



PROVIDENCE  
COLLEGE

# Economics Department Newsletter

## Fall 2010

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### A Message from the Economics Department Chairman

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As the new chair of the Economics Department, I wish to welcome back all current and new economic majors and minors, and wish all of you a successful academic year. I also want to acknowledge the arrival of two new members of the Economics Department, Angela Dills and Leo Kahane. Fr. Marquis, who was Chair of the department up until September, has requested a leave of absence to take on an important assignment for the Province in New York City, and we all wish him well in his new job.

The Economics Club has gotten off to a fantastic start, and I strongly encourage your participation and ideas as to how to make the Club even more relevant to your studies and future endeavors.

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### Economics Club News

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Welcome Back to Sullivan Hall!

The Economics Club is off to an exciting start after a slow year last year. Under the direction of Professor Ed Palumbo and President Will Short, we secured a guest speaker within the first few weeks of the club's return. Sandra Coletta, CEO of Kent County Hospital, came to speak to us about what the new health care bill will mean for us. She was very energetic and engaging, relating many of the problems with health care today to principles of economics. The turnout and level of responsiveness from the crowd was exceptional, making us all very excited to start to plan future Economics Club activities!

As we approach registration time please feel free to make an appointment to see me or your advisor, we will be pleased to help you in your course selections. There is nothing more important to us then to see you successfully complete your major or minor in Economics and of course, graduate on time.

Again, have a great academic year.

Dr. Alan Kessler

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### Change in Leadership for the Department

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Father Marquis took a leave of absence from Providence College and the economics department to serve as the Treasurer for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. Father Marquis served as chairman of the economics department, most recently for two terms from 2006 to 2010. He regularly taught labor economics, money and banking, financial economics, and public finance. The economics department thanks him for his able service and commitment to the department. We wish him well in this new endeavor.

Dr. Alan Kessler was elected to be the new Chairman of the department. His three year term will span from fall 2010 to spring 2013. Dr. Kessler teaches Math for Economists I and II and Microeconomic Analysis. We wish him the best for his coming term.

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## Economics Major Interns at Brokerage Firm

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This past summer I was lucky enough to be hired as an intern at Beecher Carlson's Boston office. Beecher Carlson is an insurance and risk management brokerage, handling the insurance matters of energy companies. After the initial excitement of acquiring an internship in Boston began to wear off, I realized I had little knowledge of the insurance industry and began to grow nervous.

My fears immediately disappeared as I received a tour of the office on my first day. I was introduced to a small group of young professionals who loved their jobs and working with their fellow Beecher Carlson employees. Throughout the span of the internship, I had the opportunity to have extended conversations with each employee, offering me useful advice concerning school and the business world. The employees were always accommodating, taking me out to lunch and allowing me to sit in on important meetings. The small office setting and personable employees made my transition into the business world a pleasant learning experience.

Although I entered my internship having little understanding of insurance, I was quickly taught how Beecher Carlson operates and was given tasks and projects that facilitated this process. I often handled and corrected a number of different insurance documents, offering me a glimpse into the types of energy companies that Beecher Carlson works with. For instance, I was assigned to read through an insurance claim for a blown turbine at an energy company in the Midwest and create a chart for a senior vice president. Perhaps the most exciting project I completed was related to the Gulf Oil Spill. I was asked to perform research and give a detailed report on several prospective oil companies in the Texas that may have been affected by the spill. The assignments I was given allowed me to learn about the insurance industry while positively contributing to the success of Beecher Carlson.

The Economics department demonstrated their interest in the success of my internship and supported me throughout the summer. Because my internship was to be considered a three-credit course, I was assigned a supervisor within the Economics department to oversee my internship process. I maintained regular contact with my supervisor, who offered useful advice throughout the summer. The economics department, particularly my supervisor, Ed Palumbo, and the department secretary, Maureen Medeiros, contributed to my positive internship experience.



My summer with Beecher Carlson proved to be a positive experience that not only taught me about the insurance industry, but the business world as a whole. By working closely with business professionals I now have the confidence to pursue further career goals.

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## The Department Welcomes Two New Faculty Members

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The Economics Department welcomed two new faculty members this semester: Leo Kahane and Angela Dills.



Leo Kahane earned his bachelor's degree in Economics and Social Sciences from the University of California at Berkeley. He earned his Master's and PhD degrees in economics from Columbia University in New York City. He has published numerous research papers in a variety of fields, including the political economy of voting and policy formation, the economics of crime, and sports economics. Leo is the author of an introductory econometrics textbook and is a co-editor of a two-volume set of handbooks on sports economics due to be published by Oxford University Press in 2011. He is also the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Sports Economics, now in its 11th year of publication. Most important

among all of Leo's accomplishments, however, is the role he plays as dad to his two sons, Jacob and Zoe, and husband to Cathy, his beautiful wife.

Angela Dills graduated from the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in economics and Spanish. She earned her Master's degree in political economy and PhD degree in economics from Boston University. She has published research on the economics of education, the economics of crime, and on the effects of alcohol policy. She is the proud mother of two young sons, Julian and Porter, and joyful wife to fellow economist, Sean.



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**HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OR IDEA FOR THE NEWSLETTER?**

**E-mail Dr. Dills at [adills@providence.edu](mailto:adills@providence.edu)**

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### Providence College Department of Economics Faculty and Course Information

<b>Professor</b>	<b>Ext.</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Email</b>
Albino Barrera, O.P.	2609	102	abarrera
Angela Dills	2590	114	adills
Fang Dong	2832	104	fdong
Leo Kahane	2046	112	lkahane
Alan Kessler*	2248	121	akessler
MaryJane Lenon**	2566	116	mjlenon
William Marquis, O.P.***	2194		wmarquis
Francis O'Brien	2156	108	fobrien
Ed Palumbo	2189	118	epalumbo
George Sawdy	2570	120	gsawdy
Nazma Latif-Zaman	2572	123	nzaman

#### **Department Administrative Assistant**

Maureen Medeiros	2194	111	mmedeir7
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\*Department Chair

\*\* Office Located in Koffler

\*\*\* On Leave

#### **Course Offerings for Spring 2011**

The following economics courses are scheduled for Spring 2011:

- American Economic History
- Managerial Economics
- Economics of Developing Nations
- Economics of Poverty and Discrimination
- Law and Economics
- Math for Economists II
- Economics of Globalization
- China and Emerging Markets