

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Vol. VII, No. 2

May 1984

It is with great sadness that I report to you the news that begins this letter. In January, Mike Mann lapsed into a coma following a heart attack he suffered at work. Although Mike's heart is now functioning properly, he continues to lie in a comatose state. There are no words to express this tragedy. I can only say that Mike appears to be resting comfortably. He is at St. John of God Hospital in Brighton.

The Department has appointed three new faculty. They are:

Timothy Erickson, Ph.D., UCLA, 1984. Tim's field is econometrics. His dissertation is entitled "Essays in Bayesian Econometrics."

Robert Murphy, Ph.D., MIT, 1984. Bob's fields are international economics and monetary economics. His thesis is "Essays on Tariffs, Real Exchange Rates and Capital Mobility."

Manuel Sanchez, Ph.D., U. of Chicago, 1984. Manuel, whose field is monetary theory, will be joining the faculty in September 1985. His thesis is "Market Anticipations of Currency Devaluation."

Congratulations to Joe Peek, who has been promoted to Associate Professor and tenured. Joe's work has primarily been concerned with explaining interest rates and personal saving behavior.

Finally, we are sorry to lose Rob Steen, who, after three years on the faculty, is going to Miami University (Ohio).

I. FACULTY RESEARCH AND ACTIVITY

James E. Anderson

Publications

"Identification of Interactive Behavior in Air Service Markets: 1973-6, Journal of Industrial Economics, June 1984.

"The Relative Inefficiency of Quotas: The Cheese Case," American Economic Review, forthcoming.

Conferences and Presentations

"The Effect of Warranty on Used Car Prices," with Frank Gollop, presented at the FTC Conference on Empirical Approaches to Consumer Protection, April 26-7, 1984.

Christopher A. Baum

Conferences and Presentations

"The Term Structure of Interest Rates in the U.S. and the Demand for Money: Interwar Evidence," with Clifford Thies (Ph.D., 1983), Eastern Economic Association Meetings, New York, March 1984.

David A. Belsley

Publications

"Demeaning Conditioning Diagnostics through Centering," The American Statistician, May 1984.

"Response" to comments to above, The American Statistician, May 1984.

"Eigenvector Weaknesses and Other Topics in Conditioning," Technometrics, September 1984.

Review of Cook & Weisberg's Residuals and Influence in Regression, Journal of Forecasting, forthcoming.

Conferences and Presentations

"Generalizing Notions of Conditioning," with Wayne Oldford, ASA Meetings, Philadelphia, September 1984.

David A. Belsley (continued)

Appointments

Associate Editor, Computational Statistics and Data Analysis.

Frank M. Gollop

Grants

Boston College Faculty Research Fellowship to study the productivity effects of labor force reallocation among industries.

Research

"Cost-Minimizing Regulation of Sulfur Emissions: Regional Gains in Electric Power," with Mark Roberts.

"From Homogeneity to Heterogeneity: An Index of Diversification."

Joe Peek

Publications

"The Degree of Fiscal Illusion in Interest Rates: Some Direct Estimates," with James A. Wilcox, American Economic Review, forthcoming.

Conferences and Presentations

"The Effects of Taxes, Monetary Policy Rules, and Deregulation on Interest Rates," with James A. Wilcox, presented at the December 1983 American Economic Association Meetings in San Francisco and the March 1984 Eastern Economic Association Meetings in New York.

"An Ex Ante View of Household Portfolio Choice: The Role of Expected Capital Gains," with David Ortmeier, presented at the March 1984 Eastern Economic Association Meetings.

Joseph F. Quinn

Publications

Comments on "Rewards to Continued Work: The Economic Incentives for Postponing Retirement," by Olivia Mitchell and Gary Fields, in Horizontal Equity, Uncertainty and Economic Well-Being, Martin David and Tim Smeeding, ed., NBER Studies in Income and Wealth, University of Chicago Press, forthcoming 1984.

Review of Policy Issues in Work and Retirement, Herbert S. Parnes, ed., Industrial and Labor Relations Review, forthcoming.

