

# Brandeis University

## Department of Economics

### October 2009 Newsletter for Majors and Minors Remember to Pre-Register!!

Now that most mid-term exams are past, we're already thinking ahead to next "spring"—as we officially call the semester that begins on January 19.

#### Spring pre-registration

Pre-registration begins Monday October 26. A list of all spring Economics classes with links to preliminary syllabi for most courses is posted on the [Economics website](#).

As usual, we expect many courses to fill up during pre-registration. Students who wish to register for a course that is already full should be sure to place themselves on the "Wait List" for the course. We use these lists to add students to the courses when and if places become available later on, with preference usually given to seniors and others who have already made relative progress in the major. We also guarantee that anyone on the Wait List who does not get into the desired course will receive a place the next time the course is offered. For all of the required courses, this is the following semester.

Students who have questions about spring courses or academic requirements for the Econ major and minor should contact Professor Redenius ([redenius@brandeis.edu](mailto:redenius@brandeis.edu)), the Undergraduate Advising Head (UGH), or Meredith Robitaille ([mrobitai@brandeis.edu](mailto:mrobitai@brandeis.edu)), our Academic Administrator for Economics.

#### Stats and Econometrics

As of this year, econometrics is now a requirement for all graduating economics majors, who entered Brandeis in fall 2006 or later. This fall we offered two sections of ECON 184b and one section of ECON 185a, Econometrics with Linear Algebra. This spring the Department will be offering two additional sections of 184b. Some have asked if we will be offering 185a this spring or next year. Our plan is to offer ECON 215a, a course that is offered every other year for new students in the IBS PhD program in international economics, next spring. With ECON 185a and ECON 215a being offered in alternate years, we expect to offer 185a again in 2011.

Because the econometrics builds on the major's statistics course, i.e. ECON 83a, we strongly suggest that you take econometrics as soon as possible following your enrollment in 83a. Many students have told us that they are either pleased that they did this or regret not having done it.

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

Students enrolling in the intermediate micro or intermediate macro courses must demonstrate 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.

## **New faculty**

Students will find several a few new faces among faculty teaching spring Econ courses.

**Tanseli Savaser.** We have the great pleasure of welcoming back Professor Savaser to Brandeis this year during her sabbatical from Williams College where her research focuses on currency markets and exchange rate behavior. Professor Savaser, who earned her PhD from the IBS International Economics and Finance Program in 2006, will be offering two sections of Global Economy, ECON 8b.

**Rebecca Demsetz.** Dr. Demsetz has had extensive experience working as a Research Officer and Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where her research focused on the bank sector and financial services industry. Having earned her PhD at MIT, she will be offering a section of Microeconomics, ECON 80a.

## **Advising**

Prof. Coiner and Prof. Redenius, the current UGH, have prepared a [detailed memo](#) that answers many of the basic questions students may have about their academic program. 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. Redenius.

## **Department activities**

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, our four UDRs (Elizabeth Setren '10, Naomi Cohn '11, Bradley Mahlof '11 and Darren Sandler '11) held a *Welcome Back* event for students and faculty. It was a great opportunity to start off classes with pizza, ice cream and good company.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the department held this semester's advising event. Students were able to ask the Econ UDRs and Prof. Redenius questions about the major and course selection for the spring semester.

The next UDR-organized event will be a co-sponsored internship event with Hiatt. This event will be on November 12, 2008 at 6:30pm in Lemberg 55.

For the spring, the UDRs are planning an information session for juniors about the Senior Honors Program and a Meet the Majors event. They are also interested in receiving suggestions for other types of events for Econ majors and minors.

### **Finally...**

We hope this will be a productive, satisfying, and enjoyable year for all our students. We especially urge our senior majors to take full advantage of the spring course offerings in the Economics Department. This is your last chance to round out your economics major.

***Gary Jefferson***  
**Chair**

***Meredith Robitaille***  
**Academic Administrator**