

Jo Anna Gray and Joe Stone to Retire

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TWO TREASURED FACULTY MEMBERS AS THEY PREPARE FOR RETIREMENT

As Joe Stone and Jo Anna Gray plan for their well-earned retirement, we'd like to celebrate their accomplishments and their perspectives on the changes in the field of economics and the UO across five decades.



Joe Stone earned his PhD from Michigan State University in 1977, and came to the University of Oregon in 1979. In 1984, he returned to Washington, D.C., for a one-year stint as a senior economist on the president's Council of Economic Advisers, advising the CEA and the White House on international trade policy. On his return to Eugene in 1985, Joe was named the W. E. Miner Professor of Economics. After nearly a decade in administration, Stone also served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences between 1998 and 2006.



Jo Anna Gray earned her PhD in 1976 from the University of Chicago, and joined the UO Department of Economics in 1989 after serving as an economist for the Federal Reserve System between 1978 and 1983 and associate professor at Washington State University. Gray served as department head between 1992 and 1995, and as associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences between 1996 and 1998.

To read the full interview with Joe and Jo Anna, visit economics.uoregon.edu and click on "Newsletter Supplement."

Greetings from the Department Chair




Department Chair Van Kolpin

The past decade has led to a near quadrupling in the number of our undergraduate majors and a roughly 50 percent growth in the number of graduate students and faculty members. This year we have been able to complement this growth in bodies with additional elbow room as the department's real estate holdings have been expanded to include office space on the third floor of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.

The department's biggest story is not, however, its increased girth. Instead, it's the endless stream of noteworthy accomplishments and accolades produced by our students and faculty alike—research publications; presentations at national and international conferences; editorships; leadership positions on advisory boards of nonprofit agencies; research and teaching awards at regional, national, and international levels; and more. We've touched on some of these accomplishments in the contents of this newsletter, but many others can be found by surfing our website at economics.uoregon.edu.

Of course, these many successes would not have been possible were it not for the loyal support of alumni, former colleagues, and many other friends of the department. The next time you find yourself in Eugene, please stop by the economics department located in the "majestic tower" of PLC so that we can thank you in person!

Read More Online

So many great things are happening in our department these days that one yearly newsletter can't possibly contain it all! You'll find more content online whenever you see this symbol . Just visit economics.uoregon.edu and click on "Newsletter Supplement" to keep reading. We'll also be adding more eNews throughout the year, so check back!

Department News

BY TERI ROWE, DEPARTMENT MANAGER

In last year's newsletter, we mentioned that the department was bursting at the seams from the many new faculty and GTFs joining our ranks. Thankfully, shifts in office space at the College of Arts and Sciences has allowed us to expand into more space on the 3rd and 4th floors of PLC, finally allowing all our faculty, staff, and GTFs to be housed under one roof again. The remodeling and updating of our office space continues, but we're beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

We've also had some changes in our office staff. In spring of 2013, we were happy to welcome Savannah Hines to our team as Undergraduate Coordinator. An Oregon native, UO alum and die-hard Duck fan, she lived in New Orleans for a time before returning to Eugene to work for her alma mater.

And new adventures are in store for Savannah. Because Graduate Coordinator Kellie Geldreich has been named the Academic Affairs Manager for the Graduate School, we're pleased to announce that Savannah will be taking over Kellie's position, ensuring a seamless transition. Kellie's exemplary work supporting our graduate students left little doubt that her talents would attract attention elsewhere on campus, and we wish her the very best. Congratulations, Kellie and Savannah!

We also hired Jodie Rogers this fall to be our department's new Communications Coordinator. Jodie comes from a background in communications and marketing for a number of local and regional credit unions and green-transportation

organizations, and will serve as office backup in addition to her duties coordinating the website, newsletter, and other communications channels for the department.

The Department of Economics includes two other staff members—Career and Advising Services Director Bill Sherman, and SAIL Director Lara Fernandez. Both Bill and Lara have become an essential part of the work we do serving students and helping them succeed both in school and the workplace.

