A Word From the Chair

Over the last year I have learned much about our department. The most important thing that I have learned is not to be chair during a 5 year review. As you might suspect, this year was the year for the department’s 5 year review. But there is a silver lining. The process of writing up the 5 year review report has made me something of an expert on our department. It is really remarkable how many lives our department has touched over the years.

If the 5 year review was the big happening for this year, over the next two years the big thing will be accreditation for the entire campus. This has produced a new emphasis on assessment and “continuous improvement.” I would be remiss if I discussed accreditation and assessment without mentioning Sel Dibooglu. Sel is the chair of our Assessment committee and he has taken his role very seriously. As a result we now have a new mechanism in place that will help us identify program weaknesses and address them quickly.

Now, some department news...First, Sel Dibooglu was promoted to full professor. This was a richly deserved promotion. Sel is an excellent teacher, a prolific scholar, and a heck of a nice guy. Sel's promotion occasions a big thank you to Susan Feigenbaum, who had the good sense to hire him when we had the chance.

The second piece of news is mixed. First, the bad part—I am sad to report that Mary Suiter has left us. She was the Director of The Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education. She was offered a very nice position with the St. Louis Fed Bank and she couldn’t turn it down. I am, however, pleased to report that Barb Flowers, another alum, has taken over as Director. The Center is in good hands with Barb at the helm. Also related to the Center is another piece of good news. Sharon Laux has been loosely associated with the center and the department for some time, but now she is officially employed by the Center.

The final piece of news is that Lea Kosnik won the Gitner Teaching Award. The award was presented at the Chancellor’s State of the University Address. Many thanks to Anne Winkler for putting together the nomination.

We saw many of you at the Fall Picnic and the Spring Alumni Party. This year the party was held at the Pepper Lounge and it was a terrific event (thanks to William Rogers who has taken over as advisor to both departmental clubs). Don’t miss the next one! I mentioned in my last message that we are increasing our efforts to have events that you will find interesting and to make sure you know about them. To that end we have created a new position in the department—Alumni Coordinator. Our first Alumni Coordinator is Leas Kosnik.

Finally, please keep in mind that you are all invited to drop by any time, especially for lunch. On any given day there is a 98% chance at least two of us will be at lunch in the Millennium Student Center (first floor), starting around 11:30 a.m. Consider this an open invitation. Also remember that we like hearing from you, and other alumni like hearing about you, so please tell us what is going on in your life.

Sincerely,

Dave Rose
The Center managed the Teach Children to Save Day program in the St. Louis area on April 24 and 25. More than 400 primary-grade classrooms were visited by community bankers. The bankers delivered a lesson on saving and then provided each child with a saving-themed coloring book and a piggy bank made from recycled currency. If you are a banker from a community bank, please consider volunteering for next year’s event by calling the Center.

The Center also offered the Eighth Annual Entrepreneurship Competition on May 2. Nineteen student businesses were presented. Two potential entrepreneurs received scholarships to UMSL and four student businesses received seed money.

On May 10th, the Center presented its annual Economic Literacy Conference for area teachers. More than 100 teachers attended the event at Glen Echo Country Club. Bank of America representatives announced a new high school personal finance program the bank will offer in cooperation with the Center.

Mary Suiter resigned as director of the Center.

Economics Clubs

During the first semester 2006-2007, Lauren Block, Vikram Kumar, and Travis Box served as president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer. During the second semester 2006-2007, Vikram, Travis, and Brian Dick assumed the roles of president, VP and secretary/treasurer, respectively. 2005-2006 officers were John Gamel, Dave Sanders, and Anthony Traber. We thank all the current and past officers for their service.

The student chapter of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) sponsors the Economics Department picnic held each fall, come rain or shine, and this year’s picnic was fun despite the rain. The NABE group also took a tour of the St. Louis branch of the Federal Reserve where they saw the inside of an IS-LM model and helped dispose of the old shredded money. They also continued their tour of St. Louis restaurants.

Economics Club Events

Economics Career Day

Career Day, sponsored by ODE, was held on Thursday, April 12th. The speakers this year were: Yvetta Travnickova (St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank), Brian Jenkins (Harrah’s), and John Kovac (Aspire Consulting). Each are in different industries but all had similar advice for students of economics and the newly graduated; analytical thinking and a solid statistical background is critical. Students also need excellent communication skills. The Department thanks all the speakers for contributing their time, expertise, and their amusing stories about life as an UMSL economics major.

Please contact Faculty Representative William H. Rogers (rogerswil@umsl.edu) for more information about the clubs or Career Day.

Economics Alumni Party

The Annual Alumni Party was held on Friday, April 13th at The Pepper Lounge (2005 Locust St.). The Alumni Party continues to grow as there were over 35 in attendance for the occasion. It is a pleasure to see our alumni in their lives after graduation; we thank all who attended.
Our Students’ Success

Sondra Beverly (M.A. 1999) was promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure, in the School of Social Welfare at University of Kansas.

