

Economics Department News

This edition covers the period September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014

Charles Manski Elected British Academy Fellow



Charles Manski has been elected as a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. The British Academy is an independent national academy of Fellows elected for their eminence in research and publication. It is the UK's expert body that supports and speaks for the humanities and social sciences.

Christina Romer Presents Bies Lecture



Christina Romer, who served from January 2009 until September 2010 as Chair of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, presented the Susan Bies Lecture on Economics and Public Policy on Monday April 7. She is a faculty member at the University of California at Berkeley. Her talk was titled:

"The Aftermath of Financial Crises: It Doesn't Have to be Terrible."

Nemmers Prize Winner Awarded Nobel Prize



Jean Tirole, the current holder of the Nemmers Prize, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics on October 13, 2014. Tirole, a professor at the Toulouse School of Economics, was recognized for his work on regulating large firms with market power. He will be visiting Northwestern in Spring Quarter 2015, presenting a public

lecture, and participating in a conference on another aspect of his work concerning liquidity, bubbles and crises. The Nemmers Prize is a biennial honor bestowed on an outstanding economist who has yet to win the Nobel Prize. However, as with Daniel McFadden in 2000, Professor Tirole won the Nobel Prize subsequent to his awarding of the Nemmers Prize but before his visit to Northwestern. Seven of the eleven holders of the Nemmers Prize were subsequently honored as Nobel Laureates.

Robert Gordon Elected Distinguished Fellow



Robert Gordon has been elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association (AEA). The Distinguished Fellow awards recognize lifetime research contributions. Since 1965, past presidents of the AEA are recognized as Distinguished Fellows, and up to four additional

individuals may be elected for the award in any one calendar year. He is recognized as a leading American macroeconomist, and is known particularly for his work on business cycles, productivity growth, long-run economic growth, and the economics of the airline industry. The award recognizes a long career of outstanding contributions to scholarship, teaching, public service, and the economics profession.

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Economics Department News

Nemmers Prize Winner Returned to Campus



Daron Acemoglu the 2012 winner of the Nemmers Prize in Economics, returned to Northwestern for the second of his two visits in May 2014. During his visit he gave a short course on "Political Economy, Institutions and Development."

Gordon and Mokyr Debate Economic Progress



Robert Gordon (left) and **Joel Mokyr** offered opposing views in the future of economic progress in the June 15, 2014 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*. Read the Northwestern press release and the article (*WSJ subscription required*).

Welcome to Matthew Notowidigdo



Matthew Notowidigdo joined the Department on July 1. An Associate Professor, his research is in labor economics, public finance and the economics of health care. Previously he was a faculty member at the University of Chicago.

Joel Horowitz Awarded Honorary Degree



Joel Horowitz was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Humboldt University of Berlin in June 2014. The degree citation indicated "the excellent quality of his publications and the interdisciplinary nature of his scientific philosophy and research. He is one of the very best scientists in his field, both in his home country and internationally. This is evident through his first-rate list of publications which have appeared in high-ranking internationally recognized journals."



Martin Gaynor Receives Alumni Award



Martin Gaynor (PhD, 1983) received a Northwestern Alumni Association Award in April 2014. These annual awards recognize "those whose accomplishments have reflected positively not only on their own abilities, but also on Northwestern University." Professor Gaynor is a professor of economics and public policy at Carnegie Mellon

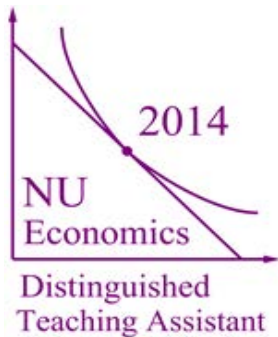
University, and is on assignment to the U.S. government as Director of the Bureau of Economics at the Federal Trade Commission. He is also one of the founders of the Health Care Cost Institute, an independent nonprofit dedicated to advancing public knowledge about US health care utilization and spending, and served as the first chair of its governing board.

