

Graduate Connection

Vol. 21 No. 3

March 2016

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News

New Building Update

There is still some uncertainty as to when we will be moving into the new building. The formal date of the handover from the construction company to the University is December 5, 2016 but this could be subject to construction delays. Even when the building is handed over to the University, work is necessary before the building can be occupied.

It is certain that we will be in our current building during Fall Quarter 2016. The move will probably occur at some point during Winter Quarter 2017. It seems certain that we will be out of the Jacobs Center and fully operational in the new building by Spring Break 2017.

As a result carrel allocations will be announced in late August as usual for the Jacobs Center building. Carrels will have to be shared. This allocation will be in effect for Fall Quarter and until we move.

About the same time we will start the allocation process for the new building.

Based on consultations a couple of years ago, the nature of the offices in the new building are:

- First year students (that is the entering class in Fall 2016) will have a large locker room with sufficient full-height lockers for everyone. In addition there will be six group study rooms, each of which can accommodate 6 to 8 students working together.
- Second year students will have individual private carrels in three large rooms each of which contains ten carrels.

- Students in year 3 and above will have individual private carrels. Most are in rooms with three carrels. There are four larger rooms, two of which hold four carrels, one has five carrels and one has seven carrels.

The Department will be located in the northern half of the third floor of the new building. Graduate classes will be held in the new building. The equivalent room to Jacobs 3204 is on the same floor as the Department. The tiered classroom which will be the equivalent to Jacobs 3245 will be located on the first floor.

We will continue to have a computer lab. In addition there will be more conference and meeting room spaces. Instead of a large TA room there will be three smaller TA meeting rooms so that it will be easier for multiple TAs to hold office hours at the same time.

The lounge area will receive a significant upgrade and will be located in a large light court.

The Department will be publishing a hardcopy newsletter called *Economics on the Move* at various intervals during the run up to the move and during the move itself. You should expect to see this in your mailboxes as we get closer to the move.

Summer Funding

The Graduate School (TGS) provides us with a quota of summer funding slots for second through fourth year students. (Funding for the summer at the end of the first year is detailed in a student's admission offer letter. Students in years five and above are not eligible for TGS summer funding.)

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To be eligible, you have to have met the Department's usual progress goals. That is to say that you need to have made sufficient progress to have been eligible to be a TA in the current academic year. Students holding an outside fellowship that provides summer tuition and stipend are ineligible.

The application form for summer funding should be submitted between May 1 and May 15. You will receive an e-mail on May 1 with more details and a link to the form. You will have to certify that you are limited to 120 hours of paid work over the summer, and that you will not take more than three weeks of "vacation" or non-research time away from campus (but it is permissible to be absent from campus to conduct research).

Funding and Good Standing Guidelines for the Next Academic Year

The Department has a set of rules for what you need to do to remain in good standing and also to be funding eligible for the next academic year. These are described in detail in the "Formal Announcements." Please read these carefully, as action is required by you or your advisor this coming summer.

Visitors

Four visitors who are already with us will continue for the Spring Quarters. **John Lazarev**, an industrial organization economist from New York University is in room 3219. **Molly Lipscomb**, a development economist from the University of Virginia is in room 3213. **Joshua Sherman**, a theorist from the University of Vienna is in room 348. **Mara Squicciarini**, a post-doctoral visitor with interests in economic growth and development, economic history, and the economics of migration, is in room 311.

Mariacristina De Nardi from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago will

be on campus several days a week during Spring Quarter in room 3231 and will be teaching a graduate class on labor economics.

The Center for Econometrics will be hosting three visitors:

- **Natalia Lazzati** from the University of Michigan for the week of April 18.
- **Federico Bugni** from Duke University for the week of April 25.
- **Bruce Hansen** from the University of Wisconsin for the week of May 16.

The Center for the Study of Industrial Organization will be hosting **Myrto Kalouptsidi** from Princeton University for the weeks of May 2 and May 9.

Placement Report

Professor **Matthias Doepke**, Director of Graduate Placement, that the job market for new Ph.D.s picked up some speed this year, with more demand from universities both in the U.S. and abroad and continuing high demand from the private sector.

