

M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ECONOMICS

Economics Newsletter

*Latest news from the
department and our alumni*

Jan. 31, 2013



Welcome back!

We hope everyone is enjoying a good start to the semester! This monthly **Economics Newsletter** is here to keep you connected to the department and our alumni. Whether you are interested to know what your former classmates have been doing, are curious to know what you can do with an Economics degree, or just want to keep up-to-date on news in the department, we hope you will find this useful and interesting.



Photo by Fran Collins / The American



Newest faculty member **Justin Wolfers**

Faculty in the News

spoke to NPR on Dec. 29 as they looked back on the biggest economic stories of 2012, from the state of the housing market to the fiscal cliff. You can listen to the interview [here](#). Wolfers, Professor of Economics and Public Policy and contributor to the NY Times Freakonomics blog, is cited frequently in the media and writes on a range of interesting topics. Check out the following links:

- [“Forget the Cliff, Fix the U.S. Tax System”](#)
from Bloomberg, Dec. 12, 2013
- [“Should Gun Owners Have to Buy Liability Insurance?”](#)
from NPR’s Planet Money, Jan. 2, 2013
- [“Room with a View: If economists agree on something, the public will almost certainly think differently”](#)
from The Economist, Jan. 12, 2013

Also in the news...

Department Chair **Prof. Joel Slemrod** spoke to the Huffington Post on the effect of temporary versus permanent tax cuts, in light of the fiscal cliff deal made at the beginning of the year. Read more here: [“Obama’s Fiscal Cliff Tax Cave May Boost Middle Class, Economy”](#)



Department of Economics 2012 Commencement Ceremony

Alumni All Over

CLASS OF 2008

Brian Biglin, JD currently practices commercial litigation at Sills Cummis & Gross, P.C., and will be a clerk to Judge Kevin McNulty in the Federal District of New Jersey in the 2013-14 term. He has published several papers on antitrust enforcement, urban redevelopment, and the Tax Credit for Low Income Housing.

Abhimanyu Bansal, former Corporate Relations Director of MES, is studying Marketing & Finance at the Indian School of Business. In addition to running a healthcare services business, he has a boutique hotel venture, and has provided seed funding to a genetics company, both in India.

“Thankfully, I have been able to pursue some of my interests that I left UM Econ with, as they relate to the law...In law school, economics was invaluable for understanding basic classes such as contracts and property.”

-Brian Biglin, '08

CLASS OF 2010

Joseph Holberg is a Teach For America Corps Member in Chicago, teaching math to 7th and 8th graders and enhancing technological proficiency in his classroom. Additionally, he volunteers at and is an Associate Board Member of the Center for Economic Progress, a tax and financial services non-profit in Illinois. With CEP, he helped over 18,000 low-income clients prepare tax returns free of charge.

CLASS OF 2011

Kareem Alazem is a second-year medical student at Case Western. Though not currently studying economics, he hopes to incorporate econometric tools in his future medical research.

Have exciting news to share? Let us know what you're up to! Send an update to Olga Mustata at omustata@umich.edu. If you are interested in contacting any of our alumni, you can email Olga for contact information. We look forward to hearing from you!