Welcome Back!

Welcome back to Gettysburg! What a long, strange trip it's been! But here we are in our new digs at 339 Carlisle St. This is the new, permanent home of the Economics Department, and that means that it's your academic home, too. Just like the first floor of Glatfelter Hall was constantly abuzz with activity at all hours with Economics majors and minors, we want to see the same level of engagement in the new space. Facilities and their contractors have done a most-impressive job with renovating the house, and we are excited to begin this next chapter in Economics department history!

While all of our offices are in the new building, it won't really be home to the Economics Department unless you all take up residence, too. We will have lots of activities in the building, but whether you're visiting a professor's office hours or taking a seminar or participating in an experiment in our new labs, you should stick around and invite your friends. You, the students, are the life of the department. Well, you, Sue, and our new mascot, anyway. On to business:

Professor Kaiser has moved on a more permanent basis to Denmark, so she will not be returning. In her stead, we have Sharri Byron, most recently from Auburn University, Montgomery. Prof. Byron will be primarily responsible for the quantitative methods course this year. Welcome, Prof. Byron!

We have a number of professors going on one type of leave or another over the course of the year, and the Provost graciously granted us a one-year replacement in Macro to cover part of our needs. Ari Farshbaf will be teaching a combination of introductory and intermediate macroeconomics. Prof. Farshbaf comes to us from Westminster College, Salt Lake City. Welcome, Prof. Farshbaf!

As you all know by now, Prof. Madra also decided to stay more permanently in Turkey, and Ryan Dodd, Prof. Madra’s replacement for the past two years, will be assuming the tenure track position this Fall. Welcome back, Prof. Dodd.

My turn in the chair’s office is not over yet, so my plan is to continue having regular office hours (for my students and for my advisees) on particular days that meet their needs, and I hope to address most chair questions on a separate day. Look for my office hours postings. I will be on campus all day most days, so that if you have an ‘emergency’ administrative problem that requires the chair’s signature on a day other than the prescribed one, I can still take care of those. However, your first point of contact for all of these things is going to be Sue.

We have a full slate of events in the department again this year, so keep your eyes and ears open for the announcements of Fiscal New Year, the Bondwe lecture, the finance symposium, and the rest.

I hope you had a productive and restful summer, now let’s get back to work!

- Professor Cushing-Daniels, Chair

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Sharri Byron: My research focus has been on examining policy solutions to macroeconomic problems in developing countries, and has evolved to encompass low-income populations more generally. My long-term research interests involve investigating the connections among macroeconomic cycles, health disparities and policy environments within low-income populations. My MSc in applied microeconometrics and a PhD in economics allows me to conduct this research and policy analysis.

I have worked on macroeconomic policy in the Ministry of Finance in Trinidad and Tobago. With my understanding of how public funding and private economic decisions affect both individual and institutional outcomes, I have come to appreciate that health, particularly among low-income populations, is a critical mechanism for economic mobility. Bringing my previous research to bear on health policy gives me a different perspective on how the disparity in access to health resources and health outcomes may affect and be affected by macroeconomic factors.

I have begun work in the area of health disparities as part of a multidisciplinary grant proposal at the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality to examine the association between religious affiliation and obesity, diabetes and hypertension. I have done a project on the impact of climate change on the water sector in the Turks and Caicos Islands with United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; one on commodity price shocks in Guyana and Suriname with the Inter-American Development Bank. Most recently, I conducted a social public expenditure review in Suriname with the Inter-American Development Bank.

Ari Farshbaf: Graduated from the University of Southern California in 2012 with a PhD in economics and Masters in Quantitative Finance. I have an international education, personal and business practice background and this diverse global background is reflected in my dissertation on "Business Cycles and Global Trade" as well as the courses I teach.

I have taught macroeconomics, business quantitative methods, and international economics at different levels at the universities of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USC and most recently Westminster College in Utah. Besides teaching and research, I love outdoor activities such as camping, hiking and climbing and I'm very excited to live and teach in historic Gettysburg with my Persian cat that has traveled with me over three continents and many states!
Jake received an official acceptance to the 2014 Advanced Graduate Workshop hosted by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue out of Columbia University and directed by Joseph Stiglitz. He will travel to Bangalore in January to present some of his dissertation research focusing on the economics of land degradation in the developing world.

Faculty-Student Research
Summer 2013
John Weis/Professor Cushing-Daniels
Peter Standbridge/Professor Linus Njwul
Marc Franco/Professor Baltaduonis

New this year!
Get Involved... Join the Experimental Economics Research Club beginning this fall. First meeting Aug. 26th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in McCreary 204. All students welcome! For more details, contact Professor Baltaduonis (rbaltadu@gettysburg.edu).

Congratulations!

2013 Honors Students
Left to right: Prof. Fletcher, Nate Blyler, Ross Nichols, Tom Zhou, Anna Cammisa and Kevin Lugo

Taylor Smart ’13 and Professor Baltaduonis demonstrated economics experiments on electric power markets to state regulators at the Institute of Regulatory Law and Economics (IRLE) in Aspen, CO.

If you are interested in working with faculty on their research, please contact the Professor directly or stop by the office and speak with Sue about possible opportunities.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMICS MAJORS

We encourage you to submit a research paper to the Gettysburg Economic Review, our journal for undergraduate economic research sponsored by Omicron Delta Epsilon and edited by students and faculty. The journal will be soliciting submission in the fall for this year’s edition. We will consider all types of high quality papers, from short essay-style papers to long theoretical or econometrics papers, in all areas of economics. If you have written an excellent paper for a class (at any level!) or independently, please consider submitting it to the GER.