Northwestern University - Department of Economics

Graduate Connection

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News

New Department Management

Charles Manski took over as Department Chair for a three-year period on September 1. Thanks to **Robert Porter** for his service over the past three years. There have also been some changes in the remainder of the management team, including a new Director of Graduate Studies:

Ian Savage - Associate Chair
Elie Tamer - Director of Graduate Studies
Igal Hendel - Director of Graduate Admissions
Aviv Nevo - Director of Graduate Placement
Joe Ferrie - Director of Graduate Computing
Robert Gordon - Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee
Mark Witte - Director of Undergraduate Studies
Jeffrey Ely - Chair of the Junior Recruiting Committee

Faculty Changes

This fall we welcome four new members to the faculty. **Ron Siegel** is a theorist with a PhD from Stanford University. His office is room 3232 (1-8221). **Sergio Urzúa** is a labor economist with a PhD from the University of Chicago. He is in room 3225 (1-8213). We have also hired two members of the lecturer faculty. **Jannet Chang** obtained her PhD from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and has been teaching at California State University at Fullerton. Her interests are in political economy and public economics. She will be in room 311 (1-8219). **Richard Walker** is a macroeconomist with a PhD from the London School of Economics, and has

taught at LSE and Oxford University. He will be in room 335 (1-8224).

We have also hired two faculty members who will be joining us at a later date. **Matthias Doepke,** an Associate Professor, will arrive in the spring quarter. He is a macroeconomist, who is currently at the University of California, Los Angeles. Former Northwestern undergraduate **Lori Beaman** will be joining us as an Assistant Professor in January 2009. She received her PhD from Yale University, and her research interests are in development and labor economics. For the next year she will be researching on health economics at the University of California at Berkeley.

This summer two longtime faculty members retired. **Robert Coen** is a Northwestern PhD and has been a faculty member since 1971, and **Stanley Reiter** has been a faculty member since 1967. Both are now emeritus faculty, and will continue to have offices in the building.

We said also goodbye to six faculty members during the summer. **Raquel Bernal** now has a joint appointment in her native Columbia and at Arizona State University, **Luojia Hu** has moved to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, **Rosa Matzkin** has moved to the University of California, Los Angeles, **Andrew Sweeting** has moved to Duke University, **Chris Taber** is at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and **Rasim Özcan** has taken a job in consulting in Washington DC. **Alex Monge** will be on leave in the fall quarter, and will then be joining the Pennsylvania State University.

Congratulations to **Wojciech Olszewski** on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure, and to **Eric Schulz** and **Mark Witte** on their promotion to Distinguished Senior Lecturer.

In contrast to last year, we have relatively few faculty who will be away

from Evanston on leave. **Alessandro Pavan** will spend the fall quarter at the University of Chicago, and **Dale Mortensen** will be spending the fall quarter at Aarhus University in Denmark under a continuing arrangement.

Recent Honors

Congratulations to **Tsu-ting (Tim) Lin** who received a WCAS Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award for 2006-07. This is one of only three awards (one for each division of the College) awarded each year to graduate students for their activities as a TA or as an instructor. Tim is also the Teaching Assistant Fellow training our new teaching assistants.

Congratulations also to **Lillian Kamal**, **Eric Schulz**, and **Martin Zelder** on their election to the annual ASG Faculty Honor Roll on the basis of their teaching.

Federico Bugni has been awarded a WCAS Dissertation Year Fellowship, **Joshua Davis** was awarded a Graduate School Dissertation Year Fellowship, **Marianne Hinds Wanamaker** won a Northwestern Presidential Fellowship, the highest honor that NU can award to a graduate student, and **John Parman** was awarded a Dissertation Year Fellowship by the Economic History Association.

Wojciech Olszewski was the recipient of an NSF Early Career Development Award. **Igal Hendel** and **Aviv Nevo** were co-winners of the 2007 Compass Prize awarded by Competition Policy Associates to the best papers dealing with competition policy. It was for their paper, published in *Econometrica*, entitled "Measuring the Implications of Sales and Consumer Inventory Behavior."