We're still here at 435 PLC—if you're ever back at the UO, be sure to stop by! ■



Savannah Hines, Jodie Rogers, Kellie Geldreich, Bill Sherman, Lara Fernandez, and Teri Rowe.

NOTES FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR

BY JEREMY PIGER

We begin 2013–14 with fifty-four graduate students, forty-four of whom are in the doctoral program. Of these, sixteen are new PhD students and four are new master's students who arrived this fall.

We had four PhD students complete their doctoral training over the past year and begin exciting new careers. Two of these students accepted assistant professor positions in the Southern Hemisphere, with Chris Gibbs joining the faculty at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, and Harold Cuffe joining Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Staying closer to home, Isaac Swensen joined the faculty at Montana State University as an assistant professor of economics, while Lance Kaufmann began work with the State of Oregon in Salem as an electricity regulator. We also had a large number of students (eleven total) complete master's degrees in our department this past year.

Our graduate students have also won a number of teaching and research awards this past year (see Student Scholarships, page 5). A generous gift from Paul Kleinsorge many years ago enables us to fund a summer dedicated to research for five of

our PhD students each year. The Dale Underwood Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarship, which is given each year to the top first-year PhD student, was awarded this year to Felix Friedt.

Recent gifts have also allowed us to provide some summer support for first-year students who successfully pass their comprehensive exams. Cultivating teaching skills is a priority in our doctoral program, and our graduate students routinely excel at teaching. This year, two of our best, Tyler Schipper and Alex Monte Calvo, won the department's "Outstanding GTF" teaching award.

Finally, we were able to fund travel for many of our graduate students to present their research at conferences across the country. Such conferences are invaluable opportunities for them to gain professional experience and to network. This too, is funded in part by a donor gift by Beatrice Aitchison many years ago. ■



Jeremy Piger

UNDERGRADUATE NOTES

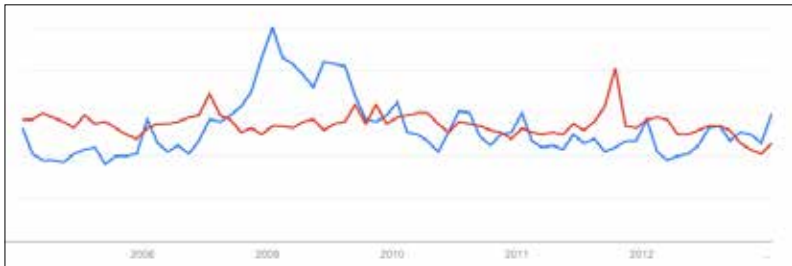
BY WILLIAM HARBAUGH

Google's chief economist, Hal Varian, came to the UO in October for a lecture sponsored by alum George Slape. Varian is famous among professors for his important papers on economic theory, and infamous among students for the tough questions in his textbooks. Twelve years ago, Google was curious about what an economist could do to improve their new business, so they hired him away from Berkeley. Economic ideas turned out to be quite important to Google's phenomenal growth.



Hal Varian

Varian's talk was on "Google Data Tools," about how web search data can improve economic forecasts. For example, Google Trends gives daily information on the number of Google searches for "unemployment insurance office." This gives a pretty good forecast of the official U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics unemployment data, which the government releases only on a monthly basis, and with a considerably longer lag. Try it at <http://www.google.com/trends>. You can even compare the number of searches for, say, "unemployment office" (blue) with "new BMW" (red):



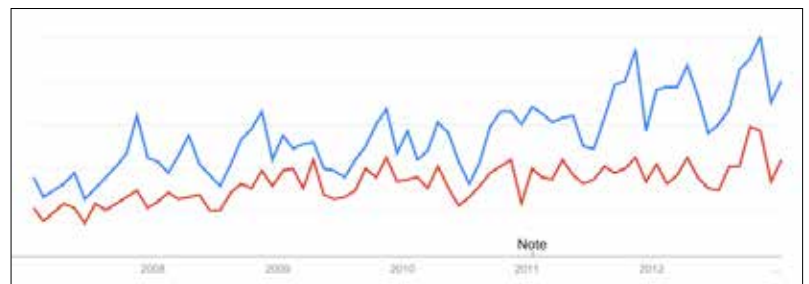
That looks like a negative correlation to me, maybe with a time lead, which would be useful if you are trying to predict sales.

