Dear Alumni, Former Faculty and Friends of the Brandeis Economics Department:

Greetings from Waltham! A new academic year has begun, and the Economics Department is abuzz with activity and excitement. Last month we were delighted to welcome a new class and welcome back so many returning faces. We currently have 440 enrolled in our introductory courses which suggests that roughly half of the first year class are taking an economics course this semester.

This year we are delighted to welcome two new faculty members into our department.

Monica Singhal is visiting the department during the fall semester. Monica's research is at the intersection of public and development economics. She examines the challenges faced by developing economies in raising revenue and building state capacity. Her work has looked at the financing of public goods in developing economies (e.g. building roads and bridges), the limits of information reporting in improving revenue collection, and the use of social incentives to increase compliance. This semester she is teaching two sections of intermediate microeconomics. Monica is an Associate Professor at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and will be joining the Economics Department at the University California-Davis in January.

Francis Georges has also joined the department as a lecturer. This past year, Frank completed his Ph.D. at Boston College where he studied the degree to which the increase in the U.S. prison population was a driver in the increasing numbers of working age adults now on disability. This year Frank is teaching statistics and econometrics.

With disappointment, we note that this past year Zhuan Pei, an Assistant Professor whose work is at the intersection of labor economics and econometrics, decided to leave Brandeis to accept a position at Cornell University. We wish Zhuan all the best.

Enjoy the news. As you will see, we have much to celebrate. I am especially proud of how our alumni help our faculty provide an education that makes a difference in the lives of our students. Of course, if you have information that should be included either in this newsletter or would simply like to be added to the department's mailing list, please contact us. We very much hope that you stay in touch.
Events From the Past Year

Economic Department UDRs Gabe Rosenblum, Peter Walton, and Felix Liu Kuo organized a "Personal Finance Seminar" for students along with PhD student Michael Bertini.

On Tuesday March 31st, the Department of Economics hosted a personal finance seminar that was organized by the UDRs. Michael Bertini was kind enough to lead the event, which was held in Ridgewood Commons. The goal of the seminar was to educate students with little or no background in finance on basic, yet extremely important, financial topics. These included spending and saving, credit control, and major financial assets. Often times, graduating students are unsure of how to properly take control of their financial futures. We hope that this seminar was informative and shed light on some unfamiliar topics. We are looking forward to planning more in the future!

Albert Einstein once said, "Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it ... he who doesn't ... pays it." Those who attended the event will certainly be earning it.

Alumni Updates

Eva Nagypal ’95 has recently moved to the Washington D.C. area with her family after more than a decade in Chicago. She enjoys exploring her new home and the East Coast with her daughters (Leda, 8, and Lilla, 2) and her husband, Matt. She finds her work as a Senior Economist at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau both challenging and very interesting.

S. Nageeb Ali ’99 is moving with his family from sunny California to peaceful Pennsylvania to be an Associate Professor of Economics at Penn State. He was thrilled to be tenured at UC-San Diego's Economics Department, which has been an incredibly fun intellectual home for the past several years, but is equally excited to join the team of economic theorists at Penn State. He never picked up any winter sports while he was at Brandeis, and see this as his opportunity to rectify that omission!

Steven Dupree ’04 continues to run growth and acquisition marketing for SoFi, a marketplace lender focusing on ambitious young professionals. He’s also giving back
to 'Deis by advising on the creation of an MS in Digital Marketing and Design program for the Rabb School of Continuing Studies.

**Lilia Lovtchev ’04** took over as CEO of VM Automation, a struggling technology asset of VM Finance Group, to implement a corporate turnaround. He continues to do mountain climbing and bungee jumping in his free time.

**Jane Shlimovich ’04** recently joined Greenwood Energy in New York as Counsel, focusing on renewable energy project development in Latin America.

**Charles Goodhue ’06** is a Senior Economist with Eastern Research Group in Lexington, MA. He is living in Wilmington, MA with his wife Catherine, and 1-year old daughter, Grace.

**Khayam Allen ’07** After a few years working in fun countries like Afghanistan, Syria, Haiti and the Central African Republic, he is settled back home (Paris) for a year because of the best adventure of all, fatherhood. Rafael was born on September 26th, 2014. Next stop? London, for at least two years. Time needed to get his MBA from the London Business School.

