



March 2008

## Reflections on the Economics Program

ROBERT M. LEEKLEY  
BLEEKLEY@IWU.EDU

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

LEEKLEY, ROBERT M. (2000) "Reflections on the Economics Program," *The Park Place Economist*: Vol. 8

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace/vol8/iss1/5>

This Prefatory Notes is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

---

## Reflections on the Economics Program

# *Reflections on the Economics Program*

The biggest change in the faculty this year has been the addition of a fifth tenure-line faculty member Ilaria Ossella-Durbal. Ilaria completed her Ph.D. at Cornell University last summer; her research interest is in economic development, and she has already published two articles in the field. Ilaria takes over our courses in The Economics of Developing Countries, International Trade and Mathematical Economics, as well as sharing in the teaching of Intermediate Microeconomics and Statistics. It is good to have her on board. For more, see the article by Babs Marcus.

The number of economics majors has begun to rise again, after a couple of lean years. Thirteen seniors are poised to graduate in just a few short weeks; for more on each, see the article by Otis Carter. And there are roughly eighteen majors in each of the next two classes. Eighteen graduates would tie the class of 1994 second in size only to the huge class of 1996. Moreover, quality remains high. Seven seniors Kristopher Kaneta, Peter Karlis, Elizabeth Kowalski, Jason Lewis, Robin Meers, Nathan Taulbee and Alva Winfrey are doing honors research; all will be presenting their work at the University-wide John Wesley Powell Research Conference, and defending their final papers in late April.

In honors, this spring, Julie Dusek, Nate Taulbee and Amanda Watson are being initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the national scholastic honorary society, joining Sunil Jagwani and Esteban Lizano who were initiated last year. And we are initiating fourteen new members into Omicron Delta Epsilon Ketan Amin, Amanda Bailey, Lisa Birr, Tamara Davis, Andrew Giordano, David Janashvili, Quan Lai, Robin Meers, Amber Munday, Lynn Pleniewicz, Christine Rogers, Nicole Skalski, Michelle Stone and Amanda Watson. Congratulations to all.

The Economics Society has had another active year, thanks to the leadership of President Julie Dusek and Executive Board members Korey Coon, Esteban Lizano, Elizabeth Kowalski, Nicole Skalski, Otis Carter, Tom Kirkwood, Nate Taulbee, Andrew Giordano, Wes Dyke and Alexis Webb. Thanks to all for your contributions.

Last fall's guests included Tom Smith '92, now an Assistant Professor of Economics at National-Louis University, speaking on "The Occupational Mobility of Artists: Evidence from the 1970 Census." The subtitle of Tom's talk was "I used to be an Artist, but now I have a real job." Jaynanne Calaway '99, a graduate student in labor and industrial relations at the University of Illinois, and Brad Comincioli '95, a financial analyst at State Farm, joined Mike Seeborg in a panel on "The Life of an Econ Major at IWU and After." And David Vance, Chief Economist at Caterpillar gave his always interesting and informative overview of the world economy.

This spring, we have heard from Bob Aaron, IWU Director of University Communications, and Rob Fazzini '62, President of Busey Bank and a spokesman for the American Banking Association, on issues in banking. For more on their presentation, see the article by Adam Palmer. Our own Mike Seeborg and Zhenhu Jin (Finance) spoke on the floating population of China. Bryan Cassidy, former British representative to the European Parliament and an expert on the telecommunications industry, spoke on changes in the telecommunications industry in the European Community. And Barb Kube '94, an attorney with Thomson & Weintraub, spoke on her experience as an economics major at IWU, and how it had helped prepare her for her career in law.

---

Still to come, Keith Ihlanfeldt '72, Professor of Economics at the Andrew Young School of Public Policy, Georgia State University, will be our featured speaker for the Omicron Delta Epsilon initiation. Early in the afternoon, he will appear in Applied Econometrics to present a working paper, in which he attempts to decompose neighborhood segregation into its various causes, econometrically. Then, after the ODE banquet, he will give his more general presentation on "Causes and Consequences of Neighborhood Racial Segregation."

Thanks to all who give so graciously of their time and expertise to enrich our program.

In other activities, bowling is fast becoming an Economics Society tradition; the Society sponsored two such outings, and students were kind enough this year not to subject their professors to "silly bowling." And still to come, the Economics Society has teamed up with the Accounting, Marketing and Finance groups for an outing to St. Louis, to visit Anheuser Busch, and take in a Cardinals baseball game.

Of course, the Society's major project each year is *The Park Place Economist*. Nate Taulbee and Tom Kirkwood have taken the helm this year, as Editor-in-Chief and Technical Editor, to produce our eighth edition. See the credits on page two for the others who have made substantial contributions. Congratulations to all on a fine volume.

The University Avenue Undergraduate Journal of Economics (UAUJE), our on-line collaboration with Illinois State University, continues. Lisa Birr, Sunil Jagwani and Elizabeth Kowalski are IWU's editors this year. As the UAUJE becomes more widely known, submissions are coming in, literally, from around the world. Look for volume III soon.

If you have not visited our web site recently, see the article by Katie Hampson for some of what you have been missing. Then visit us at <http://titan.iwu.edu/~econ/> for additional news from the Department and alums, as well as links to the UAUJE and much much more. Thanks to Tom Kirkwood, this year's webmaster.

Seniors, we wish you the best in all your future endeavors. Please stay in touch. Alums, if we have not heard from you in a while, it is time to get back in touch. Give us some news for the web page. Returning students, we look forward to another wonderful year next year.

Robert M. Leekley, Chair