
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater



Department of

Economics

Newsletter

Fall, 1999

VOLUME 1, No. 1

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT IN TRANSITION

CURRICULUM

The Department of Economics established a Curriculum Development Committee in 1996 to recommend changes to the curriculum in view of the changes in the Economic realities.

The committee reviewed curriculum in a variety of institutions, discussed with faculty and administrators in the college and across campus.

Based on the committees recommendations, the Department has made significant changes in the curriculum (re-writing courses, deleting courses, combining courses). The Department is now working on developing emphases in the International and Policy area.

NEW CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT

Ashok Bhargava returns to the chair's job after 12 years. He was chair from 1981-1987. Ashok has been leading the Curriculum Development Committee since 1996. He was the Director of the Center of Economic Education from 1996-1999 and served on the International Committee of the National Association of Economic Educators. He is also an Assistant director of the Global Business Resource Center in the College of Business and Economics, which is funded by the Department of Education and the college.

Ashok has spoken to a number of professional groups on the Asian Economic Crisis. He has also arranged three international symposia for faculty, students, business people and K-12 teachers.

Ashok's wife passed away on October 31, 1999. His son, Amit, is doing a residency in general surgery in Queens, New York and his daughter, Kamini, is a music major in Colby College, Maine.

ADVISORY BOARD

The Department constituted an Advisory Board in 1998. The Board has provided valuable input at three meetings.

The members of the Board are:

Jerome J. Cornille, Senior Vice President HSBC Futures, Inc.

Les Derski, Financial Planning, Wisconsin Electric Company

William A. Greenwood, AIG Technical Services

George Haas

James Haugen, Business Tax Services, Department of Revenue, State of Wisconsin

Gerhardt Immega, Retired City Administrator, Elkhorn, WI

Steve Latin-Kasper, Economist, National Fluid Power Association

Keith Krinke, Chief of District Operations, WTCSB

Robert Malewicki, Vice President Marketing, Lab Safety Supply, Janesville, WI

Mike Mathews, Madison Gas & Electric Company

Beth Norris, South Central Wisc. Private Industry Council

Brenda Ralph, Wisconsin Economic Development Assn.

Rex Weston, Entrepreneur, President, Weston Medical Data Systems, Inc.

Mike Schenk, Vice President Economics and Statistics, CUNA, Madison, WI

Tim Schilling, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

We would like to add more alumni to the Board. Please contact Professor Ashok Bhargava to nominate someone or tell us of your own interest.

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
MISSION STATEMENT**

The primary mission of the Department of Economics is to provide quality undergraduate and graduate education to a diverse student body. The department strives to achieve excellence in the areas of teaching, scholarly activity, and service. Excellence in teaching is evidenced by both student and peer evaluations. Scholarly activity results in the creation and dissemination of knowledge which includes, but is not limited to, research, paper presentations, and publications. Service includes contributions to the department, college, university, and the profession as well as the broader community. This departmental mission is consistent with the missions of both the College of Business and Economics and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

FACULTY UPDATE

Jeffrey Anstine, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

262-472-1776, anstinej@mail.uww.edu

Dr. Anstine was an assistant professor of Environmental Economics and Policy at New Jersey Institute of Technology prior to his arrival at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Jeff's research interests examine economic issues of higher education. His other research focuses on solid waste management, curbside recycling, consumers' role in pollution prevention and Life Cycle Analysis (LCA). His work has been published in the [Southern Economic Journal](#) and an article is forthcoming in [Applied Economics Letters](#).

Before receiving his Ph.D. Jeff worked in the private sector, first as a Sales Representative for Kraft-General Foods, then as a Recycling Program Associate for Bronx 200. Professor Anstine has also worked as a consultant for the U.S. Government while employed at NJIT.

Professor Anstine is married to Diane, another economist, who teaches at North Central College. Jeff and his wife enjoy watching college sports and participating in many sporting activities, though neither excel in any sporting event. Some of Jeff's hobbies include: working on his old BMW motorcycle, looking for the perfect motorcycle road, photography and traveling.

Ashok Bhargava, Ph.D, Chair and Professor

262-472-4704, bhargava@mail.uww.edu

William Blankenau, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

262-472-1355, blankenw@mail.uww.edu

Bill joined the Department in the fall of 1997 after finishing his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Iowa. His primary research area is macroeconomics. Much of his current work focuses on the consequences of tax policies and education subsidies on wage inequality. Other work is concerned with the impact of interest rate fluctuations on business cycles in small open economies. Bill has recently published an article in the *Review of Economic Dynamics*.

