

Investigating Savings Habits in Africa

Alfredo Burlando and a team of economics undergraduates conduct research on savings clubs in Uganda

Why do some people save when others don't? How is the way we save and borrow influenced by the people around us?

Assistant Professor **Alfredo Burlando** and a team of economics undergraduates are investigating these questions in relation to vulnerable populations by studying the members of savings groups in rural Uganda.

Savings groups are very prevalent in Uganda. Sponsored by organizations such as the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), the groups allow members to pool their savings and provide small loans to fellow members, in much the same way a credit union operates in the United States.

Burlando and his team are collecting data from several such groups, hoping to find out if differences between the makeup of certain groups, such as a high number of relatively well-off members or members who don't repay their loans on time, motivates participants to increase their saving and borrowing rate.

UO economics major **Biraj Bisht** traveled to Uganda in July to assist Burlando with data collection, and helped train local residents to complete surveys for the study. "I have a new appreciation for data collection—it is so much work!" he says. "I'm excited to see the research that will come from all of the work we did."

The experience wasn't exactly what he had expected. "I thought I'd be working alone, in a strange country, and I wouldn't know anyone," he says. "But there were other interns from the US and Europe working on other projects, and it ended up being a great social environment."

Bisht learned of the opportunity after taking Burlando's Economic Growth and Development



course in fall 2013. "My parents work in development in Nepal, so I thought it would be a great opportunity to experience it for myself," he says. He's interested in pursuing a career in economic development when he graduates in December.

In partnership with the Study Abroad Programs, several undergraduate students have assisted Burlando in Uganda during the three-year project, giving them a rare glimpse into possible careers in development for students studying economics. Participation from students like Bisht has been supported by an agreement between AVSI and the economics department. Burlando is hoping to provide additional opportunities for students to assist with the research, subject to available funding from department supporters.

Visit economics.uoregon.edu/fall-2104 for a gallery of photos from the Uganda project, and links to the AVSI website.

Economics undergraduate Biraj Bisht (top left) and Assistant Professor Alfredo Burlando (center right) work with local residents in Uganda to collect data on savings habits. The inset photo shows a passbook used by one of the members of a local savings group. Several UO economics students have assisted Burlando with the three-year research project



From the Department Head



Van Kolpin

Economics sprang to life as a standalone department at the University of Oregon in the year 1920. The department at that time consisted of three faculty members who taught courses tightly focused in the areas of labor economics, industrial relations, railway economics, and public utilities. Leaping forward in time 94 years to the present, we find ourselves employing a faculty that is 28 strong, offering courses that span the full spectrum of the economics discipline, and serving student numbers in our classrooms that dwarf the 1920 enrollment of the entire university. Our current faculty and student body constitute a vibrant group that has been extraordinarily active over the past year. This annual

newsletter serves to recap some of the highlights, which include the hosting of international conferences, the hiring of new colleagues, the receipt of a multitude of awards and honors by students and faculty members alike, and more. Of course, this highlight reel could not have been realized without the loyal support of alumni, former colleagues, and many other friends of the department. We welcome you to stop by the economics department whenever you next find yourself in Eugene so that we can thank you in person!

Econ Faculty Member Named Associate Dean



Bruce Blonigen

In July 2014, former department head **Bruce Blonigen** began his tenure as associate dean for social sciences for the UO's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

Blonigen is excited to continue many of the initiatives he began while serving in an interim capacity as associate dean, a role he's held since July of 2013.

"Our office implemented a considerable change in how we determine and administer budgets to individual departments in CAS. I strongly feel that our use of resources will be much better at the end of the process, so I'm excited to continue my efforts to refine what we have started," he says.

Just weeks after his appointment, CAS leadership experienced additional changes with the resignation of UO president

Gottfredson, and the subsequent elevation of CAS dean Scott Coltrane to the role of interim president. Blonigen doesn't feel the changes will cause too much disruption. "We are much stronger in leadership than we were five years ago, and we have a lot of momentum," he says.

Blonigen served as economics department head from 2008 to 2013, and has been a Philip H. Knight Professor since 2001. Blonigen received the coveted Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2003. In 2005, Blonigen and fellow economics faculty member Bill Harbaugh cofounded the Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL), which has now grown to serve more than 200 students each summer with the involvement of at least a dozen departments across campus.

Blonigen joined the Department of Economics in 1995.