Conferences and Presentations

"The Work Ethic and Retirement," presented at the IRRA Annual Meetings, San Francisco, December 1983.

Discussant, Session of Reagonomics and the Social Safety Net, American Economic Association Meetings, San Francisco, December 1983.

Discussant at the NBER Conference on "Horizontal Equity, Uncertainty and Economic Well-Being," Baltimore, December 1983.

Participant, GAO Conference on Research Needs in Social Security, Washington, D.C., November 1983.

Barbara Spencer

Publications

"Export Subsidies and International Market Share Rivalry," with James A. Brander, Journal of International Economics, forthcoming.

"Tacit Collusion, Free Entry and Welfare," with James A. Brander, Journal of Industrial Economics, forthcoming.

Grants

Boston College Faculty Research Fellowship for the project entitled "International Imperfect Competition and Labor Relations," spring, 1984.

Barbara Spencer (continued)

Conferences and Presentations

Barbara has recently given seminars to the Industrial Organization Workshop at Yale and the Trade Workshop at Princeton. She also participated in two recent meetings of the NBER Research Group on Trade Policy. During her visit to Australia this spring, she gave seminars at Australian National University (Economics Department) and the University of New South Wales (Australian Graduate School of Management).

Richard W. Tresch

Conferences and Presentations

"Reagan's New Federalism," delivered to Stonehill College's Omicron Delta Epsilon chapter, February 1984.

Research

"Optimal Fiscal Federalism in a First Best Environment with Dynastic Social Welfare."

"Optimal Commodity Taxation and Public Production in a Federalist System of Governments."

II. GRADUATE STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACTIVITY

Ana Aizcorbe

Ana will be spending next year in Washington under a Brookings Dissertation Fellowship. She is one of three Teaching Fellows in the Department to receive a Teaching Excellence Award from the Graduate School.

Manny Burstein (Ph.D. 1984)

Manny defended his thesis "An Econometric Model of State Government Capital Spending" in March. Manny is close to completing his J.D. degree in the Boston College Law School.

James Cosgrove

James has been awarded a University Fellowship to support his dissertation research during the summer of 1984. The topic of James' dissertation is "Measurements of Wealth and Wealth Effects within a Life Cycle Hypothesis Model."

Joe DiMasi (Ph.D. 1984)

Joe defended his thesis "The Welfare Effects of Property Tax Classification in an Urban Area: A General Equilibrium Computational Approach" in January. Joe is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Holy Cross.

Kitty Dorman

Kitty was also a recipient of one of the Graduate School's new Teaching Excellence Awards.

Jane Gilligan

Jane has been awarded a Richard D. Irwin Foundation Grant in Economics. The grant will support her dissertation "The Probability of Withdrawing from the Labor Force."

Beth Hall

Beth has accepted a teaching position at SUNY-Purchase. Beth's thesis title is "An Analysis of Preemptive Capital Expansion in Oligopolistic Industries."

Alan Kessler (Ph.D. 1984)

Alan defended his thesis "A Bureaucratic Decision-Making Model as Applied to the New York AFDC Program" in April.

Mark Klock (Ph.D. 1983)

Mark has taken a faculty position in the Department of Economics and Finance at the University of Baltimore.

Bob Koopman

Bob has accepted a position as a research economist, U.S.S.R. Section, International Economics Research Service, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, Bob received a Teaching Excellence Award.

Carol Luttrell

Carol has accepted a position as a financial analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Carol's thesis is "The Effects of Inflation on Different Income Types."

Billy Mass (Ph.D. 1984)

Billy defended his thesis "The Diffusion of Technology: The Case of the Northrop Loom" in April. Billy is on the faculty at University of Massachusetts - Boston.

Michael Naughton

Michael has taken a position as an economist at the Triangle Research Institute in Raleigh, North Carolina. Michael's thesis is "The Efficiency and Equity of Electricity Price Regulation: A Two-Part Framework."

John O'Keefe

Starting in the fall, John will be an Instructor of Economics at Simmons. John's thesis is "Firm Size and the Cost of Capital."

Brian Straub (M.A. 1981)

Brian is completing his first year in the MBA program at Stanford University.