**Jennifer Gordon ’07** works at Deutsche Bank in New York on the Corporate Banking & Securities Graduate Recruiting team. She is currently training for her 4th marathon - the 2015 Philadelphia marathon - and just recently got back from an incredible trip to Spain with Melissa Kampner, also Brandeis ’07 and looks forward to many more trips just like it.

**Melissa Kampner ’07** works at JPMorgan Asset Management and has recently transferred to London. She plans to continue working and living there for a few years. She also just recently got back from an incredible trip to Spain with Jennifer Gordon ’07, and hopes to have many more just like it.

**Matthew Schwartz ’07** is an associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in Hong Kong.

**David Weiss ’07** is trying to not get too distracted by the beach while he works as an economics professor on the tenure-clock at Tel-Aviv University. He fondly remembers his Brandeis days, especially Professor Coiner's classes. He is pleased to report that he is still in touch with his old advisor (Prof McCulloch) and recently fulfilled a college-age dream of presenting a paper at Brandeis' Economics department!

**John Farr ’08** lives in Washington, DC and works as a management consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton.

**Rona Peltzer ’08** currently lives in London. She will begin studying for an MBA at the University of Oxford this fall.

**Daniel Shani ’08** is CEO of his startup Energy Intelligence, Inc., which recently won the 43North Business Competition and opened an office in Buffalo, NY.

**Arthur Attal ’09** is working at LinkedIn in California over the summer before going back to Boston to finish his MBA at MIT Sloan.
Aaron Finegold ’09 is leaving his job at the consulting firm McKinsey & Company this summer to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from INSEAD, starting at their Asia Campus (in Singapore). He will graduate from the 1-year program in July 2016.

Mohit Gourisaria ’09 is a Litigation Associate at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen, and Katz in New York City.

Benjamin Luxenberg ’09 is continuing his MBA and MPP studies at Harvard Business School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Alex Cemaj ’10 is finishing up his time at Prudential Capital Group and will be headed to Columbia Business School this fall to focus on real estate finance/development.

Geoffrey Cohen ’10 After teaching English for several years all over France, he is currently interning at Clos Sorian, a small winery in southern France, as he finishes his Masters in Commerce of Wine at the Université de Montpellier.

Anna Kaufman ’10 was elected as the Club Growth Director for District 31 Toastmasters, an international non-profit for people to become better speakers and leaders. In this role, she will be building new clubs across eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. If you want to start a club in your community or workplace, get in touch! Kaufman.Anna@gmail.com.

Daniel Litwok ’10 completed his Ph.D. in economics at Michigan State University. He will begin work as a Senior Analyst at Abt Associates in Bethesda, Maryland later this summer.

Jenna (Glasenberg) Koppel ’11 is a senior analyst at the Advisory Board Company in Washington, DC.

Josh Waizer ’11 is living in Washington, DC and working at Bates White Economic Consulting.

Stephanie Karol ’12 has moved to North Carolina to pursue a M.A. in Economics at Duke University.

Siddhi Krishna ’12, is currently a second year PhD student in Mathematics at Boston College.

John Orr ’12 is currently working in Chicago at KPMG’s Investment Bank. He is part of the Leveraged Finance and Mergers & Acquisitions teams. He recently traveled around South Africa on vacation. (see picture at right)

Ken Yeoh ’12 is working as a data warehouse engineer and data scientist for HubSpot, working on bringing big data analytics to company analysts.

Susan K. Feigenbaum ’13 was recently named a Curators Professor in Economics at
Christine Sambu '13 is currently working on rotation in Ireland with Sun Life Financial as a Business Systems Analyst, as part of the RLDP program.

Jonathan Epstein '14 is an RA at the Justice Department's Antitrust Division.

Zach Romano '15 is now serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA in his hometown of Syracuse, NY and will be here for the next year. It's a multi-site effort called the Community Prosperity Initiative and the goals are geared towards economic development and neighborhood-level revitalization efforts. The organization where he is located is Home HeadQuarters, Inc. which is a non-profit real estate developer focused on home-ownership education and rehabbing/demolishing residential properties throughout the City of Syracuse. They are also a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) which allows them to privately give out low interest loans to those who are low-income and under-served. He does extensive data analysis, project management, and GIS mapping. So far it is a great first job that has given him the freedom to feel like a consultant and manager, especially compared to most "one function" entry level positions at major companies.

