

# Economics

## matters



DEPARTMENT OF  
**Economics**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

News for Alumni & Friends of the Department of Economics • Spring 2011

### *Madison Initiative for Undergraduates*

## Infusion of faculty, services bolster undergraduate experience

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is a world renowned institution, known for its diverse offering of courses and exceptional faculty. But for some students, enrolling in these desired courses, many of which are required to graduate, can be difficult. Thanks to the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU), such bottlenecks at UW-Madison are becoming less common, especially for economics majors, as capacity in these courses has increased.

The campus-wide effort aims to improve the value, quality and affordability of undergraduate education. This initiative of Chancellor Biddy Martin was passed by a campus-wide referendum approved by students. From an increase in faculty to multiple enhancements of student services, undergraduates will reap the benefits of the MIU. The initiative will also assist low-income students by providing increased need-based aid, roughly \$10 million, making a high quality education possible for more students.

For economics majors, the MIU is directly responsible for the following:

- New faculty positions—the largest net increase in two decades
- More advanced electives
- Added sections of core economics courses
- New freshman level course for non-majors
- Certificate in Finance program
- Greater access to faculty

For more information on the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates, visit [madisoninitiative.wisc.edu](http://madisoninitiative.wisc.edu).



Jeff Miller, University of Wisconsin - Madison

## Return on investment

Welcome to *Economics Matters*. We hope you will enjoy reading about the latest updates from the Department of Economics. As you will see, we have been very busy over the past year.

One of the most exciting updates from the past year is the selection of our department to receive funding as part of the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates. Our students are already benefitting from this funding and will continue to see improvements in the department.

You will also see that we have many new additions to both our advisory board and our faculty. Sadly, we lost one of our best with the passing of Emeritus Professor Robert Baldwin.

This will be my last update as my term as Chair comes to an end. Professor John Karl Scholz will be serving as the next Chair, and I have no doubt the department will continue to improve during his term.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our faculty, our staff and, most importantly, our students.

**Ananth Seshadri**  
Professor and Chair

*Economics Matters* is the alumni newsletter of the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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Design: Paula McDermid

## New advisory board members



Brian Hazen ('71 BS) spent more than three decades at Colorado's real estate firm Coates, Reid, and Waldron, earning the Top Producer Award 13 of the last 14 years, highlighted by record sales. Making good use of his UW-Madison economics degree, Brian produced over 3/4 of a billion dollars in real estate sales, leading CRW to 17 consecutive years with the highest dollar volume in sales activity in the Aspen/Snowmass marketplace. He was with the firm until the spring of 2009, and is now Vice President/Broker Associate with Mason Morse, Aspen's oldest real estate company.



Clifton (CJ) Wilson ('80 BA) began his career in 1980 at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and later joined JP Morgan in New York in the Investment Banking Division. He was co-head of international mergers & acquisitions for Asahi Bank in Japan and Vice President of Investment Banking for Merrill Lynch Capital Markets in Tokyo and New York. In 1994 he founded Global Alliance Ltd, a cross-border merchant bank with offices in the US, Asia and Europe. CJ is also a graduate of Harvard Business School. He resides in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

## Events continue to engage alumni

Dr. Martin Regalia ('76 MS, '78 PhD) was the headline speaker in Washington, DC, in the first of numerous UW economics alumni gatherings around the country in 2011. He is the senior vice president for economic and tax policy and chief economist for the United States Chamber of Commerce. The event was hosted by Advisory Board member Craig Roach.

Incoming Department of Economics Chair, Professor John Karl Scholz, addressed alumni in Milwaukee and Chicago. Our Milwaukee event was hosted by Susan Martin and Jeff Geygan, while our Chicago event was hosted by Advisory Board Chair, Todd Warnock. An additional alumni event was held in early May in Madison, hosted by Advisory Board member Stuart Rossmiller. Future events are being considered for New York City, Denver, Boston and Minneapolis.

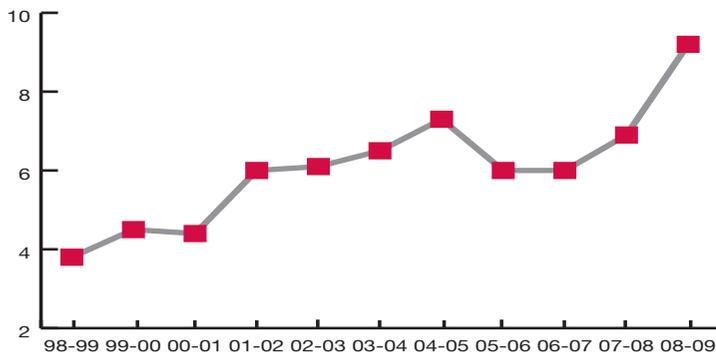
These events provide the opportunity to network, connect with others from the department and learn about various ways to support the economics department.

