Now that most mid-term exams are past, we are looking forward to “spring” —the official name of the semester that begins on January 17.

**Spring pre-registration**

Pre-registration begins Tuesday November 1st. 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 "Demand List" for the course. We use these lists to add students to the courses if and when 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. Required courses are offered every semester.

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

**Stats and Econometrics**

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. This spring the Department will be offering two additional sections of 184b. Student can also fulfill their econometrics requirement by taking Econ 185a, Econometrics with Linear Algebra. Econ 185a is also being offered in the spring semester.

Because econometrics builds on the major’s statistics course, i.e. ECON 83a, we very strongly urge you take econometrics as soon as possible following your completion of 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.

BA/MA program

The Brandeis International Business School (IBS) has just been ranked number one in the United States for the Lemberg Master of Arts in International Economics and Finance by the Financial Times. As part of this program, IBS offers a 5th year master’s degree program for undergraduates. IBS Admissions is holding an information session about the BA/MA program on Thursday Nov. 17th at 2pm in the Alumni Common Room, located on the first floor of the Lemberg Academic Center.

New faculty

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

We welcome Arhan Ertañ as a Visiting Professor who will offer two sections of Microeconomic theory (Econ 80a) in the spring semester. Professor Ertañ has his Ph.D. from Brown University and has recently been teaching at Boston University. His research is primarily in the field of international trade.

Davide Pettenuzzo, Assistant Professor of Economics, will be teaching two sections of Econometrics (Econ 184b) this semester. Having completed his Ph.D. at Bocconi University, Professor Pettenuzzo has recently worked at the economic consultancy Bates, White, while simultaneously publishing important research in the field of time-series econometrics.

New courses

Professor Anne Carter will be teaching Econ 56b, Social Priorities and the Market. This course asks how the benefits and costs of economic growth are distributed in today’s market economies. It looks at how the United States and other “advanced” market economies take account of social priorities such as “fairness” in the distribution of income and wealth, health, education, security and sustainability. This course is offered on Tuesday and Friday from 12:30-2pm.

The Department of Legal Studies will be offering a new course, LGLS127b International Economic Law. Econ 2a is a prerequisite and this course will be counted as a lower-
level economics elective. The course is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00-6:20 pm.

**Advising**

Prof. Coiner and Prof. Redenius, the current UAH, 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.

**Graduate courses**

Undergraduate students are eligible to take graduate-level courses (courses numbered 200 and above). However, graduate students are given priority to enroll in these courses, and undergraduate students cannot pre-register. Students wishing to enroll in a graduate course should attend the course from the beginning of the semester and ask permission from the instructor to enroll. All students must have taken the appropriate prerequisites for the course. If there is an equivalent undergraduate course that is being given that semester (for example, Financial Economics, 171a, is the undergraduate equivalent for Financial Theory, Fin 201), then undergraduates must enroll in the 100-level course, with the exception of students who are enrolled in the BA/MA program. Students should check with the Undergraduate Advising Head as to whether the graduate course counts as an Economics elective (some of the business courses do not count), and if it counts, whether they would receive credit for a lower-level or an upper-level elective.

**Department activities**

We have several activities scheduled in the Economics Department during the spring semester. We are planning our second movie night on February 15th. We will be showing *Inside Job*. Sigridur Benediktsdottir, who is in the movie and has just been appointed Director of the Financial Stability Department at the Central Bank of Iceland, will join a panel discussion afterwards. The showing will be co-sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute at IBS, Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies, and the Sociology Department.

Our three UDRs (Jie Dong ’12, Dan Graulich ’12, and Neelanjana Gupta ’13) are also planning an information session for juniors about the Senior Honors Program, a Meet the Majors event, and a Life after Brandeis event.
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…take it while you can.

*Kathryn Graddy*  
*Chair*