AmeriCorps has an established relationship with Brandeis and, in the vein of social justice, he wanted to offer himself as a contact to those who may be interested and also inform current Brandeis students about the program. Below is a link to the VISTA website which gives a bit more information.

Link: http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps/americorps-vista

Faculty Updates

Congratulations to Professor George Hall for being appointed the Fred C. Hecht Chair in Economics for an outstanding record of accomplishment as an economist and teacher of economics. The Hecht Chair was established in 1964 by the friends and associates of Fred Hecht, a senior executive at Sears, Roebuck & Co. This distinction was originally held by Louis Lefeber, and was succeeded by Anne Carter, and Adam Jaffe, all outstanding economists and eminent figures in Brandeis history.

Best wishes to Professor Hall for continued success!

Professor Kathryn Graddy has been appointed Director of the PhD program in International Economics and Finance, which is now jointly administered by the Economics Department and the International Business School. She replaces Blake LeBaron, who held the position for numerous years. Katy will be giving the keynote address at the 7th Conference on Cultural and Media Economics in Paris on September 24-25, 2015.
Professor Ricardo Lopez has published an edited book titled “Handbook on Trade and Development.”

The Handbook on Trade and Development provides an up-to-date overview of the main issues related to international trade and economic development and reviews the current understanding of major trade issues facing developing countries. The volume contains survey chapters on topics such as trade and poverty, trade and child labor, trade facilitation, trade preferences, and trade and firm performance, as well as chapters on specific regions. Region specific chapters on Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and East Asia analyze questions related to agglomeration and firm performance, commodity prices and export performance, export diversification, exchange rate volatility and exports, imported technology and exporting, trade and foreign direct investment, and trade and the environment. Chapters describe the current state of art on theory, methods, and policy recommendations, and suggest future directions for research and policy analysis. The list of contributors include well-known authors from international organizations such as the World Bank, the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank, as well as contributors from academic institutions including Brandeis University, The University of Nottingham, Colby College, Swarthmore College, the University of Gothenburg and the University of Chile. The volume should be of interest for academics and students interested in trade and development, as well as policy makers in developing countries.

Professor Davide Pettenuzzo, on leave for the fall of 2015, has been focusing on completing a number of projects, two of which will shortly appear in the Journal of Econometrics and the Journal of Business and Economics Statistics. He has also been traveling to present his work at a number of conferences both in the US and abroad, including a trip to Aarhus (Denmark) in June and one to Zurich (Switzerland) this month. Finally, he’s recently been invited to join the editorial board of the Journal of Financial Econometrics as an Associate Editor.

Scott Redenius is devoting his leave this fall to teaching-related projects. As a Davis Fellow, he is exploring ways to increase student engagement and improve student learning. He is also working on the development of a new course in U.S. economic history.

Emeriti Faculty...
Rachel McCulloch is recovering (more slowly than she would like!) from a long illness. The positive direction is encouraging and we wish her all the best!

Adam B. Jaffe is a Brandeis Research Professor and is currently serving as the Director of Research at the Motu Institute for Economic Policy in Wellington, New Zealand.

Graduation 2015

Commencement 2015

On Sunday, May 17th, 2015, under beautiful sunny skies, the Brandeis Economics Department proudly awarded 137 major/minor degrees to this year's graduates. The Economics Department Chair, Professor George J. Hall, gave the opening welcome followed by Professor Kathryn Graddy's remarks to the future economists. To present this year's awards to outstanding students in the field of economics, was Professor H. Michael Coiner (of "rock star" status, to quote Professor Hall!). Congratulations to our award winners, who are as follows:

Carol Ann Steinfeld Memorial Prize in Economics

Xiaomin Guo

Morris and Anna Feldberg Prize in Economics

Trang Huong Luu

Sydney S. Cohen Award in Economics

Joshua Daniel Agress

It was a day of celebration for all - we wish all of our newest alumni the best of luck!

Stay in touch!
If you would like to be included in the Alumni updates, submit a picture, or have suggestions/interests for the alumni newsletter, please email Leslie Yancich at lesliy@brandeis.edu

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