



Economics Department—Update

<http://academics.uww.edu/business/economics>

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RECENT FACULTY CHANGES

A Message from the Chair



As many of you may have already heard, I will be leaving UW-Whitewater this summer to assume the position of Morris Professor in State and Local Finance and Policy at Michigan State University in East Lansing. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how grateful I am for having been a part of UW-Whitewater for the last nine years. I have enjoyed working with such excellent colleagues and students, it gives me great pleasure to hear of your accomplishments here at UW-Whitewater and beyond.

During my tenure at Whitewater, the Economics Department has undergone a significant transformation: New faculty now dominate the hallways and offices; the Fiscal and Economic Research Center is now running at full steam, reaching out to communities in our region and providing excellent applied research experiences for our students; and groundbreaking for the new College of Business and Economics building is scheduled in a just a few short months. Exciting things are on the horizon here at UW-Whitewater, and I will be watching with great interest in the coming years. In the words of Garrison Keillor, “Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.”

David Welsch, Ph.D. joined the faculty in Fall 2006



David received his Ph.D., in Economics from Indiana University, Bloomington in 2005, his M.A. in Economics in 1999 and his B.A. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 1998. Professor Welsch's fields of research are in applied microeconomics, specifically public economics and education policy. Some of his current research examines the impact that charter schools in Michigan have had on the traditional public school's expenditure decisions, affirmation action in higher education, and an examination of voting results from the 2004 election. Professor Welsch grew up in south eastern Wisconsin.

Daniel Teferra, Ph.D., Lecturer



Dan Teferra holds an M.A. in Public Policy and a Ph.D. in Economic Development from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was Professor of Economics at Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan for many years, and had served as Chair of the Economics & Statistics Department. He has studied and written extensively on African economic development and US policy towards Africa. Prior to joining UWW, Dan worked briefly as an independent scholar and entrepreneur in Madison. He is currently teaching principles of economics and history of economics. He is presently investigating entrepreneurship and economic development issues.

Professor Laurent Retires After 41 Years



Jerome Laurent was a productive and highly valued member of the University since 1965. He taught numerous courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, including scores of sections of Principles of Microeconomics and many of the department's upper level courses, often involving his love of economic history and contributed directly to the education of thousands of UW-Whitewater students.

Laurent was honored with the University's W.P. Roseman Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1975 and the University Award for Faculty Outstanding Service in 1993. Laurent served regularly as a referee or reviewer for academic journals and publishers as well as evaluator/reviewer of grant proposals for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the faculty of the Department of Economics, congratulate him on his retirement, and wish Jerry and his wife, Ginny, a long and happy future.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER NEWS

Mark Eiswerth - New Director of the Fiscal and Economic Research Center



Thanks to a grant from University of Wisconsin-Extension, the Department of Economics has officially established the Fiscal and Economic Research Center (FERC). The goal of FERC is to provide applied economics research expertise to communities and stakeholders in the state, with primary focus on southeastern Wisconsin.

The Center was the creation of **Mark Eiswerth**, **Russell Kashian** and **Mark Skidmore**. **Christie Kornhoff** is the Academic Department Associate, responsible for database design, budgets and payroll for all projects.

FERC has provided a wonderful opportunity to actively engage students in data collection, data analysis, and other research assistance roles on a variety of research projects. **Amanda Guthrie** and **Becky Johnson** have been with **FERC** since its inception. **Kyle Chuck**, **Franklin Sprechter**, **Bhrikuti Sharma**, **Candace Kolosso**, **Adam Myers** and

Brandon Rutz have all added their expertise to projects, and in so doing have enjoyed a broader educational experience at UW-Whitewater.

Faculty associated with the Center have expertise in areas including applied microeconomics, public finance, regional and urban economics, community and economic development, environmental and natural resource economics, education finance/outcomes, and international economics. Center faculty members work to collaborate effectively with specialists elsewhere in UW-Extension, researchers at other UW campuses, and scholars at a number of other universities.

Recent and current FERC projects include:

- What is the Value of a Clean and Healthy Lake to a Local Community?: Case Study of Delavan Lake
- Tax Increment Financing as a Development Tool for Wisconsin Communities
- Survey of Geneva Lake Area Property Owners: Development and Environmental Issues
- Comprehensive plan surveys for the Village of Menomonee Falls, City of Appleton, and Town of Richmond
- Survey of Current and Future Manufacturing Jobs in Walworth County
- An Evaluation of the Whitewater/Rice Lake Management District Boundary and Property Tax Rate Structure
- Citizen Perceptions and Reactions to Aquatic Invasive Species in the Pike Chain of Lakes Area, Bayfield County
- Education Finance Reform, Incentives and School Spending in Wisconsin
- Changing Education Finance Policy, School Referenda Activity and Success Rates: Evidence from Wisconsin
- Evaluation of Information Technology Clustering and Economic Development

Beginning in 2005, FERC formally joined forces with UW-Extension in order to better integrate statewide efforts in research, education and outreach. UW-Whitewater's FERC provides a window of access not only to the faculty at UW-Whitewater, but also to the broad range of services provided by several UW-Extension centers including the Center for Community Economic Development and the Local Government Center.

ALUMNI NOTES

Justin Tyson is a licensed Financial Advisor at AXA Advisors in Madison, WI.

George Ambeling is a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Air Force having worked the first half of 2006 in the Air Force Headquarters in the Pentagon.

Dave McCabe is finishing his Master's Degree in Economics at Marquette University and is working in Marketing Research at Lab Safety Supply in Janesville, WI

Cora Brumley has accepted the position of Assistant Director of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Oswego State University in New York.

Kristin Richter completed her Master's Degree in Economics at Marquette University and works at Miller Brewery in Milwaukee, WI.

James White presently is an analyst at Rupert and Mielke.

Mike Heaney is working at Campbells Port as a millwork manager.