Some of our students (from economics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Kellogg) have already accepted offers:

- Daniel Bird** - Tel Aviv University
- Stephanie Chapman** - Cornerstone Research, Washington D.C.
- Cheng Chen** (Strategy) - Johns Hopkins University (Business School)
- Ofer Cohen** - Cornerstone Research, New York City
- Omar Farooque** - Charles River Associates, Washington D.C.
- Eric Gilson** - Park School of Baltimore
- Nima Haghpanah** (EECS) - Penn State University
- Aanchal Jain** - Compass Lexecon, Boston
- Thomas Jungbauer** (MEDS) - Cornell University (Business School)
- Anand Krishnamurthy** - Cornerstone Research, New York City
- Christopher Li** - Princeton University (Postdoc Political Science)

Samir Mamadehussene - Catolica Lisbon School of Business and Economics

Veronika Selezneva - CERGE-EI Prague

Yi Sun - University of Sydney

Ariell Zimran - Vanderbilt University

Students who intend to be on the job market next year, or are just curious about what it entails, are encouraged to attend an orientation on Tuesday April 5 (see in the "Events" section below).

Eisner and Bies Awards

Each fall the Department awards the **Eisner Fellowship** (providing stipend and tuition for three quarters to a graduate student who has distinguished him- or herself in *both* teaching and research) and **Bies Prizes** (providing a research account for the best public policy papers presented as part of the Economics 501 seminar). The faculty nominate candidates for the Eisner Fellowship, and students can nominate themselves for the Bies Prizes. The period for nominations runs from June 1 to August 15. A committee, chaired by DGS **Wojciech Olszewski** will meet in late August, and the winners will be announced by August 31 with the formal awards given out at the Fall Buffet. For more information see a link in the Graduate > Funding section of our website.

Honors

Congratulations to **Mar Reguant** who has been awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship. The Sloan Research Fellowships have been awarded annually since 1955, and are awarded in eight scientific and technical fields: chemistry, computer science, economics, mathematics, computational and evolutionary molecular biology, neuroscience, ocean sciences and physics. Potential fellows must be nominated for recognition by their peers and subsequently are

selected by an independent panel of senior scholars.

Faculty News

We will be joined by at least one new faculty member this summer. In addition the Department has made a number of offers to junior and senior faculty, and we hope to communicate some more news soon.

Daley Kutzman who has interests in development and agriculture will be joining the department as an Assistant Professor of Instruction. She is finishing her PhD at the University of California at Berkeley.

Events

Open Day

The annual Open Day for prospective Ph.D. students will be held on Friday April 1. Graduate students who would like to assist in welcoming prospective students should contact **Mercedes Thomas**, or Professor **Marciano Siniscalchi**, the Co-Director of Graduate Admissions. The day will culminate in a reception to which all the graduate students and faculty are invited. The reception will start about 5:45PM and will be held at the John Evans Alumni Center which is at the corner of Clark Street and Sheridan Road.

Job Market Orientation

Students who are thinking about going on the market next year should attend a 45-minute introductory meeting scheduled for 5:15PM on Tuesday April 5 in lecture room 3245. Professor **Matthias Doepke**, Director of Graduate Placement, will provide an orientation for those considering going on the market in the fall. However, any student in the third year and beyond who is curious about the job market process is welcome.

Second & Third Year Orientation

Professor **Wojciech Olszewski**, the Director of Graduate Studies, will be holding mandatory meetings for the second and third year students on Wednesday April 27. He will cover important deadlines, degree requirements, and funding availability. He will also answer your questions. The meetings will be held in lecture room 3245.

Second year students should attend from 5:15PM to 5:45PM, and third year students from 5:45PM to 6:15PM.

Bies Lecture

The annual Susan Bies (PhD, 1972) departmental lecture on economic policy will be at 5:30PM on Monday April 25 in Leverone Auditorium.

This year's speaker will be **Ben Bernanke** the former Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. The format of the event will be a little bit different from previous years in that it will take the form of a conversation moderated by Kellogg Professor Janice Eberly.

Field Course Meeting

An orientation session for students entering their second year will be held on Monday September 19 from 12:30PM to 3PM in lecture room 3245. The session will discuss the 501 requirement, funding criteria, and include presentations on each of the field course sequences that you can take in both the Economics Department and Kellogg. Prospective second year students who also expect to be Teaching Assistants will need to return to Evanston the previous week for mandatory training (see "Formal Announcements" section).

Teaching

Next Year's Course Schedule

We are still working on the teaching schedule for next year. The schedule of courses will be posted on our website at the start of Spring Quarter.