Econ by the Numbers

28
Econ faculty
members

2
Number of new Econ
faculty this year

56 students in the
Econ graduate
program

7
Soon-to-be
PhDs entering
the job market

1,084
Econ majors at UO

552
Econ minors
at UO

3,425
Average number
of undergrads
enrolled in an
econ class in
a given term,
2013-14

Department News

Over the past year, the administrative team in 435 PLC has experienced a few shifts. We were excited to have undergraduate coordinator **Savannah Hines** take on a new challenge as graduate coordinator after **Kellie Geldreich** moved on to the Graduate School.

During the transition, we hired **Jaimee Crouse** as a temporary employee, and she decided to apply for Savannah's vacant position. Jaimee was selected as the new undergraduate coordinator beginning in January 2014. Congratulations to both Savannah and Jaimee!

Congratulations, Joe and Jo Anna

On August 21, 2014, **Joe Stone** and **Jo Anna Gray** celebrated their retirement alongside family, friends, and colleagues from economics and the College of Arts and Sciences. Luckily, this doesn't mean goodbye. Joe will continue teaching Economic Analysis of Community Issues courses (an honors-level sequence), and Jo Anna continues to teach Advanced Macroeconomic Theory during winter term 2015.

SAIL Summer 2014

The Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) celebrated another successful year helping low-income high school students envision a future as a college student. This year, more than 170 students attended 11 different weeklong camps, with

help from hundreds of staff and faculty members from across campus. To date, we have 27 SAIL students enrolled at the UO.



SAIL chemistry



SAIL German cooking

Barry N. Siegel (1929–2013)

Professor Emeritus Barry Siegel passed away on December 9, 2013. Barry was hired by the UO economics department in 1961 to serve as its money and banking specialist. He retired in 1999 after establishing an impressive record of contributions to the department, the college, the university, and general academic community. Barry's long-time colleague, Joe Stone, offered the following highlights.

Champion of shared faculty governance. One of my first memories of Barry is of running into him as he was putting an AAUP membership brochure in my department mailbox. It took Barry about three sentences to convince me to join. I soon learned that Barry played an important role in helping shared faculty governance work on campus. As a leader in the campus AAUP, he helped to keep lines of communication between faculty members and university administrators open and well travelled. Barry's wife, Jetta, also played a pivotal role in the state-level AAUP. Much of the best of shared governance in Oregon over several decades was due to the efforts of people like Barry and Jetta. Such was the mutual respect and confidence among faculty and administrators in those days that it was not uncommon to have a university provost or president simply show up, take an empty seat, and be welcomed to participate in an AAUP meeting. How times change.

Bitcoin pioneer. The breadth of Barry's professional interests were remarkably broad. After authoring a widely used monetary theory textbook, which was both Keynesian and monetarist in perspective, Barry's interests turned to Austrian economics and free-market approaches to dealing with issues of the role of money in economic stability and prosperity. Decades before the term "bitcoin" had even

been conceived, Barry published a collection of papers on mechanisms for free-market money, including papers by Lawrence White and Leland Yeager. Many of the issues bitcoins now face are addressed in this edited volume.

And last, my favorite memories of Barry are of his friendship and his gentle, kind and thoughtful nature.



Professor Emeritus Barry Siegel

Department head Van Kolpin notes, "When I came to the UO in 1986, I was barely 26, had just finished my PhD, and my definition of a big city was a town with stop lights. I will never forget how kind and understanding Barry was of my naiveté. Lessons learned from his quiet and considerate mentorship prove invaluable to me to this day."

Additional pictures of Barry and a longer version of this article that includes the text of the obituary appearing in the December 22, 2013, issue of the Eugene Register-Guard is included in the newsletter web supplement at economics.uoregon.edu/fall-2014.

Awards and Scholarships

Sergio Campos Ramirez, Brady Cooley, Pedro Rivera, and **Joseph Kim** have been awarded the department's Alanson H. Kleinsorge Scholarship.

Brady Cooley is the recipient of the department's Grace Miller Economics Scholarship.

Daniel Moas was recognized as the Most Inspiring Economics Graduate, a distinction earned by his academic rigor, active class involvement, and encouragement of peers as determined by specific faculty recommendations and popular vote.

Les "Cole" Sutera was voted the "Most Valuable Player" by his peers in the UO Economics Club for his extraordinary service in the areas of research presentations, peer advising, event planning, and executive leadership.

Brad Zukerman was the winner of the best individual honors paper for "Criminal Activity and Access to Rail Transit: An Examination of the Relationship in Chicago."