For more information about these events, contact Bethany Nelson, Career & Outreach Coordinator, [banelson2@wisc.edu](mailto:banelson2@wisc.edu) or Ron Luskin, UW Foundation Development Director, [ron.luskin@supportuw.org](mailto:ron.luskin@supportuw.org).

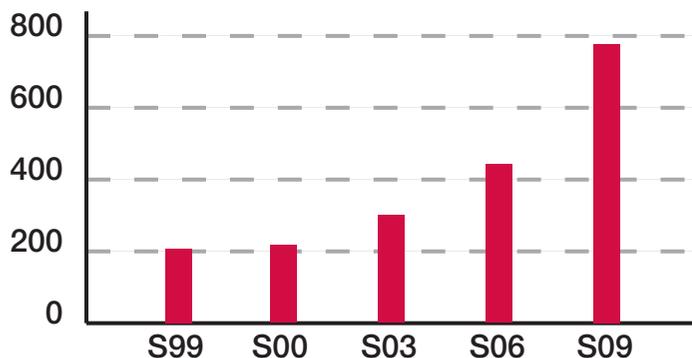


## Economics majors growing

Economics has become a hot major on campus. Sure, the tumultuous path of the U.S. economy in recent years may well have spurred undergraduate interest in the science behind buying and selling, and all of the related implications. However, the number of economics majors at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been on the rise for a full decade. In fact, economics majors tripled to over 600 students in the last decade. When one looks at those students as a portion of all campus undergraduates, economics majors account for about one in ten students—double the proportion of a decade ago.



Economics undergraduates as a % of College Undergrad Degrees



Trends in Degrees awarded by Major 2001 - 2010

## Burton Weisbrod, Ph.D., lectureship established

An excellent, inspirational instructor can have an enormous impact on a student's career and life path. Enter alumna Susan Kay Feigenbaum ('77 MA, '80 PhD) who wants to honor her favorite professor, Burton A. Weisbrod. Susan, Professor of Economics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, has established the Shirley and Burton A. Weisbrod Lectureship in the Economics of Health, Education and Nonprofit Sector Fund.

Weisbrod spent 26 years as Professor of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and also served as a senior staff economist on the Council of Economic Advisors to presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. He is currently the John Evans Professor of Economics at Northwestern University.

## New development director represents economics



Ronald Luskin recently joined the University of Wisconsin Foundation as director of development for the College of Letters & Science. He will be taking the place of Steve Kean, who has worked with the

economics department for the past several years.

Professionally, Luskin's career has focused on work in strategic marketing, planning and communications, as well as business development, specializing in healthcare and higher education.

Luskin is a native of Wisconsin and earned his BA in History

and MA in Public Policy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He previously served on the Board of Advisors for the La Follette School of Public Affairs. He serves on the board of directors for Downtown Madison, Inc., the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Badger Basketball Boosters.



## Economics Student Association

The Economics Student Association (ESA) has been busy this year. The fall semester kick-off meeting, featuring BP, was a standing-room only event with over 70 students in attendance. Another highlight of the fall semester was the annual networking trip to Minneapolis where students met with alumni at AmeriPrise Financial, U.S. Bank and General Mills. They were also treated to lunch by alumnus Brad Chapin, President of M&I Bank, and were joined by other UW alumni.

Spring semester has been even busier. Liberty Mutual provided advice to ESA members to prepare them for the Spring Career Fair while Capitol One was the featured guest at the spring kick-off. They also had a kick-off for the first issue of Equilibrium. ESA traveled to Chicago for another networking trip and visited Goldman Sachs, Northern Trust, Merrill Lynch and the Chicago Board Options Exchange. Todd Warnock, Chairman of the Economics Advisory Board, hosted lunch and

provided students with solid career advice.

They have more Employer Information Sessions and Alumni Lecture Series events planned in addition to their usual Professor Lecture Series. If you or your company recruiters are interested in working with ESA contact Bethany Nelson at banelson2@wisc.edu or 608.265.2888.

