In January Seppo moved to Cambridge, England where now he is Professor of International
Macroeconomics at the Cambridge University and Professorial Fellow at Clare College. Seppo was here for a brief visit in January and then for a week each in June and in October. He and George Evans have recently been finishing a couple of papers on the interaction between learning and fiscal policy. Their current projects are joint work with Jim Bullard (of the St. Louis Federal Reserve) on "Near Rational Exuberance", and with Noah Williams (Princeton) on "Generalized Stochastic Gradient Learning".

Professor Myrna Wooders
This fall we were very pleased to have Myrna Wooders visit us for a week. Her visit was financed as part of our Slape Visiting Speaker program, which is made possible by a generous donation from one of our alumni. Myrna gave a brown bag talk "Relaxing Tax Competition Through Public Good Differentiation" and a seminar "Behavioural Conformity is Games with Many Players". In addition, Myrna worked intensively with Anne van den Nouweland on a continuing joint research project. Myrna is a world-renowned scholar in public economics who recently moved to Vanderbilt University from the University of Warwick (UK). She has an impressive publication record, was one of two founding editors of *Economics Bulletin* and is a co-editor of the *Journal of Public Economic Theory*. Myrna has also been involved in the organization of too many conferences to mention and is a Fellow of the Econometric Society. We are very lucky indeed that we could convince her to give us a week of her time.

*The visits of these distinguished faculty members were made possible by the generous gift of George Slape.*

**OUR SEMINAR SERIES**

Each year our Department’s seminar series brings in leading economists from around the world. These visits help to keep our faculty and students abreast of the latest developments in the field. In addition, they serve to spread Oregon’s reputation as a school engaged in top-notch research and quality teaching. Last year the Department hosted economists such as Ed Lazear, a labor economist from Stanford; Bennett McCallum, a macroeconomist from Carnegie Mellon; and Gordon Hanson, an international economist from UC San Diego. This year our schedule is equally filled and just as exciting, and we are proud to welcome to the schedule two Oregon alumni Ron Jarmin and Bill Branch.

Our seminars are open to the public and generally take place in 410 PLC at 3:30 on Fridays. Please join us!
### Seminars/Workshops Schedule 2004-2005

#### Fall 2004

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<th>Speaker</th>
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<td>Ron Jarmin</td>
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<td>Ken Troske</td>
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<td>Bill Branch</td>
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<td>Amitabh Chandra</td>
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<td>Rod Ludema</td>
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* indicates possible Visiting Scholar; ** indicates possible Slape Speaker. BB indicates Brown Bag talk.

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**OREGON ECONOMIC FORUM**

In an effort to make our expertise available to the wider community, the Economics Department in conjunction with the Colleges of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office has initiated a series of Oregon Economics Forums. The first of these events took place in Portland in October. At this event business, government and industry representatives got a glimpse of the projected 2005 state economy.

The half-day forum provided a platform for UO economists to present new research and open a dialogue with Oregon leaders on key policy, taxation, and trade issues. Among those at the event were U.S. Rep. David Wu and Marty Brantley, Oregon Department of Economic and Community Development Director.

Presentations included an examination of economic performance as a predictor of presidential election winners, pros and cons of corporate tax incentives, the impact of international trade on Oregon’s economy, and the state and federal minimum wages. Featured speaker Mary Ann Bartels, Director of global equities strategies for Merrill Lynch in New York, presented a forecast of the 2005 stock market.
At the Forum CAS Dean Joe Stone presented research on the economy and presidential elections—conducted in partnership with Economics Professor Stephen Haynes—that accurately predicted the subsequent electoral victory of incumbent George Bush. Their work used formulas that have successfully called the winner of all but two presidential elections since 1908. But regardless of this outcome, Oregon Economic Forum Director Tim Duy noted in his presentation that federal policies are projected to have a neutral impact on next year’s Oregon economy.

Additional presenters included Bruce Blonigen, Knight Professor of Economics; Larry Singell, Professor of Economics; and Ronald B. Davies, Associate Professor of Economics.