More and Different Economics Majors

Recessions are great for economists. Students get curious about what has gone wrong, and they worry about making money. Last year the New York Times reported that 8.2 percent of economics majors end up earning incomes in the top 1 percent of the U.S. distribution. So it's not surprising that the number of UO economics majors has doubled since 2006. In fact, maybe we can start predicting course demand with Google, too? Searches for "economics major" are in blue, "political science major" are in red:



Bill Harbaugh



Hal Varian's talk was standing room only. Afterward, I was struck by all the students lining up to get their picture taken with him. Nothing like a recession to turn an economist into a rock star!

But it was even more striking how many of the students in line for photos were Chinese. They are now 60 percent of our declared freshman economics majors. Dealing with this surge in enrollment is a challenge for the department, as are their different interests and comparative advantages, and we are still figuring out the best way to allocate our resources to ensure that we do a good job for all our students. ■

Grace Miller Scholarships

In spring 2013, three outstanding economics students received the Grace Miller Scholarship.



Aaron Matney

Aaron Matney began his career at Oregon as a political science major, earning his degree in his junior year before turning to a love of economics that he'd fostered since his days as a high school student in Eugene. He credits his academic achievement to the many great teachers in his life, including his parents. He continues to excel in his academic pursuits in memory of his late father.

Justin McCormick is also a double major—in both business administration and economics, after discovering his passion for economics in his first term at the UO. An Oregon native, Justin



Justin McCormick

is the first member of his family to attend college. He hopes to pursue a career as an analyst or consultant.

Andrea Vedder is a returning student with a journalist's sensibilities and the heart of a teacher: she wants to advocate for public education using her skills in writing and storytelling as well as her ability to ask questions and evaluate data from an economist's point of view.



Andrea Vedder

ABOUT THE GRACE MILLER SCHOLARSHIP

Grace Miller earned an MA in business administration from the University of Oregon in 1954, and went on to teach economics at South Eugene High School. She later endowed a fund to provide scholarships to distinguished undergraduate students of economics. ■

PhD Job Market Candidates

To learn more about our distinguished PhD candidates and their areas of research and interest, visit economics.uoregon.edu and select “Job Market Candidates/Placements” from the pull-down menu marked “People.”

JEFFREY ALLEN

Jeffrey Allen grew up in Southern California and earned a BA in economics from the University of California at Riverside. While at UCR, he started a program that provided aid to people



in the eastern region of Ghana. This summer, the program formally organized into a nonprofit that seeks to construct health clinics and schools in rural areas. Since joining the department as a GTF, Jeff has taught courses on development, international economics, and

principles of macroeconomics. His research interests include economic growth and development and macroeconomics—specifically the macroeconomic impacts of poverty. He spends his free time backpacking and coaching soccer at a local high school.

RICH HIGGENS

Rich grew up in Maine and earned a BS from Penn State. After graduating, he worked for FactSet Research Systems in New York City. Seeing the financial crisis develop on Wall Street,



he became interested in getting a better understanding of the macroeconomy and the business cycle. Rich’s research interests include monetary policy, macroeconomic volatility, and the real effects of financial frictions. Rich likes to spend his free time hiking and fly-fishing.

KRIS HOLDEN

Kris Holden grew up in Washington and became interested in economics while attending Western Washington University. After graduating with a BS in economics and mathematics, he joined the UO to pursue a PhD. Now a fifth-year graduate student in the economics department, Kris studies applied topics in the economics of education and the effect of school intervention policies on student outcomes. In particular, he has studied the effects of school quality information on student enrollment and the effects of additional textbook funding on student achievement. When he is not scouring legal codes for causal variation, he enjoys rock climbing, hiking, and soccer.