Changes to the Department's Degree Requirements

In April 2007 the faculty, based on a recommendation by the Graduate Studies Committee, approved a change in the degree requirements that affect second and third years starting in 2007-08. The previous requirements were:
(a) Two Major Fields sequences

(b) One Minor Field sequence
where each major and minor field required taking and passing a two-quarter sequence of courses for letter grades in the field. In addition, for each major field, a student had to write and orally present a research paper in that field in the Economics 501 Graduate Student Seminar.
(c) Economic history requirement
    The new requirements are:
(a) Three Field sequences (as before, each field requires taking and passing a two-quarter sequence of courses for letter grades in the field.)
(b) Two Paper Presentations. Each student must write and orally present two research papers in the Economics 501 Graduate Student Seminar, a regular seminar, or an organized field "lunch." Two faculty member readers must approve the paper. The second paper may be a revised version of the first, but only if the readers feel that sufficient progress has been made.
(c) Economic history requirement

The main implication of the revised requirements is that the papers have been decoupled from the field sequences, meaning that the two 501 papers need not necessarily be in different fields. It is the Department's objective that the 501 seminar should be an opportunity to present work in progress that will hopefully become part of a student's dissertation.

The committee also wanted to encourage faculty attendance and input at the 501 presentations. The expectation is that two faculty members involved in the research should attend the presentation. These should be two people who are likely to be on the student's dissertation committee. By allowing presentation in a workshop or a lunch we hope to increase the amount of faculty input during this stage of a student's research. However, it is likely that for most students, the presentation will be made in the 501 seminar. Third-year students will still be required to attend the 501 seminar even if they presented in a lunch. However, when a student presents in a lunch, attendance is not mandatory.

This change is not intended to alter the current Departmental policy that, with the exception of the Economic History requirement, instructors limit field course

assignments and examinations to those which can be completed during the quarter the course is offered. The objective of this policy is to avoid the needless accumulation of incomplete grades that frequently cause students to be reprimanded by the Graduate School.

Graduate School Changes

The Graduate School has made some administrative changes to their degree requirements. In general these do not affect the structure of our degree, but they have changed some of their terminology. Now the term "*admitted to candidacy*" refers to successful completion of all of your preliminary examinations while the term "*thesis prospectus*" refers to completion of your taught courses and successful defense of your thesis proposal (this is what was, rather confusingly, formerly known as candidacy).

The Department will notify the Graduate School when you have completed all your prelims and hence have been admitted to candidacy. This will not require any action on your part. The Department's existing rules specify that you must achieve this by the September sitting at the end of your second year. For the prospectus, the existing Graduate School time limit of four years continues to apply, although the Department requires the prospectus by the end of your third year to obtain fourth year funding.

The Department has updated its web site and printed forms to reflect this new terminology. Hopefully quickly moving to the new terminology will avoid too much confusion.

There is one implication that is beneficial to students. Under the new definition of candidacy, students in good standing will automatically move to TGS 599 registration in their fourth year and to TGS 503 registration in their fifth year.

Thesis Time Limits

The Graduate School has revised its time limitations for thesis submission. Previously there was an eight year limit, extendable upon petition to an absolute

limit of ten years. This has now been revised to nine years, extendable upon petition to an absolute limit of eleven years. However, during the two year extension, students must register for TGS 513 each quarter (excluding summers) at a tuition cost of $1,000 a quarter. The University will not provide any financial aid towards this $1,000 tuition.

Visitors

The department welcomes **Fred Smith**, an economic historian from Davidson College. He will be with us for the entire year, and will be in room 331 (1-2929). Another historian, **Lionel Kesztenbaum** from the French National Institute of Demographic Studies will be here for the fall and winter quarters. He will be in room 318 (1-8229).

Sevket Pamuk from Bogaziçi University in Turkey will be visiting both Economics and History this fall quarter. His office will be in the Center for International and Comparative Studies at 1902 Sheridan Road. He will also be teaching an undergraduate economics course on the modern economic history of the Middle East.

We have a series of theory visitors this fall, who will be in room 3234 (1-8220). **Ronny Razin** from LSE will be here for the week of September 24; **Phillippe Jehiel**, of University College London(UCL) and the University of Paris, for the week of October 29; **Li Hao** of the University of Toronto will be here for the week of November 5; **Simon Board**, also from Toronto, will be here the following week.; and finally, **Balazs Szentes** of the University of Chicago will be here for the week of November 26. An econometrics visitor, **Sokbae Lee** from UCL will be here for the week of October 15.