New Assistant Professors



The Department hired two new junior faculty members in 2014. **Yingni Guo** is a microeconomic theorist who received her Ph.D. at Yale University. She joined the faculty this summer. **Luigi Bocola** is a macroeconomist who completed his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. He will join the faculty in the summer of 2015 following a year as a post-doctoral fellow at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Distinguished Teaching Assistants Honored



The Economics Department's Distinguished Teaching Assistant Awards for 2013-14 were presented in October 2014. The winners are: **Titan Alon, Daniel Fershtman, Ruben Gaetani, Aanchal Jain, Alexander James, Sebastian Kohls, Andreas Kropf, Christopher Lau, Natalya Naumenko, Yi Sun,**

Esteban Petruzzello, Shruti Sinha, and Christopher Romeo. These awards are given to the top third of our Teaching Assistants, based on student and faculty evaluations.

Robert Eisner Memorial Fellowship



In October 2014, a fellowship in honor of our late colleague Robert Eisner was presented. For 2014-15 the Fellowship was awarded to **Sebastian Kohls**. This fellowship is awarded annually to a graduate student who has distinguished him- or herself in both teaching and research.

Faculty Honored for their Teaching

The Associated Student Government's Faculty Honor Roll for 2013-14 included (*from left*) Jim Hornsten, Richard Walker and Mark Witte for their work in the classroom, and Ronald Braeutigam in his administrative role.



Susan Bies Research Prizes Awarded



The annual Susan Schmidt Bies Prizes for Doctoral Student Research on Economics and Public Policy were awarded in October 2014. The awards are given to

the best public policy papers presented as part of the Economics 501 Graduate Student seminar. The winners for 2013-14 were Stephanie Chapman for a paper on whether differences in minimum work age laws between states in the early 1900s affected peoples' income later in life, and Germán Bet for a paper on the role institutions play in whether countries can grow their economies after external exogenous shocks. The prizes were generously donated by alumna Susan Schmidt Bies (PhD, 1972). Her professional career included serving on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Memorial Service for Leon Moses



A memorial service was held on Friday February 7, 2014, in Vail Chapel for Emeritus Professor **Leon Moses** (1924-2013). The service also celebrated the life of his wife Linguistics Professor **Rae Moses**, who passed away earlier in 2013. In addition, a symposium was held that day on Leon Moses' professional work.

Leon Moses was a faculty member at Northwestern from 1959 to his retirement in 2005. He is remembered for the high standard of his teaching particularly in the undergraduate intermediate microeconomics course. He was also well known for his research in transportation and urban economics and regional science.

Dale Mortensen (1939-2014)



The Department of Economics is sad to announce the passing of longtime faculty member and Nobel Laureate **Dale Mortensen** on January 9, 2014. Professor Mortensen joined the Department in 1965. A memorial service was held in the Alice Millar Chapel on the Evanston Campus on Friday, January 31.

Stanley Reiter (1925-2014)



The Economics Department regrets to announce the passing of long time faculty member Stanley Reiter on August 9, 2014 at the age of 89. Professor Reiter had been a faculty member at Northwestern from 1967 to his retirement in 2007.

Invitation to the Annual Cocktail Party at Boston ASSA Meetings

Department of Economics, Graduate Alumni & Past/Present Faculty

Please join us for the Annual Cocktail Party co-sponsored by the Department of Economics & Kellogg School of Management to be held at the 2015 Meetings of the Allied Social Science Association.

Sunday, January 4, 2015, 6:00-8:00 pm

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk Room, 110 Huntington Ave, Boston

Honors, Awards and Grants

Lori Beaman continues to serve as an associate editor of the *Journal of Development Economics* and holds a NSF Career grant "Social Networks, Labor Markets and Agricultural Technology Adoption in Developing Countries" for the period 2013-2018.

Ivan Canay continues to serve on the editorial board of the *Econometrics Journal*. He also holds an NSF grant for the project "Extending the Scope of Inference in Partially Identified Models" for the period 2011-2014.

Eddie Dekel's NSF grant, "Mechanism Design with Costly Verification," was renewed for this academic year. He started his term as second vice president of the Econometric society. He served on the nomination committee for fellows of the Society for the Advancement for Economic Theory. He continued to serve as Associate Editor for Theoretical Economics.