Brian Buckles (M.A. 2005) is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in economics at University of Florida.

Dave Crowell (B.S. 1999) has been promoted to Account Executive in the Customer Information and Programs Department of Arizona Public Service (APS).

John Gamel (M.A. 2006) relocated to Chicago and is employed with Discover Financial (DiscoverCard).

Marcela Giraldo (B.S. 2005) is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in economics at University of Florida.

Jared Hennings (B.S. 2006) is employed as an associate project manager in the IT department at Express-Scripts. He recently began the M.A. in economics at UMSL.

Brian Jenkins (B.S. 1996) is Director of Planning for Missouri Operations (St. Louis and Kansas City) for Harrah’s. He has had a long career with Harrah’s, starting out as a craps dealer in 1996.

John Kovac (B.S. 1997) is Managing Partner with Aspire Consulting. Prior to starting at Aspire, John was the Practice Manager at EPS Technology.

Aaron Johnson (B.S. 1994, M.A. 1999) is a Lecturer in the Department of Economics at Missouri State University.


Ryan Metcalf (B.S. 2001) has taken a position as a Pre-Payment Analyst at Wells Fargo in Capital Markets in Clayton.

Jason Mannello (B.S. 2002, M.A. 2004) is a Financial Analyst with RubinBrown LLP. He and his wife, Anne, are expecting their first child in May.

Ryan Moore (B.S./M.A. 2005) is working as a Forecasting Analyst for Grainger in Chicago.

Geetanjali Pande (B.S./M.A. 2006) is a Research Analyst at the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank.

John Posey (M.A. 1999) recently returned to St. Louis and is employed as a Manager of Research Services at East-West Gateway.

Brian Preslopyski (B.S. 1997) is employed in the Division of Monetary Affairs at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, DC. He co-authored a paper on overnight interbank lending, published in the Journal of Economics and Business. He received an MA in economics from Johns Hopkins in 2004 and is now pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts degree.

Mat Reidhead (B.S./M.A. 2006) is working as a Health Economist for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

David Rifkin (B.S. 2006) is employed as a Financial Analyst at Citigroup.

Brian Regula (B.S. 2002) recently received a promotion to Director of Finance at the Hanover Marriott in New Jersey. He and wife, Kimi, have two children.

Josh Smith (B.S. 2006) is now employed as a Cost Planner/Analyst for UPS.

Gaurav Tiwari (M.A. 2006) took a position as a Research Associate at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York City.

Yvetta Travnickova (B.S./B.A. 2004) is currently employed with the Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis as an Economic Data Analyst. Prior to joining the FED, she briefly worked for Exxon Mobil’s Business Support Center in Prague.

Emily Trevathan (B.S./M.A. 2005) is working as a Budget Analyst at AOL in Dulles VA. She is to be married to Justin Harmon (a fellow AOLer) this September in Hannibal, MO.

Neil Wiggins (B.S. 2003, M.A. 2004) was part of a team at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis that won the President’s Award for District Leadership for CASSIDI™, CASSIDITM – which stands for Competitive Analysis and Structure Source Instrument for Depository Institutions—is a tool that provides users with accurate answers to important banking competition questions.

Sharon Levin Scholarship

Alan Medina

Recent Graduates


M.A. Degrees: Li Li, Mathew Reidhead*, David Sanders, Shannon Wobbe.

August 2006. B.A./B.S. Degrees: Chad Overbey.


M.A. Degrees: Ying Han, Geetanjali Pande*, Gaurav Tiwari.

Thorstein Veblen 2006 Winners: Graduate; Travis Box

Simon Kuznets 2006 Winners: Graduate; Daniel Gleitz

Elizabeth M. Clayton Memorial Scholarship: Li Li, Brian Dick, Juan Fung, Joshua Leesman

*BS/MA degree
Faculty Notes


Lea-Rachel Kosnik received the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award this past September – thank you to all her students, past and present, who contributed to this teaching success! Professor Kosnik also traveled to China in November on a combined UMSL/Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Academic Fellowship. Professor Kosnik’s latest research results were presented at the AEA’s in Chicago (on a Small Grants Research Award), and at the International Industrial Organization Conference in Boston. Perhaps most noteworthy of all, Professor Kosnik took the big plunge this past December and got married. We’ll let you know the relative success of that decision in the 2008 newsletter....

William H Rogers His work is focused on the impact of homeowner associations in the housing markets and municipal zoning and also the effects private schools on income segregation in the housing market. This summer William, with the excellent assistance of economics graduate students Juan Fung and Christian Falde, collected primary data detailing the covenant and amenity characteristics of homeowners associations in western Saint Louis County. He also presented “Are Homeowner Associations Complements or Substitutes to Municipal Zoning?” at the 53rd Annual Meetings of the Regional Science Association International in Toronto, Canada. William has also assumed the role of faculty advisor to the economics clubs, a position previously held by Don Kridel.