In addition we will be welcoming **Lars Hansen** as our Nemmers Prize winner, and **Philippe Aghion** as our Department-wide speaker. More details on both are given below.

Nemmers Prize

The Department is pleased to welcome

Professor **Lars Peter Hansen** of University of Chicago as the recipient of the Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics. The biannual honor is bestowed on an outstanding economist who has yet to win the Nobel Prize. Professor Hanson's work deals with relating economic theory to observed macroeconomic and asset market behavior and modeling optimal policy under uncertainty. He will be in residence for the fall quarter and will be using room 307 (1-4757). Information on his Nemmers Prize lecture, and an associated two-day conference, can be found in the "Events" section. In addition, Professor Hansen will be giving a set of lectures on Monday afternoons throughout the quarter. Details on this not-for-credit course can be found in the "Teaching" section.

Hansen is the seventh winner of the prize. Previous winners are Peter Diamond, Thomas Sargent, Robert Aumann, Daniel McFadden, Edward Prescott, and Ariel Rubinstein.

Computer Lab Upgrade

During the summer the four oldest machines in the computer lab were replaced. With this upgrade, all twelve machines will now have identical software: MS Office, Firefox, SSH, Acrobat Distiller, Scientific Workplace, Ghostview, StatTransfer, STATA, Matlab, and x-win 32. Note that Matlab has yet to be installed on the four new machines as a new version is to be released in September. When the version is released, we will update the other machines as well.

Welcome to our First-year Grad Students!

Welcome to the Department of Economics and to Evanston. We hope that your years with us are productive and fulfilling. Please take the opportunity to mix with other graduate students and the faculty. A good way of doing this is at the TGIF held every Friday at 5:00PM in the lounge (Andersen Hall 327).

The Director of Graduate Studies has prepared some information on goals for

first year students, which answers many frequently asked questions. This is posted on our web site under the "PhD - Current Students" section. In addition the web site discusses the English language requirements for appointment to Teaching Assistantships, the primary form of financial support in years two to five. Please make sure you are aware of these rules, and place a high priority on making sure that you comply. In the past, otherwise qualified students have gone unfunded because they did not meet the language requirements on time.

Events

University Orientation for First Year Students

The Graduate School will hold a general orientation for all new graduate students from 9AM to 5PM at the Norris University Center on Monday, September 17. Information will be available on campus and community resources, health services, financial issues and other practical issues. The orientation will be followed by a picnic. Initial registration will be held in the Pick-Staiger Concert Hall next to the Norris Center.

Teaching Assistant Training

The training of new Teaching Assistants will be held on Tuesday September 18. This is organized by the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence. All TAs who will be teaching for the first time this year, or missed last year's program, are underlined require to attend. The training will last from 8:30am to 5pm. Please go to Technological Institute Lecture Room 3 at 8:30am for a general orientation, and directions to the room that will be used for the sessions designed and held solely for TAs from the Economics Department. These will be led by Tim Lin, an accomplished TA in the Department, and recipient of one of our Distinguished Teaching Assistant Awards. You do need to register for the conference. Go to:

teach.northwestern.edu/graduate_newta.html for more information, and to register.

Orientation for Second Year Students

Second year students are invited to attend a session on Monday, September 24 from 1PM - 4PM in Andersen Hall 3245. Presentations will be made on the goals for the second and third year of our program, and the requirements for the departmental funding. Then, short presentations will then be made by faculty describing the field course choices available in the Department and within the Kellogg School of Management.

Orientation for Students on the Job Market

Aviv Nevo, Director of Graduate Placement, will be holding an orientation session for students who are thinking about going on the job market on Tuesday, September 25 at 5:15PM in Andersen Hall 3245. For more details see the Placement Report below.

Start-of-Year Reception

Faculty, staff, graduate students, and their families are all invited to the start of year buffet and reception that that will be held in the atrium of Andersen Hall at 7:30PM on Wednesday, October 10.

This reception will also feature the awarding of the Department's Distinguished Teaching Assistant awards for last year. The winners will receive a certificate and a year's subscription to a leading academic journal.