The forum is part of a series of public engagement efforts planned by CAS and the economics department during the coming year. For information on next year’s forum, contact Tim Duy at 346-1305 or duy@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

**THE UNDERGRADUATE ECONOMICS PROGRAM**

Our undergraduate program continues to be strong with 460 majors and over 150 minors enrolled this fall term. We saw 166 economics majors graduate this last academic year. While total undergraduate enrollment at the University of Oregon has gone up significantly in the last five years, the percentage increase in UO economics majors has far outpaced this general increase, and we are now at a record high!

The job market was very solid for our undergraduate students and included placements by our undergraduate majors with companies such as Wells Fargo, Boeing, Sanyo, Capital IQ (Wall Street Consulting firm), National Instrument, Random House, and Pfizer. As usual, a number of recent graduates went on to top graduate schools in economics, law, public policy, and business, including programs at University of Wisconsin, Washington University (St. Louis), and University of Illinois.

During the school year, there was an active group of over 30 peer advisors that helped advise many current and prospective economics majors, as well as coordinate a number of public events focusing on career, internships and graduate study possibilities for economics majors. In both the fall and spring terms, we had an "Economics Career Day" where the focus was a panel of alumni that discussed how the economics degree prepared them for their career and answered questions from the audience of current majors. Big thanks go to alumni David Clyde (1973), Erik Bjorvik (1992), Sarah Lawson (2002), Hope Siler (2002), Cherry Dinwiddie (2003), and J.P. Mischkot (2003), who came to campus to share their experiences with current majors. If any alumni out there would be interested in participating in future panels, please contact our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Bruce Blonigen (Ph: 541-346-4680, Email: bruceb@uoregon.edu). Over the years, the peer advisors have put together a very useful webpage on career, internship and graduate school information for economics majors, which you can check out at: http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~econpeer/peer.html.

Our students have also been active in pursuing internship experiences. Over 20 students received academic credit for internships this past year at such places as Fred Meyer, RBC Dain Rauscher, Merrill Lynch, Krome Sports Enterprises, Morgan Stanley, KPMG, ChannelForce, Pritchard, Evans & Elder, and the Social Security Administration. A number of our graduating seniors turned internship experiences into full-time positions with the same company.

In summary, it was truly a talented graduating class. Our undergraduate majors received numerous Departmental
and University-wide awards. At the Department level, Ian McConnaha and Tatiana Raterman were named co-recipients of the Daniel Cohen Scholarship in Economics, supported by a generous gift from alumnus Daniel Cohen, and each received a $750 award towards their future academic studies. Candidates for the scholarship were evaluated on the basis of the overall quality of their academic record, potential for further academic achievement, and leadership in community service activities.

Fifteen students received honors in economics, which required a high GPA in their upper-division economics courses and an honors thesis written in consultation with a faculty member. This may be a record number of honors theses, and many of them came through the new honors research class developed by Profs. Blonigen and Harbaugh. This team-taught course connects honors students with local non-profit and government agencies to apply economic analysis to real-world issues facing these community organizations. This past year saw the students work on projects for the local United Way, the Oregon Bach Festival, Lane Transit (our local bus service), and the Eugene Chamber of Commerce. Students wrote honors papers in two-person teams and gave PowerPoint presentations to the local organization. The papers are available on the web at: http://economics.uoregon.edu/honors/. A UO Williams Council grant funded the inception of this course and a generous donation by alumnus Richard D. Fulmer has helped to sustain it.

Our economics majors were also recipients of University-wide honors. Two of our students, Thomas Breaden and Nattaphan Paisanburapa, were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Heather Van Horn graduated Summa Cum Laude (GPA in top 1% of her class at UO), while five other economics majors graduated Magna Cum Laude or Cum Laude.

Finally, Daniel Claric was honored as "Peer Advisor of the Year" at the University of Oregon.

