Happy Holidays!

We hope you’ve managing to stay warm as the semester draws to a close! Good luck on those finals! This is our thirteenth monthly Economics Newsletter, created to keep you connected to the department and our alumni. In addition to the newsletter, stay in touch via Facebook and Twitter!

- Manuela Angelucci shows that women are more negatively affected by stress.
- Jim Adams awarded Shorey Peterson Chair in Industrial Economics
- Our twitter feed has reached 800 followers! Don’t forget to follow us!
From Shifting Monetary Policy to New Jobs

Manuela Angelucci’s new research shows the productivity and payment scheme choices are more negatively affected by stress for women than for men. Angelucci concludes that women are more negatively affected because they are exposed, on average, “to exogenous chronic stress factors” and “a broader set of negative life events” more frequently than men.

Miles Kimball, and our department’s alumni, Noah Smith, report on a recent firing at the Minneapolis Federal Reserve, a sign that the Fed is moving from “Freshwater” (thinking monetary policy can’t fight recessions) to “Saltwater” (monetary policy can fight recessions) macroeconomics. Read the full story here.

Daniil Manaenkov and Matthew Hall “predict the creation of more than 5 million jobs in the next two years”, says the Fiscal Times. Manaenkov says that this is despite the fact that, “Washington inflicted quite a bit of short-term damage to the U.S. economy in 2013.” Read the full story here.

George Fulton, along with Joan Crary and Donald Grimes, predict that “the state will add some 130,000 jobs during 2014 and 2015, after gaining about 80,000 jobs this year and more than a quarter million since early 2010.” Professor Fulton adds that, “The story based on measures of macroeconomy is large encouraging and optimistic.” Read the story here.
More Faculty in the News

In the spirit of giving thanks, Miles Kimball writes in Quartz about gratitude, or “reciprocal altruism”, as a psychologist might put it. In this uplifting and happy piece, Professor Kimball reminds us that, “gratitude is a surprisingly powerful force in our souls—powerful enough to badly contradict simple economic models filled with “agents” who are in it only for themselves (and maybe their dynasty of direct descendants).”

Kai-Uwe Kühn, after leaving his role as Chief Economist at Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission, has just accepted the role of Senior Consultant to the Antitrust & Competition Economics Practice at Charles River Associates (CRA). CRA’s President and Chief Executive Officer Paul Maleh says, “We are excited to once again work with Kai-Uwe Kühn as a Senior Consultant to Charles River Associates.” Read the full story here.

All-star economics undergraduate Yichuan Wang argues in Quartz that, “China can boost consumption by moving children and the elderly into cities.” Wang argues that by doing this, the Chinese government “can begin to address Chinese income inequality, rebalance the economy toward services and consumption, all the while setting the stage for further economic reforms.” Read his full argument here.

Attention Readers: Mark Your Calendars!

The 2014 Economics Commencement is on Friday, May 2nd 2014 at the Power Center!

Come by to congratulate our graduating seniors and hear fantastic speakers!
The following message is from Joel Slemrod, Professor and Chair of the Economics Department.

I am very pleased to announce that John Sweetland, founding member of our Economics Leadership Council and long-time supporter of the Department, has endowed the Shorey Peterson Chair in Industrial Economics.

George Shorey Peterson came to the University of Michigan for graduate study, receiving his A.M. in economics in 1921 and his Ph.D. in 1927. After joining the faculty as an instructor in 1921, he was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1927, to Associate Professor in 1934, and to Professor in 1941. He served as acting Chair of the Department in 1943-44, and again in 1956-57.

Perhaps his most important and lasting contribution to the Department of Economics and to the University was his complete dedication to the development of excellence in the teaching of principles of economics, for which he held full responsibility from 1934 to 1959. Under his leadership, the level of instruction in the introductory economics course was raised to an exceptionally high standard. Professor Peterson was the most important influence in the life of John Sweetland, and had a lasting positive influence on many other economics students at the University of Michigan. Indeed, I am told that the Nobel-laureate Bob Shiller, UM BA ‘67, says that the best course he took while here was one taught by Shorey Peterson.

The Shorey Peterson Chair in Industrial Economics is awarded to a professor who has demonstrated excellence in, and a commitment to, teaching and research in the analysis of modern industry, particularly the behavior of firms and the functioning of markets. I am pleased to announce that the first holder of the Shorey Peterson Chair in Industrial Economics will be Jim Adams. Jim has been on the University of Michigan faculty since 1973, where he has studied and taught industrial organization and the European economy. He has served the university in numerous capacities over the years, and currently is Director of the program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

Jim is an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Economics, a designation designed to honor those tenured faculty "whose commitment to and investment in undergraduate teaching has had a demonstrable impact on the intellectual development and lives of their students." In addition to holding the Thurnau Professorship, Jim has won the Amoco Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award as well as the Golden Apple award that is given to those teachers at the University who “consistently teach each lecture as if it were their last, and strive not only to disseminate knowledge but to inspire and engage students in its pursuit.” Outside the University, Jim has held visiting professorships at Harvard, Aix-Marseille, Paris Pantheon-Sorbonne, and the European Institute in Florence, and has advised the Federal Trade Commission.

I have learned first-hand from many people that Jim has had the same kind of positive impact on his students that Shorey Peterson was renowned for. In his role as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Jim brings great energy, dedication and integrity.

Please join me in thanking John Sweetland for providing this generous gift to the Department, and in congratulating Jim for this receiving this honor.

Thank you,
Joel Slemrod
Top Tweets of the Month

Follow us and join in on the fun!
Where in the World is our ECON Shirt?

Traveling this winter?! Bring your economics shirt and show off your department spirit, wherever in the world you might be!

*Take a photo of yourself wearing your shirt around campus and elsewhere, and we might just post it on Facebook!*
Laura Dresser is interviewed by The Wisconsin State Journal.

Making Change with COWS

Alumna Laura Dresser “has a passion for economic justice.” She is a labor economist and the associate director of the UW-Madison think tank Center on Wisconsin Strategy, or “COWS”, which “highlights social and economic equality issues.” Dresser was interviewed by the Wisconsin State Journal about her how she became involved in “improv[ing] the plight of low-income people.”

Lessons Learned

Alumnus Raj Shah speaks with Devex about the lessons he has learned on humanitarian aid, and how relief efforts in the Philippines differ from Haiti. Read the interview here.

Hello, Phone Calls On Planes?

Alumna Micheline Maynard reports on a changing airplane atmosphere: the introduction of cell phones during flight. “The Wall Street Journal reports that the Federal Communications Commission will propose rules that will allow passengers to use their mobile phone aboard airplanes.”

Lessons Learned

In The Week, alumnus Noah Smith asks, “Does your job create real value?” According to Econ 101, people are supposed to be paid by their personal value-added, but industries like finance might not be adding value to the economy. Read the story here.

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!