Nemmers Lecture

The Nemmers lecture by Professor Lars Peter Hansen will be at 3:30 on Thursday, October 25. It will be titled "Toward A Term Structure of Macroeconomic Risk: Pricing Unexpected Growth Fluctuations." The lecture will be held in the Forum of the McCormick Tribune Center, 1870 Campus Drive. All faculty, staff and graduate students are invited. Following the lecture, everyone is invited to a reception in the lobby.

Nemmers Conference

Then on Friday, October 26 (9am - 5:45pm) and Saturday, October 27 (9am - 2pm) a conference will be held at the Allen Center. Eight invited speakers will discuss different topics in macroeconomics. The speakers include:
John Cochrane (University of Chicago)
Martin Eichenbaum (NU)
Ravi Jagannathan (NU)
Narayana Kocherlakota (Minnesota)
Monika Piazzesi (University of Chicago)
Thomas Sargent (New York University)
Christopher Sims (Princeton University)
Amir Yaron (University of Pennsylvania)
There will also be a panel discussion on the "Economics of Information: What Economists Can Learn from Wall Street," featuring:
Sanford Grossman (QFS, Inc.)
Peter Knez (Barclays Global Investors)
Robert Litterman (Goldman Sachs)
Scott Richard (Morgan Stanley)
Faculty and graduate students are invited to attend. In addition, there will be discussants for each of the papers and we have invited about 40 additional researchers from outside the University to join us. The conference is being coordinated by Professors Martin Eichenbaum and Ravi Jagannathan.

A brochure detailing both Professor Hansen's lecture and the conference will be in your mailbox next week. The brochure will explain how you can register for the conference. There is no registration fee, but you must register in advance.

Department Wide Seminar

Professor **Philippe Aghion** from Harvard University will be the department-wide seminar speaker this fall. He will be visiting us and giving two seminars on November 29 and 30. Professor Aghion's research is on economic growth and contract theory.

We are pleased to announce that Professor **Robert Townsend** of the University of Chicago has agreed to visit us as the spring 2008 department-wide seminar speaker.

Teaching

Course Offerings 2007-08

The schedule for graduate courses for the coming year is shown on the "classes" page of the Department's web site, along with the timings for each quarter.

This Quarter's Course Descriptions

The Department has a policy to avoid the problem of excessive awarding of incomplete grades. Please see our web site for a complete statement. Report any problems to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Economics 412-1
Economics Theory and Methods
Professor Olszewski
TTh 9-11   AAH 3245

The course will comprise some introduction to game theory (at the level of *Game Theory*, by Drew Fudenberg and Jean Tirole, MIT Press, 1991) and more advanced material, with emphasis on the recent frontier of research in economic theory. Some topics will be selected jointly students; the recommended ones include: games with cheap talk (strategic information transmission, experts, and information cascades); repeated games under various monitoring assumptions; game theoretic models of reputations; and high order beliefs implications for game theory and mechanism design. Evaluation will be based on several problem sets and a final exam.

Economics 420-1
American Economic History
Professor Ferrie
TTh 11-1   AAH 3245

The course (1) acquaints students with

research on long-term factors in the development of the American economy that are overlooked in the contemporary focus of other courses; and (2) familiarizes students with the methods and materials of economic history. Topics include the growth and spread of labor and capital markets, technological change, long-run macroeconomic developments, the evolution of health and living standards, and the changing role of government. The emphasis will be on students' participation in discussions and their demonstration of the mastery of the tools of economic history in evaluating the materials presented in class and in completing a significant piece of original research using primary materials.

Evaluation will be based on participation in discussions (20%), four short (6-8 page) papers (40%), and a final paper (40%). There is no textbook for the course. A CD-ROM containing all of the readings will be available on the first day of class.

Economics 450-1
Industrial Organization and Prices
Professors Rogerson & Whinston
TTh 1-3   AAH 3245

The course covers the theory of imperfectly competitive product markets. Topics will likely include static and dynamic oligopolistic price/quantity competition, price discrimination, entry, entry deterrence, strategic investment, network industries, R&D, vertical relationships, and antitrust. Course requirements include completion of problem sets and a final exam. The text is Jean Tirole's *Theory of Industrial Organization* (MIT Press, 1988).