Matthew Davis and **Andrea Vedder** were the winners of the best paper for EC 419, a course that helps students develop projects involving economic analysis of local issues (taught most recently by Joe Stone). Their paper was titled "The Real Consequences of Property Tax Compression for Oregon Public Schools."

Undergraduate News

Economics student named UO's eighth Truman Scholar



Andrew Lubash

Andrew Lubash, an incoming senior from Beaverton majoring in economics and political science, was selected as one of only 59 students across the country to receive the prestigious Truman Scholarship for 2014.

Lubash is only the eighth student in UO history to receive a Truman Scholarship, which is awarded based on academic achievement, demonstrated community service and leadership, and a desire to pursue a career in public service. The scholarship includes up to \$30,000 toward graduate studies, as well as special opportunities for leadership training and internships in government.

Graduate Lands Job at Federal Reserve

Recent UO grad **Jeffrey Naber** begins work in October as a research assistant for the money market analysis section of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C.

He's excited about the new position, and credits the research experience he received in his honors and econometrics courses—as well as help from a number of econ faculty members—for helping him to land this job. "I could demonstrate that I already had experience in applying what I had learned to real-world problems," Naber says.

Ameritrade Scholar Chooses UO



Tyler Quatraro

TD Ameritrade awards 10 scholarships each year to undergraduates pursuing a four-year degree to become a financial advisor. One of the 2014 winners, **Tyler Quatraro**, has chosen to transfer to the UO to complete his education, majoring in economics and finance. "The University of Oregon is an obvious choice for someone who's interested in business," he says. Quatraro, originally from Portland, spent his freshman year at Whittier College.

As an investor with TD Ameritrade since the age of 16, Quatraro served an internship with a local financial planner in his senior year of high school. Both experiences led him to a decision to be a financial planner. "It provides the human interaction that a career in investment banking wouldn't give me," he says.

Duy, Urbancic to Serve as Undergraduate Codirectors

Beginning fall term, Professor of Practice **Tim Duy** and Instructor **Mike Urbancic** will begin their tenure as codirectors of undergraduate studies. Urbancic is taking on the advising duties of Professor **Bill Harbaugh**, and is excited about the new role.



Tim Duy



Mike Urbancic

Advising Updates

In the 2013–14 academic year, the Economics Career and Advising Services office, run by **Bill Sherman**, saw approximately 316 students, with nearly 600 visits to his office—a slight increase over last year.

This year, the undergraduate advising team is adopting the AdvisorTrac software used in several other departments across the UO, which will enable the team to improve services as they continue to work with a large volume of students each term.

Events

In addition, Career and Advising Services hosted an event titled “Your Future Now: Exploring Exciting Careers in Economics” on November 10. The event featured an all-alumni panel discussion and networking event to help current students make the transition from college to career.

Economics Club Visits Seattle Fed



UO Economics Club at the Federal Reserve Bank branch in Seattle during winter term 2014

The University of Oregon Economics Club, supported by Career and Advising Services, entered the sophomore year of its existence and increased its membership significantly.

In addition to a diverse speaker's list, one of the highlights of last year's club was a donor-supported trip to the Federal Reserve Bank in Seattle during winter term. The club also established a peer-advising program that will continue to serve students during 2014–15.

Faculty Notes

Bruce Blonigen became associate dean for social sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences this past July and will be serving a three-year term. He continues his research on multinational firms and trade policies, and published pieces in the *American Economic Journal*, *Economic Policy*, the *Journal of International Economics*, the *Review of Industrial Organization and Economics and Politics* this past year.

Alfredo Burlando's current research focuses on the economic and welfare consequences of providing financial services to rural households in sub-Saharan Africa. Alfredo's research relies on randomized trials where unbanked households receive mobile savings accounts (in Tanzania) or access to savings and lending groups (in Uganda). His work on the implications of power outages on fertility decisions and on neonatal health appeared in *Demography* and the *Journal of Development Economics*, providing the best evidence yet that blackouts do cause “baby booms.”

Trudy Ann Cameron's paper, “Demand for Health Risk Reductions,” coauthored with J. R. DeShazo of UCLA, won the Ralph C. d'Arge and Allen V. Kneese Award for Outstanding Publication in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* in 2013, conferred by the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. The award was announced at the fifth World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists in Istanbul at the end of June this year.

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Graduate Program Notes

Graduate Student Selected for Dissertation Workshop

The Western Economic Association International is a major annual event for many economists. For the UO's **Gulcan Cil**, it was a special opportunity to hone her presentation skills in preparation for the job market.

