

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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As many of you are no doubt aware, Alice Bourneuf died in December 1980 after a long battle with cancer. We mourn her passing and celebrate her life. A Boston Globe feature story on her quoted Richard Caves: "The Boston College Economics department was her most outstanding accomplishment...".

We shall endeavor to be worthy inheritors.



In Memoriam

Alice E. Bourneuf

October 2, 1912 - December 7, 1980

I. FACULTY RESEARCH AND ACTIVITY

James E. Anderson

"Quality of Service and the Demand for Air Travel," with Marvin Kraus, Review of Economics and Statistics, forthcoming.

"The Heckscher-Ohlin and Travis-Vanek Theorems under Uncertainty," Journal of International Economics, forthcoming.

"The Gains from Trade with a Leaky Bucket," December 1981.

"Risk Aversion and Optimal Trade Restrictions," with Leslie Young, January 1981.

"Optimal Exchange Rate Regimes under Uncertainty," with Leslie Young, February 1981.

"The Optimal Trade Restrictions under Uncertainty," with Leslie Young, Review of Economic Studies, November 1980.

"A Note on Harkness Ohlinian Hypothesis," will appear in the September 1981 AER.

Christopher F. Baum

"The Effect of Federal Loan Guarantees on Small Entrepreneurs," in Conference on the Economics of Federal Credit Activity: Part I, Proceedings, Congressional Budget Office Special Study, December 1980.

David Belsley

On Sabbatical leave this semester.

"On the Efficient Computation of the Nonlinear Full-Information Maximum Likelihood Estimator," appears in the the October issue of the Journal of Econometrics.

Upcoming lectures on Research in Regression Diagnostics include:

- a. (The Sloan Seminars), April 1981.
- b. The MIT Industrial Liaison Program Symposia, Thursday, May 28, 1981.
- c. The Biometrics Seminar of the Food and Drug Administration, May or June 1981.
- d. The American Society for Quality Control in Princeton, June 1981.

David Belsley (Cont.)

Will be delivering a paper on "Diagnostic and Forecasting," at the meetings of the American Statistical Association in Detroit in August. This paper will be published in the Journal of Econometrics.

The paper read at the the World Congress of the Econometric Society last August in Aix En Provence will be published in a forthcoming book, Model Reliability, edited by Edwin Kuh and Walter Van Daele.

Frank M. Gollop

"The Electric Power Industry: An Econometric Model of Intertemporal Behavior," Land Economics, 56 (August 1980), with Stephen Karlson.

"Environmental and Health/Safety Regulations, Productivity Growth, and Economic Performance: An Assessment," U.S. Congress, Joint Economic Committee and Senate Commerce Committee, Committee Print. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, with Greg Christainsen and Robert Haveman.

"Imported Intermediate Input: Its Impact on Sectoral Productivity in U.S. Manufacturing," in N. Adam and A. Dogramaci (eds.), Productivity in the Macro-Sector. Boston: Martinus Nijhoff, forthcoming, with Mark Roberts.

"The Sources of Growth in the U.S. Electric Power Industry," in T. Cowing and R. Stevenson (eds.), Productivity Measurement in Regulated Industries. New York: Academic Press.

"The Economic Consequences of Automatic Adjustment Clauses," August 1980, with Stephen Karlson.

"Automatic Adjustment Clauses: The Effect on Fuel Prices," September 1980, with Stephen Karlson.

"Growth Accounting in an Open Economy," March 1980. To be presented at Conference on Current Issues in Productivity, Rutgers University, April 1981.

Marvin Kraus

The survey paper "The Problem of Optimal Resource Allocation in Urban Transportation," came out in the 1980 volume of Economic Perspectives: An Annual Survey of Economics.

"Scale Economies Analysis for Urban Highway Networks," came out in the January, 1981 issue of the Journal of Urban Economics.

Marvin Kraus (Cont.)

"Indivisibilities, Economies of Scale, and the Subsidy Issue for Freeways," is scheduled for publication in the February 1981 issue of Land Economics.

"Quality of Service and the Demand for Air Travel," a joint paper with Jim Anderson, has been accepted by the Review of Economics and Statistics.

"Optimal Public Investment Under Uncertainty: The Case of a Highway Planner," was presented at the Econometric Society Meetings in Denver.

Mike Mann

Attended U.S.D.A. Conference: Symposium on Advertising and the Food System.

Commentator on:

E. Paqoulatis and R. Sorensen, "The Competitive Impact of Advertising in U.S. Food Processing Industries: A Simultaneous Equation Approach."

J.M. MacDonald, D.T. Scheffman, and J.T. Whitten "Advertising and Quality in Food Products: Some New Evidence on the Nelson Hypothesis."

Comments to be published in conference volume.

Still trying to convince NSF in value of research on causal priority. Another application this Spring.

Finished with J.A. Henning a paper on Simultaneous Equation Modelling. Seeking an interested journal.