Economics 460-1
International Trade
Professor Matsuyama
MW 11-1   AAH 3245

This course in graduate international trade may be viewed as a part of International/Development sequences with

425 courses offered in the winter and spring quarters. In the first half, we will cover the foundations of international trade, starting from a general competitive theory of trade, Ricardian models of trade, factor proportion theory of trade, and trade with scale economies and imperfect competition, and their applications. In the second half, we will look at some topics, which may include growth and trade, intertemporal trade, political economy of trade policies, etc. Evaluation is based on a take-home exam as well as class participation. No required textbook, but the reading includes some chapters from selected books, journal articles, and the lecture slides.

Economics 481-1
Econometrics
Professor Horowitz
MW 6-8pm   AAH 3245

The Bootstrap. The bootstrap is a method for estimating the distribution of an estimator or test statistic by resampling one's data or a model estimated from the data. It amounts to treating the data as if they were the population for the purpose of evaluating the distribution of interest. Under conditions that hold in a wide variety of econometric applications, the bootstrap provides approximations to distributions of statistics, coverage probabilities of confidence intervals, and rejection probabilities of hypothesis tests that are more accurate than the approximations of ordinary asymptotic distribution theory (e.g., asymptotic normal and chi-square approximations). The reductions in the differences between true and nominal coverage and rejection probabilities can be very large. Therefore, the bootstrap greatly improves the reliability of finite-sample inference in econometrics. The bootstrap is a practical technique that is ready for use in applications. This course explains and illustrates the usefulness and limitations of the bootstrap and why it is important in applied econometrics. The course covers the theory of the bootstrap, provides numerical examples of its performance, and uses in applied research, and explains how

it can be applied to time-series data and non-smooth estimators like the least-absolute deviations estimator. There will be simple instructions on how to implement the bootstrap in applications. There will be occasional problem sets. Each student will write a paper. In addition, everyone will be asked to present one of the main course topics to the class. There will be no examinations. The text for the course is my chapter in the *Handbook of Econometrics*, Vol. 5. It can be downloaded from the class web page. There will also be readings assigned from the statistics and econometrics literature on the bootstrap.

Economic 482
Time Series Methods
Professor Primiceri
MW 9-11   AAH 3245

This is a course on macroeconometrics (or, if you wish, applied time series). The emphasis is on Bayesian methods to conduct inference in dynamic models. Topics include univariate and multivariate autoregression models (AR and VAR), structural VARs, time varying parameters and stochastic volatility models, estimation of linear and nonlinear Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium models and some non-rational expectations econometrics. For each topic, we will discuss a number of applications. Evaluation is by homework and a final take home exam.

Economics: Not for Credit
Asset Pricing and the Macro Economy
Professor Hansen
M 1-3   AAH 3245

This class will consider a complementary set of topics that link macroeconomics and asset pricing. Implications from alternative models of investor behavior, including recursive utility theory, ambiguity aversion and habit persistence, will be compared and contrasted. The impact of learning will be investigated in environments with long run components to macroeconomic risk. In

addition, implications of alternative market structures will be explored. To support these investigations, methods will be developed for characterizing the intertemporal composition of risk and for exploring sensitivity to changes in model and statistical inputs. Evidence from macroeconomic time series and financial markets will be examined. *No registration necessary.*

MECS 449-1
Competitive Strategy
Professor Spulber
TF 3:30-5   LEV 165

The course is the first quarter of the graduate strategy sequence. The course will introduce PhD. students to economic analysis of competitive strategy. The course will focus on the economic analysis of the theory of the firm. The course will review existing theories of the firm including the neoclassical, industrial organization, contractual, and organizational incentive theories of the firm. The course then will present a unified theory of the firm. The course will examine such topics as market making, intermediation, contracts, and agency in the context of the theory of the firm. In addition, the course will apply the theory of the firm as a guide to understanding management strategy.

Readings will be Daniel Spulber *The Theory of the Firm* (2007), and Daniel Spulber, *Market Microstructure: Intermediaries and the Theory of the Firm* (Cambridge University Press, 1999, paperback.)

MECS 460-1
Foundations of Management Economics
Professor Weinstein
M 3-6   LEV 586

This course provides essential tools for those planning to create or apply economic theory. The course can be divided very broadly into optimization and fixed-point theory. More specifically, we will cover: linear programming, Kuhn-Tucker conditions, Brouwer and Kakutani fixed-point theorems, supermodularity, while illustrating uses in finance, game theory, general equilibrium, and matching.