Matthias Doepke continues to serve as coordinating editor of the Review of Economic Dynamics. He holds an NSF grant entitled "Inflation and Redistribution: Research on the Origins and Implications of Money as a Unit of Account." He continues as an associate editor of the Journal of Economic Growth and the Journal of the European Economic Association, and is a Foreign Editor of the Review of Economic Studies.

David Figlio was elected President of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, the nation's leading scholarly organization regarding education policy.

Robert J. Gordon was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association and is only the third Northwestern faculty member to be named in the 50-year history of the award. He also is part of the only father-son team to win the award, as his father was so named in 1972. He was awarded a two-year grant from the Kauffman Foundation to complete his forthcoming book, *Beyond the Rainbow: The American Standard of Living Since the Civil War*. He was keynote speaker at conferences in Istanbul, Mannheim, Paris, and Zurich.

Joel Horowitz received an honorary doctorate degree, Doctoris Honoris Causa, from Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany, in June 2014. He continues to serve on the committee of the American Statistical

Association to advise the Energy Information Administration. In April, 2014, he participated in and gave a presentation at the National Research Council's Planning Meeting on the Design and Analysis of Observational Studies to Enhance Their Use in Providing Causal Inference.

Seema Jayachandran continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD). She co-edits the *Journal of Human Resources* and is an associate editor at the *American Economic Review* and *Journal of Development Economics*.

Cynthia Kinnan was awarded a DFID-ESRC grant for "Evaluating the Impact of Health Services on Recipients of Livelihoods Support. She was appointed an affiliate of the Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and a faculty fellow of the Northwestern's Institute for Policy Research (IPR). She is also an affiliate of the Bureau for Research in Economic Analysis and Development (BREAD).

Peter Klibanoff was awarded a Kellogg Chairs' Core Course Teaching Award for 2013-14.

Charles Manski was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. He served as 2013-14 President of the Midwest Economics Association. He served as a member of several committees of the National Research Council. He gave the Richard Ely Distinguished Lectures at Johns Hopkins University.

David Matsa was awarded the 2014 IRRIC Institute Investor Research Award for his paper "Playing it Safe? Managerial Preferences, Risk, and Agency Conflicts."

Kiminori Matsuyama continues to serve as Associate Editor for *Journal of Economic Theory* and *Journal of the Japanese and International Economies*. He was invited as a visiting professor to give a mini lecture series at Institute of Advanced Studies, Vienna, Austria in September 2013; a visiting scholar at the Institute of Monetary and Economic Studies at the Bank of Japan

in December 2013; a visiting scholar at the Centre de Recerca en Economia Internacional (CREI) in March 2014; a visiting professor to give a mini lecture series at University of Zurich in June 2013. He also gave a keynote speech at SNF Sinergia-CEPR Conference on "Economic Inequality, Labor Markets and International Trade" held at Ascona, Switzerland, June 16-18, 2014.

Joel Mokyr continues to serve as chair of the advisory committee of the Institutions, Organizations, and Growth group, part of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the NBER and serves on its audit committee. He continues to serve as editor in chief of Princeton University Press's book series on *The Economic History of the Western World*. He gave the Rogge Lectures at Wabash College in April 2014 and was invited to give the TEC Lecture on "Europe and the World" at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute in the Spring of 2015.

Matthew J. Notowidigdo was awarded the Hicks-Tinbergen Medal in August of 2014 for his paper "What Good is Wealth Without Health? The Effect of Health on the Marginal Utility of Consumption." The award is for the best paper published in the *Journal of the European Economic Association* during the previous two years. He was recently named an Associate Editor at the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economics Research.

Alessandro Pavan continues serving as Lead Editor of the *Journal of Economic Theory* and as Foreign Editor for the *Review of Economic Studies*. His NSF grant for the project on "Price Discrimination and Competition in Two-sided Markets" was renewed for a third year.

Robert Porter's term as the Co-Editor of the *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics* ended as of September 2014. He served as First Vice-President of the Econometric Society in 2014, and will serve as President in 2015. He gave a Keynote Address at the 6th Annual Federal Trade Commission Microeconomics Conference, in Washington, DC, November 2013. He serves on the Board of Directors for Economics Job Market.

Giorgio Primiceri continues to serve as an associate editor of *Econometrica*, the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, the *Journal of Monetary Economics*, and the *Journal of the European Economic Association*.

