



Economics Department 508-793-7226 Phone
950 Main Street 508-793-8849 Fax
Worcester, MA 01610-1477 www.clarku.edu

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

No. 3+4

Summer 2007+2008

Greetings from Clark Economics

Welcome to the third (and fourth) annual Departmental Newsletter. My apologies for this "double issue" - I started to prepare a newsletter last summer, but that got crowded out by my taking up duties as Department chair. This is an exciting time for the Department as we continue to welcome new faculty with interest and strength in our areas of focus. We have enjoyed hearing from you about your activities and seeing some of you visit us in Jonas Clark Hall. This newsletter aims to help you keep in touch with what is going on here in the Department, as well as to provide a bit of information about your fellow alumni. We hope you will take the opportunity to keep in touch with us and with each other. We are particularly interested in personal and professional news we can share.

Wayne Gray, Chair

New Faculty

Chang Hong will be joining the department in the fall of 2008.

Hong received her BA from East China Normal University in Shanghai, and her PhD from The University of California, Davis in 2006. Her dissertation research examined the impact of trade liberalization on regional specialization in China. For the past two years she has been a Research Officer at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC, where her research has included work on exports, employment, and international competitiveness in China. Prof. Hong will be teaching courses in international trade and macroeconomics.



Robert Johnston has been appointed as a full professor in the Clark Economics Department, as part of his appointment as the Director of the George Perkins Marsh Institute



at Clark. Rob received his PhD from the University of Rhode Island in 1996, and has taught at the University of Rhode Island and the University of Connecticut. He is a specialist in environmental and natural resource economics, with a particular interest in issues of non-market valuation and benefits transfer. His duties as Marsh Director will occupy most of his time, but we're happy to welcome him to the Department, and look forward to working with him to expand the boundaries of economics research at Clark.

Faculty News

Jackie Geoghegan was elected President of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association. She was also appointed as associate editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

John Brown was appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Economic History*.

Wayne Gray was re-appointed to the EPA's Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis.

Junfu Zhang published "The Effects of Wal-Mart on Local Labor Markets" in the *Journal of Urban Economics*.

PhD Degrees 2007

Suchandra Basu

Transboundary Pollution Spill-ins and Local Regulatory Response (Gray)

John Moore

Inter-district Choice in the State of Massachusetts (Gray)



Suchandra Basu (PhD '07), Tania Dutta, Ananya Das, Soma Ghosh (PhD '06), Bansari Saha (PhD '01), Debarshi Nandy, and Arnab Biswas (MA '07) in May 2007.

Undergraduate Honors 2007

Jameela Amiruddeen,

The Effect of Trade Liberalization/Openness on the Gender Wage Disparity in Sri Lanka (Bokil)

Huyen Nguyen

Learning to be Global: Trade and Productivity in Vietnam's Garment and Textile Industry (Brown)

Ankit Tambe

The Effects of Family Size, Income and Age at Immigration on the Academic Performance of Children of Immigrants (Bokil)

PhD Degrees 2008

Chyanda Querido

A Game Theoretic Approach of Mass Killing and War (Bae)

Maggie Cole-Beebe

What Do Nurses' Unions Do? Implications for RN Wages, the Patient Care Environment, and Patient Outcomes (Gray)

Undergraduate Honors 2008

Ashley Harris

The Impact of Brownfields on Housing Values in Worcester (Geoghegan)

George Keppler

The Hedge Fund Industry: Movement of Assets and Funds (Gray)

Michael Melville

Falling Popularity: A Study of TV Ratings and Professional Sports (Bae)

Naomi Parker

A Roll Call Analysis of Agricultural Protection (Brown)

Nagraj Rao

Suburbanization and Residual Water Demand: A Case Study of Ipswich, MA (Geoghegan)



Kaushik Ghosh (MA '07), Chyanda Querido (PhD '08), Jordan Marvakov (MA '08), and Andriy Glushkov (MA '06) in May 2008.

Where are they going?

Suchandra is teaching at Rhode Island College and **John** continues to teach as an adjunct professor at several Worcester-area colleges.

Huyen finished her MBA at Clark University and will start working at EMC Corporation as a business analyst. **Jameela** is working at the Standard Chartered Bank in Sri Lanka.

Chyanda is working as an analyst at Bank of America and **Maggie** is teaching at Emmanuel College in Boston.

Ashley is working at The Hanover Insurance Group as a financial analyst intern for the Human Resources department. She is pursuing the 5 year MBA program at Clark, concentrating in Accounting or Finance. **Michael** will be attending Boston College Law School. **Naomi** is working at the Massachusetts State House as an Aide to State Representative Mark Falzone, who represents parts of Saugus, Lynn, Lynnfield, and Wakefield. **Nagraj** will begin graduate studies in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall.

New Alumni Business

Mollie Grotpeter (BA '04) and Gavin Murphy founded Annkissam (www.annkissam.com), providing custom software and workflow solutions for Massachusetts nonprofits.

Alumni-Student Gathering in Boston



Courtney Cataldo, Jill Donnelly (MBA '09), Gil Burnett, Ianthe Hensman (MBA '09), Bill Mosakowski (BA '76), Robin Ciolek (BA '03), Chris Nichols (BA '09), Djana Qaja (MBA '09), and Lukasz Nowak (BA '08) gather at Public Consulting Group in Boston.

This past spring, members of the Economics Society visited Public Consulting Group. William Mosakowski (BA '76), PCG's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Clark's Board of Trustees led a discussion with input from Jill Donnelly (MBA '09), Sarah Baldwin (MBA '09), and Liz Wizman (MBA '09). Mollie Grot peter (BA '04) and Robin Ciolek (BA '03), past officers of the Economics Society, shared their experiences as Clark Student interns prior to employment with PCG. The group enjoyed dialogue about economics, entrepreneurship, innovation and life after Clark.

Alumni Survey

First, thanks to the 10 alumni (7 undergrad and 3 grad) who've filled out the survey so far. You provided many helpful comments and suggestions, such as the need for more emphasis on oral communication skills, and more support for internships and job placement. Most agreed "my current job uses my economics training" and "is commensurate with my education and training" although most also noted that their job isn't what they expected when they began their studies at Clark.

It's not too late to participate! The survey can be accessed at

<http://survey.clarku.edu/EconSurv/takesurvey.asp?surveyID=126&invid=x>



Steven Seelig
(BA '96;PhD '71)
and
Gloria Seelig.

Alumni Gift Supports Economics Research

Steven Seelig (BA '66; PhD '71) recently contributed \$25,000 to support research by faculty and graduate students in the Economics Department. In his own words: "I have come to realize that I owe a debt of gratitude to the economics faculty at Clark that piqued my interest in economics, exposed me to the pleasures of research through the honors program, and while getting my Ph.D. taught me to think outside the box and to use economics to look at public policy issues." We are grateful to Steven for this expression of support, and will use these funds to help offer the kind of education that will continue to inspire such loyalty in future students.

Alumni News

Mahadevan (Mack) Ramachandran (PhD '97) is Senior Advisor for Operations for the United Nation's World Food Program, working in North Korea to help scale up operations to feed around 6 million people. They work jointly with the Government to decide who gets the food, help the Government get it to them, and monitor that their "food situation" is improving (or not). This is similar to work Mack did in Southeast Asia in the first months following the Tsunami.

As we get more alumni information, we'll post it at <http://www.clarku.edu/departments/economics/news/alumni.cfm>. Please send news items and photos to Cindy Rice at crice@clarku.edu - and send her your email address for our records (so we can distribute future updates electronically). Thanks for representing Clark in the world – and keep up the good work!