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Alumni Notes

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Alumni Notes

From the Economics Department

Alumni Notes

Jackie Hood

Paul Davies, '92, completed his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1996. He is currently a Research Associate in the Center for Economic Analysis at the University of Colorado and is a Research Assistant for the Binational Mexico-U.S. Migration Study of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. He is also an instructor at Front Range Community College. More about his work is on his homepage: <http://ucsub.colorado.edu/~daviesp>.

Colin Fitzgerald, '92, is managing the Malaysian operation of GK Capital Management.

Thomas Smith, '92, has received his MA in Economics and Public Policy Analysis from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is currently a Ph.D. candidate.

Ron Zimmer, '92, received his MS in Economics and is finishing up his Ph.D. in Public Administration at the University of Kentucky.

Jeff Blend, '93, is a Ph.D. candidate in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Michigan State University, concentrating on environmental issues.

Eric Kirchner, '93, is finishing his thesis for a Masters Degree in Economics at Illinois State University. He is also teaching economics at Heartland Community College here in Bloomington.

Yuet Wei Wan, '93, is now living in

Singapore where she works in corporate finance for Goldman Sachs.

Risa Kumazawa, '94, finished her Master's degree in Economics at Illinois State University and is now a Ph.D. student at the University of Texas at Austin.

Heidi Munson, '94, finished her Masters Degree in Economics at Illinois State University last spring and has taken a position as an analyst for CIQ Enterprises in Peoria.

Gnanika Suriarachchi, '94, is a Residential Counselor at the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora, Illinois where she takes on the role of mentor and disciplinarian for 24 girls.

Dan Scholz, '95, plans to complete his MBA and BS in System Science and Mathematical Engineering at Washington University in May 1998. For the past few summers, he has been interning at US Robotics in the new product development department.

Virginia Shull, '95, graduated with a double major in Economics and Political Science and is now attending the University of Illinois Law School.

Junaid Ahmed, '96, has returned to Bangladesh where he is working in the Public Affairs Department of BRAC, one of the largest private national development agencies in the world.

Gwen Alexander, '96, is doing well in her Ph.D. program at the University of Maryland. There, she is concentrating on the International Development aspect of economics.

Susan Brown, '96, is attending SIU-Edwardsville part-time for her MBA while working at Canadian-based Philip Environmental, Inc. There she does market research related to a variety of environmental services for automotive and mining companies, among others.

Jeff Burke, '96, holds a graduate assistantship as he works on a Masters Degree in Economics at Illinois State University.

Diana Imaka, '96, holds a position with the Latvian Privatization Agency working with foreign investors interested in purchasing state-owned enterprises.

Greg Jansen, '96, is pursuing his law degree at the University of Minnesota.

Kimberly Nelson, '96, has taken a position as an administration consultant with Hewitt Associates, the largest benefit / compensation consulting firm in the Chicago area.

Ming Sun Wan, '96, is in New York, working for a Malaysian securities firm selling Malaysian securities to institutional investors--mutual funds specializing in emerging markets.

Interview with Jesse Boyle: Manufacturing Guru

Steve Krull

Recent graduate Jesse Boyle completed his Illinois Wesleyan career last spring with Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration and Economics. Today, he is one of three "Team Developers" in a foams manufacturing facility in Frankfort, Illinois.

Having worked as an intern for the Tenneco Packaging Co. in the summer of

1995, Jesse received his current position last April after interviewing with five managers of the facility. As a "Team Developer," Jesse supervises a team of thirteen employees and attempts "to develop highly effective work teams" and to "ensure [his] work force has the necessary technical skills and demonstrates effective team dynamics / behaviors to run an efficient day to day operation." Although such a job may sound simple, Jesse stresses that it is extremely difficult to maintain 100% efficiency with your machines and, most importantly, your labor.

Jesse firmly believes that his work experience has been tremendously helpful by allowing him to use management skills in numerous difficult situations. Furthermore, he feels that the skills he learned as an Economics major allowed him to be sufficiently prepared for his current job. These skills include the "ability to express and present complex ideas" and "the ability to analyze problems and situations effectively."

Moreover, Jesse expresses the importance of writing skills. He says that courses such as Senior Project have enabled him to effectively write important daily memos, team assessment analyses, and a skills certification program for all of the employees. Without developed writing skills, the supervisors and operators would not understand the skills certification programs and the entire process would fail.

As far as the Economics curriculum is concerned, Jesse believes that there must be a more intense focus on the use of technology and the vast information resource that the Internet provides. He states, "For Economics majors to be truly effective, competitive, and valued by the job market and academia, they will need to have the best understanding of what current technology has to offer." However, this is not to say that the entire curriculum should be based on the technology available. He believes that the focus should never change from the core of the curriculum: teaching the ability to think. He asks, "What