Spring Quarter Dates

The first day of Spring Quarter is Tuesday March 29. On that Tuesday, Monday classes will be held. So that week MW graduate classes will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, and TTh classes will meet on Thursday only

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 414-3

Economics of Information

Professor Ely

TTh 11-12:50

Jacobs 3245

The course will survey the literature on the design of information structures in games and principal-agent problems. The class will be based on regular readings, lectures and discussions. Evaluation will be by student presentations.

Economics 416-2

Advanced Macroeconomics

Professors Bocola and Doepke

TTh 6-7:50PM

Jacobs 3245

The first part of the course (taught by Luigi Bocola) considers topics at the intersection of macroeconomics and finance, such as models of financial intermediation, sovereign debt and

default, and currency crises. The second part of the course (taught by Matthias Doepke) focuses on models of household heterogeneity and household decision making, including life-cycle models and models of household bargaining. Numerical methods for analyzing such models will be emphasized, including homework projects that replicate results from well-known recent research papers.

Evaluation will be by problem sets, class participation, and by the submission of a research proposal related to the topics discussed in the class.

Economics 420-1

American Economics History

Professor Ferrie

TTh 9-10:50

Jacobs 3204

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%), weekly presentations summarizing and critically evaluating the readings (40%), and a final paper (40%). There is no textbook for the course. All of the readings will be available on the first day of class through a DropBox link.

Economics 440-2

Economics of the Labor Market

Professor De Nardi

MW 1:30-3:20

Jacobs 3245

This course deals with crafting, calibrating and estimating rich dynamic models with heterogeneous agents. The course will start with a baseline version of a life cycle model of consumption and savings and its estimation. Then, it will cover several applications of these models (and their computation) in which agents face various kinds of risks and make decisions such as savings and labor supply in rich environments. These applications will be in the areas of understanding savings and consumption, both over the life cycle and at retirement, investing in health and human capital, studying how these decisions lead to inequality, and opening up the box of the single agent construct and looking at modelling the couple in a dynamic framework. The course will critically evaluate the successes of these models, their shortcomings, and their policy implications. The aim of the course is bringing the students to the frontier of research and generating ideas and discussions for research projects.

Evaluation will be by (a) one class presentation and (b) either a proposal for a paper on topics related to the class (at least 5 pages long) or one referee report (3-5 pages long). The readings will be available online.

Economics 450-3

Industrial Organization and Prices

Professor Reguant

MW 9-10:50

ANN G32

This course will focus on covering dynamics, multi-unit auctions, and computational methods. It will emphasize applications in energy and environmental to show how to use these tools in practice.

Evaluation will be based on a number of problem sets and a take-home final exam. Readings will be

based on selected articles, working papers, and a number of chapters from the *Handbook of Industrial Organization*.

Economics 460-2

International Economics

Professor Mestieri

MW 9-10:50

Jacobs 3204

This course covers models and tools used in modern international trade and economic growth. It will introduce the canonical models of trade and growth and cover some advanced topics. The advanced topics will gravitate around incorporating heterogeneity into general equilibrium models, both on the supply side (e.g., firm dynamics, multi-sector models) and the demand side (heterogeneous agents, flexible demand systems). In addition to covering theoretical results, there will be hands-on exercises (involving simulation and estimation) so that students become familiar with some of the "nitty-gritty" that goes with these models (e.g., parallel computing, non-linear estimation)

The goal is that, by the end of the class, students are familiar with a set of core models used in trade and growth models and some of the quantitative tools used to simulate/estimate them.

Economics 481-3

Econometrics

Professor Canay

TTh 1:30-3:20

Jacobs 3204

This course aims to cover modern econometrics topics from a theoretical point of view but with lessons for practitioners. It is divided in three parts. The first part is about different ways to do asymptotic approximations, with special attention to approximations of power curves. Topics include local asymptotic comparisons, large deviations, contiguity, and local asymptotic normality.

The second part covers uniformly valid approximations, with applications

to the bootstrap, subsampling, and inference in moment inequality models.

The last part is about computing standard errors in linear models. It includes robust standard errors, different type of HAC estimators, clustered covariance estimation, the wild bootstrap, and recent developments on randomization tests. Applications in the third part include inference with few clusters and inference in the regression discontinuity design.

