

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

No. 2

Summer 2006

Greetings from Clark Economics

Welcome to the second annual Departmental Newsletter. It is an exciting time for the Department as we continue to welcome new faculty with interest and strength in our areas of focus. We also enjoy the cycle of the academic year: the satisfaction of seeing students graduate in the spring, followed by the excitement of meeting new students in the fall. 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.

New Faculty

Junfu Zhang will be joining the department in the fall of 2006. Zhang received his BA from Renmin University of China and his PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 2001. His dissertation research



examined residential segregation using agent-based modeling. Since then he has been a Research Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California in San Francisco, where his research has covered a wide range of topics, including high-tech startups in Silicon Valley and the employment effects of business relocation. He is currently studying the effects of Wal-Mart on local labor markets. Prof. Zhang will be teaching courses in urban economics and microeconomics.

Spatial Economics at Clark

This past spring, Profs. **Geoghegan** and **Gray** offered a new course in Spatial Environmental Policy, the cornerstone of the Department's new field in Spatial Economics. The field also includes Prof. **Zhang's** course in Urban Economics and **Geoghegan's** course in Environment and Natural Resource Economics.

Geoghegan and **Gray** wrote a piece on "Spatial Environmental Policy" in the International Yearbook of Environmental and Resource Economics and co-edited a book, Spatial Aspects of Environmental Policy. **Geoghegan** and **Brown** are studying the Clark University Park Partnership in "Bringing the Campus to the Community", with funding from the Lincoln Land Institute. **Gray** has EPA funding to study spatial aspects of compliance and emissions, and organized a spatial session at the Third World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists in Kyoto, Japan.

In recent years, many economics graduate students have incorporated spatial analyses in their research: **Mahadevan Ramachandran** ('97) studied famine and food market integration in Ethiopia, **Colin Vance** ('00) studied land use change and deforestation in Mexico, **Bansari Saha** ('01) studied the impact of air and water pollution on U.S. housing prices, **Aleksandra Simic** ('03) studied the impact of air pollution on U.S. migration patterns, **Michael Fragkias** ('04) studied job and housing sprawl in Maryland, and **Soma Ghosh** ('06) studied spillovers in expenditures across local jurisdictions in the U.S. Among current students, **Suchandra Basu** is studying pollution spillovers across U.S. counties and **Mahesh Ramachandran** is studying residential water demand in Massachusetts.

Faculty News

Wayne Gray was appointed to the Science Advisory Board for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

John Brown received additional funding from the National Science Foundation for his research with Daniel Bernhofen on "Empirical Tests of Neoclassical Trade Theory Using Natural Experiment: The Case of Japan."



New Developments in Contract Theory?

Amy Ickowitz married Or Zairi in May. The service was held in Israel, followed by a "working honeymoon" in Africa to check out potential research sites in Cameroon and Congo.

PhD Degrees 2006

Anna Belova

Equivocal Enforcement: Regulatory Disputes in OSHA (Gray)

Bhramar Dey

Revealing Agency Preferences: The Case of OSHA (Gray)

Soma Ghosh

Strategic Interaction Among Local Governments: A Spatial Analysis of Spillover of Public Goods (Ott)

Ladislav Wintr

Three Essays Analyzing Internet Markets (Gray)

Clark PhDs at Graduation 2006

Ladislav Wintr

Bhramar Dey

Anna Belova



Undergraduate Honors 2006

Rebecca Batza

The Effects of Fiscal Policy on the Current Account: Evidence from a Vector Autoregression Approach (Bokil, Callan)

Rebecca Fox

The Solow Model's Missing Link: Gender Equality (Gray)

David Kramer

The Effect of Smart Growth Policies on Sprawl (Brown)

Uyen Le

Enough Already? Optimal Family Size in America (Gray)

Alex Leibowitz

Microfinance: Is Outreach an Impediment to Financial Self-Sustainability? (Ickowitz)

Sattha Prasitwarakul

Speculative Currency Attacks (Callan)

Larissa Price

From Export-Led Growth to Import-Substitution Decline: Policy and Productivity in the Uruguayan Beef Industry (Brown)

Xiang Xiao

Keys to Countries' Success in the Olympics Games (Gray)

Where are they going?

Ladislav has a job with the Research Department of the National Bank of Belgium, **Bhramar** is working for NECA in New Jersey, **Anna** is working at Abt Associates in Washington, DC, **Soma** is teaching at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts. **Alex** is working at CIBC World Markets, **Uyen** is working at Cannondale Associates, **Larissa** is working at the Foundation for Economic Education (all three in New York). **Becky** is pursuing the 5th year Masters in Finance at Clark, and **Xiang** is starting a Masters program at Washington University in St. Louis.

Alumni-Student Gathering in Boston



Bill Mosakowski ('76), Mollie Grotpeter ('04), Justyna Mieltska ('06), Ian Madorin-McGregor ('09), David Maldonado ('09), Cesar Conto ('06), George Keppler ('08), Bob Andrezyk ('01), Sharon Olander ('08), Sean Dunbar ('01), Rebecca Batza ('06) gather in Boston.

After touring the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, members of the Economics Society visited Public Consulting Group for lunch and discussion with alumni about economics, careers and life after Clark. Public Consulting Group CEO, **Bill Mosakowski** ('76), led the discussion with input from **Sean Dunbar** ('01), **Bob Andrezyk** ('01) and **Mollie Grotpeter** ('04).

Alumni Survey

We've developed an Alumni Survey to get feedback from B.A.s and Ph.D.s about the economics courses and degree programs at Clark, and how they helped prepare you for "life after Clark". This is part of the Department's commitment to developing outcome-oriented measures for the program – as well as another way for us to keep in touch with you.

The survey can be accessed at

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

The Alumni Survey includes questions about how well Clark courses provided you with specific skills (analytical tools, oral and written communication, applying economic theory). The Survey also asks for job and contact information. If you prefer to answer the survey anonymously, that is fine. We are truly interested in your feedback. Please take a few minutes sometime and fill out the survey; the results will be summarized in a future newsletter.

Attiat F. Ott Seminar Room Dedication

On October 21, 2005 the departmental seminar room was dedicated in honor of **Attiat Ott**, who retired from teaching in 2005 after 35 years at Clark. Many of her former students returned for the occasion.



Ellen Hughes-Cromwick ('85), Nirupama Devaraj ('05), Gladstone Hutchinson ('89), Michael Compson ('89), Bonnie Orcutt ('93), Kamal Desai ('96), Roy Wyscarver ('77), Attiat Ott, Paul Hughes-Cromwick ('86), Nevila Nace ('05), Muhammad M. Awan ('76), Sheila Vegari ('78), Ute Schumacher ('90), Sujha Subramanian ('97) at Seminar Room Dedication

The Attiat F. Ott Fund for Economics funded the renovation of the department's seminar room and continues to fund student research. Total pledges of \$45,000 have been received from Clark economics alumni.

Dr. Ott's latest initiative is the Institute for Economic Policy Studies, which promotes economic literacy in Africa while seeking to develop new solutions to the economic problems faced there. The Institute hosted a conference in July 2006, "The African Outreach Program: Democracy, Liberty, and Development", with participants from Africa and the U.S., including several of Dr. Ott's former students.

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!