DAN MAHONEY

Dan is a curious character who was born and raised in Massachusetts. He is the son of a carpenter and an elementary



school art teacher, although he learned at a young age that his interests were more mathematically inclined than either of his parents. After attending a performing arts high school, where he specialized in juggling, Dan attended Brown University to study mathematics and compete on the school’s varsity fencing team. After college and several menial jobs, Dan decided to have a

West Coast tryst with the University of Oregon Department of Economics, where he has since worked with Professor Wes Wilson on topics in industrial organization and transportation, specifically focusing on the economics of the U.S. airline industry. Outside of his research interests, Dan is an avid cyclist who competes throughout the Pacific Northwest with the school’s cycling team.

Continued on next page

ALEXANDER MONTE CALVO

Alexander grew up in Washington in a small logging town called Darrington, and then completed his undergraduate work at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. He originally planned on finishing up a math major in three years, but went an extra year in order to double major in economics as well. During his last summer as an undergrad, he worked on a U.S. Forest Service trail crew, hiking around the North Cascades clearing and building trails—and has loved hiking and backpacking ever since. After taking a year off school to work, he came



to the University of Oregon to continue studying economics. An avid gamer, Alexander has always had a strong interest in game theory and his current research reflects this. Over the last few years, he has also become greatly interested in Bayesian econometrics and using it in conjunction with his interests in game theory and behavioral economics. He still enjoys gaming, hiking, playing guitar and saxophone, and more recently, investigating the craft brew scene that's exploding in the state of Oregon.

TYLER SCHIPPER

Tyler Schipper was born and raised in the nation's heartland: Iowa. He received his B.A. from Central College, where, in true liberal arts fashion, he pursued politics, Spanish, mathematics, and his major, economics. Tyler's experiences traveling abroad prompted him to pursue studies in economic development and international economics. His current research focus is on how firms in developing



countries respond to size-based distortions. He has truly enjoyed his time in the Northwest, partaking in rock climbing, running, puddle stomping (required), and playing on the department soccer team (aptly named the Representative Agents). ■

Student Scholarships

Grace Miller Economics Scholarship

Aaron Matney
Justin McCormick
Andrea Vedder

Dale Underwood Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarship

Felix Friedt

Department Econometrics Award

Felix Friedt
Taylor McKenzie
Tuan Nguyen

Undergraduate Honors Paper Award

Derek C. Wolfson for "The Effects of Extreme Weather Events and Natural Hazards on Recreation Demand at National Park Service Sites"

Jacob Glicker and Aaron Rouza for "RAIN in Eugene: The Impact of Small Business Incubation on Local Economic Growth"

Mikesell Research Paper Award

Gulcan Cil for "Heat Waves: Effects on Fertility Decisions and Birth Outcomes"

PhD Research Paper Award

Matthew S. Wilson for "A Real Business Cycle Model with Money as a Sunspot Variable"

Graduate Teaching Fellow Outstanding Teaching Award

Alex Monte Calvo
Tyler Schipper

Kleinsorge Summer Research Award

Jeffrey Allen
Logan Lee
Jason Query
Jonathan Thompson
John Voorheis
Joseph Wyer

Kleinsorge Fellowship Award

Austin Cauthon
Matthew Heflin
Nathan Adams
Nigel McClung
Thomas Bryan

Distinctive Scholar Award

Erin Hunt

SAIL Cruises Through a Successful 2013

INNOVATIVE UO PROGRAM FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLERS PROMOTES COLLEGE SUCCESS, RETENTION

The Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) celebrated another exceptional year of growth and success. The program, which gives local lower-income middle and high school students a taste of college life, welcomed 180 students to summer camps hosted by eleven UO academic departments. New academic units joining SAIL this summer included the Department of Computer and Information Science, the Department of English, and the College of Education, providing more variety for students exploring the various courses of study available at the University of Oregon.

SAIL was originally founded in 2005 by the members of the UO Department of Economics as a real-world response to low retention rates among students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Because of that, Lara Fernandez, executive director of SAIL, is thrilled by the growing participation among these diverse departments across the UO campus.

"I'm proud of these collaborations we're developing," she says. "It shows we're a real part of the UO community, and have shown leadership by developing a program that is really helping students succeed in higher education."