Evaluation will be by problem sets, weekly reports and a topic presentation. The books *Asymptotic Statistics* by van der Vaart (Cambridge U.P., 2000) and *Testing Statistical Hypothesis* by Lehmann and Romano (Springer, 2008) include many of the topics of parts I and II. Selected readings are provided for the last topic.

Finance 485-3

Asset Pricing

Professor Papanikolaou

F 3-6

Jacobs 4214

This course covers advanced topics in capital market theory. The first part of the course covers the basics of dynamic models of arbitrage pricing, portfolio choice, and equilibrium in frictionless markets. The second part of the course covers a selection of topics of current interest: asymmetric information models, borrowing constraints and other frictions, models with non-standard preferences, models with production, etc. The class will emphasize current topics in financial economics along with the tools necessary to make progress towards answering the important questions in the field.

Finance 486-3

Corporate Finance

Professors Benmelech & Sapienza

F 10-1

Jacobs 4214

This course provides a theoretical and empirical treatment of major topics

in empirical corporate finance, including: investment decisions, capital structure, corporate governance, and law and finance.

MECS 460-3

Foundations of Management Economics

Professor Kalai

*Organizational meeting on Tuesday**March 29 at 3PM in Jacobs 586*

The first part of the course concentrates on selected topics from cooperative game theory and may include solution concepts such as the core and the Shapley value, as well as special type of games such as bargaining, matching and network games. The second part concentrates on selected topics from strategic game theory and may include topics such as complexity and bounded rationality, learning, large games and stability in repeated games.

MECS 462

Decision Theory

Professor Klibanoff

W 12-3

Jacobs 586

This course focuses mainly on axiomatic theories of individual decision making under risk and uncertainty. First the course will briefly explore utility theory under certainty and the notion of preferences and their representation. Students will then study in detail the classic theories of decision under risk and uncertainty. From there the course will explore a selection of topics that expand on the classical work. Topics may include: (1) Ellsberg's paradox, models of ambiguity and uncertainty attitude; (2) dynamics -- preferences over time, dynamic consistency, updating, time and risk; (3) probabilistic sophistication; (4) risk measures; (5) models of unforeseen contingencies/preference for/against flexibility; (6) incomplete preferences; (7) prospect theory; and (8) stochastic choice. Which of these

or other topics will be covered may vary depending on time and the interests of members of the class.

The course will be part lecture and discussion and part presentations by students. Evaluation will be based on problem sets and an in-class presentation. The book *Notes on the Theory of Choice* by David Kreps (Westview Press, 1988) will be combined with readings from selected papers.

MECS 466

Social Choice and Voting Models

Professor Egorov

T 9-12

Jacobs 561

This course is about collective decision-making, both on the micro level (how people aggregate information or preferences through voting) and on the big picture level (how societies choose institutions to live under). The course initially surveys some classical results from social choice, and finds limitations with the cooperative approach. The course then looks at models of strategic behavior in collective decision-making, voting over binary agendas, and models of legislative bargaining. The course then considers all aspects of elections – decisions whether and how to vote, whether to run, and how to campaign. The last topic is institutions, including consideration of revolutions and coup d'états, and how, when and why countries democratize. The course concludes with models of forward-looking behavior in collective decision-making and dynamics of institutions.

Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions, present a paper from the reading list, and write a research proposal on a related topic.

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MECS 475

The Economics of Organizations

Professor Powell

W 9-12

Jacobs 619

This course provides an introduction to the field of organizational economics, which can be succinctly described as the economics of managed relationships. Topics include: incentives in organizations; relational contracts; boundaries of the firm; decision making in organizations; persistent performance differences; and organizations in market equilibrium. The course will focus on both classic papers and recent developments in the field. The main practical emphasis will be on developing applied modeling skills.

Evaluation includes model-development essays and/or in-class presentations of recent papers.

The required text is *The Handbook of Organizational Economics*, edited by Robert Gibbons and John Roberts, (Princeton UP, 2013).

MECS 478

Introduction to Applied Econometrics III: Research Design for Causal Inference

Professor Black

MW 3:30-5:30

Jacobs 166

This course provides an introduction to “reduced form” methods for applied microeconomic research. Topics include: the Rubin “potential outcomes” model; randomized trials; randomized trials with one- and two-sided noncompliance; difference-in-differences designs; regression discontinuity designs; matching designs; “causal” instrumental variable methods and when to use or, more often, not use them, and combined research designs. The course will emphasize real-world research designs, how to minimize the assumptions you make and assess the validity of assumptions you can’t avoid, and relegate most proofs to the texts.

