

# Graduate Connection

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## News

### *The Move*

Graduate students will move to the new building on Thursday March 16. But note the following:

- You are not allowed inside the new building until March 13 (our space is still under construction),
- All TA office hours will be held in the Jacobs Center during finals week,
- All in-class finals for 400-level classes will be held in 3204 and 3245.

For practical information on the move see the presentation posted in the Graduate > New Building section of our website. In the meantime:

- All students should ensure that their Wildcard is chip enabled for building access
- First year students should obtain two locker-style padlocks.

### *Director of Graduate Studies*

DGS **Wojciech Olszewski** returns to campus from leave in March. His office will be room 3213 in the new building. Thanks to **Joe Ferrie** for being interim DGS since October

### *Nemmers Prize*

The winner of the 2016 Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics, **Richard Blundell** of University College London will be in residence from May 3 to 26 (in room 3363). The biennial honor is bestowed on an outstanding economist who has yet to win the Nobel Prize. He will be giving his Nemmers lecture on Wednesday May 17 at 4:30PM. This will be followed by a conference on Thursday

and Friday May 18/19. See the events section for more information. Professor Blundell will also return to the Department for the month of November.

### *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.)

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

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Department of Economics  
Northwestern University  
2001 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, IL 60208-2600  
[www.economics.northwestern.edu](http://www.economics.northwestern.edu)

Ian Savage, *editor*  
847-491-8241  
[ipsavage@northwestern.edu](mailto:ipsavage@northwestern.edu)

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*

Three visitors who are already with us will continue for the Spring Quarters. Theorist **Philip Reny** will be in room 3455 in the new building. Industrial organization economist **Natalia Fabra** will be in room 3389, and historian **Mara Squicciarini** in room 3437.

We welcome **Costas Arkolakis** from Yale University who has wide-ranging interests. He will be in room 3227. **Tasos Karantounias**, a macro-economist from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta will be in room 3457. **Dan Peled** a growth economist from the University of Haifa will be in room 3451. He will be teaching an undergraduate course on the economic history of Israel. **Jason Hartline** a theorist from NU's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department will be spending time in the Department in Spring Quarter in room 3329.

### *Placement Report*

Professor **Matthias Doepke**, Director of Graduate Placement, reports that the job market for new Ph.D.s was affected by a federal hiring freeze this year, but nevertheless moved smoothly overall with good demand from the academic and private sectors. All our students have received offers, and some have already accepted positions:

**German Bet** - University of Florida  
**Sergey Gitlin** – Uber Technologies, San Francisco  
**Sebastian Kohls** - McKinsey & Company, Chicago  
**Andreas Kropf** – Cornerstone Research, New York City  
**Teddy Mekonnen** - CalTech (Postdoc)

**Jeffrey Mensch** - Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Cecilia Peluffo** - University of Florida  
**Amy Wagner** - SPHERE Institute, Burlingame, CA

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 4 (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*

**Eddie Dekel** gave his Presidential Address to the Econometric Society in Chicago on January 5, 2017. The title of his talk was "Hard Evidence in Mechanism Design and in Games.". Notably, Dekel's predecessor as President was another member of the Economics Faculty, **Robert Porter**.

**Robert Gordon** was selected by Bloomberg Markets as one of the 50 Most Influential People in the World for 2016. His book, *The Rise and Fall of American Growth*, was a finalist for the Financial Times / McKinsey Best Business Book of the Year Award and was featured by the New York Times

as among the 100 Most Notable Books of 2016.

## **Events**

### *Open Day*

The annual Open Day for prospective Ph.D. students will be held on a Monday this year - Monday April 3. 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 4 in lecture room 1410. 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.

### *Schwartz Lecture*

The annual lecture series organized by the Kellogg School of Management to honor the late Nancy Schwartz will be at 5:30PM on Wednesday April 19 in the McCormick Auditorium of the Allen Center. This year's lecturer is **Vincent Crawford** of Oxford University. His talk is titled "Modeling Strategic Communication: From Rendezvous and Reassurance to Trickery and Puffery." There will be a reception beforehand starting at 4:30PM.