Cil was chosen to participate in the Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop—one of only 16 students nationwide invited to attend. "About half the students there were from the East Coast—not just schools in the West," Cil says. "It was a great opportunity to present my work and get feedback from faculty members and other PhD students who didn't already know me."

Other Presentations

A number of other UO students also presented their work at workshop sessions, including **Sonja Kolstoe**, **Michael Thacker**, and **Joseph Wyr**.

Kolstoe also presented at the 2014 Belpasso International Summer School in Italy. **Jonathan Thompson** presented his paper at the Central European Program in Economic Theory workshop in Udine, Italy. **Gulcan Cil** presented at the Summer Conference of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists in Banff, Canada.

Ben Fitch-Fleischmann presented papers at the Sociedad de Economía de Chile annual meeting and the International Conference on Business Administration and Economics, both in Chile, as well as at the Northwest Development Workshop at Portland State University.

PhD Student Attends Lindau Conference

Matthew Wilson among top young economists to hear from Nobel laureates and world leaders.



Matthew Wilson

In August, doctoral student **Matthew Wilson** attended the famed Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings in Germany. The meetings provided Wilson with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the latest research from 17 of the 38 living Nobel laureates in economics.

In addition to rubbing shoulders with 450 top young economists and networking with fellow PhD students from around the world, Wilson heard from global leaders—including German chancellor Angela Merkel.

For Wilson, the high points of the conference were the presentation given by Ed Prescott, most known for his Real Business Cycle model, and the opportunity to discuss some of his research with 2004 Nobel winner Finn Kydland. "That was a pretty amazing experience," Wilson says.

Wilson was chosen to attend the conference from among a large group of PhD students nominated from across the country and around the world. He also received a sponsorship from the NSF for much of his travel costs. The

remainder of his travel expense was covered by a fund created by generous donations from alumni and department supporters.

Faculty member **George Evans**, who recommended Wilson for the trip, states that "this was the fifth Lindau meeting, and our department has an impressive record of having had one of our grad students nominated for each one." In reference to Wilson's third-year research paper, Evans says, "Matt's paper was a successful and provocative piece of research, making him an ideal candidate to benefit from this experience."



Matthew Wilson (second row, black tie) takes notes at a presentation by Nobel Laureate Finn Kydland

© Christian Flemming/Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings

Graduate Program News

PhD Candidates

The Department of Economics placed six PhD candidates in academic and research positions around the US in 2013–14. **Jeffrey Allen** was hired as assistant professor at Bentley University, **Rich Higgins** will begin his career at Colgate University, and **Tyler Schipper** will be teaching at University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. **Kris Holden** begins his career at the American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C., and **Dan Mahoney** and **Alex Monte Calvo** were hired at Analysis Group's San Francisco and Denver offices respectively.

Scholarships and Awards

Benjamin Brennan received the Dale Underwood Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarship. **John Voorheis** won the PhD Research Paper Award. **Ben Fitch-Fleischmann** was awarded the GTF Teaching Award, in addition to the campus-wide Stein Teaching Award. He also received the Mikesell Research Paper Award and the Gerlof Homan Graduate Scholarship in International Economics.

Brian Dombeck, **Ben Fitch-Fleischmann**, **Sacha Gelfer**, and **Michael Thacker** each received the Kleinsorge Summer Research Award. The Best First-Year Econometrics Performance Award went to **Nathan Adams**, **Nigel McClung**, and **Amani Rashid**.

2014–15 PhD Market Candidates

To learn more about this year's group of candidates, visit economics.uoregon.edu.

Gulcan Cil was born and raised in Eskisehir, Turkey. She earned a BS in economics from Middle East Technical University. After a short career in the corporate world, she decided that she belonged in academia and moved to the US for her graduate studies. She earned an MA in economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago before she joined the UO to pursue a PhD. Her research interests include environmental economics and health economics, specifically the impact of environmental and behavioral factors on infant health. She enjoys swimming and handcrafts.



Gulcan Cil

Ben Fitch-Fleischmann is from Missoula, which is Montana's version of Eugene. His undergraduate education took him to Philadelphia, Spain, India, and Bhutan, finishing with a BA in economics from Claremont McKenna College—and the knowledge that he was done with school forever. One year and three real jobs later, he was back in class for an MA in economics from the University of Montana. During his PhD work at UO, Ben has pursued research in development economics, and his dissertation reviews issues on development aid in Nicaragua and Mozambique. In his spare time, Ben enjoys playing soccer, Frisbee, and bluegrass mandolin.



