Alumni E-Newsletter

UCLA Department of Economics

Spring 2009

ALUMNI EVENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

UCLA Day

Each spring, on UCLA Day, our alumni gather at their alma mater to reconnect with the campus, with old friends, and with the Bruin spirit. This year, the Economics Department celebrated the second annual UCLA Day on May 9th. The event featured seminars conducted by distinguished professors. Showcased cutting-edge research across campus, and offered tours highlighting the beauty and ever-changing variety of the campus.

Did you attend UCLA Day this year and have a story to share? Email us at econalumni@econ.ucla.edu.

2009 Commencement

The Department of Economics Commencement will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009, at 6PM in Pauley Pavilion. Alan Bergman, BA '88 Business Economics, President of The Walt Disney Studios, will be the keynote speaker.

Click here for a bio of Alan Bergman.

If you would like to attend this event or would like more information, please contact Sara S. Lee, our outreach coordinator, at slee@econ.ucla.edu.

Quick Links:

- UCLA Day
- 2009 Commencement
- UCLA Economists Speak Out on the Current Economic Crisis
- William F. Sharpe Fellows
- Board of Visitors
- Professor Emeritus William R. Allen
- New Faculty
- Awards and Honors
- Giving Back

What have you been up to lately?

The Department is very interested to hear about what you've been up to since you have graduated. You can email us at econalumni@econ.ucla.edu.

UCLA ECONOMISTS SPEAK OUT ON THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS

In recent months, UCLA economists have actively written and spoken about the current economic crisis. We have compiled links to the various opinions and ideas put forth by our economics faculty on issues such as how the current disaster was allowed to develop, how the proposed economic policies are likely to work, and what the future holds for our economy. To read more, click here.

WILLIAM F. SHARPE FELLOWS PROGRAM

The UCLA Department of Economics and our alumni Board of Visitors are proud to announce the second year of our William F. Sharpe Fellows Program for undergraduate internships.

Each year, the Department and the Board select several excellent undergraduate economics students who demonstrate high academic achievement, personal integrity, and leadership potential, and help them find summer internships with top firms in business and finance. Last year's William F. Sharpe Fellows were awarded paid summer internships with companies such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, Moelis & Company, Goldman Sachs, Ernst and Young BRS, Bank of America, and the Capital Group.

We invite you to be a part of this wonderful program. We need alumni volunteers to interview, coach, and mentor undergraduate students selected to interview for the Sharpe Fellows Program. We also need volunteers to help Sharpe Fellows to get matched in summer internships.

Click here to read more about our 2009 Fellows and how you can help the Program.

THE BOARD OF VISITORS

The Board of Visitors plays a key role in helping the UCLA Department of Economics retain and enhance its position as one of the premier departments and leaders in the field of economics. As a result of the Board's help and support, we will build upon the Department's successes over the past five years to reach the long-term goal of becoming the top economics department within a public university, and one of the top five in the United States. In addition, the Board and faculty of the Department are actively engaged in a true partnership that is already having an important impact on the quality of the education received by our undergraduate majors. The William F. Sharpe Fellows Program, discussed earlier in this newsletter, is just one example of the initiatives that have come from this partnership.

To learn more about the UCLA Economics Board of Visitors, visit http://www.UCLAlumni.net/EconBoV?email=I4QN.

FEATURE PROFESSOR EMERITUS: WILLIAM R. ALLEN

A great number of our alumni are probably familiar with Professor William Allen, who was a popular teacher and a vital member of the UCLA Economics Department for 39 years. Professor Allen began his illustrious career at UCLA in 1952, quickly becoming an eminent scholar of Irving Fisher, history of economic theory, and international finance. He was department chair in the late 1960s and president of the Western Economics Association in 1971. His book, *University Economics: Elements of Inquiry*, co-authored with Armen Alchian, is regarded as one of the most influential introductory economics texts ever published. Since his retirement in 1991, he has taught Principles of Economics and History of Economic Theory through fall 2006.

In this feature article, Professor Allen talks about why Econ 1 and Econ 107 have long been his favorite courses to teach, how he hopes to have influenced the lives of 50,000 or so students he has taught during his long teaching career, and why he thinks "we all are doomed" in the current economy.

To read more, click here.

NEW FACULTY

The Department is excited to introduce six new additions to our faculty: Professors Francisco Buera, Maria Casanova, Pascaline Dupas, Adriana Lleras-Muney, Dayanand S. Manoli, and Marek Pycia.