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### *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 Tuesday April 25. He will cover important deadlines, degree requirements, and funding availability. He will also answer your questions. The meetings will be held in lecture room 1410.

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

### *CSIO Conference Honoring Robert Porter*

The Center for the Study of Industrial Organization will be hosting a conference on Friday and Saturday April 28-29 in honor of Professor **Robert Porter**. It will be held in our lecture room 1410. The program will be posted on the Center > CSIO section of our website.

### *Bies Lecture*

The annual Susan Bies (PhD, 1972) departmental lecture on economic policy will be at 5:30PM on Tuesday May 2. The location has yet to be confirmed. This year's speaker will be **Claudia Goldin** of Harvard University who will speak about "career and family."

### *CSIO – Toulouse Conference*

The annual joint conference between CSIO and IDEI of the University of Toulouse will be held in Evanston on Friday and Saturday May 12-13. It will be held in our lecture room 1410. The program will be posted on the Center > CSIO section of our website.

### *Nemmers Lecture*

The Nemmers lecture by **Richard Blundell** will be at 4:30PM on Wednesday, May 17. The lecture will be held in the McCormick Auditorium of the Allen Center. All faculty, staff and graduate students are invited. Following the lecture, everyone is invited to a reception in the area behind the auditorium.

### *Nemmers Conference*

A conference will be held at the Allen Center on Thursday and Friday May 18/19. This is associated with the awarding of the Nemmers Prize to Richard Blundell.

The conference will be on various research areas of interest to Professor Blundell. There will be papers by Philippe Aghion (Harvard), Manuel Arellano (CEMFI), Orazio Attanasio (University College London), Pierre-André Chiappori (Columbia), Rachel Griffith (Manchester), Arthur Lewbel (Boston College), Rosa Matzkin (UCLA), Magne Mogstad (Chicago), Jean-Marc Robin (Sciences Po), and Richard Smith (Cambridge).

The detailed program will be posted in the Events > Nemmers section of our web site in early April. Free on-line registration will be needed. There is a link to the registration form from the conference web site from early April.

### *Field Course Meeting*

An orientation session for students entering their second year will be held on Monday September 18 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.

### *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 415-1**

Advanced Microeconomics

Professor Strulovici

MW 1:30-3:20

KGH 3301

This course covers optimal control and stopping theory as well as applications of the theory to economic problems. The course starts with an introduction to stochastic processes, stochastic calculus, and stochastic control, with a focus on continuous time, including topics such as the smooth pasting condition, the Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation, and the Martingale Representation Theorem. The techniques are then applied to models such as optimal portfolio choice, optimal entry/exit decisions, and dynamic Principal-Agent models. The course will also investigate how to establish comparative statics results in dynamic models, such as monotonicity of the value function and of the optimal stopping time or optimal control, as well as other properties of the value function (convexity, homogeneity). The course also covers models of optimal learning and experimentation, including a study of the multi-armed bandit problem in discrete time.

Evaluation will be by problem sets, a paper presentation, and the

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submission of a research project or review paper.

**Economics 416-2**

Advanced Macroeconomics  
Professors Bocola and Doepke  
TTh 11-12:50 KGH 1410

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 436-2**

Theory and Practice of Public Finance  
Professor Golosov  
MW 9-10:50 KGH TBA

*This course can count towards either a sequence in public finance, or in a sequence in advanced macroeconomics.* This course will focus on the theory of optimal taxation and government policy. It will cover a number of related topics in public finance, macroeconomics and political economy.

Evaluation will be by several problem sets.

**Economics 450-3**

Industrial Organization and Prices  
Professors Illanes and Porter  
MW 1:30-3:20 KGH 1410

An introduction to several topics in industrial organization theory and empirical analysis. Topics include: entry, growth and turnover; advertising and information disclosure; auction markets and bidding; collusion; antitrust; applications of moment inequality estimation methods. The emphasis will be on the estimation and testing of game theoretic models, and especially on recent developments in the field.

Prerequisite are Econ 450-1 and 450-2. Evaluation will be by several problem sets and a final exam.