Evaluation will be by problem sets and a midterm and final exam.

Marketing 530-3

Topics in Quantitative Marketing and Economics

Professor Nevo

T 10-12

Jacobs 488

This course will review major contributions and recent developments in quantitative marketing and economics. It will cover some classical papers, as well as more recent working papers. The discussion will cover a wide range of applied topics and methods and is aimed at students interested in the intersection of marketing and economics. A principal purpose is to generate research ideas and get students started on dissertation work.

Economics 501 Seminar

Third Year Students

The seminar will be held in the Fall and Spring Quarters on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11AM to 11:50AM, and on selected Fridays from 1PM to 1:50PM in room 3245.

There will be one presentation and the seminar will last for fifty minutes including the question-and-answer period. Full practical details for the seminar are posted on our web site.

The schedule for the Spring Quarter, based on the random order announced 12-months ago, is:

Week	M 11-12	W 11-12	F 1-2
28-Mar	Vreugdenhil *	Escudero	
4-Apr	Mishara-Blomberger	Ndiaye	
11-Apr	Zhao	Starkov	
18-Apr	Segura Varo	Xiong	Montag
25-Apr	Norris, J.	Tabord-Meehan	Cugat
2-May	Bittarello	Makaran	Wang
9-May	Bornstein	Inostroza	Panjwani
16-May	Kamat	Indarte	Johnson

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23-May	Maggi	Norris, S.	Ou
30-May	Holiday	no class	no class

* Note that the first seminar will be held on Tuesday March 29, due to the University calendar for the first week of Spring Quarter.

Pareto-improving exchanges are permissible, but should be coordinated with Professor Pavan.

Second Year Students

Second year students should start to work on their first 501 paper which must be submitted for faculty approval by July 31. This paper will then be presented in the Fall. The second paper will be presented next Spring.

The presentation order for 501 papers has always been determined by a random number generator, and is conducted independently for the Fall and Spring. Here is the order for next year. The actual assignment of people to dates and times will be announced in the September and March *Graduate Connection*:

Fall Quarter

Magistretti, Giacomo

Garro, Haritz

Xu, Minjie

De Jong, Michiel

Carreno-Garcia, José

Endress, Mack

Izumi, Yutaro

Akkoyun, Huseyin Cagri

Marone, Victoria

Barsanetti, Bruno

Fryxell, Loren

Navarro-Sola, Laia

Leisten, Matthew

Murayama, Kota

Ziegler, Gabriel

Hardwick, Joseph

Ong, Pinchuan

Armella Olazabal, Sergio

Theisen, Alex

Wooley, Michael

Lee, Ryan

Spring Quarter

Leisten, Matthew

Fryxell, Loren

Hardwick, Joseph

De Jong, Michiel
Magistretti, Giacomo
Murayama, Kota
Ong, Pinchuan
Garro, Haritz
Lee, Ryan
Ziegler, Gabriel
Armella Olazabal, Sergio
Theisen, Alex
Izumi, Yutaro
Endress, Mack
Marone, Victoria
Barsanetti, Bruno
Xu, Minjie
Navarro-Sola, Laia
Wooley, Michael
Akkoyun, Huseyin Cagri
Carreno-Garcia, José

Second year students may wish to attend some of this spring's seminars in order to get some idea of expectations for 501 papers.

2016-17 Quarter Dates

Fall: **Tues** Sept 21 - Fri Dec 9
Winter: **Tues** Jan 3 - Fri March 17
Spring: Mon March 27 - Fri June 9
Note the unusual start days for Fall and Winter quarters.

Formal Announcements

Continuation Rule for Older Students

Dissertation Prospectus (entering class of 2013 and earlier): Students must have completed the taught course component of Ph.D. degree and had their prospectus approved by their committee no later than the end of their fourth year of study. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the Winter Quarter in their fifth year of study will be excluded from the program and Northwestern University.

Dissertation Prospectus (entering class of 2014 and later): Students must have completed the taught course component of Ph.D. degree and had their prospectus approved by their committee no later than the end of the Fall Quarter in their fourth year of study, which falls on the last date of the 13th quarter of study. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the Spring Quarter in their fourth year of study, will be excluded from the program and Northwestern University.