Ben Fitch-Fleischmann

Logan Lee was born and raised in rural Montana before attending Augustana College in South Dakota, where he earned degrees in economics and government. Since entering the PhD program at the University of Oregon, Logan has studied a variety of topics in the areas of labor and crime, including labor market discrimination, prisoner responses to the introduction of communication technologies, and Somali piracy. In his free time, Logan enjoys exploring the Oregon coast, playing golf, and spending time with his wife, Kari.



Logan Lee

Jason Alan Query grew up near Boise, Idaho, and earned a BA in economics and a BBA in accounting from Gonzaga University, as well as a master of professional accounting from the University of

Texas. He joined the economics department at the University of Oregon in 2010. Jason's research interests are in international trade; he focuses on the impact of trade and transportation costs. Outside of economics, Jason enjoys watching college football, basketball, softball, and volleyball.



Jason Alan Query

Allison Roehling is a fifth-year graduate student in the Department of Economics. She earned her undergraduate degree at Gonzaga University (go, Zags!) and immediately started her graduate studies in Oregon. Her research focuses on international trade and finance with a hint of international macroeconomics. In her "spare" time, she enjoys training in martial arts, doing outside activities with her dog (if it's not too wet), and spending time with friends.



Allison Roehling

Jon Thompson was raised in Oregon before attending Willamette University. Since entering the PhD program, Jon has studied topics in the areas of culture and growth, with a focus on the use of micro-founded models to explain how cultural differences lead to growth outcomes, including the role of intergenerational attitudes toward risk and the ease with which people communicate across cultures. This work has emphasized the role of geographic constraints as a causal factor in generating cultural differences for econometric analysis.



Jon Thompson

Matthew Wilson grew up in a small suburb of Seattle. After two years at Bellevue Community College, he transferred to the University of Washington intending to study economics and music. Two failed piano auditions dashed those hopes, so he switched to economics and math. He came to the University of Oregon for graduate school and researches macroeconomic theory and behavioral economics. In his spare time, he plays chess, memorizes digits of pi, still endeavors to master the piano, and writes essays and a novel.



Matthew Wilson

Faculty News

Cameron's Work Declared Article of the Year

Recent research coauthored by **Professor Trudy Ann Cameron** has been named the Article of the Year by the *Journal of Environment Economics and Management*.

The article, "Demand for Health Risk Reductions," describes a new method for determining the value people place on small reductions in the risk of illness or death, which is important for understanding the benefits of medical research, environmental regulation, or workplace safety rules.

The paper was coauthored by J. R. DeShazo from UCLA. Cameron is the Raymond F. Mikesell Professor of Environmental and Resource Economics, and is also a member of the UO environmental studies faculty.



Trudy Ann Cameron

Piger Named Full Professor

Jeremy Piger has been promoted to the title of professor of economics effective September 2014. Jeremy, a member of the UO economics faculty since 2006, previously held the titles of assistant professor and associate professor. He currently serves as the department's director of graduate studies.

In breaking news, Jeremy also received a Fund for Faculty Excellence Award. Recipients of this honor are chosen on the basis of scholarly impact within their respective fields, their contributions to program and institutional quality at the UO, and their academic leadership.

Congratulations, Jeremy!



Jeremy Piger

Welcome, New Faculty Members!



Michael Kuhn

The economics department welcomes two new faculty members to the fold: **Michael Kuhn** comes to the department from UC San Diego, and was named one of the "Top 30 Thinkers under 30" by *Pacific Standard* magazine. He is teaching EC 451, Issues in Labor Economics, during fall term.

Jiabin Wu completed his PhD at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Wu's focus is on experimental economics, and is teaching EC 399, Special Studies: Behavioral Economics, and EC 607, Seminar: Core Economics, fall term. Originally from China, Wu is also helping serve the growing number of Chinese students in the department.



Jiabin Wu

Faculty Notes

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Shankha Chakraborty specializes in the macroeconomics of economic development. He has been working on health, aging, social aspirations, and inequality. During the past year, his work has been published in *Macroeconomic Dynamics* and the *European Economic Review*. He presented his research at seminars and conferences in Brisbane, Portland, Seattle, Singapore, and Washington, D.C. He serves as an associate editor at *Macroeconomic Dynamics* and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Macroeconomics*.