Bill and his wife Angela have two children who keep them busy. Isaac is three years old, and is a very good big brother to Nolan who was born in April this year. Nolan is currently mastering the art of sitting up. They live in Whitewater where Angela teaches kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary.

John Dominguez, Ph.D., Professor

262-472-5586, dominguj@mail.uww.edu

John Dominguez was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma, national honorary organization of freshman and sophomores. He was also recognized by the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity based on a survey of graduating seniors.

Stuart Glosser, Ph.D., Associate Professor

262-472-5580, glossers@mail.uww.edu

Stuart Glosser is an Associate Professor. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985.

Recently married, Stuart has two step-daughters, Ellie -10 years old, and Lisa - six years old, and a son, Albert, who celebrated his first birthday on October 11th. Stuart likes to bike and visit the Art Institute in Chicago.

Kirk Kim, Ph.D., Professor

262-472-5576, kimk@mail.uww.edu

Dr. Kirk Kim is a professor of Economics who has been with the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for 31 years, 12 of those years as Department Chairperson (1975-1981, 1993-1999). He has taught a variety of courses over the years, however, his expertise is in the areas of Public Finance and Taxation along with International Trade and Development. He has been recognized as outstanding teacher receiving the Blue Key for two consecutive years.

Dr. Kim has consulted for legal firms and has served on various student organizations as a faculty advisor.

Dr. Kim's research interests are in the field of international development strategy, and aging issues.. His current research interests are economic development strategy, in the recent Korean economic crisis. Dr. Kim received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Utah in 1970.

Professor Kim has been married to Suja, for over 35 years., and have three children. Robert, the first born, is married and they have one child, Alex. He is practicing Internal Medicine in Minneapolis. Jayne is a Public Defender for Los Angeles County in California, and Christine is a third year resident specializing in Urology at the University of Connecticut Hospital. Kirk and his wife enjoy golf and traveling together in their free time.

Jerome Laurent, Ph.D. ,Professor

262-472-4715, laurentj@mail.uww.edu

I am now into my thirty-fifth year teaching economics at UW-Whitewater. This past year has been a busy one. Besides my teaching of economic principles I taught Comparative Economic Systems, both last fall as well as now, and was recruited at the last minute to teach History of Economic

Thought during the Spring 1999 semester after Professor Zarinnia went on medical leave. (He later retired this past spring.) The last time I had taught History of Thought was 24 years ago! Campus activities have kept me busy as well. Serving as a Faculty Advisor (with Professor Mark Skidmore) to the Whitewater Economics Society has been a very rewarding experience. The organization is doing well. In addition, I served as Chair of the College Promotions Committee at the time when the promotions process is being overhauled campus-wide. And I serve on several other university committees. Off campus, I continue as a member of the Education Committee of the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives/UW Center for Cooperatives, UW Extension. For the last couple of years I have been researching Great Lakes transportation during the 1915-1940 period; this effort has been aided by both university and college research grants. So far my efforts have yielded two papers given at professional organizations in transportation history. In addition, I was a speaker for the Spring 1999 Lecture Series at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc.

On the home front, my wife Virginia continues as a Reading Specialist in the Beloit Public Schools. My daughter Kathy is serving as a Law Clerk in the Illinois State Court System in Chicago after graduating from Washington University-St. Louis School of Law in May 1998. My son Tom graduated in June from Northwestern University, majoring in economics. Thus, the Laurent family has managed to keep busy. Greetings to all economics alumni!

Denton Marks, Ph.D., Professor

262-472-5577, marks@mail.uww.edu

Professor Denton Marks is beginning his tenth year in the Department. His teaching interests continue to be topics in applied microeconomics including the Intermediate Micro course (now Econ. 301 instead of Econ. 411) and other upper level courses such as Labor Markets and Labor Policies (formerly "Labor Problems") and Public Finance. He has also begun teaching Managerial Economics and will be teaching the MBA version of that course next spring.

His current research interests range from the economics of higher education to economic issues in the "transition economies" of Central and Eastern Europe to the effect of brokers' commissions on hammer prices at wine auctions. In the last three years, he has given papers on these topics in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, England, and Sweden as well as Chicago and Nashville (and, of course, Whitewater). Three have been published or accepted for publication in scholarly journals. His work on wine auctions is ongoing; and, since he is an avid wine collector, he expects it will be a continuing interest. Apparently the data collection is particularly enjoyable.