Ian Savage won the best academic paper award at the 2014 Global Level Crossing and Trespass Prevention Symposium held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for a paper on the risks to pedestrians around railroads. He was elected secretary of the Transportation Research Forum, a national professional organization, and was elected as a member of the executive committee of the International Transport Economics Association. He was also appointed to the editorial advisory board of the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention*.

Marciano Siniscalchi continues to serve as Co-Editor of the *Journal of Economic Theory* for game and decision theory. He also serves as Associate Editor of *Econometrica* and Foreign Editor of the *Review of Economic Studies*. In May 2014 he was invited to present his work on "Risk Sharing in the Small and in the Large" at the D-TEA Conference in Paris.

Burton Weisbrod participated in the inaugural public policy lecture, endowed in his name by the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of Economics, and delivered by Jonathan Gruber (MIT). Weisbrod taught at Wisconsin for 26 years before coming to Northwestern in 1990. He has continued to serve on a number of national and international advisory committees including: the International Advisory Board of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel, the Advisory Committee of the Stanford University Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, the International Scientific Committee on Organizations and Social Enterprises: Cultures, Policies, and Management, of the Catholic University of Milan, Italy, the International Advisory Committee of the Association for the Study of the Grants Economy, and the IRS Statistics of Income Division User Group Advisory.

Faculty in the News

David Figlio, Morton Schapiro, and Kevin Soter's research on the relative performance of tenure-track faculty versus lecturers was featured in many national publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Atlantic*.

Robert J. Gordon was featured along with **Joel Mokyr** in a front-page story in the *Wall Street Journal*, June 16, 2014. His research on potential output was featured in *The Wall Street Journal Real Time Economics* blog, and his work on the "end of growth" was also discussed in the *Economist*, *Financial Times*, and *The New York Times*.

Seema Jayachandran wrote a *New York Times* op-ed ("The Youngest are Hungriest", August 8, 2014) on how India's very high rate of child malnutrition stems from parents' favoritism toward their eldest son. This research was also featured in an article in *New Scientist* in August 2014.

Joel Mokyr published an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* entitled "What Today's Economic Gloomers Are Missing" on Aug. 8, 2014 and was featured in an interview that appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* on June 15, 2014. His views on the future of technology were cited repeatedly in *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, among others. He also appeared on WTTW Chicago (Chicago Tonight) in a segment on the "Future of Work." He was a panelist in *International Economy's* symposium "Does Innovation lead to Prosperity for All?" (Spring 2014). He wrote "Riding the Technology Dragon" for *The Milken Institute Review* (2nd quarter, 2014) and "The Next Age of Invention: Technology's Future" in *City Journal* Winter 2014.

Alessandro Pavan was invited to give a semi-plenary talk at the 2014 European Meetings of the Econometric Society (Toulouse, August 2014) where he presented his new project "*Taxation under Learning-by-doing: Incentives for Endogenous Types*." At the same meetings, he was also invited to give a plenary talk in honor of Jean-Jacques Laffont. He presented his work on "*Attention, Coordination, and Bounded Recall*" at various conferences and invited workshops. Together with Christian Hellwig and Xavier Vives he co-organized the second edition of the conference on "Information, Competition and Market Frictions" (Barcelona, June 2014).

Ian Savage was the featured interviewee in the "Freakonomics Radio" podcast on automobile safety on December 5, 2013. He was also interviewed on the local news for Fox-affiliate WFLD-TV on July 22, 2014 regarding safety in the trucking industry. He was part of a "Huffington Post Live" web broadcast on transportation safety on March 26, 2014. His work on pedestrian safety around railroads was featured in a front-page article in the *Chicago Tribune* on August 26, 2014 entitled "Suicide by train rate puts spotlight on Metra." This led to an interview on the local news magazine program on the Chicago National Public Radio affiliate WBEZ-FM on the same day. The research was then featured as part of an extended program segment and podcast in WBEZ-FM's "Curious City" series on September 30, 2014.

Burton Weisbrod's research on economics of health care, education, and governmental and nonprofit organization behavior was cited in articles in *The New York Times*, the *Seattle Times*, Northwestern's *North by Northwestern* magazine, and the *MIT Technology Review*.

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