## Department of Economics Spring Awards

The Department of Economics once again held its annual awards ceremony to honor some of our best and brightest students. In addition to students and department staff and faculty, parents and donors were also in attendance. The following

scholarships and awards were presented:

**GRADUATE AWARDS & HONORS**  
**Lau Christensen Award:**  
*Rebecca Lessem*  
 Faculty: *John Kennan*

**Robock Award:**  
*Xiao Wang*  
 Faculty: *Charles Engel*

**Alice Gengler Fellowship:**  
*Tim Lee*

**Stockwell Fellowship:**  
*Rui Liu*  
*Dai Zusai*

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**Margery Amundsen:** *Ashley Klotz*

**Veldor Kopitzke:** *Liyu Liu*

**Edward R. Draminski:** *Konrad Paczuski, Dan Gorlen, Andrew Mollica, John Rehbeck, Andrew Quinn, Amanda Frankwick, Ulf Hognas, Eran Stalkol*

**Mary Claire Phipps:**  
*Jonathan Schellenberg*

**Susan Meyers:**  
*Vesselina Pentcheva*

**British Petroleum:** *John Rehbeck, Benjamin Stenhaus, Kyle Schroeckenthaler, Colin Watson*

**Warnock:** *Claire Nesler*

**Smith:** *Sung Ryung Kim*

**Stone:** *Grace Graszer and Kristen Westenfield*

**Meek Bishop:** *Donna Long and Michael Klein*

**Stone Scholarship**  
*Grace Graszer*  
*Kristen Westenfield*

**Warnock Family Award for Academic Excellence in Economics**  
*Claire Nesler*

### Get Involved

Join our LinkedIn group  
 "UW-Madison Economics"

We're always looking for enthusiastic alumni to get involved with students through mentoring, networking or other ways to help them reach their academic and career goals. Contact Bethany at 608.265.2888 or banelson2@wisc.edu if you're interested.

## 2009-2010 graduate student placement results

### **Aristoklis Avgousti**

Visiting Lecturer  
University of Cyprus  
Dissertation: Spatial Competition In Retail Markets for Gasoline

### **Nonarit Bisoryabut**

Research Fellow  
TDRI - Thailand Development Research Institute  
Dissertation: Essays on Uncertainties in Monetary Policy

### **Emmanuele Bobbio**

Research Economist  
Bank of Italy  
Dissertation: Three Essays in Economics

### **Woo-Hyun Chang**

Associate Research Fellow  
Korea Development Institute (KDI)  
Dissertation: An Empirical Study of Partial Zero Pricing Policy in the Online Game Industry

### **Ben Cowan**

Assistant Professor  
Washington State University  
Dissertation: Essays on the Schooling Expectations and Risky Behavior of Young Adults

### **Swati Dhingra**

IES Fellow  
Princeton University  
Lecturer  
London School of Economics  
Dissertation: Essays on Gain from Trade

### **Roberto Duncan**

Assistant Professor  
Ohio University  
Dissertation: Three Essays in International Macroeconomics

### **Danqing Hu**

Researcher  
Denmark Technical University  
Dissertation: Three Essays on Transport and Urban Economics

### **Ching-Yang (Jim) Lin**

Assistant Professor  
International University of Japan  
Dissertation: Three Essays on Macroeconomics

### **Shannon Mok**

Associate Analyst  
Congressional Budget Office  
Dissertation: Three Essays in Public Economics

### **Ignacio Monzon**

Assistant Professor  
Collegio Carlo Alberto  
Dissertation: Three Essays on Observational Learning

### **David Rivers**

Assistant Professor  
University of Western Ontario  
Dissertation: Essays in Empirical Microeconomics

### **Seung Gyu (Andrew) Sim**

Assistant Professor  
The University of Tokyo  
Dissertation: Three Essays on Labor Market

### **Kamil Sicinski**

Research Associate  
UW-Madison  
Dissertation: Essays on Beauty and Economic Success

### **Naoya Sueishi**

Assistant Professor  
Kyoto University  
Dissertation: Essays on Model Selection and Semi-Nonparametric Instrumental Variable Estimation

### **Yuya Takahashi**

Assistant Professor  
University of Mannheim  
Dissertation: Essays on Estimating Games of Incomplete Information

### **Alex Yuskavage**

Economist  
OTA, Treasury Department  
Dissertation: Three Essays in Applied Microeconomics



Michael Forster Pothbart, University of Wisconsin - Madison

# Department of Economics new faculty



## **Kenneth Hendricks**

### *Professor*

Hendricks obtained his PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1981. He has held positions at the University of New York at Stony Brook, University of British Columbia and University of Texas. His areas of expertise are industrial organization and market design, and he is best known for his work on oil and gas auctions.



## **Xiaoxia Shi**

### *Assistant Professor*

Shi received both Master of Philosophy and PhD from Yale University. In her dissertation, Xiaoxia develops a hypothesis test that allows one to statistically compare two incompletely specified partially identified economic models. Xiaoxia's future research focuses on hypothesis testing in incompletely specified, partially identified models.



## **Antonio Penta**

### *Assistant Professor*

Penta's research interests are mainly in Game Theory, which he began to explore as an undergraduate at Bocconi University, in Milan, Italy. He completed graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation was titled "Incomplete Information and Robustness in Strategic Environments."