Dave Rose continues to serve as the department’s chairperson. After an absence of a few years he is again teaching Economics 5001: Graduate Microeconomic Theory. Many alumni no doubt have fond memories of this course. He has two papers out circulating, a fairly technical piece titled “The Dynamics of Small Industries,” with S. Braguinsky, S. Gabdrakhmanov, and A. Ohyama (this has been submitted to the Journal of Development Economics), and a more traditional solo-authored theory piece titled “Competition, Cooperation, and the Neighboring Farmer Effect,” (this has been submitted to the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization). His main professional preoccupation, however, is his book, The Moral Foundation of Economic Behavior, which is nearing completion. Many of you may remember Dave’s two boys from department picnics. Matt is now at Mizzou majoring in Economics and History, while Chris is now in high school where his main interests are science and playing violin in the high school orchestra.

Anne Winkler has a paper on teen employment forthcoming in Monthly Labor Review and presented another paper on time spent in household management (co-authored with Tom Ireland) at the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) meetings. Both these projects utilize newly available data from the American Time Use Survey. In January 2007, Anne, Sharon Levin, and Paula Stephan (Georgia State) began work on their project titled “The Diffusion of Information Technology across Institutions of Higher Education: Effects on Productivity by Type of Institution and Gender.” This research is funded by a grant from the Mellon Foundation. In the summer months, you can find Anne playing in the U-City Summer Band.

Debra Garcia continues to serve, as she has for the last four years, as the administrative associate of the department. During these four years she has witnessed the first group of students (the Michael Thomas, Ken Brockland, Lauren Fitterman group, who started the program at the inception of her reign) graduate and move forward with their life endeavors.

In the past two years, she has taken over the management of student employees and the Economic Resource Center, as well as maintaining the departmental web site.

In her spare time, she is a full-time mother of four children. She is also a member of the Maryland Heights Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and a part-time undergraduate student seeking a Bachelors of Science degree in Sociology (with a projected completion date of December 2007). Most recently she received the Department of Sociology’s Alumni Agent Scholarship, which is awarded by faculty members on the basis of merit.
Alumni—especially economics graduates—want to know that their gifts to their alma mater are well spent. The Economics Department would therefore like you to know that you can give directly to the department to support its teaching, research, and outreach activities. Among other things, the department uses gifts to fund scholarships, to award prizes for essay competitions, to employ and train students as research assistants, and to support the research of our very own economics faculty.

We’d like to thank those of you who have been giving so generously over the years. For those of you who have never considered making a gift to the department, we hope you will consider doing so in the future. Gifts made to the Economics Department are tax deductible. In addition to our alumni, we welcome business and corporate gifts. We are grateful for gifts in any amount.

**Economics Department Gifts**

**January-December 2006**

John Akery

Loy Allen

Michael Jones

Joseph Ambrose

Elizabeth Jordan

Sondra Beverly

Michael Kennamann

Jeffrey Brown

Gail Keutzer

Sandra Beverley

James Crawford, Jr.

Walter Kiwala III

Barry Colvin

Charles Knight

Delbert Cobb

Robert Dolan

John Kovac

Barry Colvin

Bradley Dudding

Catherine Krause

Sandra Beverley

Adeola Fanegan

Michael Lohe

Stanley Faries

Patrice Mareschal

Jane Fedder

Sarapage McCorkle

Barbara Flowers

Steven Minogue

David Frimel

William Nieman

Larry Golub

Daniel Nolle

Bonnie Grantham

SBC Foundation

Thomas Grebel

Stephen Schottel

Paul Grelle

Joseph Smith

Charles Guth

Mark Snowden

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Michael Staus

Joseph Herman

William Steinhart

Roy Herrera

James Stephens

Marie Higgins

Stephen Stohs

Lisa Holland

David Vogler

Glennon Hunn

Michael Wade

Christopher Hyams

Wellpoint Foundation

Michael Italiano

Brent Wetzler

Robert Johnson

Thomas Wolf

Barbara Flowers

Mei Xiao
Department of Economics

Keep in touch! We would like to keep our records current. Please share with us your most recent personal and professional accomplishments. (Send via postal service; or email to Debra Garcia at garciaray@umsl.edu)

NAME:__________________________________________________________

HOME PH:____________________________ BUS PH: ______________

ADDRESS:_______________________________________________________

CURRENT POSITION:_____________________________________________

COMPANY:_____________________________________________________

ADDRESS:_____________________________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS:________________________________________________

UMSL DEGREE:_____________________________YEAR:_______________

RECENT ACTIVITIES:_____________________________________________

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