MECS 465
Contract Theory and Mechanism Design
Professors Eso and Ekmekci
TBD   TBA

No information received on the first part of the course taught by Professor Eso. The second part of the course will be taught by Professor Eckmeckci and will be a detailed analysis of repeated games with incomplete information, in particular reputation games. Emphasis will be given to applications in industrial organization, taxation, and bargaining theory. New research avenues in the area will be discussed. Evaluation will be by a final exam.

Finance 485
Introduction to Financial Theory
Professor Parker
TTh 9-11   AAH 4214

The first quarter in the two quarter graduate asset pricing sequence, this course is an introduction to asset pricing theory and portfolio choice. The course covers the main topics in modern theoretical finance, including arbitrage pricing, mean-variance analysis, equilibrium pricing, expected utility theory, and optimal portfolio theory. The course is primarily static rather than dynamic (which is treated in the second quarter of the asset pricing sequence), and primarily theoretical rather than empirical (although empirical examples and exercises are included in the course). The geometric stucture of the models is used to derive insights and prove results. Although the course is self-contained, it is best appreciated by students proficient in elementary linear algebra and probability theory and also familiar with microeconomics, basic nonlinear optimization theory, statistical inference and econometric testing.

Finance 489
Empirical Corporate Finance
Professor Sapienza
TF 3-5   AAH 4214

The course is organized around published and working papers in the field with an emphasis on recent important questions in corporate finance and econometric methods. Rather than providing an exhaustive overview of the field, the course focuses in depth on selected topics to illustrate different empirical approaches to the same or related questions. Using papers on corporate finance, the course will highlight the following empirical themes: endogeneity, difference in difference estimators and event studies.

Evaluation is by several problem sets. To deepen their understanding of empirical research, students are required to reproduce a working paper by other authors in the field. The course requires a good knowledge of the 1st year Ph.D. courses in econometrics as well as basic knowledge of corporate finance.

Trade/Development Speakers

The Department will not be hosting a visiting speaker series in international trade and development economics this year. However, we do have a full series of scheduled classes. Professor Matsuyama will be teaching a course on international trade (Econ 460-1) in the fall quarter, and this will be followed by a sequence on development economics (Econ 425-1,2) taught by Professors Buera and Doepke in the winter and spring.

Economics 501 Seminar

The 501 seminar is the mechanism by which students meet the Department's requirement that they write and present two research papers (in addition to the history paper requirement). Please see the discussion of the changes in requirements in the "News" section. In addition, full details of this requirement and practical information on the seminar are shown on our web site.

For 2007-08 the seminar will continue to be run by Professor Alessandro Pavan. However, because he is on leave in the fall quarter, the seminar will, rather unusually, meet in the winter and spring quarters. Also for a trial, we will experiment with scheduling the seminar during the day. In winter quarter it will meet on MW 2-3, and in the spring on TTh 2-3. It will be held in the Lecture Room (Andersen 3245). There will be one presentation each day and the seminar will last for one hour including the question-and-answer period.

Because of the unusual winter-spring timing this year, students will present in the same (random) order each quarter, so that everyone's presentations will be uniformly separated. In the winter quarter, third-year students (excluding those who presented last spring) will be presenting the paper that they submitted earlier this summer. The random draw for the order of presentations is:

McDevitt, Ryan
Grieco, Paul
Janna-Gandur, Michel
Sng, Tuan Hwee
Lehmann-Ziebarth, Nicolas
Filipe, Sara Ferreira
Rachmilevitch, Shiran
Trindade, Andre
Kent, Lance
Dogan, Onur
Masolo, Riccardo
Kehrig, Matthias
Wisniewski, Mitchell
Kawai, Kei
Lipton, Brandy
Tealdi, Cristina
Diaz, Jose
Casas, Agustin
Andonie, Costel
Halberstam, Yosh

The actual dates for each presentation will be given in the December *Graduate Connection*.

Formal Announcements

Funding Guidelines

The Department has formal rules for the allocation of funding for students in years two through five. This document is posted on our web site. Please read this document as *the Department strictly enforces these funding criteria*.

Preliminary Examinations

The Department has rules on the number of times that students are allowed to take prelim examinations, and the conditions for such retaking. These affect whether some second and third year students will be allowed to continue in the program. The rules are posted on our web site. Please make sure that you are familiar with them.