Good Progress on Dissertation: Students in their fifth year and above (that is to say any student who is entering the sixth or higher year) must be certified as making "good progress" on their dissertation by July 31 at the end of each year. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the following Winter Quarter, will be excluded from the program and Northwestern University.

Funding Guidelines

The Department has formal rules for the allocation of funding for students in years two through six. These are shown in the Graduate > Funding section of our web site. Please read this page as *the Department strictly enforces these funding criteria.*

In general the cutoff date for meeting the requirements for funding is July 31. However, the cutoff date for the prospectus is August 31. Forms to certify eligibility are in the Graduate > Funding > Forms page of our web site. In summary, the funding requirements are:

Second Year: Demonstrated competence in the three core areas of study (microeconomics, macroeconomics, and

econometrics) and have met the language requirement to be a TA.

Third Year: Submitted an approved 501 paper.

Fourth Year: Dissertation prospectus by August 31 (includes completing course work and two 501 papers). Students who hold their prospectus defense in September are not guaranteed funding.

Fifth Year: Committee chair has certified by July 31 that the student has submitted a written paper sufficiently far in advance of the deadline for the faculty member to have comprehensively reviewed it, and can certify that it is of suitable quality to form at least one chapter of a dissertation. Funding is of two types. For students on the job market funding is a combination of University Fellowships and TAships. For non-job market fifth years, we will attempt to fund students to the extent possible within the budget that The Graduate School sets for us, but we have no obligation to fund such students. (If the student has not provided a written paper, or if the paper is not of sufficient quality to form at least one chapter of a dissertation, or if the student's dissertation committee chair certifies that the student is not making good progress on their dissertation, the student will not be eligible for any fifth year funding.)

Sixth Year: Dissertation committee chair must certify by July 31 that the student is making good progress and will be on the job market. Funding is a combination of University Fellowships and TAships. Sixth year students who are making good progress but will not be on the job market may be funded as TAs to the extent that it is possible within the budget set by The Graduate School.

Seventh and Higher Year: In the unlikely event that there are still funds available after all of the qualified younger students have been funded, seventh and higher year students may be supported.

The dissertation committee chair must certify by July 31 that the student is making good progress, and preference will be given to those on the job market. However, University Fellowships are not available, even in the event that the student is on the job market.

Preliminary Examinations

First year students should familiarize themselves with the Department's rules on continuation to the second year. These are posted on the Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals section of our web site.

Students can demonstrate competence and are exempt from the prelim exam in any area in which they achieved a GPA of 3.60 or greater in the three first-year classes (e.g. in 410-1,2,3 for the microeconomics prelim exam).

For students who have to take one or more prelim examinations the dates are:

Monday July 11 - Microeconomics

Friday July 15 - Macroeconomics

Wednesday July 20 – Econometrics

All examinations will be held 1:30PM – 4:30PM.

Dissertation Prospectus

Third year students should have been thinking about preparing for their dissertation prospectus, which marks the end of the taught course part of their studies, and the formation of a dissertation committee. Please familiarize yourself with the administrative procedures for the thesis prospectus, which are posted on our web page in the section on goals for second and third year students. The prospectus must be completed by August 31 to guarantee fourth year funding. Students who hold their prospectus defense in September should expect to be unfunded.

Please note the rules on committee composition. All dissertation committee chairs must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics

Department or have a voted courtesy appointment in the Economics Department. In the event that the committee chair holds a courtesy appointment, at least one other member of the committee must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department. Exceptions to these conditions are only permissible with prior written approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

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 require 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. Failure to do so will be grounds for rescinding your TAship. For the remainder of this year the dates for which you must be in attendance are:
Winter: until March 21
Spring: Tues Mar 29 - Mon June 13

Attention Next Year's TAs

If you expect to be a TA next fall you need to be aware of the following arrangements:

TA Preference Forms The forms that allow TAs to indicate their preferences for classes will be placed in your mailbox in the main office about September 6. They will also be available on-line for anyone who is away from Evanston. Completed forms have to be returned by September 14. Unfortunately, the allocation can only be announced late on Friday, September 16 because we do not know enrollment in 201 and 202 until enrollment closes that afternoon. Classes start on the following Tuesday.

New TA Training The University runs a full-day training session for new TAs. It will be held on Thursday, September 15 from 9:00AM to 3:30PM, which is during the week before classes start. The Department regards your attendance as mandatory. If you believe that you will be serving as a TA for the first time next year, please arrange your schedules so that you are available in Evanston on that date.