YEAR-ROUND MENTORSHIP AND OUTREACH

SAIL provides more than just summer camps. SAIL volunteers reach far beyond the UO campus to provide mentorship and outreach to SAIL students throughout the school year to help them chart a more successful course through higher education.

During 2013, 150 SAIL students in the area's most economically disadvantaged high schools received mentorship and support from forty UO student mentors. SAIL student and faculty volunteers also hosted on-campus visits, gave presentations in local classrooms on subjects such as study abroad, staffed tables at school science and career fairs, and much more.

SAIL'S FUTURE

Fernandez sees SAIL continuing to expand and provide mentorship and leadership opportunities in the local schools. She'd like to offer SAIL's camps to students as early as seventh grade. SAIL is always seeking more UO departments

and schools interested in partnerships. "Our mission is to provide low-income students a broader picture of what higher education has to offer."

With enough funding and support, she also hopes it may evolve into a residential camp for high school seniors, and will continue involving more volunteers from among UO, faculty, students, and the community. ■



SAIL students, Summer 2013

Career and Advising Services Update

NEW OFFICE OFF TO A FLYING START IN ITS INAUGURAL YEAR

Until the 2012–13 academic year, UO economics majors and grads had few formal resources in place to help them initiate a successful job search or identify the best career path for their skills and academic accomplishments.

Today, with the introduction of the Career and Advising Services office in 405 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, more than 300 students have stopped in for nearly 600 individual one-on-one advising sessions, assistance with résumés and job searches, and more. In its benchmark year, more than 60 percent of graduates from the Department of Economics either

had a job or were on their way to graduate school.

In addition to meeting the day-to-day advising needs of students, Sherman initiated a number of other events and activities, including numerous career and networking events, formation of the Economics Club on campus, development of the weekly Jobs and Internships online newsletter, and publication of the Getting Hired job search toolkit for economics majors and minors.

MAKING IT EASY TO SAY YES

Graduates with degrees in economics are in high demand; still, Sherman wants to give every graduating economics

major a leg up in what remains a highly competitive labor market. "We want to make it easy for recruiters to say yes to our graduates," he says. One course, EC 407, gives soon-to-be graduates the tools and information they need to match their skills to the right types of jobs. "One of their biggest struggles is how to talk about their accomplishments and research confidently and relevantly," Sherman says.

This year, he hopes to collaborate with more professors to help students know the resources they have available, and develop stronger pipelines with key employers both regionally and globally. "We want to be known as a source for first-choice candidates," he says. ■

Faculty Notes

Bruce Blonigen's research highlight last year was the presentation of the open economies lectures on antidumping trade policies in Hangzhou, China, last October, which will be published in both Chinese and English. He also paired it with talks in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and a meeting with China's top international trade negotiators. For the current year, Bruce has agreed to serve as acting associate dean for the social sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Alfredo Burlando's development research in East Africa is now in full swing, following the reception of three grants. An inquiry on the economics of savings groups in rural Uganda is funded by the Global Development Network and is in partnership with a consortium of international nongovernmental organizations. In Tanzania, two grants from the Institute of Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion and the Institute of Equality, Development, and Globalization Studies is financing a study on the use of mobile-based savings accounts, in conjunction with one of the largest mobile operators in Tanzania.

Trudy Ann Cameron was invited to Ottawa, Canada, last spring to present her research on valuation of environmental health benefits as part of the deputy minister's seminar series at Environment Canada (the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. EPA). Events included a morning technical seminar for research economists, a luncheon meeting and general presentation for the deputy minister and officials from a variety of Canadian federal government agencies involved in the regulation of other types of health and safety risks, and an afternoon public lecture that was also webcast to Environment Canada employees across the country. As part of the same trip, Trudy also enjoyed a special session, sponsored by Environment Canada and devoted entirely to her work, at the Canadian Economics Association annual meetings in Montreal.



