

# NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

*Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences*

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## *Alumni Update*

November, 2001

A year has gone by since Joel Mokyr wrote to you about the state of the department. Since then he has passed the baton on and I agreed to serve as chair for a term of three years. All of us – staff, students and faculty – appreciate the superb job that Joel did. Aside from shepherding us to our new quarters, Joel played an instrumental role in hiring a large number of exciting young faculty members and retaining senior faculty in the face of raids from distinguished competitors. Most importantly, he helped to maintain the spirit of dedication to research and collegiality that are hallmarks of our department.

Joel is a tough act to follow. But I'll do my best. My main goal is to help make the department even better than it already is. To accomplish this we will need to do two things. First, we need to hire additional faculty. Second, we need to look carefully at the graduate program and figure out how to improve it. How can we help students start research earlier on? How we foster interaction between students and faculty? How can we make it easier for students to do empirical work? How can we minimize the financial burdens faced by grad students? Please help us by writing to me with reflections on the time you spent here and ideas for accomplishing our goals.

On to concrete news about the department. In June 2001, the *Economic Journal* published a study ranking departments based on articles published in 15 journals between 1977 - 97. We ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the world based on the affiliation of author at the time a paper was published and 12<sup>th</sup> based on where the author received his / her Ph.D. We are obviously pleased with this ranking. We'll be even more pleased if we can do better next time around.

You will be happy to know that our grad students did very well on the job market last year. Placements included Yale, Duke, Illinois, Toronto, the IMF, the University of Texas at Austin and Boston College.

On the faculty personnel front, we had some turnover last year. **Marco Basseto**, **Tim Conley** and **Paula Ramada** resigned. On the plus side we hired four tenure-track Assistant Professors: **Chiaki Moriguchi** joins us from the Harvard Business School. She is an economic historian with a Ph.D. from Stanford. **Wojciech Olszewski** is a theorist with additional interests in Political Economy. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton and Mathematics from Warsaw. **Alessandro Pavan** is a theorist with a Ph.D. from the University of Toulouse. **Eva Nagypal** is a macroeconomist with additional interests in labor economics. She is spending the year in Stockholm and will be joining us in September 2002. **Joel Horowitz** joins us from the University of Iowa as the Charles and Emma Morrison Professor of Economics.

Joel is an econometrician with an extensive range of publications in theoretical and applied econometrics. Last but not least I am very happy to report that **Chris Taber** was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.

A number of our regular faculty members are on leave this year: **Marcus Alexis** is spending the year at Stanford University. **Atila Abdulkadiroglu** is spending the year at Columbia. **Joel Mokyr** is spending the year at Stanford University. **Rob Porter** is spending the fall and winter at UCLA. **Bob Coen** is in residence but on leave during the fall and spring. Other faculty on leave for a quarter this year include **Eddie Dekel**, **Rosa Matzkin** and **Bill Rogerson**.

We have a number of interesting visitors this year. **Wolfram Latsch** has a Ph.D. from the University of Oxford where he also served as a lecturer at Trinity College. His research interests include development economics. **Alexandra Minicozzi** is visiting from the University of Texas at Austin. Her primary interests are macroeconomics and econometrics. **Francois Veldes** is visiting us from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in the fall to teach Joel Mokyr's course in economic history. The Center for the Study of Industrial Organization is pleased to have **Amil Petrin** visit the department during the fall and Winter Quarters. Amil is a faculty member at the Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago.

There is one major demographic development to report: Jeff Ely (with the help of his wife, Jennie) had a girl, Azalea, born on June 12, 2001.

On the administrative front, **Mark Witte** and **Joe Ferrie** continue to do great jobs as Director of Undergraduate Studies and DGS, respectively. **Rita Mendelsohn** retired after over twenty years of service to the University, including 13 in the department. We wish Rita the best and will miss her. You will be saddened by the news of the death of Molly Fabian. Prior to her retirement in the early 1990's, Molly was secretary to the late Professor Robert Eisner.

The department has now moved to its new space in the newly constructed Northern Wing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Arthur Andersen Hall, now renamed the Donald P. Jacobs-Kellogg Center. The move was successfully completed in September 2001 thanks to the enormous efforts of Ian Savage and Joel Mokyr. If you have a chance, please stop by and visit. As alumni, you will be particularly happy to see that virtually all of the graduate offices have windows. So it's true that grad students continue to toil away. But at least now they see sunlight at the end of the tunnel.

We began the year with our annual fall reception. But this year we moved it from the Atrium in Anderson Hall to relatively posh quarters at Norris. Students and colleagues tell me that the food was better than last year. The jury is still out on the quality of the jokes in my welcoming remarks.

An important part of the evening is announcing the recipients of our annual awards to the star Teaching Assistants. This year's winners are: **Ran Abramitzky**, **Levon Barseghyan**, **Adeline Delavande**, **Ricardo DiCecio**, **Nir Jaimovich**, **Nicholas Kreisle**, **Lyndon Moore**, **Jeffrey Prince**, and **Carola Schenone**. Each received a certificate, a one-year subscription to *Econometrica* and the satisfaction of a job well done. We also handed out, for the second time, our **Robert Eisner Memorial Fellowship**, a full year's fellowship for a graduate student who has distinguished him - or herself in *both* research and teaching. The winner was **Levon Barseghyan**. Congratulations Levon - both for this and for convincing fellow grad student **Francesca Molinari** to marry you.