The Graduate Program

Our master’s program continues to thrive. We graduated ten master’s students last year, and this year we have a large enrollment in our master’s program with eight new master’s students and one exchange student who started taking classes in the program in the hopes to be enrolled in our master’s program beginning winter term 2005. Joshua Dibble received his bachelor’s degree in 2004 from the University of Santa Cruz majoring in economics and legal studies. Eric Duquette received his bachelor’s degree in 2002 from the University of Arkansas majoring in wireless communication systems and information and coding theory. Silke Friedrich received her Diplom-Vorprüfung in 2003 from the Universität Konstanz in Germany majoring in economics. Jheenong Kim received his bachelor’s degree in 1993 from Seoul National University in Korea majoring in economics and he received a master of public administration in 1998 as well. Yun Saeng Kim received his bachelor’s degree in 1988 from Korea University majoring in economics. Benjamin Lederer received his bachelor’s degree in 2004 from the University of Oregon majoring in sociology and economics. Patricia Olmedo received her economist degree in 2000 from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador. Vinit Sirichit received his bachelor of business administration in 1997 from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand majoring in banking and finance. He also received a master’s of business administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2000. Mefdune Yurekli received her
bachelor’s degree in 2002 from Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität in Germany majoring economics and business administration.

We graduated three Ph.D. students last year and placed them all in academic jobs. Ed Birdyshaw is a visiting professor at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Oguzhan (Oz) Dincer took a faculty position in the Department of Commerce of the University of Massey Auckland, New Zealand. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read how he likes living upside down. Mark Stater is now a faculty member in the Department of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Athens, Georgia.

This year’s “Best Ph.D. Field Paper Award” went to Kevin Hendrickson for his paper entitled “Wages, Unionization, and Deregulation in the Motor Carrier Industry”. Kevin is working with professors Wes Wilson and Glen Waddell. Our current students are also keeping up standards for excellence in the classroom. Brad Curs, Stephen Kosovich, and Mike Visser all won awards for their outstanding teaching.

This year is going to be a big year as at least eight of our current Ph.D. students are going on the job market. We wish them all luck during these stressful times.

We also have a large class of new Ph.D. students. Abhas Ghimire, who is originally from Nepal, received his bachelor’s degree in 2004 from Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville majoring in economics and computer science. Aaron Hilsen received his bachelor’s degree in 2004 from the University of Oregon majoring in economics and minoring in business administration. Erica Johnson received her bachelor’s degree in 1999 from the University of Montana in Missoula majoring in economics and Spanish and minoring in mathematics. (Erica was recommended to us by Oregon alumnus Professor Douglas Dahlenberg). Chang Yong Kim received his bachelor’s degree in 1999 from Inje University in Korea majoring in applied statistics and minoring in English language & literature. He also received a MBA degree in 2002 from Western Washington University in Bellingham, and has just successfully completed one year in our masters program. Edward Nicholas Muller (Nick) received his bachelor’s degree in 1986 from Washington University in St. Louis majoring in economics, a master’s degree in economics in 1988 from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and a master of divinity degree from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in 1994. Devdatta Ray received his bachelor of commerce degree in 1987 from St. Xavier’s College, University of Calcutta, a diploma (MA) degree in co-operative economics in 1996 from Philipps-Universitaet Marburg/Lahn in Germany, and a master’s degree in economics in 2003 from the University of Nebraska in Omaha. Mark Ryan received his bachelor’s degree in 2003 from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville majoring in economics and psychology. Sebastian Stolorz received his master’s degree in 2001 from the Warsaw School of Economics in Poland.
Economics in Poland. His major field of specialization was quantitative methods and information systems. Annie Voy received her bachelor’s degree in 2001 from St. Mary’s College of California majoring in business administration and economics. She received her master’s degree in economics in 2002 from Tufts University in Massachusetts.