Joseph F. Quinn

On leave, 1980-81, as visiting associate professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley.

"Wage Rates and City Size" (with Karen McCormick), Industrial Relations, Spring 1981, forthcoming.

"Compensation in the Public Sector: The Importance of Pensions," in Proceedings of the International Institute of Public Finance, edited by Robert H. Haveman, 1980, forthcoming.

"The Effects of Changes in Mandatory Retirement Rules on the Labor Supply of Older Workers" (with Richard Burkhauser), presented at NBEA Conference on the Economics of Compensation, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 21, 22, 1980.

Joseph F. Quinn (Cont.)

"Public Sector Wage Rates: Are Civil Servants Overpaid?", presented at 36th Annual Conference of the International Institute of Public Finance, Jerusalem, August 25-29, 1980.

Department of Labor, Labor Management Service Administration, to study the importance of Social Security and pension rights in the wealth portfolios of older Americans, 1980-81.

Department of Labor, Management Services Administration, to study the determinants of retirement plans, and why the plans do or do not come to fruition, 1981-82 (with Richard Burkhauser).

Donald Richter

"Weakly Democratic Regular Tax Equilibria in a Local Public Goods Economy with Perfect Consumer Mobility," Journal of Economic Theory, forthcoming.

Barbara Spencer

"Outside Information and the Degree of Monopoly Power of a Public Bureau," Southern Economic Journal, July 1980.

Participant at the Carnegie-Mellon Conference on Political Economy, May 8-9, 1980.

"Tariffs and the Extraction of Foreign Monopoly Rent under Potential Entry," (with James a Brando), Canadian Journal of Economics, forthcoming.

"Local Telephone Pricing, Two-Part Tariffs, and Price Discrimination," delivered at the Conference "Telecommunications in Canada: Economic Analysis of the Industry," 4-6th March 1981-Montreal, (with James A. Brander). The paper will be published by North Holland as part of the paper and proceedings of the conference.

GRADUATE STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACTIVITY

Teresa Amott (Wellesley, 1979) is now on the Eastern Executive Board of the AEA's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economic Profession (CSWEP) and also active in organizing sessions at the Eastern meetings and in setting up an advanced econometrics workshop for women Ph.D.'s who need to upgrade their skills to be more competitive in the job market.

Ataman M. Aksoy (Middle East Tech, Turkey, 1973) has been awarded a Visiting Fulbright Grant for Research in industrial economics at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1980-81.

Alice Gerster Breed (Chemical Bank, New York, 1973) her thesis, "The Change in Social Welfare from Deregulation of the Natural Gas Industry," was published in the fall of 1979 by Arno Press.

Edward Kienzle (Stonehill College, 1976) Publications:
"The Cyclical Response of U.S. Income Inequality: Some New Empirical Results," Public Finance Quarterly, April 1980.

"Measurement of Tax Progressivity: Comment," American Economic Review, March 1980.

"A Comment on State and Local Government Spending Control in Rhode Island: The Options," New England Business and Economic Association, Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Conference, November 1979.

"A Land Use Prediction Model for the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut: Comment," New England Business and Economic Association, Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Conference, October 1978.

James Meehan (Colby College, 1967) was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School during the Spring Semester of 1980.

John Meisel (U. of S. Illinois, 1978) "Entry, Multi-Brand Firms and Market Share Instability," the Journal of Industrial Economics, forthcoming.

Charles Mueller (Planning Economics, Inc., 1978) A book based on his thesis, An Economic Analysis of Interregional Migration, will be coming out in Academic Press' Studies in Urban Economic series around the beginning of 1982. A paper "Relocation Assistance: A Program for the Unemployed," is scheduled for publication in the February, 1981 issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

Edward Powers (Northern Michigan University, 1967) passed away in August 1979.

Richard Sheehan (James Madison University, 1978) "The Variability of the Okun Coefficient," in the Southern Economic Journal, October 1980.

GRADUATE STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACTIVITY (Cont.)

John Walgreen (Wheaton College, 1965) on leave to Office of the Secretary (Regulatory Analysis), U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington D.C., 1980-81.

Brendan Walsh (University College, Dublin, Ireland, 1966) was appointed Professor of Applied Economics at the University College, Dublin, effective October 1, 1980. The position is one of the two major posts for economists in the Irish University system. Brendan's appointment reflects the Irish academic community's evaluation of him as the most accomplished economist in Ireland.

Note: Please keep us up-to-date on any activity you would like to be placed in our newsletter.

Addendum

Ronald L. Trosper

Completed a report, "Earnings and Labor Supply: A Microeconomic Comparison of American Indians and Alaskan Natives to American Blacks and Whites," for the Labor Department, December 15, 1980.

Wrote a paper, "Project Selection Criteria for an American Indian Development Finance Institution."

Organizer of the "Native American Policy Network Directory."