Anca Cristea continues her research in international economics, focusing on topics examining the role of transportation in facilitating international trade, as well as issues related to the multinational organization of production. Anca was invited by the World Bank to join a policy-oriented research project. She also spent the fall 2013 term as a visiting assistant professor in the economics department at Penn State University. She's also teaching a newly developed undergraduate course, Economics of Globalization.

Tim Duy continues to be busy with the Oregon Economic Forum, his monthly indexes of economic activity for Oregon and the large metro areas of the state,

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Department Events

InsTED Workshop

The Department of Economics hosted the second annual InsTED Workshop, “Advances in the Theory and Empirics of Institutions, Trade, and Economic Development” at the Inn at the 5th in Eugene on August 12–14.

Nearly 30 economists from around the US and worldwide attended the conference, including such notables as keynote speakers Avinash Dixit (Princeton University) and Kamal Saggi (Vanderbilt University). The conference was organized by **Professor Chris Ellis**, as well as Ben Zissimos (University of Exeter) and Isleide Zissimos (Vanderbilt University).



Chris Ellis

EIIT Conference

The Department of Economics hosted a second conference on November 7–9 in Eugene. The 21st Annual Conference on Empirical Investigations in International Trade (EIIT) was held at the Hilton Eugene, featuring approximately 25 papers on topics related to international trade.

The conference organizers from the economics department were **Bruce Blonigen**, **Anca Cristea**, and **Nicholas Sly**, as well as Jon Haveman from the Forum for Research in Empirical International Trade.

Faculty Notes

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teaching, and serving as codirector of undergraduate studies for the department. In addition, he maintains regular blogging on monetary policy and is frequently cited in the national news media, including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*.

Chris Ellis continues to work in the areas of public economic theory and political economy. He and coauthor and ex-Oregon graduate student Tom Groll published the article “A Simple Model of the Commercial Lobbying Industry” in the *European Economic Review*. He was also the local organizer of the second annual InsTED Workshop hosted in Eugene, which attracted several internationally renowned speakers. Chris’ papers were featured at the annual meetings of the Association for Public Economic Theory, the Central European Program in Economic Theory, and the International Institute of Public Finance.

George Evans gave a seminar titled “Liquidity Traps and Expectation Dynamics: Fiscal Stimulus or Fiscal Austerity?” in April at the Federal Reserve Board, Washington, D.C. This paper is forthcoming in the *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*. He also gave a keynote talk in June to the Theoretical and Experimental Macroeconomics Conference at the Graduate School of Economics, Barcelona, and presented “Learning to Optimize,” coauthored with UO colleague Bruce McGough, at the University of Amsterdam.

Jo Anna Gray retired from full-time teaching and research this past year, but is looking forward to teaching the department’s advanced undergraduate and master’s-level class in macroeconomic theory this coming year. Her recent research interests have focused on the role of government debt in the effectiveness of fiscal policy.

Ben Hansen presented several current research projects at conferences, including the Conference on Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the Annual Meetings on the Economics of Risky Behaviors in

Medellin, Columbia. He’s begun researching the relationship between bullying and suicide and the interaction between guns, alcohol, and suicide. He was invited to be a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor.

Bill Harbaugh published a paper with former UO grad student Dave Wozniak on how women’s menstrual cycles affect their willingness to compete in winner-take-all tournaments. He says it came out in the *Journal of Labor Economics*, so it must be economics, and it shows that women can be just as competitive as men—but only in the high-hormone phase of the cycle. His new experiment involves administering Androgel to UO undergrads, to see if testosterone makes them so competitive that they’ll give away money to show that they’re really, really altruistic.

Stephen Haynes is in his 37th year with the department, currently employed at half-time. He continues to teach online courses in principles of micro- and macroeconomics and international economics. With the next presidential election in close to two years, he is updating a previous paper on determinants of voting in US presidential elections using state data grouped by income level (systematic partisan differences across states were found in a previous study).

Van Kolpin’s research examines strategic behavior in contexts of asymmetric information, discontinuous preferences, and heterogeneous populations. He serves on the editorial board of *Game Theory*. His paper “Endogenous Convention, Prejudice, and Trust in Demographic Summary Games,” recently published in *Journal of Mathematical Economics*, examines the equilibrium actions of economic agents as well as their personal beliefs and prevailing social conventions. He continues another year of department head service and teaching microeconomic theory.

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Faculty Notes

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Michael Kuhn joined the department this fall, after receiving his PhD at UC San Diego. Michael presented his research on the US Food Stamp program at the Economic Science Association meetings in Santa Cruz, the Network for Integrated Behavioral Science workshop in Nottingham, and the Summer Conference on Consumer Financial Decision-Making in Boulder. He received a grant from the USDA and the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research to further his work on food purchasing and consumption behavior.