**Economics 460-2**

International Economics  
Professors Matsuyama and Mestieri  
T 1:30-3:20  
Th 1:30-2:50 KGH 3301

This course is the second of the two-quarter graduate international trade sequence, team-taught by Professor Matsuyama and Mestieri. Building on the materials studied in the first course taught in the winter quarter, it covers selected research topics in international trade and its implications on economic growth and development. This year, it also has guest lectures by Costas Arkolakis (on spatial economics and gravity), Paco Buera (on diffusion of knowledge and technology), Jonathan Dingel (sorting and heterogeneity across space and empirics on the home-market effect) and Felix Tintelnot.

Class evaluation will be based on a research proposal (90%) and class participation (10%).

**Economics 481-3**

Econometrics  
Professor Torgovitsky  
MW 9-10:50 KGH 3301

This course is about empirical strategies that are commonly used in applied microeconomics. The topics will include: control variables (matching), instrumental variables, regression discontinuity and kink designs, panel data, difference-in-differences, and quantile regression. The emphasis of the course is on identification and practical implementation. The course also covers the shortcomings of commonly used tools, and discusses recent theoretical research aimed at addressing these deficiencies.

Evaluation will be by problems sets and mock referee reports.

**Economics 498-1**

Advanced Topics  
Professor Hendel  
TTh 9-10:50 KGH 3301

*This course can count towards a sequence in industrial organization.* The course will center on the empirics of contracts and information. It will deal with, among other issues: adverse selection, moral hazard, reputation, and dynamic contracting. The course will look at evidence of asymmetric information as well as contractual arrangements to cope with informational problems. Applications will include insurance, health care, reputation, etc. Time permitting the course will cover the estimation of single agent problems and games.

Evaluation will be by problem sets and a final exam.

**Economics 498-2**

Advanced Topics  
Professor Qian  
MW 3:30-5:20 KGH 3301

*This course can count towards a sequence in development economics.* This course is an introduction to the

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revitalizing fields of development economics and political economy; and development economics and growth (long-run development). It will focus on recent empirical studies that are on the frontier of the literature. Some examples of the topics that will be covered are institutions, culture, the historical rise in agricultural productivity and conflict. The goal of this class is to prepare students for research by giving students an overview of the field: the questions being addressed, the methods and data that are being used, and the pitfalls and gaps in the existing literature. Students who take this course will read pre-assigned papers prior to class and participate in in-depth research-oriented discussions.

Evaluation will be primarily based on in-class discussion. There will also be a few written assignments, such as a referee report and a research proposal.

**Finance 585-3**

Asset Pricing  
Professors Jagannathan and Todorov  
W 2-5 KGH TBA

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the standard econometric tools used in empirical asset pricing. Topics include: Generalized Method of Moments (GMM); cross-sectional regression methods for large unbalanced panels of financial data; latent factor models; volatility modeling for low and high frequency data; applications to structural model estimation.

Evaluation will be based on problem sets and a final exam.

**Finance 586-3**

Corporate Finance  
Professors Benmelech and Sapienza  
F 9-12 KGH TBA

This course provides a theoretical and empirical treatment of major topics in empirical corporate finance,

including: applied financial contracting, banking, executive compensation, entrepreneurship shadow banking, financial regulation and household finance. It is the continuation of 586-2.

**MECS 540-3**

Political Economy: Social Choice and Voting Models  
Professor Egorov  
T 9-12 KGH TBA

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.

**MECS 550-1**

Economic Theory: Decision Theory  
Professor Al-Najjar  
W 12-3 KGH TBA

*The course time is flexible if you contact the instructor.* This course deals with the theory of individual decision making under uncertainty and covers: (1) classical axiomatic

foundations, (2) ambiguity, (3) intertemporal choice, (4) aggregating beliefs and tastes, (5) learning and testing. An older version of the syllabus is available on the professor's research page.

Evaluation will be based on class participation, presentation of one of the papers on the reading list, and individual homework. The required readings are David Kreps: *Notes on the Theory of Choice* (Westview Press, 1988) and journal articles.

**MECS 560-3**

Research in Economics  
Professor Schummer

This is a Kellogg first year course, and is not appropriate as an Economics field course.