Professor Marks lives with his wife, Tessa, a tax partner with KPMG, in Milwaukee.

Susan Parks, Ph.D., Director, Center of Economic Education and Professor

262-472-1747, parkss@mail.uww.edu

Starting with the Fall semester of 1999, Dr. Parks is the

new Director for the Center for Economics Education at UW-Whitewater. The Center is jointly funded by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, College of Business and Economics, Economics Department, and the Wisconsin Council for Economics Education. The purpose of the Center is to serve as a liaison between the University and both elementary and secondary schools in the dissemination of materials, information and ideas for improving economic literacy. In addition, the Center is involved in outreach to community groups and co-sponsors events in the college which may be attended by K-12 teachers. The Center is linked to state-wide and national organizations involved in improving understanding of our economic system.

Dr. Parks has been in the Economics Department since 1980. She received a MAT and Ph.D. in Economics from Purdue University. Previous to receiving her degrees, she taught 6th and 8th grades in Gary, Indiana for four years. She has had considerable international experience: two years as a teacher-trainer with the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, one year on exchange with a university in Australia, and two years teaching at the university level in Malaysia.

Thomas Schweigert, Ph. D., Associate Professor

262-472-5582, schweigert@mail.uww.edu

In addition to teaching, I've been keeping busy trying to recruit new faculty to the department, as well as revising and updating our curriculum. In the past few years, we've brought three new people on board to fill vacancies created by retirements. I much prefer screening job applicants to having to look for a job myself! We're improving the curriculum by rethinking what courses we should offer and what those courses should deal with. Any suggestions?

In terms of teaching, I'm not teaching Statistics to the extent I used to, but have been instead teaching Global Perspectives, the recently introduced general studies core course. While this may be hard for students to comprehend, teaching statistics can actually be quite easy, assuming one understands the material oneself. Teaching Global Perspectives, on the other hand, can be a continual challenge. I'm finding that trying to keep up on what's happening in the world economy is more than a full time job itself.

I had the good fortune to receive a Fulbright grant that allowed me to spend the summer of 1998 in Costa Rica, where I taught, in Spanish, an International Finance course in the School of International Relations at the National University in Heredia, Costa Rica. I didn't really see that much of the country, except for two weeks when some friends visited to take their vacation. Then we did a whirlwind tour of volcanoes, cloud forests and beaches.

Sandra L. Snow, Ph.D., Professor

262-472-5584, snows@mail.uww.edu

Mark Skidmore, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

262-472-1354, skidmorm@mail.uww.edu

Mark Skidmore joined the Department in the fall of 1998. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of

Colorado in 1994. Prior to joining the UW-Whitewater staff he taught at the Air Force Academy and at Northern Illinois University. His areas of research include economic development and state and local public finance. Mark has recently published several articles in journals such as the *Growth and Change*, *National Tax Journal*, *Public Choice*, *Public Finance Review*. Mark is also involved with consulting on the issue of tourism development in the southeast Wisconsin region.

Mark and his wife Kate recently completed the construction of their new home near Whitewater Lake in the heart of the southern end of the Kettle Moraine. They will need the extra space the new home provides as a new baby is scheduled to arrive at the end of the year. Mark and Kate love the outdoors. Their favorite activities include mountain biking, hiking, cross country skiing, and hang gliding.

ACADEMIC STAFF

David Bashaw, Ph. D., Lecturer

262-472-5585, bashawd@mail.uww.edu

Dave recently joined the department as academic staff in fall, 1999. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in December of 1998. Dave has spent the past year as a consultant in the health care field. Much of his research focuses on labor issues in the health care field as well as using patient outcomes as a measure of productivity for medical procedures.

Dave lives in Milwaukee where he enjoys golfing, running and attending sporting events with his friends.

Russell Kashian, Ph.D. , Lecturer

262-472-5583, kashianr@mail.uww.edu

Russell D. Kashian, Ph.D. serves as a lecturer in the Department of Economics. He received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Kashian joined UW-Whitewater in the fall of 1999, following the successful defense of his dissertation in July of 1999. Recently published was "Growth and Change" in the *Monthly Labor Review*. His academic interests center around the Economics of Finance with emphasis on institutional banking. In addition, he has written in the area of regional economics.

Russell, his wife and two young children reside in Muskego, WI where he serves on the Comprehensive Planning Commission. His interest in planning comes out of his graduate work in Urban Studies (MS from Cleveland State University).