Dates for future prelim examinations have been set. The ordering of the three examinations rotates each year. For the coming year, the dates are:

Spring 2008 Sitting
Wed June 18   Macroeconomics
Wed June 25   Econometrics
Wed July 2   Microeconomics
All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM.

Fall 2008 Sitting
Tues Sept 2   Macroeconomics
Wed Sept 3   Econometrics
Thur Sept 4   Microeconomics
All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM.

TA Periods in Residence

Each quarter that you are a TA, you are expected to be in Evanston on weekdays from the first day of classes until the Monday after examinations end (which is the day that grades are filed). Absences during this period requires permission of the instructor. In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some cases without informing the instructor. The Department will not tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights so as to be able to fulfill your duties. This is especially true as you make travel arrangements for the coming holiday season. Failure to do so will be grounds for rescinding your TAship. For the coming year the dates for which you should be in attendance are:

Fall: Tues Sept 25 - Mon Dec 17
Winter: Mon Jan 7 - Mon March 24
Spring: Mon March 31 - Mon June 16

Graduate School Deadlines

November 9 is the last day for return of the Application for a Degree for all candidates who expect their degrees to be awarded in December.

December 7 is the last day for submission of the COMPLETED dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School for students who expect to receive the Ph.D. degree in December.

December 14 is the last day for receipt of the Final Examination Report and any Change of Grade forms to the Graduate School for Master's candidates who expect their degrees to be awarded in December.

Funding Opportunities

Teaching for Summer Session 2008

Application forms for teaching in the Summer Session 2008 will be circulated to all graduate students in the third year and above in early October. Appointments to these positions will be made by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Associate Chair. This has traditionally been a popular form of summer support.

Appointment of lecturers for the School of Continuing Studies (evening program) and the regular WCAS day school for academic year 2008-09 will be made in February 2008. These positions provide valuable teaching experience for students with good teaching skills. They can provide a more certain form of funding for students in their fifth year, especially for those not going on the job market.

Non-Departmental Funding

There are a number of funding awards for continuing students that have application deadlines during the fall quarter. A special web page details these, and includes links to more details and application forms. See the link from the page for current students under the PhD

section of our web site.

In particular NSF Fellowships available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, have a deadline of early November. You can apply on-line.

The Graduate School has a number of fellowships available for 2008-09. The Alumnae Dissertation Fellowships offer a year of stipend and tuition to women who will be registered for 503. The deadline is early December. Applications should be made directly to The Graduate School.

The Graduate Research Fellowship can cover a period of field data collection or archive work in the intermediate period between course work and the actual dissertation writing. The Fellowship can cover 1, 2 or 3 consecutive quarters. Applications must be made to the Department's Director of Graduate Studies and not directly to The Graduate School. Deadline for application is at the end of the first week of the winter quarter.

Deadline for applications for the Graduate School and WCAS Dissertation Year Fellowships, which cover tuition and stipend, are due at the end of the third week of winter quarter. Applications must be made to the Department's Director of Graduate Studies and not directly to The Graduate School. You only need to apply once to be eligible for both competitions. More information will be given in the December *Graduate Connection*, but it is not too early to be thinking about your application and talking with your advisor.

Placement Report

Best wishes are offered to the following people as they start their professional careers:

Erin Todd Bronchetti - Swarthmore College

Jesse DeLille - Lehman Brothers, New York City

Kripa Fritas - University of Texas, Austin

Hanna Halaburda -- Harvard Business School

Joao Macieira - Virginia Tech

Shiko Maruyama - University of New South Wales, Australia

Dimitre Milkov - World Bank, Washington, DC

Viswanath Pingali - Cornerstone Research, Boston

Itai Sher - University of Minnesota

Nicolas Vincent - Université de Montréal, Business School

Fan Zhang - U.S. Department of Justice

This Year's Job Market

Aviv Nevo, Director of Graduate Placement, will be holding an introductory meeting on Tuesday, September 25 at 5:15PM in Andersen 3245 for students planning to be on the job market.

The Department has longstanding procedures and deadlines to ensure that vitae and job market packets are prepared on time. Students who intend to be on the job market can collect a hard copy of the document outlining these arrangements from the Graduate Secretaries Office. It is also posted in PDF format on our web site.