At all-male BC, a woman built a department

THEORY IN PRACTICE

A regular column about economists at work.

By David Warsh
Globe Staff

Back in the 1930s, it was different for women at Radcliffe: Widener Library was open until 10 p.m., but young ladies had to be out and home at 6 p.m. Women who took economics heard their lectures from the likes of Joseph Schumpeter and Edward Mason, but separately from the Harvard boys who had heard the same talks an hour before. Paul Samuelson recalls how president A. Lawrence Lowell once explained the segregation by asking rhetorically, "Would you want your sister to discuss Macbeth with men?" Only at the graduate level were women permitted to take their places in the seminar rooms with men.

For some, the wait was worth it. The group of students who assembled around Radcliffe and Harvard in the 1930s was one of those little knots in the tapestry of economic thought from which large patterns proceed. The constellation included, among others, Paul Samuelson, Paul Sweezy, John Kenneth Galbraith, Richard Musgrave, Abram Bergson, Robert Blahop... and Alice Bournneuf.

Bournneuf, raised in a big and intensely religious family in Haverhill, was graduated from Radcliffe in 1933, in the summers of a stint as an instructor at Rosemont College in Rosemont, Pa., she did research on her dissertation in Europe.

She was sitting in a library in Louvain.

Belgium, when the Nazi tanks rolled. She lost her thesis in the rubble and had to flee through southern France.

Then came a hitch with the Office of Price Administration. "Her great achievement — nobody seems to mention it — was in wartime administration of export-import prices," said Galbraith. "It was a field of the utmost complexity. She did brilliantly."

She moved quickly to the Federal Reserve Board staff and did some of the planning that led to the International Monetary Fund. She heard Keynes debate White and Vinson at Bretton Woods.

But her great love was Norway, to which she ministered under the Marshall Plan. She did the research that was to become her thesis, Norway, *The Planned Recovery*.

Then it was off to teach at Mt. Holyoke and, after, Berkeley.

She joined the Economics Department at Boston College in the fall of 1959 as a tenured full professor, the first woman appointed to the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences at BC.

Three years ago, after 16 productive years of teaching, she retired to Ogunquit, Maine. "I still have a good stiff drink before lunch," she told friends. Colleagues gave her a *Festschrift*, a volume of essays collected in her honor. A prize in her name was established for the liveliest economics student at BC. A house on the hill was named for her.

And last week, Alice Bournneuf died at age 68, after a long but never grim siege of cancer. A group of scholars and friends celebrated a mass on Saturday.

The real monument to Bournneuf, however, is not the house nor the prize nor the *Festschrift*, but instead the Boston College Economics Department.



Alice E. Bournneuf

FILE PHOTO

Said Harvard's Richard Caves, "The BC operation was her most distinctive accomplishment. She built it into a department with a national reputation." All the more remarkable when you consider the situation at BC when she arrived: male, Catholic, and very Jesuit.

Today, Boston College is on the lower edge of the top 50 departments in the nation. That makes it one of the top five in New England, after MIT, Harvard and Yale and behind — not very far — Brown University, and puts it well ahead of Tufts, Boston University and the University of Massachusetts. "We have ambitions for moving up to the top 30 schools," said James Anderson, a BC professor, "and we have some chips to play."

Bournneuf set out to build the department

immediately after she arrived, becoming an aggressive bidder on the recruiting circuit. Samuelson recalls, "At American Economic Assn. conventions, when Father McEwen and Alice Bournneuf appeared, department heads quaked for the ivory they were hoarding."

At first, she depended at MIT. Ann Friedlander, now an MIT professor, who was one of Bournneuf's first hires, recalled, "Because of her friendship particularly with Paul Samuelson, MIT took Boston College seriously when other departments did not. My teachers told me, 'This is a remarkable woman and she is building a remarkable department and you should go. I'm glad I did.'"

"She was interested in everything," said Caves. Anderson agreed, "She would come busting up and say, 'Well, Jim, what do you think about this?' Maybe you hadn't thought. But you'd begin, and a couple hours later, you'd have something interesting to tell her." David Belsley added: "Anybody would give his eyeteeth to have a leader like that. We sorely miss her."

The result is the modern BC department. Among its national-class scholars are Michael Mann, the expert on industrial organization; David Belsley, the econometrician James Anderson, the international trade specialist; Donald Richter, the general equilibrium theorist; and Barry Bluestone, the poverty researcher. Among its up-and-comers John Ciccolo and Barbara Spencer.

And women at Boston College? Well, Spencer, who just arrived, is the only one. Caroline Shaw Bell, chairman of the department at Wellesley, said, "I think it is a sham that the department is not more of a memorial to her. Imagine, for three years after her retirement, not having a single woman."

built a department

In a new series of columns dealing with how economists put theory into practice, David Warsh writes about Alice Bournneuf, the academician who built Boston College's Economics Department into one of the best in the nation.