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By Katie Hampson

Dr. Margaret Chapman created the first economics website a few years ago when the Department was still located on Park Place. Two years ago, Dr. Robert Leekley updated the site to its current format and decided to hire a student webmaster to manage and update the site. Patrick Holly '99 was the first student webmaster and was responsible for adding the background, other graphical aspects of the site, and the Keynes quote on the homepage.

This year, Tom Kirkwood took over as webmaster and created links, containing course descriptions, within the course schedule. He also installed a counter on the homepage and made the link buttons glow with the touch of a mouse. Under Kirkwood's guidance, the website has grown significantly.

"I estimate that there are approximately three times as many files that take up about twice as much space," says Kirkwood. "The web page that you see has not expanded quite as much though. A lot of the electronic increases in size was from incorporating JavaScript into the page, and using pop-up windows for course descriptions and professor information."

In addition to his other improvements, Kirkwood also made the alumni page searchable by the alumni's last name or graduation year.

The Department homepage is simply an introduction to the site, with a quote from John Maynard Keynes and contact information for the department. One of the links from the homepage is the faculty site containing email addresses and background information about the economics professors. Dr. Leekley has a link to his homepage, which features his contact information, along with his course schedule for the 1999-2000 school year. There are also links to pages devoted to Dr. Leekley's classes. Each of these pages includes course requirements, grading information, and syllabi listing when specific assignments are due.

Another highlight of the Department site is the

"Courses" link, where students can find the course schedule for classes during the current school year and also the 2000-2001 school year. Within these schedules, each class can be selected to display a pop-up window containing that course's description. The "Courses" section also lists the requirements for an economics major and minor.

The "Students" section of the website contains a list of all current econ majors by year. In addition, there is a link to The Economics Society site, where you can find the current executive board members, a list of programs for this year, and general information about the organization. Another part of the student section is the Delta Omicron Epsilon page, where you can find a list of all the initiates to the honor society since 1990. There is also a link to The Park Place Economist, which provides access to all past editions of the journal, and to The University Avenue Undergraduate Journal of Economics. The final link in the student section is the "Student Research" page, which features a listing of individual student research projects from 1990 to the present.

In the alumni section, alumni have the opportunity to share news, or exchange email addresses, with their former classmates. This section is an excellent resource for career networking and for keeping in contact with old friends. The alumni list is not complete, however, and all alumni are encouraged to email the webmaster or Dr. Leekley with their current information. The alumni page is searchable by last name or graduation year.

The website also contains links to economic data and research resources. For example, there is a link to www.economicresearch.com and to the Bureau of Labor Statistics site. Another popular link is the Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) Database.

The Economics website is an excellent resource for students, alumni, or anyone interested in finding out about the Economics Department. As

the site continues to grow, Dr. Leekley hopes to add more individual professors' pages, and to keep alumni and Economics Society information current. Eventually students will access faculty pages to find

out office hours and assignment information. The website can be accessed either on or off campus, so if you haven't done so yet, come check us out at <http://titan.iwu.edu/~econ>.