OREGON GRADUATE STUDENT ATTENDS PRESTIGIOUS CONFERENCE

From September 1 through September 4, Paul Shea attended the first Lindau Meeting of the Winners of the Nobel Prize in Economics. The conference was held in the small Bavarian town of Lindau on the shores of Lake Constance. The Lindau Foundation has held similar meetings in physics, chemistry, and medicine for over 50 years. The foundation hopes that the meetings in economics will become a regular occurrence. Ten Nobel Prize winners (Robert Fogel, Clive Granger, Daniel McFadden, Robert Merton, James Mirrless, Robert Mundell, John Nash, William Sharpe, Reinhard Selten, and Robert Solow) attended the conference. Approximately 190 graduate students and recent Ph.D.s also attended. About 35 represented American institutions.

Each noble laureate delivered a thirty-minute presentation and made himself available for small group discussions. Paul was fortunate to attend such discussions with Dr. Granger and Dr. Nash. Nightly dinners provided additional opportunities to converse with the laureates. The conference was also an opportunity to interact with other graduate students from many different fields and programs. The participants were eager to discuss their own research. Paul is optimistic that these discussions will help direct his own research into fruitful areas.

LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND

One recent Oregon Ph.D. Oguzhan (Oz) Dincer took an exciting job at Massey University in Auckland New Zealand here is his “Letter from New Zealand”

No worries. That is the unofficial motto in New Zealand. It is good because everyone is so relaxed and laid-back. But it is bad because everyone is so relaxed and laid-back. There is no heating in the houses. No worries, find one facing north. To the north is Fiji, but to the south is Antarctica. And of course you have four seasons in one day. You do not get as much rain as Oregon though.

Living in Oregon makes everyone appreciate a nice glass of wine. In Auckland a five minute drive to the grocery store and you can get the best Sauvignon Blanc in the world. A forty minute flight and you can see where it is grown.

Living in Oregon also makes everyone appreciate the outdoors. New Zealand is a truly amazing country. You can hike into a subtropical rainforest or walk on a glacier. You can windsurf off a sandy beach or snowboard down an alpine mountain. I have not done any of this yet but I have only been here for a few months. I will do it, no worries.”

BOOST TO THE DEPARTMENT’S FINANCIAL FORTUNES!

In 1952 Walter J. Mead was the first University of Oregon student to earn a Ph.D. in economics. Now he’s giving back to his alma mater, through a $500,000 endowment gift for a faculty fellowship in economics. Walter told us:

“I really appreciated having the opportunity to get to know my professors well at the University of Oregon and the personal attention they gave me … I received an excellent broad liberal arts education that has served me well in everything I have undertaken. I am indebted to UO for helping me lay the groundwork for a richly rewarding life and career, and I am so pleased to be able to make this gift that can help ensure the continuing high quality of the faculty.”
After a distinguished career of 32 years as a Professor of Economics at University of California, Santa Barbara, Mead retired in 1991. A past president of the Western Economics Association, Mead's expertise in energy economics earned him career recognition from the International Association of Energy Economists. In 1989 the College of Arts and Sciences also recognized his career by naming him one of their distinguished alumni fellows.

Mead, a native of Oregon who grew up in Salem, is fond of recalling his student days on campus. "*Those friendships with fellow students and professors have lasted a lifetime,*" he says. He and his wife, Thelma, recently returned to campus, where their son, Douglas, studied as well. They revisited some of their old friends and campus hangouts and, of course, talked shop with some of the UO's esteemed economists. Department Head Van Kolpin told us that, it was a special occasion for the entire Department: It was a real treat to reminisce with them about the early days of our program.

The Walter J. Mead Faculty Endowment Fund in Economics will be primarily used as a source of funding to retain top faculty and to lure the best and brightest from around the world to join a department already renowned for its innovative programs and research. As a former professor, Walter Mead knows first hand how support for faculty translates into support for students, says Dean Joe Stone. When individuals like him step up and show this level of generosity and loyalty for their alma mater, it serves as a wonderful testament to the impact that our faculty have on students lives. Walter's gift ensures that a world-class faculty will continue to inspire students at the University of Oregon for generations to come.