Peter Lambert served as a visiting professor in February 2014 for the Madras School of Economics Center for Environmental Economics in Chennai, India. While there, he presented a seminar titled "Disparities in Socio-Economic Outcomes: Some Positive Propositions and their Normative Implications" with his research coauthor Sabbu Subramanian. His recent work has appeared, or is forthcoming, in *Mathematical Social Sciences*, *Bulletin of Economic Research*, and *Social Choice and Welfare*.

Ralph Mastromonaco is continuing his research to investigate the impact of natural gas development via hydraulic fracturing on local economies. He's also examining the role that budget constraints and access to credit has on the valuation of neighborhood amenities, which also questions some long-held assumptions in applied microeconomic modeling. This past summer he had an ambitious road trip, visiting Crater Lake, Mount Rainier, and Grand Tetons National Parks.

Bruce McGough's current research focuses on the micro-foundations of adaptive expectations and boundedly rational decision-making. He coorganized a conference, "Expectations in Dynamic Macroeconomic Models," held at the Bank of Finland, and gave talks in Scotland, Holland, and Spain. He continues to serve as associate editor for *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, and as coeditor at *Economic Inquiry*, and has recently been appointed associate head of the economics department.

Jeremy Piger's recent research focuses on measuring and forecasting the business cycle. In the past year his research was published in several journals, including the *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, the *Journal of International Economics*, and *Macroeconomic Dynamics*. He served as an associate editor at two professional journals, and as the director of the department's PhD program. In September 2014 he was promoted to the rank of full professor.

Nicholas Sly recently published research on cross-border M&A activity, the transmission of aggregate economic shocks across borders, and the effects of international tax agreements on foreign investment flows. His ongoing work focuses on the labor market effects of offshoring activities. He was only mildly heartbroken that his alma mater, Michigan State University, was defeated by the Ducks football team. Nick will teach his upper-division course in international trade and a large section of introductory microeconomics.

Joe Stone continues to supervise the department's senior honors thesis sequence, but is otherwise retired from teaching after 35 years. His recent

research ventures ask whether state-level balanced-budget rules increase growth by restricting borrowing to infrastructure, and whether student Pell grants are a "poison Pell" for public colleges. "If you are one of the thousands of students who stumbled into one of my classes and stayed, thank you for the opportunity to teach you."

Mark Thoma continued his usual research, teaching, and service activities for the university; he blogs daily at *Economist's View*; writes articles for CBS News; has a biweekly column at the *Fiscal Times*; and he wrote op-eds and articles for several other publications. He is also a fellow of the Century Foundation.

Anne van den Nouweland specializes in economic theory, with a focus on stability in networks, equilibrium in public goods economies, and axiomatic approaches to coalitional problems. She serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Public Economic Theory* and the program committees of the Public Economic Theory Conference and the Central European Program in Economic Theory. She participated in the Coalitions and Networks Workshop and had papers accepted in the *Journal of Public Economic Theory* and a Springer book.

Glen Waddell continues his research in the economics of education, health economics, and risky behaviors, and placed a graduate student, Kris Holden, in a research position at the American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C. Having been brought on to teach the economics component of the Oregon Executive MBA program last year, Glen fell in love and makes the weekend drive to Portland again this year. He also continues to serve as a coeditor of *Economics of Education Review*.

Caroline Weber's ongoing research examines how much individuals distort their behavior in response to taxation. This past year, Caroline's research was published in the *Journal of Public Economics* and she presented her research at the National Tax Association 106th Annual Conference on Taxation, the 70th Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance, Queen's University, and University of Michigan. Caroline also got married in June and went on a honeymoon to Italy.

Wesley Wilson received a Distinguished Member Award from the Transportation and Public Utilities Group. The group is one of the oldest associations of the American Economic Association. Recipients of this award are recognized for a lifetime of contributions to the field and organization. Past recipients include Nobel laureates William Vickery and Dan McFadden. He was also named to a National Academy of Sciences Committee to evaluate railroad regulatory policy, and he remains editor of *Economic Inquiry*.

Jiabin Wu is joining the department after receiving his PhD degree at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His research focuses on evolutionary game theory and behavioral economics, studying how different institutions affect the evolution of preferences through cultural transmission processes. He also studies psychological games in laboratory experiments. Jiabin presented his research on preference evolution at the 25th International Conference on Game Theory at Stony Brook. He will teach Behavioral Economics and Core Microeconomics this fall.

