

Beginning with alumni news, **Gillian McCleary** (Honours B. A. '87 and winner that year of the Sam Lawrence Prize for outstanding academic achievement in labour economics) is an Associate with Procept Associates, a Toronto firm providing project management and training services nationally and internationally. She is also a full-time IT consultant with KPMG and Vice-President, Special Events, of the International Institute of Business Analysis.

Lois McNabb recently visited the Department. Lois received her Honours B.A. in 1974 while winning the Hurd Medal for outstanding economics graduate. She is Director of Economics and Trade, Ministry of Forests and Range, Government of British Columbia.

Mr. Bradley Buss (B.A. '85) has been appointed Chief Financial Officer of Cypress Semiconductor. Listed on the New York Stock Exchange as CY, Cypress has its head office in San Jose California, with three plants in the USA and one in the Philippines, and more than a dozen design centres in the USA, India, Ireland, Belgium and Turkey.

Congratulations to **Susan Johnson** (Ph.D. '01) on her promotion to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Economics, Wilfrid Laurier University!

Surajit Sinha (McMaster Economics PhD '87) is Associate Professor of Economics at IIT Kanpur in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh India.

Rod Morrison has been appointed Vice-Principal (Human Resources) of Queen's University. From the press release, "A graduate of McMaster University with a B.A. Economics, Mr. Morrison went on to earn his MBA and Master of Industrial Relations at the University of Toronto. Early in his career, he worked in the human resources group at York University as Manager, Compensation and Benefits. His career then led him into the human resources field in the pharmaceutical and consumer products sectors."

There is a bio of our M.A. and Ph.D. alumnus **Wade Locke** on the web site of the Canadian Science and Innovation Indicators Consortium at <http://www.csiic.ca/team.html>

"Wade Locke is currently Professor of Economics at Memorial University. He has been teaching and researching economic issues in Newfoundland for 18 years. He has authored more than 70 articles ranging over a number of areas including applied economic analysis, economic impact assessment, cost benefit analysis, oil and gas studies, mineral economics, research and development studies and the knowledge-based economy."

I notice from the Canadian Economics Association August newsletter that our Ph.D. alumni **Livio DiMatteo** and **John Spraggon** each won a Lakehead University Faculty Merit Award.

In the Wednesday, August 31 Hamilton Spectator (p. Go 5), there was a story (with a nice picture) on our B.A. alumna **Suzie Milinovich** who after graduation spent 4 years in banking. Then she went to teacher's college and now at age 27, will be starting on September 5 as teacher- librarian at Sir Wilfrid Laurier School in east Hamilton.

Turning from alumni to current students, on August 17th, the Hamilton Spectator ran an article (page SP14) on **James Hinchcliffe** (Economics II). James is third in the standings in the North American ProFormula Mazda Series of Road courses. He had just returned from a trip west, "where he took a first and a third at California's Infineon Raceway". See <http://www.aimautosport.com/Content/news/stories/204.htm> for photos.

Ph.D. candidate **Bidyut Talukdar** has co-authored another published paper, this time in the July issue of the journal Economic Modelling. The paper is entitled "Exchange rate sensitivity of the Canadian bilateral inpayments and outpayments".

In December, Ph.D. candidate **Asmaa El Badawy** presented a co-authored paper at the Economic Research Forum's 11th Annual Conference held in Beirut. The paper was entitled, "Private and Group Tutoring in Egypt: Where is the Gender Inequality?"

Moving to staff and faculty, I welcome our new lecturer **Hannah Stanwick Holmes** (no relation to our colleague Gord Holmes). Hannah holds her B.A. in Economics and Mathematics from Brock University, her M.A. in Economics from McMaster and is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Toronto. As an example of her research interests,

at the recent Canadian Political Science Association meetings in London, Ontario she gave a paper entitled "The Megacity in the New Millennium: An Evaluation of Metro Toronto Amalgamation Using the Tiebout Framework for Pareto Optimality".

I also welcome new assistant professor **Phil DeCicca**. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and also holds a Master's degree from Syracuse University and a Bachelor's degree from Cornell. He has co-authored papers in the Journal of Political Economy, the Economics of Education Review and the Journal of Risk and Uncertainty. He is a specialist in health economics and his research includes economic studies of smoking, school dropouts, kindergarten and maternal labour supply, diets and saving.

I should mention the departure of **Kathleen Hannan** this summer. Kathleen was our undergraduate secretary for 17 years and served the Department with exemplary efficiency and conscientiousness. Kathleen didn't leave McMaster however: she moved upstairs to Political Science to a higher-graded position. We are sorry that she left but we wish her the best in her new job.

Also **Jerry Hurley** will no longer be Associate Chair, in part because of his appointment as Acting Director of CHEPA. While he only held the position for one year, he packed multiple years of work into that time, handling a tenure file, organizing faculty recruiting and working on our new M.A. program that emphasizes public policy. He deserves the thanks of every department member. **Steve Jones** is the new Associate Chair.

David Bjerk, our colleague on leave on a fellowship at the Rand Institute in California, did a great job on last year's seminar schedule. Seminar speakers came from far and wide (e.g. Harvard Business School, NYU, Illinois, M.I.T., Aberdeen, California, Wisconsin, Newcastle, LSE, Tufts, Tennessee, Montreal, Chicago, Lausanne and Minnesota) as well as from nearby universities. We have another great seminar schedule for the coming term under our new co-ordinator, **Peter McCabe**. See <http://www.mcmaster.ca/economics/seminars/weekly.cfm>

On the web site of the Canadian Transport Research Forum <http://www.ctrf.ca>, there are thanks to our colleague Professor **Atif Kubursi** as one of the organizers of the CTRF conference in Hamilton. Atif also presented a paper at the conference.

I would like to congratulate **Gary Warner** on being named a member of the Order of Canada. Gary is not in our department but does co-teach Economics 2L03, "Peace, Human Security and Economic Development" with **Atif Kubursi**. We can't offer this course every year but by special arrangement with the Dean of Social Sciences and the co-operation of Professors Kubursi and Warner, it will be offered in the coming winter term, Wednesday evenings.

I have been appointed to the editorial board of the Canadian Tax Journal. I mention this in part because one of the two principal editors is our alumnus **J. Scott Wilkie** (BA '77). Scott has been described by the International Tax Review in 2005 as a "a capital markets star" and one of Canada's leading experts on transfer pricing. He is a senior partner in the law firm Osler Hoskin and Harcourt LLP in Toronto. He is President of the Canadian branch of the International Fiscal Association, a former governor of the Canadian Tax Foundation and former chair of the National Tax Section of the Canadian Bar Association and the Joint Committee on Taxation of the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. He is also public policy advisor to the Canadian E-Business Initiative, former adjunct professor, international taxation, at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, has taught international taxation for many years at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University and has been a guest lecturer at the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law and McGill University Faculty of Law.

Ending the season on a red hot winning streak, the department softball team the Deadweight Losses climbed all the way to second place. Congratulations to league winner Psy Jung, who edged us by half a game.

Best wishes,
Mike Veall
August 31, 2005

Past newsletters are currently archived at http://www.mcmaster.ca/economics/dept_newsletter.cfm.