EMERITUS FACULTY

Anthony Pavlick, Ph.D. (1965-1988)

Dr. Pavlick spends much of his time volunteering for several organizations. RESULTS, a lobby creating the political will to

end hunger and poverty in the world; World Federalists, a lobby working to end war and to create a just world under law; Amnesty International.

Dr. Pavlick is currently learning Spanish (perpetually) for his annual visit to Nayant state in Mexico.

Everett Refior, Ph.D. (1955-1983)

Betty and Everett Refior, who this month will celebrate their second anniversary as Fairhaven residents, recently returned from the Netherlands where they attended the Hague Appeal for Peace. A retired economics professor who taught at UW-Whitewater for 28 years, Everett met Betty through their common political interests and activities.

Everett's peace advocacy dates to his high school years. He remembers being influenced by the pacifist tone of *Christian Advocate*, as *Methodist magazine*, and then in college by a professor of religion. Drafted after he earned his bachelor's degree, he served as a conscientious objector in the U.S. Army medical corps for 30 months. Known for his poems and hymns about peace, Everett has traveled the world to participate in peace-related conferences.

Together, Betty and Everett have traveled the world for peace. They are dedicated to promoting settling differences through

world law, not brute force. Everett expresses it this way: "We want world peace through world law with justice."

Stuart Rich, Ph.D. (1959-1996)

Donald H. Silva, Ph.D. (1964-1996)

Gerald A. Weston, Ph.D. (1968-1997)

Passed away Spring, 1999

This past February retired economics professor Gerald Weston passed away unexpectedly. Jerry taught economics at the UW Whitewater for twenty-nine years.

Besides economics, Jerry's passions included music and poetry. From the time he was in his twenties, Jerry trained as a classical guitarist in the Spanish style, and went on to become quite accomplished. Eventually he switched to the piano, the instrument he had begun on as a child. Many people who knew Jerry have fond memories of him, at rather boisterous parties, entertaining on the piano with his blues, jazz, and boogie woogie favorites.

During his last twenty years Jerry took up writing poetry, and was very active in the poetry scene in Southeastern Wisconsin. His poems covered many subjects, however they often reflected on events of his life as a young man - growing up during the great depression, the son of immigrant parents.

Jerry was always known for having a smile on his face, and for lending an ear, and maybe a cup of hot coffee or a glass of good whisky, to anyone just needing to talk. He was active in politics, and pretty good with hand tools. He gave great parties frequently. His loss has been deeply felt by family and friends.

Abdullah Zarinnia, Ph.D. (1967-1999)

STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Economics Department Scholarships

Stacey Lombardi
Dylan Schleicher

Wall Street Journal Award and Medal

Derrick Knebel

Student Activities

1. The following students from Dr. Dominguez' International Economics class attended the Wisconsin Export Trade Conference on September 17, 1999:
Patrick Parizino and Michael Henslar

Student Internships

Vincente Hernandez, Summer 1999, Wisconsin State Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

Stacey Lombardi, Summer 1999, Credit Union National Association, (CUNA)

Christopher Eisenhauer, Summer 1999, Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company

WHITEWATER ECONOMICS SOCIETY (WES)

President: Christopher Eisenhauer
Vice President: Jim Niemiec
Treasurer: Tony Greenhill
Secretary: Steve Meyer
Faculty Advisors: Jerry Laurent
Mark Skidmore

Fall 1999-Schedule of Events

October 13, 1999 - Hot Tub and Homemade Pizza Party

October 27, 1999 - Alumni Speakers from M&I Bank
Jesus Vasquez and Scott Seamans

November 10, 1999 - Mel Jolly from Hartel Corporation will be speaking to the club members.

December 8, 1999 - Christmas Bowling Party

Contemplating - Stock Market Game.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jesus Maria Vasquez, Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company
Past President of the Whitewater Economics Society

As a Financial Reporter I am responsible for processing client's monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements. I reconcile financial statements that do not balance for employee benefit trust clients, master trusts and outsourcing clients. Additionally, I monitor the accrual reporting of securities. I price securities for our outsourcing clients by contacting Brokers, Mutual Fund companies and utilizing Bloomberg. As a member of the creative recruitment team I actively seek talented professionals to join M&I Trust and facilitate the training of all trust company interns.

Email: jesus.vasquez@mitrust.com

Phone: 414-287-7271

We are currently looking for interns for the winter break. If interested contact myself.

Editor: Ashok Bhargava
Co-Editor: Christie Kornhoff