Shankha Chakraborty specializes in macroeconomics and economic development. He has been working on the macroeconomics of population aging, how rising inequality affects health in industrialized countries, and historical demographic transitions. Several

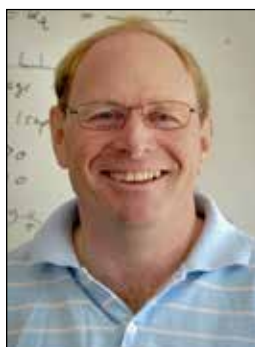
of his current projects are in collaboration with past and present UO doctoral students. During the past year, Shankha presented his research at several conferences and completed his tenure as the PhD director in economics. He serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Macroeconomics* and as associate editor at *Macroeconomic Dynamics*. He was promoted to full professor this year.



Anca Cristea continues her research in international trade, focusing on issues related to transportation and the multinational organization of production. In the past year, Anca has started new research projects with colleagues and

students in the department. The joint paper with Bruce Blonigen on the impact of regulation on the size and volatility of transportation costs in the railway sector was recently published in the *Review of Industrial Organization*. During the past year, Anca presented recent work at various venues including Stanford University, Colby College, and the Empirical Trade Conference in Ljubljana. On the teaching front, she continued to teach a newly developed undergraduate course, Economics of Globalization, in addition to the International Trade courses.

Tim Duy continues to serve as senior director of the Oregon Economic Forum, a department outreach program that is now celebrating its tenth year. In addition to three regular reports on the state's economy (two monthly and one quarterly), Tim maintains a heavy speaking schedule, providing insights about the economy for business leaders, community organizations, and nonprofit groups. Tim is frequently quoted in the national press on monetary policy issues at a result of his popular blog, Tim Duy's Fed Watch. Tim also serves on the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and the State Debt Policy Advisory Commission.



Chris Ellis continues to work on topics in political economy. He is particularly interested in the economics of lobbying and the determinants of the size and number of nations. Over the past year, his work has been presented at public economics conferences

in Mysore, India, Udine, Italy, and Lisbon, Portugal.

George Evans presented the paper "Liquidity Traps and Expectation Dynamics: Fiscal Stimulus or Fiscal Austerity?" at a June workshop at the Bank of Spain in Madrid and at a Swiss National Bank conference in September. He also gave an invited talk titled "Learning and the Stock Market: Price Dynamics and Bubbles" at the June 2013 Paris conference of the International Network on Expectational Coordination, and presented the paper "Learning to Optimize" at the September Centre for Dynamic Macroeconomic Analysis workshop at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Recent publications include a paper in

the *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control* and two papers in *Economic Letters*.

Benjamin Hansen has continued to research economics factors driving health behaviors, educational outcomes, and the economics of crime. Recently, he presented his research concerning the effect of punishment severity on drunk driving at the Western Economics Association International annual meeting, the Empirical Health Law Conference at Georgetown University, and the National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute. He recently published research on the effect of police enforcement on traffic fatalities in the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, in addition to other research examining medical marijuana laws and traffic fatalities, cigarette taxes and teen smoking, and high school dropout laws and crime. The study examines a mass layoff of Oregon state police due to budget cuts in 2003, finding that a 10 percent reduction in state police results in a 2 percent increase in traffic fatalities. He also coorganized the inaugural Criminal Justice Research Conference, which brought together researchers and policy stakeholders in an effort to coordinate data sharing and partnerships in order to improve public policy in Oregon. He is currently working on new research examining workers' compensation benefit generosity in Oregon and the role of school entry age in predicting juvenile delinquency.

Bill Harbaugh is doing research on neuroeconomics, using the functional magnetic resonance imaging brain scanner in the psychology department to see what is happening inside people's brains as they make altruistic and competitive decisions. His research on altruism was featured in a *Wall Street Journal* article and in *Discover* magazine. A paper with former UO grad student Dave Wozniak on how the menstrual cycle alters women's competitive decisions is coming out in the *Journal of Labor Economics*. (Short version: They are just as competitive as men when their hormone levels are high.)

Stephen Haynes is in his thirty-sixth year with the department, now on the tenure-reduction program. He is exploring determinants of voting in U.S. presidential elections using state data grouped by income level, finding systematic differences across states. He teaches online courses in principles of micro- and macroeconomics and international economics, and is on the vice provost's committee evaluating the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities-Sloan National Commission on Online Learning.

