

The Department of
ECONOMICS

Fall 2008

From the Department Chair



Greetings from the Department of Economics! Last year was very exciting, and we go into the new academic year with a strong sense of momentum. **Ron Stanfield** has retired, and **John Marangos** has left for greener pastures

elsewhere. We are grateful for their contributions to the political economy program, and we are excited about the opportunity we now have to reshape and redefine it. In that regard, it gives me great pleasure to announce that **Ramaa Vasudevan** from the New School for Social Research joined our faculty last year. Ramaa teaches international finance, Marxian economics, and feminist economics. **Anita Pena** from Stanford University also joined our faculty last year. She teaches public economics and microeconomics. I am also pleased to announce the appointment of **Deepankar Basu** from Ohio State University. Deepankar teaches macroeconomics, mathematical economics, and Marxian economics. Finally, **Barbara Alldredge** has returned to work as our office manager, and **Brook Taylor** is the friendly face in our front office. I am truly grateful to work with such fine faculty and staff.

The change in our faculty creates a natural opportunity to reflect on the past and dream about the future. Our programs in regional economics, political economy, and international economics are thriving. Our undergraduate enrollment is up to 350 majors and minors. Our Ph.D. program is the largest in the college, and our graduates have a very strong job placement record. We have continued to develop a liberal arts approach to the economics major by requiring our majors to complete a minor, a second major, or an interdisciplinary certificate program. Our department

has a well-deserved reputation for providing excellent teaching and a welcoming, supportive environment. We aspire to be a learning community, and in many respects, we have been successful in building relationships with our students that go beyond the classroom.

At the same time, it is important to keep thinking of ways to improve. We are trying to provide more oversight and support for our graduate students who serve as instructors of their own courses. To that end, I created a new departmental position called the special instructor mentor. We are also adding more online courses and improving the oversight we provide for those. Our faculty keep developing

and innovating in their courses. For example, **Bob Kling** was awarded a grant by the Institute for Learning and Teaching to redesign his very popular course in introductory microeconomics. We are also planning to host an annual conference on the Colorado economy to improve the service we provide to the larger community.

I would love to hear your ideas about how we can improve. I want to strengthen our alumni network by making it easy for our graduates to stay in touch with us. Alumni can contact us through the department website at www.colostate.edu/Depts/Econ. Please send your current e-mail address to Brooke.Taylor@colostate.edu. — *Steven Shulman*

Faculty News

Alex Bernasek has completed her term as associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts. She will rejoin our faculty on a full-time basis in the fall.

Bob Kling served as coordinator for Graduate Studies. He continues to manage two grants from the USDA-UFS with a cumulative value of \$457,000.

Nancy Jianakoplos served as coordinator for Undergraduate Studies and the special instructor mentor.

Harvey Cutler received a \$50,000 grant from the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors International.

Stephan Weiler served as associate dean for research in the College of Liberal Arts. He also visited at the Max Planck Institute of Economics in Germany and is planning to apply his very active research program in regional economics to the European context.

Elissa Braunstein served as an outside reviewer for a series of U.N. reports on gender and globalization in India.

Ron Phillips was awarded a \$146,000 grant from the Kauffman Foundation to write a book on the entrepreneurship of rock music.

Martin Shields was awarded \$33,000 in grants from local foundations to study poverty in Fort Collins.

Anita Pena was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the West Coast Poverty Center at the University of Washington. She also co-edited a book titled *Policy Reform and Chinese Markets*.

Dave Mushinski was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Kauffman Foundation to study whether health insurance costs stifle entrepreneurial initiative by preventing people from leaving jobs to start their own companies.

Chuen-mei Fan and **Charles Revier** are on transitional retirement. They continue to be active scholars, to serve on graduate committees, and in general to be highly valued senior members of our faculty.

Colorado State University

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Faculty Highlight

Elissa Braunstein

B.A., Economics and Asian Studies, Cornell University

M.P.L.A., Pacific International Affairs, University of California San Diego

Ph.D., Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst



Teaching Philosophy

Economics is the study of how we provision and reproduce ourselves as a society. And though its often quantitative and abstract methods seem to mask this essence, I believe that all aspects of economics can be understood from this “provisioning” perspective. When learning a theoretical model of international trade, for instance, it is essential to also understand the social and political contexts from which that model is drawn and to which it is applied, as well as what the model implies about the relationship between trade and the

well-being of individuals and communities. From this perspective, studying economics also becomes a way for students to develop critical thinking and evaluation skills.

Current Research

In my research, I focus on feminist analyses of international economics, with particular emphasis on the role of foreign direct investment in development. My current work involves understanding the impact of foreign investment on gender-based wage inequality in mainland China, the gender-differentiated employment impacts of deflationary monetary policy in developing countries, the linkages between trade liberalization and reproductive health and rights, and the impact of U.S. state tax policy on women’s employment.

Recent Publications

Guaranteeing Reproductive Health and Rights: The Role of Trade Liberalization, co-editor with Caren Grown and Anju Malhotra, Zed Press, 2006.

“Foreign Direct Investment and Gendered Wages in Urban China,” *Feminist Economics*, 2007 (with Mark Brenner).

“Gender Bias and Central Bank Policy: Employment and Inflation Reduction,” in Gerald Epstein and Erinc Yeldan (eds.) *Alternatives to Inflation Targeting: Monetary Policy for Stable and Egalitarian Growth in Developing Countries*, 2007 (with James Heintz).

Foreign Direct Investment, Development and Gender Equity: A Review of Research and Policy. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, 2006.

Alumni News

Nasr El-Bahnasawy is continuing for a second year as a temporary assistant professor at Kent State University.

Scott Findley has moved from a teaching position at Illinois State, Normal, to one at the University of New Mexico.

William Rogers was recognized as one of the “30 Leaders in their 30s” for his research on the St. Louis housing market.

Student News

Naranchimeg Mijid, Ph.D. student, was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Kauffman Foundation.

Perry Burnett and **Nara Mijid** received the Graduate Students Research Award.

Nate Peach received the ODE Best Graduate Term Paper Award.

Ahmed Khalifa received the Graduate Student Teacher Award.

Johanna Hamburger received the Outstanding Undergraduate Award. She also was selected for the prestigious Morris K. Udall Scholarship Program.

Sarah Elizabeth Walker received the Hewett Scholarship.

Brandi Danielle Van Anne received the Alek Mehta Scholarship.

Alexandria Selvaggio is completing the third year of the four-year Alumni Scholarship.

Samuel Ashbach-Sladeck, an incoming freshman, received a new Alumni Scholarship.

Ian Strachan, Ph.D. student, received a summer student fellowship from the American Institute for Economic Research as well as an in-absentia fellowship award of \$5,000 for research.

Please Keep in Touch!

Send your name, graduation year, address, phone number, and e-mail address – along with news you’d like to share about your current employer, degrees, awards, births, etc. – to the address below or e-mail elizabeth.white@colostate.edu.

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