Graduation Rates

The department has kept detailed records on the progress of students entering our Ph.D. program since 1985. In the fall issue of the *Graduate Connection*, we report an update of some information that may be of use to you. The first table shows the percentage of each class making it to completion of preliminary examinations, defending a dissertation prospectus, and completion of the Ph.D.

Class	Prelims	Prospectus	Ph.D.
1985	100%	73%	67%
1986	79%	68%	58%
1987	74%	47%	47%
1988	72%	56%	50%
1989	68%	61%	54%
1990	52%	48%	32%
1991	54%	49%	43%
1992	58%	55%	42%
1993	75%	69%	63%
1994	79%	76%	69%
1995	74%	63%	56%
1996	91%	87%	87%
1997	91%	77%	68%
1998	86%	76%	62%
1999	89%	67%	61%
2000	81%	71%	62%
2001	92%	83%	na
2002	76%	71%	na
2003	83%	79%	na
2004	77%	na	na
2005	69%	na	na

For the 369 students entering between 1985 and 2000, on average 74% completed the first year and passed all prelims, 64% defended a dissertation prospectus and 56% received a doctoral degree. These data are skewed downwards by the effect of several large entering classes of domestic students during the recessionary years of the early 1990s which had high drop out rates when the economy improved.

The second table shows the time to completion for students entering between 1985 and 2000. Completion is based on the date that the degree was awarded, which may be up to a year from the time that the student left Northwestern to take up a job. The mean is 5.96 years. While the median is 6 years, 45% of graduates complete in 5 years or less.

Duration	Number of Students
3 years	2
4 years	11
5 years	81
6 years	63
7 years	29
8 years	7
9 years	5
10 years	8
11 years	1
12 years	1

Notes

Office Allocations

A provisional allocation of students to rooms was circulated before Labor Day. We have not been able to seat all of the students on our published priority list. We still have some students who need space. Therefore if you believe that you will not use your carrel, or are willing to share it, please tell the Ian Savage so he can reallocate it.

Students are encouraged to make Pareto-improving exchanges of spaces, but please let the Associate Chair <ipsavage@northwestern.edu> know by September 20, so that we can produce a student directory.

Instructions for Using the Computer Lab

This is information primarily for first-year students. When using the computer lab (Andersen 313), you will initially find a Windows log-in screen. You need to use your NU NetID and password. When you wish to print, first look to see if there is a green triangle on the right hand side of the bottom task bar. If this is absent, then manually start it from the start menu at Start > Programs > Startup. When you want to print you will be prompted for a username (which for students entering after 2005 is you last name and first initial all in lower case with no spaces) and a password (which is your 7 digit student ID number). Printing limits are 400 per calendar month if printing simplex or 530 if you print duplex. So save trees and your allowance by printing duplex. Your limit is reset on the first of each month. There are no rollovers. If your limit expires then printing cuts out. Note that the program thinks in dollars not number of copies, so the program is set up with a monthly allowance of $40, and a "shadow price" of $0.10 for simplex and $0.075 for each side of duplex.

E-mail Group Mailing Lists

The Department has four group mailing lists. The group mailing list for graduate students is:
<econ-grads@northwestern.edu>.
There is also a list called
<econ-1styrs@northwestern.edu>
which is for first year and BA/MA students. Do not mail to both of these lists as the second is a sub-set of the first.

To permit these mailing lists to be updated, first-year students should activate their e-mail account as soon as possible, and modify their alias if necessary, and certainly by September 20. We will then update the group mailing lists for the coming year. If you change your e-mail address after this date, you risk not being on the mailing lists. Also, until the first day of classes, the new first year students will not be part of the group mailing lists.

Research Assistants

Everyone who is scheduled to be a RA charged to an Economics Department account (as opposed to a Kellogg or IPR account) this year, or will hold a f e l l o w s h i p funded by CSIO, CIED or the Econometrics or Theory Centers, should already have spoken to Margene Lehman t   o ensure that the financial forms for their appointment are in order. If you have not done so, please see her immediately or you risk not getting your September check on time.

Personal Copy Accounts

Graduate students can obtain a personal account on our copy machines. You will be billed at the end of each month at 6¢ a copy. To obtain an account please send an e-mail to the Associate Chair <ipsavage@northwestern.edu> with your name and a 5-digit number to be used as your personal access code (the number must not start with a 0).

Next Graduate Connection

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