FRANCISCO J. BUERA
(Assistant Professor)

Francisco Buera is a macroeconomist with a strong interest in economic development. His research topics include: 1) optimal management of government debt; 2) entrepreneurship and financial frictions, and the role of financial markets in the process of development; 3) structural change and economic development; 4) the diffusion of economics policies across countries and over time; and 5) the role of international trade in the diffusion of technologies.

Buera received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago in 2004 and his B.A. in economics from the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina. Prior to joining UCLA as an assistant professor of economics, Buera was an assistant professor of economics at Northwestern University. Currently, he is also a faculty fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

MARIA CASANOVA
(Assistant Professor)

Maria Casanova joined the Department of Economics in August 2008, after finishing her Ph.D. in economics at University College, London. She had previously received her M.Sc. degree in economics and finance from CEMFI (Spain) and a degree in economics from the University Carlos III (Spain).

Casanova's research concerns inter-temporal choices of individuals and households regarding consumption, savings, and labor supply. Her ongoing work focuses on social security and retirement in the U.S. Casanova's recent papers include several studies of the determinants of spouses' coordinated retirement decisions. She also works on the analysis of the effect of social security rules in couples' labor supply.

PASCALINE DUPAS
(Assistant Professor)

Prior to joining UCLA, **Pascaline Dupas** was an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Dartmouth College for two years. Dupas is a faculty fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER); an affiliate of the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD); an affiliate of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT; and an associate researcher at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (France) and received her B.S. and M.Sc. degrees in economics and econometrics from the École Normale Supérieure and Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (France).

Dupas' areas of research are applied microeconomics and development economics. She is currently conducting field experiments in health, education, and microfinance in Kenya, Ghana, and Morocco. Her recent work includes studies of adolescents' behavioral response to information about HIV in Kenya, the impact of pupil-teacher ratio and initial achievement tracking on school achievement, and the impact of village banks on micro-enterprise development.

ADRIANA LLERAS-MUNEY
(Associate Professor)

Adriana Lleras-Muney joins the Department of Economics at UCLA as an associate professor. Lleras-Muney received her Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University and was an assistant professor of economics in the Department of Economics and the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University for seven years.

Lleras-Muney's research examines the relationships between socio-economic status (in particular, education) and health; the effect of disease on income and economic development; and the determinants of fertility. She is also a faculty fellow at the California Center for Population Research (CCPR) and the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

DAYANAND S. MANOLI
(Assistant Professor)

Dayanand Manoli is an assistant professor who specializes in public economics and applied microeconomics. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 2008, and his M.A. and B.A. degrees in economics from the University of Chicago in 2004 and 2002, respectively.

Manoli's current research examines the labor supply effects of social security benefits. More specifically, one current project focuses on identifying and estimating risk aversion and the income and price effects from pension benefits on individuals' retirement decisions using both reduced-form and structural techniques. In separate work, Manoli is focusing on estimating intertemporal substitution in labor force participation using policy discontinuities in retirement benefits. Manoli is also an adjunct affiliate at RAND Corporation and a research associate at the California Center for Population Research (CCPR).

MAREK PYCIA
(Assistant Professor)

Marek Pycia comes to us from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, where he was an assistant professor of economics for two years. He also taught at the Kozminski University in Poland. Pycia holds a Ph.D. in economics from MIT and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the Polish Academy of Sciences. He received his M.Phil. in economics from the Université Toulouse 1, France, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Warsaw, Poland.

Pycia's areas of research are micro theory and market design. In his recent work he studied matching environments with complementarities, allocation and exchange of discrete resources, and auctions of divisible goods.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Over the past year, several of our faculty members have earned prestigious awards and honors.

Arnold C. Harberger was awarded the 2009 Bradley Prize.

Patrik Guggenberger was selected to be an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in 2009.

Deepak K. Lal became president of the Mont Pelerin Society in September 2008.

Naomi R. Lamoreaux was elected president-elect of the Economic History Association and will become president in September 2009.

Rosa L. Matzkin became the Charles E. Davidson Chair in Economics.

Congratulations!

GIVING BACK

Gifts to UCLA make a lasting contribution – to students, communities, and the world. By investing in the promise of human potential, UCLA's alumni, faculty, and friends demonstrate confidence in the power of knowledge to improve people's daily lives.

The impact of such philanthropy is measured in problems solved, innovations sparked, and lives enriched. Gifts to UCLA of every size enable transformations in the Department and help us to remain competitive and committed to academic excellence. You can make a gift online at http://www.econ.ucla.edu/community/giving/index.html.

Alumni interested in making a gift to the UCLA Economics Department by endowing a scholarship, supporting faculty research, making a planned gift or other gift, should contact Eric Nakano in the development office at 310-825-8633 or email at enakano@support.ucla.edu.