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Honor Roll—Pledges and Donations

Pledges to the Department of Economics by alumni and others continue to be crucial for supporting students and faculty members in their teaching and research activities. We continue to be honored and humbled by the generous contributions our program receives each year.

Providing a gift in your will to support the Department of Economics is a powerful way to support our efforts. The **UO Office of Gift**

Planning is an excellent resource if you are considering providing support for econ in your will. Call **800-289-2354** or visit **giftplan.uoregon.edu** for more information.

The following is a list of contributions received from September 1, 2013, through August 31, 2014. We apologize for any unintended errors or omissions.

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Keeping Students Engaged and Interested

Ben Fitch-Fleischmann receives coveted Stein Award for outstanding classroom instruction

Graduate teaching fellows in the Department of Economics have a challenging job. They're often the only face that undergraduates from other departments see, and a large percentage of their students have only a preliminary understanding of the basic concepts of economics. Keeping them attentive during classes can be daunting.

That's what keeps **Ben Fitch-Fleischmann**, a fifth-year PhD student, motivated. "I try to make class entertaining and change pace frequently, which helps keep students engaged and interested," Fitch-Fleischmann says.

Fitch-Fleischmann joins an esteemed list of economics GTFs in recent years who have been recognized for their outstanding work in the classroom. In addition to receiving the Dan Kimble First-Year Teaching Award in 2011, he received the department's Outstanding Teaching Award. Most recently, he also received the coveted Donald and Darel Stein Graduate Student Teaching Award, a campus-wide distinction awarded by the Graduate School to GTFs for outstanding teaching performances.

Developing Instructional Skills

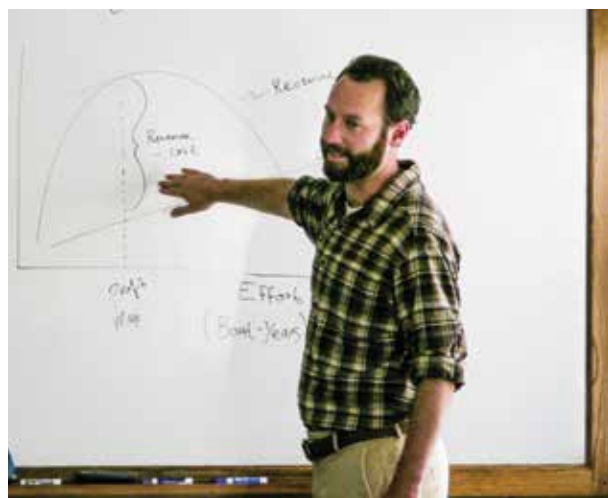
The award also recognizes students for their commitment to developing their instructional skills, something Fitch-Fleischmann has strived to do.

"I've participated in a lot of workshops at the UO and I've worked hard to keep improving as a teacher," he says. "I try to get student feedback during all of my classes and actively respond during the term."

His favorite courses to teach are Introduction to Economic Analysis: Microeconomics (EC 201) and Introduction to Econometrics

(EC 320, EC 421). In addition to his work in the classroom, Fitch-Fleischmann is also completing the research and dissertation portion of his PhD requirements, specializing in environmental and development economics and applied microeconomics.

"Ben has shared office space with me in the Mikesell Lab for the last three years, so I have overheard many of his interactions with his students," says Trudy



Ben Fitch-Fleischmann teaches an economics course

"I try to make class entertaining and change pace frequently, which helps keep students engaged and interested."

—Ben Fitch-Fleischmann,
Stein Award winner

Ann Cameron, Raymond F. Mikesell Professor of Environmental and Resource Economics. "I marvel at his patience and attention to individual student needs when he helps a student understand a difficult concept, especially with students who are struggling. Ben makes a great effort to lead them to discover the answers on their own—a rare talent.

"Rather than feeling defeated by the material to the point that they need to come and ask for help, these students leave feeling motivated and rewarded for their efforts," Cameron adds. "Ben is exceptionally deserving of the Stein Award."

About the Stein GTF Teaching Awards

Donald G. Stein, PhD, and his wife Darel Stein fund two awards administered by the Graduate School—the Donald and Darel Stein Graduate Student Teaching Award and the Dan Kimble First Year Teaching Award. Stein is a physiological psychologist and Asa G. Candler Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. He earned his PhD in psychology in 1965 from the University of Oregon.