

# Brandeis University

## Department of Economics

### October 2006 Newsletter for Majors and Minors

Now that most midterm exams are past, we're already thinking ahead to next "spring"—as we officially call the semester that begins on January 16. See information below about four new courses to be offered in spring 2007.

#### Department activities

Our three UDRs (Jacques Alcabes '07, Olga Shapiro '07, and Matt Niedzwiecki '07) have helped to organize two successful events so far this year. *At Life after Brandeis* on October 4, nine Boston-area alumni discussed their experiences in post-graduation jobs and graduate school and answered career questions from current majors. Marcia Katz, Senior Associate Director of IBS Career Services, was on hand to provide a professional perspective on job search. Our annual *Meet the Majors* event on October 25 gave first and second year students a chance to learn more about majoring in Economics.

Our final fall event for majors is the *Resume Workshop* with Marcia Katz at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday November 9 in the Alumni Common Room. This will be an opportunity for students to get help in polishing their resumes before applying for summer internships. Seniors looking for post-graduation jobs are also welcome to attend.

#### Spring pre-registration

Pre-registration begins Tuesday October 31. A list of all spring Economics classes with links to preliminary syllabi for most courses is posted on the Econ website ([http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics/undergrad\\_courses3html.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics/undergrad_courses3html.html)).

Students who have questions should contact Professor Coiner ([coiner@brandeis.edu](mailto:coiner@brandeis.edu)) or Claire Cincotta ([cincotta@brandeis.edu](mailto:cincotta@brandeis.edu)), the Academic Administrator for Economics.

#### New spring courses

Majors and minors will find four new courses offered for spring '07.

*Lower-level electives (prerequisite Econ 2a only):*

ECON 69a, "The Economics of Race and Gender." This lower-level elective is cross-listed in AAAS and WGS. The course will be taught by Sue Lee, a researcher at the Heller School.

ECON 122b, "The Economics of the Middle East." This course will be taught by Dr. Eric Graber and Dr. Mohammed Samhuri. Both are senior fellows at the Crown Center with extensive hands-on experience in the Middle East region.

### *Upper-level electives:*

ECON 162a, "Outsourcing & Offshoring: Information Technology and Globalization." This course will be taught by Prof. Catherine Mann, author of a new book on information technology and globalization, who joined the Brandeis faculty this year.

ECON 185a, "Econometrics with Linear Algebra." This course is an alternative to ECON 184a for students who have previously studied linear algebra. Both econometrics courses will be taught by Prof. Hong Li in spring 2007.

### **New faculty**

In addition to those mentioned above, students will find several new faces among faculty teaching spring Econ courses. Macroeconomic Theory (ECON 82b) will be taught by Associate Prof. George Hall, who joined the Brandeis faculty this year. Paul Deng, a Ph.D. candidate in IBS, will teach Development Economics (ECON 175a). Zhipeng Yan, also a Ph.D. candidate in IBS, will teach Financial Economics (ECON 171a.)

### **Math requirement for Econ 80a and Econ 82b**

Students enrolling in the intermediate micro or intermediate macro courses must have demonstrated basic proficiency in calculus. Every student planning to enroll in Econ 80a or Econ 82b must satisfy this requirement in one of three ways: a) completing Math 10a with a grade of C- or better; b) scoring at least 4 on the AP Mathematics AB test, or at least 3 on the AP Mathematics BC test; or c) passing a placement exam administered by the Economics Department at the beginning of each semester.

### **Advising**

Prof. Coiner, the Undergraduate Advising Head, has prepared a detailed memo that answers many of the basic questions students may have about their academic program (<http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics/files/advising%20memo%20web%208-16-06.pdf>). This memo can also be accessed from the Economics Department website (click on "Advice for Students"). Please take time to read it before meeting with your advisor or Prof. Coiner.

### **Finally...**

We hope this will be a productive, satisfying, and enjoyable year for all our students. We especially urge senior majors to take full advantage of the spring course offerings in the Economics Department.

***Rachel McCulloch***  
**Chair**