Van Kolpin's research examines strategic behavior in contexts of asymmetric information, discontinuous preferences, and populations of both "large" and "small" players. He serves on the editorial board of *Game Theory*. His paper "Acceptability Prioritized Preferences and Equilibrium Existence," recently published in *Economics Bulletin*, generalizes the multiobjective preferences held by entities such as government

Continued on page 8

Faculty Notes CONTINUED

bureaucracies and charitable organizations. It demonstrates that equilibrium existence prevails in the presence of such preferences despite their highly discontinuous nature. This year, he will be teaching courses in microeconomic theory and econometrics, in addition to serving as department head.



Peter Lambert's research focuses on poverty, inequality, and taxation. He has a number of recently published and forthcoming articles in the *Journal of Economic Inequality*, *Review of Income and Wealth*, *Finanz Archiv*, *Public Finance Analysis*, *Metron: International*

Journal of Statistics, and *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*. Peter is teaching advanced microeconomics at the 400/500 level, and core microeconomic theory at the 600 level this year.

Peter has been appointed as a research affiliate at Oslo Fiscal Studies, a center for public economics research founded in 2012 jointly by the University of Oslo and Statistics Norway. He presented a seminar there, "Distributional Effects of Dual Income Tax Systems," in April. He was the 2013 joint winner, with B. Essama-Nssah, of an Outstanding Author Contribution Award at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2013 for a paper that appeared in *Research on Economic Inequality*. He has been appointed to the program committee for a conference, Tax Reforms: Experiences and Perspectives, organized by the Institute of Public Finance, Zagreb, and the Faculty of Economics, University of Rijeka, to be held in Croatia in 2014.

Ralph Mastromonaco has continued his research on the relationship of housing prices and environmental quality. He recently had a study on the relationship between the EPA's Superfund hazardous waste remediation program and local property values appear in the journal *Environmental and Resource Economics*. He is beginning a research project that investigates the impact of natural gas development via hydraulic fracturing on local economies. This past year, Ralph presented his work at the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists' summer meetings in Banff, Alberta, and at the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics in Palo Alto, California. Perhaps most important, Ralph got married in July!

Bruce McGough became coeditor at *Economic Inquiry*, organized a conference at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and gave invited talks in Spain, France, and Canada. His research

remains focused on the general equilibrium implications of bounded rationality in decision-making. Recent journal articles include "Adaptive Learning in Regime-Switching Models," published in *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, and "Expectational Stability of Sunspot Equilibrium in Nonconvex Economies," published in the *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*.

Jeremy Piger's recent research focuses on measuring and forecasting the business cycle. In the past year, his research was published in several journals, including the *Canadian Journal of Economics*. His newest working paper develops techniques to improve the speed with which we are able to detect the onset of national recessions. He presented his research in several venues during the past year, including the University of Houston, the University of Texas at El Paso, and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. He continued to serve as an associate editor at the *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*. This year, he takes over as the director of the department's PhD program.

Nicholas Sly spent the spring of this year as a visiting assistant professor at the Paris School of Economics, and working with the French statistical agency Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales on projects about the consequences of globalization. During the summer, he was appointed a research affiliate of the CESifo Group Munich (consisting of the Center for Economic Studies, the Ifo Institute, and the Munich Society for the Promotion of Economic Research). Currently, his research focuses on the effects of international tax treaties, such as those proposed at the latest G8 and G20 meetings, on global investment activities and local labor market outcomes. This fall, Nicholas is back to teaching the large section in microeconomics for undergraduates, as well as an upper-division course in international trade.

Mark Thoma continued his usual research, teaching, and service activities for the university, blogs daily at *Economist's View*, writes articles for CBS news, has a biweekly column at the *Fiscal Times*, and he wrote op-eds and articles for several other publications. He is also a fellow of the Century Foundation. His paper "Bad Advice, Herding, and Bubbles" was published in the *Journal of Economic Methodology*.