## **Lones Smith**

### *Professor*

Smith comes to UW from the University of Michigan, having been there since 1998. He also taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) 1991-1998. Having received his PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago, he has written about the economics of information, matching, search theory, finance and bargaining.



## **Nicolas Roys**

### *Assistant Professor*

Roys received his PhD from Paris School of Economics last year. He spent 3 years as a PhD Scholar at University College London. He develops and estimates structural models of the labor market for evaluating important policy questions.



## **Chao Fu**

### *Assistant Professor*

Fu is a recent graduate from the University of Pennsylvania and joins the UW-Madison Department of Economics as Assistant Professor and as the Maude P. and Milton J. Shoemaker Fellow in Economics. Fu's research is in the field of labor economics, empirical economics and applied theory.

## **Remembering Robert Baldwin**

Robert E. Baldwin, Hilldale Professor of Economics Emeritus, died in Madison on Thursday, April 7, 2011. Baldwin received his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard in 1950 and taught there and at UCLA before moving to Wisconsin in 1964. He served as department chair from 1975-78 and at the Social Systems Research Institute from 1986-89.

During his career he also served as Chief Economist of the Office of the Special Trade Representative under President Kennedy. He went on to author or edit many books and academic articles on mathematical trade theory, trade policy and trade politics. As a professor, Baldwin was an inspiration to his students. He was passionate about his work and its relevance. Many of his students have gone on to become professors at universities across the world.

Baldwin is survived by his wife, Janice; his daughters, Jean and Nancy; and his son, Richard as well as many grandchildren. Gifts can be made in Professor Baldwin's memory by contacting development director, Ron Luskin, at the UW Foundation at 608-265-3526.



## **Kenichi Fukushima**

### *Assistant Professor*

Fukushima received his PhD in 2010 from the University of Minnesota, with macroeconomics and public finance as his main fields of concentration. His doctoral thesis was about optimal taxation in a dynamic setting.



## Students soaking up career advice

Sage advice is always a hot commodity, and economics majors are seeking it more than ever to better manage their college experience. Career & Outreach Coordinator, Bethany Nelson, promotes the Economics Career Development Office (ECDO) to a majority of economics courses and students who are eager to utilize these resources. This might include attending alumni and employer panels, workshops or participating in mock interviews.

Exceptional economics students, interested in everything including research, finance, business, law and public policy, are seeking opportunities to strengthen their resumes and are always interested in connecting with successful alumni. If you are interested in working with the ECDO you may contact Bethany at [banelson2@wisc.edu](mailto:banelson2@wisc.edu) or 608.265.2888.

**Bethany Nelson**  
Career and Outreach Coordinator

### Stay connected!

Let us know what you've been up to by sending a note to [econalum@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:econalum@ssc.wisc.edu). You can find all alumni updates and more at [www.econ.wisc.edu](http://www.econ.wisc.edu). To ensure you receive future issues of Economics Matters and e-mails from the department, update your information at [uwalumni.com/directory](http://uwalumni.com/directory).

*On Wisconsin!*

### On the Web

[econ.wisc.edu](http://econ.wisc.edu)

[uwmadisoneconomics.wordpress.com](http://uwmadisoneconomics.wordpress.com)

[twitter.com/UWMad\\_Econ](https://twitter.com/UWMad_Econ)

[facebook.com/uweconalumni](https://facebook.com/uweconalumni)



## Economics Department in top ten

The prestigious National Research Council has ranked the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison number eight in the nation in 2010, just behind Stanford University. Established in 1916, the NRC's mission is to promote education and public understanding.

1. Harvard University
2. University of Chicago
3. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
4. University of California - Berkeley
5. Princeton University
6. Yale University
7. Stanford University
8. **University of Wisconsin-Madison**
9. New York University
10. University of Pennsylvania

## Introducing *Equilibrium* Undergraduate journal of economics

The Department of Economics is proud to announce the publication of *Equilibrium*, the university's first undergraduate journal of economics. *Equilibrium's* staff, spearheaded by senior Sam Clegg, worked to create a publication that will render economics understandable and interesting to the average reader, and motivate new students to look deeper into one of the most significant fields in business and policy today.

Undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison produced all of *Equilibrium's* content. Highlights of the first edition include an interview with Morgan Stanley's Asia Chairman and economics alumnus and Economics Advisory Board member, Stephen Roach, a two-part feature on the wage gap between men and women, and a profile of industrial organization professor Kenneth Hendricks.

As an undergraduate publication, alumni support is crucial to future editions of *Equilibrium*. In particular, we hope to continue interviewing distinguished graduates of the economics department. *If you are interested in ordering a copy or providing support or commentary, please contact Evan Mast and Drew Lynde at [esajournal@gmail.com](mailto:esajournal@gmail.com). Find a copy by visiting our website <http://uwequilibrium.com>.*

