

In the last newsletter I noted that our recent B.A. alum **Steve Chan** of TD Economics was quoted frequently in the press. Proving my point, in the National Post on July 18, page FP18, there was a long article by **Jacqueline Thorpe**, "Puncturing the great inflation myth: Gas may be soaring, but overall prices are pretty good". It is based entirely on a study by Steve, who is quoted extensively.

At the Far Eastern meetings of the Econometric Society held in Beijing July 10-12, McMaster Economics Professors **Ken Chan**, **Seungjin Han** and **Jeff Racine** all gave papers. Ken's was entitled "A Trade Policy Schedules Game and Retaliation", Seungjin's was entitled "Strongly Robust Equilibrium and Competing Mechanism Games" and Jeff's was entitled "A Consistent Specification Test for Quantile Regression Models in the Presence of Mixed Data".

By the way, Seungjin recently won a SSHRC Standard Research grant. As mentioned in previous newsletters, **Tom Crossley** and **Kate Cuff** each also won similar awards this year and adjunct professor **Emile Tompa** won a SSHRC Community-University Research Alliance Grant. Ph.D. candidate **Simo Goshev** won a SSHRC doctoral fellowship, while **Justin Smith** won an OGS fellowship. B.A. graduates **Luba Peterson**, **Rob Gillezeau** and **Edward Zvekic** each won Canada Graduate Scholarships and the last two won Ontario Graduate Scholarships as well. (I will mention similar awards to incoming students in a later newsletter.) Congratulations all!

Shintaro Yamaguchi has now arrived in the Department. Shintaro is our new Assistant Professor, specializing in Labour Economics. **Robert Nuscheler**, our new postdoc whose main field is health economics, has also arrived. There is more about Shintaro and Robert in the April newsletter.

Many of you will have read the Hamilton Spectator story on McMaster Economics Professor **Atif Kubursi** leading a United Nations humanitarian relief mission in Lebanon:

http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/mac_inthenews_single.cfm?id=2665

Atif's service to the United Nations is as Deputy Executive-Secretary of the U.N. Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia. See his bio at:

<http://www.escwa.org.lb/about/oes.asp>

Google Alert finds much that I wouldn't. For example, recently McMaster Economics Professor **Abigail Payne** was quoted in an article by **Douglas Quan** in the Riverside (California) Press-Enterprise regarding earmarking, the U.S. Congress practice of allocating some research money to specific projects as opposed to a competitive award process: "A study by Abigail Payne, an economist at McMaster University in Canada, has raised questions about the quality of research funded by earmarks. The study suggests that while earmarked funding may drive up the number of academic publications at a school, it can also decrease the quality of those publications. Payne defined quality by the number of times a study was subsequently cited in other studies."

On the Wikipedia entry for McMaster, there is a list of McMaster alumni:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_McMaster_University_people

Here are some entries that mention Economics: **Lincoln Alexander** - B.A. (History and Political Economy, 1949): Minister of Labour (Canada) (1979-80), Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (1985-91) (and I note recently voted by readers of the Hamilton Spectator as the greatest Hamiltonian); **Syl Apps** - B.A. (Hons.) (Political Economics, 1936): Hall of Fame hockey player and Minister of Correctional Services, Ontario (1971-1974); **Martyn Burke** - B.A. (Econ&Bus, 1964): film maker, novelist and journalist (who I note from his website recently wrote and directed a film nominated for five Emmies); **Paul Dingledine** - B.A. (Economics, 1967), M.B.A (1969): first Canadian ambassador to Iran; **Kevin Lynch** -Ph.D. (1980): Canadian economist, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet; **Harold Innis** - professor of political economy at the University of Toronto (originator of the "staples thesis" in Economics and originator of some of the ideas pursued by his student and colleague, **Marshall McLuhan**); **John Harry Passmore** - B.A. (History and Economics, 1933): RCAF Squadron leader in World War II. **Myron Scholes** - B.A. (1962): Nobel Laureate, Economics; **Richard Splane** - B.A. (Political Economy and History): RCAF pilot in World War II; **Robert Tebbs** - B.A. (Economics, 1939): World War II captain of the Canadian Army; **Tony Valeri** - B.A. (Economics, 1979): Leader of the Government in the House of Commons (2004-2006); **Robert**

Waugh - B.A. (Hons.) (Political Economy, 1940): vice-president and director of General Motors, Canada; and **Red Wilson** - B.A. (Hons.) (Economics, 1962): chair, Nortel Networks Corporation.

I often mention recent award winners so I thought I would look up some winners from the past, starting this issue with some of the pre-1975 winners of the Hurd Medal, awarded to a student at graduation for distinguished achievement in an Honours programme in which economics is a major field of study. I confine myself to names I found easily on the web or by other means.

The first winner was **V. James Lesjak** in 1956. I have not found a recent web listing for him but in 1999, the newsletter of the Stevens Allowance for Technology Management carried an article by him. The bio lists him as Senior Vice President of Business Genetics (a management consulting firm in Annapolis Maryland) who previously held senior executive positions at Procter & Gamble and SmithKline Beecham.

John Roe Hanna (1959) is listed in the latest University of Waterloo calendar as Professor Emeritus in the School of Accountancy. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants and past president of the Canadian Academic Accounting Association.

Margaret Rose Elliott won in 1960. Her married name is Margaret Manktelow and she went on to take an M.A. in Economics at the University of Chicago and a degree in law at the University of Toronto. The 1997 Alumni Directory lists her as a lawyer at Eberts, Symes, Street & Corbett in Toronto.

1964 winner **David MacIntosh** is briefly mentioned in an article by **Don McIver** in a 1997 article in the journal Canadian Business Economics as joining the Mutual Life Insurance Company in the "early 1960s as an economic analyst" and rising "through the ranks to eventually head its investment operations".

Then three winners in a row became economics professors: **Michael Bradford** (1964) at Dalhousie, **David Wilton** (1965) at Waterloo and **William Marr** (1966) at Wilfrid Laurier. The next winner for whom I found something on the web is **Doug Welland** (1970), Professor Emeritus in our Department. The 1971 winner was **Paul Jacobson**, an economic consultant in Toronto whom I mentioned in the April newsletter. 1972 winner **John (Stephen) Yeo** is listed on the web site of Trade Partnership Worldwide as a Senior Fellow and as Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Economic Policy Research. **Emmy Verdun** (1973) is Executive Director, International Affairs, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Government of Canada. 1974 winner **Lois McNabb** is Director, Economics and Trade Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Forestry and Range, as mentioned in previous newsletters.

The Department softball team, the Deadweight Losses, won all of its games in July. It now leads the league with a 13 and 2 record.

Best wishes, Mike Veall
August 1, 2006