Mike Urbancic has taught ten courses in his first twelve months at the UO and looks forward to another great year. He is working with graduate students in the department, instructors across campus, and administrators of the Teaching Effectiveness Program to assist in the transition to the "i>clicker2" classroom-response system. These efforts have been wildly successful: While last fall only 400 of the new remotes were rush-ordered for just his two courses that term, this fall the Duck Store had 3,500 on hand and sold out of them by the second day of classes. Mike has enjoyed his forays into student advising and is actively seeking opportunities to contribute more to the department and to the wider campus community.

Anne van den Nouweland specializes in economic theory, with a focus on stability in network formation, equilibrium in public goods economies, and axiomatic approaches to coalitional problems. She serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Public Economic Theory* and the program committees of the Association for Public Economic Theory workshop and the Central European Program in Economic Theory. She participated in the Workshop on Networks and Externalities, the Summer Workshop in Economic Theory, and the conference of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory. She published in the journal *Game Theory*.



Glen Waddell placed two graduate students in academic positions this year. Isaac Swensen has taken up residence as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. Harold Cuffe has taken up residence as lecturer (equivalent to assistant

professor) at Victoria University of Wellington, in New Zealand. Glen's own work continues to explore the economics of education, health economics, and risky behaviors, and has newly joined the teaching faculties of the Clark Honors College and Oregon Executive MBA program. This year, Waddell has published in the *Journal of Health Economics*, the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, and the *Economics of Education Review*. He was also promoted to full professor this year and continues to serve as a coeditor of *Economics of Education Review*.

Caroline Weber continues her empirical taxation research. Much of her ongoing research examines the degree to which individuals distort their behavior in response to tax changes. Caroline has also started new research this year with a colleague in the department, Nicholas Sly, that examines the macroeconomic consequences of fiscal policy coordination. This past year, Caroline presented her research at the National Tax Association 105th Annual Conference on Taxation, the American Economics Association annual meetings, and the University of Southern California's Lusk Center for Real Estate.

Wes Wilson continued his duties as managing editor of *Economic Inquiry*. He also continues to serve as associate editor for the *Journal of the Transportation Research Forum* and for *Maritime Policy and Management*, and serves on the board for the *Review of Industrial Organization* and also for *Transport Policy*. Over the course of the last year, he served as guest editor for the *Review of Industrial Organization* for a special issue on the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 as well as *Maritime Policy and Management* for a special issue commemorating the forty-year anniversary of the journal. He continues to travel internationally, presenting keynote addresses in Seoul and Hong Kong. ■

Pledges and Donations

Pledges to our department by alumni and others 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, 2012, through August 31, 2013 (our apologies for any inadvertent errors or omissions).

Providing a gift in your will to support the Department of Economics is a powerful way to support our efforts to provide the training, research,

\$300,000 or Greater

Estate of Janet Lawrence

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* Indicates donors who also contributed to honor the memory of Cathleen Leué. ■

In Memoriam

Cathleen Leué (1956–2013)

The Department of Economics and the College of Arts and Sciences are grieving the loss of a treasured friend and member of their extended family. Cathleen Leué, Director of Information Technology for the College of Arts and Sciences and highly regarded Economics instructor, unexpectedly passed away on June 18, 2013. She was fifty-six.



As an instructor in the College of Arts and Sciences, Leué was on the leading edge of technology implementation on the UO campus, founding both the College's Information Technology Support Services (CASIT) and the Social Science Instructional Labs.

Cathleen is survived by long-time partner and companion Mark Thoma—also a member of the Department of Economics—and their two sons, Derrick and Paul.


Paul B. Simpson (1914–2013)

This year, the Economics Department also lost a longtime colleague. Paul B. Simpson passed away peacefully on Jan 21, 2013, at his home in Eugene. He taught economics at Cornell, Princeton, and Stanford before coming to the University of Oregon, where he remained until his retirement in 1979. He took a two-year break to serve on the Federal Reserve Board in the mid 1950s.



Paul was passionate about music and the arts. He played a key role in the creation of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, and was one of the founders of the Pearl Buck Center.

Paul is survived by his three living children, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and four stepchildren.

 An expanded memorial section is available online at economics.uoregon.edu.
Click the Newsletter link to read more.



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