**MECS 570-2**

Economics of Organizations: Organizational Dynamics  
Professor Barron  
W 9-12 KGH TBA

This is the second in a two-class sequence on organizational economics, though students do not need to have taken the first quarter in the sequence. The course is a combination of theory with some empirical analysis. The class focuses on productivity dispersion among firms and other organizations. Topics include: dynamic inefficiencies in organizations, with applications to incentive contracts, communication, delegation, and learning; stylized facts and empirical evidence on the causes and consequences of productivity dispersion; the interaction between firm organization, financial contracts, and the labor market; the role of management; and non-firm organizations. Lectures will emphasize common threads in the literature, open questions, and alternative modeling approaches.

Evaluated will be based on short model development essays and presentations. There is no required

textbook, though *The Handbook of Organizational Economics* (edited by Robert Gibbons and John Roberts, Princeton University Press, 2013) is a valuable reference text.

*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, in room 1410.

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	Mon 11-12	Wed 11-12
27-Mar	Leisten	Fryxell
3-Apr	Hardwick	Magistretti
10-Apr	Murayama	Ong
17-Apr	Garro	Lee
24-Apr	Ziegler	Armella Olazabal
1-May	Theisen	Izumi
8-May	Endress	Barsanetti
15-May	Navarro-Sola	
22-May	Wooley	Akkoyun
29-May	No Class	Carreno-Garcia

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

*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**

- Valenzuela-Stookey, Quitze
- Bardoczy, Bence
- Poggi, Francisco
- Xu, Minjie
- Long, Joe
- Matsumura, Kohei
- Dahis, Ricardo
- Loh, Isaac
- Daubenspeck, Jamie
- Sedov, Dmitry
- Sinander, Ludvig
- Nikiforov, Djulustan
- Marchingiglio, Riccardo
- Olmstead-Rumsey, Jane
- Manjeer, Utsav
- Kozlov, Egor
- Danieli, Ana

**Spring Quarter**

- Daubenspeck, Jamie
- Dahis, Ricardo
- Danieli, Ana
- Poggi, Francisco
- Bardoczy, Bence
- Marchingiglio, Riccardo
- Matsumura, Kohei
- Nikiforov, Djulustan
- Xu, Minjie
- Loh, Isaac
- Sinander, Ludvig
- Olmstead-Rumsey, Jane
- Kozlov, Egor
- Sedov, Dmitry
- Valenzuela-Stookey, Quitze
- Long, Joe
- Manjeer, Utsav

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

*2017-18 Quarter Dates*

Fall: **Tues** Sept 19 - Fri Dec 8  
 Winter: Mon Jan 8 - Fri March 23  
 Spring: **Tues** April 3 - Fri June 15  
 Note the unusual start day for Spring quarter.

**Formal Announcements**

*Continuation Rule for Older Students*

**Dissertation Prospectus:** 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 TAs. 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 TAs. 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 10: Macroeconomics

Friday July 14: Econometrics

Wed. July 19: Microeconomics

All examinations will be held 1:30pm – 4:30pm in lecture room 1410.

### *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 TAs. For the remainder of this year the dates for which you must be in attendance are:  
Winter: until March 20  
Spring: Mon Mar 27 - Mon June 12

### *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.

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Completed forms have to be returned by September 13. Unfortunately, the allocation can only be announced late on Friday, September 15 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 14 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 11 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 Sunday night, January 7 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.

### *Carrel Office Allocations for Fall*

In the new building each student in years 2 and above will have a private carrel. In mid-August we will email you so that:

- Current second year students can select carrels in smaller offices vacated by graduating students.
- Current first year students can select carrels in the three rooms for second year students (3424, 3430, 3436).

Students will move to their new carrels in the period between Labor Day and the start of Fall Quarter classes.

### *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 14** for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to permit you to

participate in the June Commencement ceremony and receive your diploma.

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

**May 12** for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in June.

**July 14** for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to graduate in August.

**August 4** for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to The Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in August.

**August 11** 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 16 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 15 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 23, number 1 will be published after Labor Day in the week of Sept. 5.

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