Next Holiday Season All TAs will have to be in Evanston until Monday lunchtime on December 12 to complete grading duties. If you are making holiday travel arrangements, please ensure that you remain in Evanston until this date. In addition you will need to be back in Evanston by Monday night, January 2 for the start of winter classes.

TA Duties in Other Departments

The Department has a policy that any other Departments that desire to hire an Economics student as a Teaching Assistant must discuss this with us first.

This is partly to ensure that only students who are making appropriate progress in their studies are funded, and partly because the Department must ensure that our own faculty and classes receive first priority. WCAS has been very generous in providing us with TAships to support our large undergraduate enrollments. This means that we are normally able to fund all eligible students as TAs within the Department and the MMSS Program.

The Department wants to make it very clear that it is inappropriate for graduate students to conduct private arrangements to TA for faculty in other departments. If you are approached in this way, direct the faculty member to contact our Associate Chair.

Ongoing TA Training

Interested in training as a TA beyond the introductory new TA conference? The Searle Center holds a series of workshops to help you improve your teaching, and how to deal with issues in the classroom. You can find the schedule at the Searle Center's website under the Programs > Grads > Workshops tab.

Office Allocations for Fall

The Department will be in our current building for Fall Quarter and possibly part of Winter Quarter. In our current building we are short of space for graduate student carrels. We only have 56 carrel spaces, and we have almost 100 post-first-year students wanting space.

Based on a suggestion from the Graduate Studies Committee, students will be allocated to a room rather than to a specific carrel. The number of students allocated to each room exceeds the number of carrels. The students allocated to that room then coordinate among themselves to determine who wished to use the room at what times of day and coordinate sharing of individual carrels.

The space allocation for Fall Quarter next year will be announced just prior to Labor Day, and people move in and out between then and the start of classes.

Office Allocations in the New Building

As described in the "News" section all students in years two and above will have a private carrel in the new building. Second year students will be in larger rooms with ten carrels, and students in year 3 and above will generally be in rooms holding three carrels.

It is likely that the room selection process will occur starting in September. Information on the

process employed will be communicated closer to the time.

Graduating Students

If you are leaving us this summer, please return your keys to the Graduate Program Coordinator when you depart. You should also leave us a forwarding address. You can do this by completing the "Exit form" on the Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals section of our website.

Graduate School Deadlines

Note that the Graduate School awards degrees four times a year. You can graduate in June (and attend the commencement ceremonies) and in August.

April 15 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to permit you to participate in the June Commencement ceremony and receive your diploma.

May 6 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to The Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in June.

May 13 for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in June.

July 15 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to graduate in August.

August 5 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to The Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in August.

August 12 for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in August.

Commencement Arrangements

The main Commencement ceremonies will be held on Friday June 17 at 9:30AM at Ryan Field. Late in April students expecting to graduate in June will receive information regarding ordering academic costume and information about Commencement, including ticket information.

The Graduate School also organizes a "hooding ceremony." This is held from 3PM to 5PM on Thursday June 16 in Cahn Auditorium. At this event, your Ph.D. advisor will present you with your degree. If you are expecting to graduate this June, now is the time to ensure that your advisor is available and willing to attend. If he or she is unavailable then you should ask for one of your other committee members to substitute.

Students Working on NSF Grants

Under federal legislation, the National Science Foundation (NSF) requires all students supported by NSF to undergo training in the responsible conduct of research. This will be accomplished by a one-time registration in ECON 519 that has two components: an online class and a "face-to-face" component. The online part asks the student to complete a 2-3 hour online class administered by a private company that Northwestern has hired. DGS Professor **Wojciech Olszewski** will lead the face-to-face part of the class.

If you are being supported on an NSF grants for the first time, please contact Professor Olszewski for instructions.

Funding Opportunities

Funding Web Page

There is a page listing non-departmental sources of funding that you can connect to from Graduate > Funding section of our web site. There is also information on how to obtain funds for research expenses and attending conferences. The maximum one-time research grant is \$3,000, and there is funding for two conferences during your time at Northwestern that covers up to a maximum of \$800 for each conference. Full details of the

application procedures and links to application forms are on the web page.

Notes

Next Graduate Connection

Volume 22, number 1 will be published after Labor Day in the week of Sept. 5.
