Fall pre-registration
Pre-registration for fall 2012 courses begins Tuesday, April 16th. So you know what is coming, we have provided a list of times and instructors for all courses related to econ that will appear during registration during the fall (also available on the Econ website), and a list of proposed courses and instructors for the spring semester, for your planning purposes. Students who have questions about pre-registering for economics courses should contact the department administrator, Meredith Robitaille mrobitai@brandeis.edu).

Advanced Microeconomics (Econ 301a)
The economics department is offering Advanced Microeconomics (Econ 301), taught by Linda Bui, in the fall semester and is targeting this course toward all students who wish to pursue a Ph.d. in economics, or who are simply interested in taking a challenging course in microeconomics. [Because of the numbering system at Brandeis, you need to sign up manually with Meredith Robitaille].

Empirical Analysis of Trade Policy (Econ 261a)
Qualified economics majors can also take Empirical Analysis of Trade Policy. This is an excellent course that focuses on empirical research on trade policy. The prerequisites for this course are an econometrics course (Econ 184b or Econ 185a) and an international trade course (Econ 60b or Econ 160a).

New Faculty
Zhuan Pei: Zhuan Pei will be joining us as an assistant professor during the fall of 2013. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 2012. His undergraduate degree is from Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Zhuan has spent the current year on a post-doc at the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research researching Medicaid and the CHIP program. He will teach two sections of econometrics in the fall.

Michael Bertini: Michael Bertini is a Ph.d. student at Brandeis and will be teaching Financial Economics in the fall. He has had extensive teaching experience both in the summer program at Brandeis and as an instructor at Boston College.

Jeremy Kronick: Jeremy Kronick is a Ph.d. student at Brandeis who spent last year as the TA for the Senior Thesis. He already has a lot of experience advising theses, and he will be conducting the econometrics practicum that will be held in the fall.

Reminder: Math requirement for Econ 80a, Econ 82b, Econ 83a and Econ 184b
Every student must satisfy a calculus requirement before enrolling in Econ 80a, 82b, 83a or 184b. Specifically, students must establish competence in calculus in any one of three ways: completion of Math 10a (or equivalent course) with a grade of C- or better; scoring at least 4 on the AP Mathematics AB test, or at least 3 on the AP Mathematics BC test; or passing a placement exam the Econ Department administers at the beginning of the semester. A sample of the exam can be found here. Please note, a student may only take
this exam once. Students must satisfy the requirement before taking Econ 80a, 82b, 83a or 184b. Students who have not satisfied the requirement in one of these ways will be removed from these courses.

Senior honors
To graduate with honors in Economics, a student must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 in courses in the major and write a senior thesis. Juniors planning to write a thesis are advised to begin the process this term by discussing potential topics with faculty members or with Prof. Brainerd, who supervises the thesis-writing process and helps to match students with appropriate faculty advisors. Many Econ faculty members have suggested potential senior thesis research topics, and these are now available on the Economics Department website. Students who identify their topic early can use the summer to read background material or collect data. Students must complete an Econometrics course prior to enrolling in Econ 99a, the senior thesis course. For more information about the senior honors program, go to the Senior Honors Program page of the Econ website or attend the info session on Tuesday, April 16th at 12pm in the Alumni Common Room.

Advising
Prof. Coiner and Prof. Redenius, the current Undergraduate Advising Head, have prepared a detailed memo that answers many of the basic questions students may have about their academic program. This memo is on the Advice for Students page of from the Economics Department website. Please take time to read it before meeting with your advisor or Prof. Redenius.

Changes to the Major Requirements for Students Entering in Fall 2012
The department has changed the Economics major requirements for students entering next fall. Instead of the traditional Econ 2a and Econ 8b sequence, students will now be taking Introduction to Microeconomics (Econ 10a) and Introduction to Macroeconomics (Econ 20a). Students who matriculated prior to Fall 2012 will be able to complete their Economics major by either completing A Survey of Economics (Econ 2a) and The Global Economy (Econ 28b, formerly Econ 8b) or the new intro sequence of Econ 10a and Econ 20a. Please feel free to consult with Professor Redenius (redenius@brandeis.edu), Meredith Robitalle (mrobitai@brandeis.edu) or your department major advisor if you have any questions about these changes.

New UDRs for 2013-2014
Sara Shanaghi '14 will be continuing as an Econ UDR next year. In addition, we have appointed three new UDRs: Uri Yahil '14, Felix Liu Ku '15 and Peter Walton '15. Please join us in welcoming these three to the UDR program! We extend our thanks to our graduating UDRs, Neelanjana Gupta '13 and Yosef Schaffel '13 and Jeffery You '13 for their outstanding service this year.

Graduating Student Survey
If you are graduating this year and would like to share your experience with Econ majors, please make sure that we know how to reach you! Please keep a look out for our graduating student survey and give us a non-Brandeis email address so that you can receive our yearly alumni newsletter! Congratulations to all our graduates!