*Walter and Thelma Mead surrounded by members of the Economics Department outside Johnson Hall, following a reception given by the Department in August 2004*

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**DONATIONS FROM DECEMBER 2003 TO NOVEMBER 2004**

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Grove Michael and Laurie
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Hackett Thomas
Hamilton James
Harris William
Hatfield Christopher and Audrey
Hickmann Linda
Hillbold Arthur Jr. and Jane
Hilton Mary and Howard
Hoffman David and More'
Holmes Michael
Hora Ryan and Angela
Jatoi Anwarullah
Johnston Melinda and Mark
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Kambour Christian
Karia Haridas and Sarojini
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Kohl William
Lee Rachel
Lee Carie Arakawa and Vernon
Lezak Christopher
Liebreich Howard and Wendy
Loerky Terry
Mamerow Geoff
Martin Christopher and Mary Simpson
Mathios Michael
Maya Lisa
McDaniel Richard and Nan Mimnaugh
McKinney Kelli and Dean
McPherson Michael and Ann
Mickelwait Donald
Milman Martin and Velvet
Miller Thomas and Christine
Mitchell Alan and Ruth
Morissette Garth
Nelson Hunt and Ann
Orito Ryo taro and Yaemi
Ortiz Rosalynda
Park Sung C.
Paul Michael and Agnes
Post Travis
Rader Willis and Anne
Ramsthet Steven and Margaret
Rasor Julia
Reifenstuhl Gail
Reilly Kathryn
Robinson Gregory
Roos Kenneth and Marion
Rousslang Donald and Annie
Rynerson Charles
Schaedler William and Elaine
Schaper Susan
Schorr Craig
Schottmiller John Sr. and Anne
Schulz Paul
Schunhoff John
Seeborg Michael
Seiden Kenneth
Sheilds Karmel
Siegel Jetta and Barry
Simasko James and Darla
Singleton Eunice and Ross
Siuta Scott
S lawson Frank
Slunaker Barbara
Smith David
Sonstegaard Miles and Loretta
Sorenson Dave and Julie
St. Louis Larry and Elizabeth
Stevens William and Susan
Stewart Douglas and Katherine
Stubblebine Michael
Talley Daniel and Aisha
Tibbles Kay
Tibbles W. Lance
Titus James
Vizzini Daniel and Gail
Wade Larry
Watts Harold
Wells James Jr. and Hazel
Whittle Kennard
Wogan Mary Lou and Cameran
Wong Barry
Worthley Todd and Angeline

$200 - $499
Ben-Zion Barry and Barouch
Berry Thomas and June
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Church Phillip and Constance
Connolly Coleen and James
Evans A. Matthew and Elizabeth
Ferguson Kim and Melody
Freeman Clifford
Goldstein Henry
Halley Richard
Harms John
Haworth Charles and Joan
Hiatt John
Houchen Loren and Donna
Kim Hyong and Su
Kolb Jeffrey and Marie
Lehr Dona and Ronald
Ludwig David and Kate
Mahoney Michael and Dana
Mikami Sach and Miki
Moyer Jimmy
Nakahara Norio and Nanae
O’Doherty Daniel
Pantelis Daniel
Pyle Jack and Diane
Smith Brad and Kimberly
Southgate Douglas Jr.
Thompson Curtis and Phyllis
Wang Miao
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<th>Name</th>
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<th>$1,000 and Above</th>
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$500 - $999

- Anderson: John and Martha
- Barsby: Steve and Helen
- Buikat: Tina
- Bunting: Fredericka
- Dewey: Douglas
- Hwang: Eui-Gak and Young-Ja
- Lanz: Heli
- Mitchell: John and Carol
- Pinto: Michael and Carol
- Teasley: Howard and Barbara
- Thammano: Aran and Revadee
- Wee: Jung
- Wolf: Harold and Jeanett

$1,000 and Above

- Ankrim: Ernest and Karen
- Cox: Jack and Joyce
- Freiermuth: Lee
- Kennedy: John and Leanne
- Leupold: Christopher and Susan
- Liong: Sie
- Price: Richard
- Ranlett: John and Marion
- Worthington: David and Ann
- Yang: Yung-Yong and Jane
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Class /Year: _______________________________________
Degree: ___________________________________________

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The Envelope

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