

Department of Economics**A Newsletter
for Alumni and
Friends**

- Department News
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- Student Updates
- Alumni Updates

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**New Faculty Members Join Department**

We are delighted to welcome two new faculty members in 2008-2009: Stelios Michalopoulos, who will join our department as Assistant Professor of Economics, and Jenny Aker, who will join the Fletcher School as Assistant Professor of Development Economics, and our department as Assistant Professor of Economics, by courtesy.

Stelios Michalopoulos received his Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University in May 2008. His fields are macroeconomics, economic growth and development.



Stelios Michalopoulos

In particular, he has been doing innovative work on the origins and implications of ethnic diversity. His research contributes to the understanding of the emergence of ethnicities and their spatial distribution, with important implications for the relation between ethnic diversity and economic development. Stelios' current research also addresses the relationship between long-run development and climate-induced technological progress, entrepreneurial spirit and development, and the implications of financial innovation for economic growth.

Jenny Aker received her Ph.D. at Berkeley. Her areas of specialization are development economics, applied econometrics, agricultural marketing and policy analysis, and program

evaluation, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. In particular,



Jenny Aker

Jenny has studied the impact of information technology on market actor's behavior and market performance in developing countries. Her research includes important work on the impact of cell phones on grain market performance in Niger, the structure and conduct of the cereal market in Niger, and the effect of social networks on household welfare and coping mechanisms in Tanzania.

Welcome, Stelios and Jenny!

Greetings from the Chair

Enrico Spolaore

Dear Alums
and Friends,

Welcome to the Summer 2008 issue of *The Maximizer*. As you browse through this issue, you'll see plenty of exciting news from the Department of Economics.

Two excellent new faculty members are joining us in September 2008. Thanks to a generous gift from the Henken family, our Department will support two very promising master's students as the very first Henken Family Scholars in 2008-2009. The Department continues to provide teaching and advising to a large number of dedicated and talented students. In 2007-2008

we had 516 major and 18 M.A. students, and enrolled almost 3,700 students in 98 classes—a five percent increase with respect to 2006-2007. Our professors continue to engage in high-quality research, to present their work at conferences and seminars, to publish in top-tier professional journals, and to be cited in prominent media.

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Department Highlights

"Attracting top-quality graduate students is a strategic component for strengthening and expanding the current graduate program in economics at Tufts University."

Henken Family support Graduate Students' Research with Generous Gift

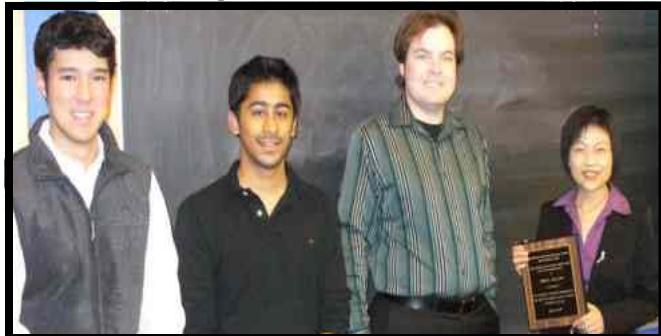
Thanks to a generous gift from Tufts graduate Rick Henken, this year the Department has had the great pleasure to select the very first Henken Family Scholars. Rick Henken, a double Jumbo in Economics, is himself a graduate of our Master's Program. Rick also holds an M.S. in Management, with a concentration in Management and Finance, from MIT Sloan, and is currently President of Schochet Associates, which provides services in real estate development and property management.

Attracting top-quality graduate students is a strategic component for strengthening and expanding the current graduate program in economics at Tufts University. As part of this vision, the Henken Family Endowed Graduate Research Fund will provide the Department of Economics with the resources to support one or more Henken Family Scholar(s) each year.

We warmly congratulate Alexander Oliver and Yulya Truskinovsky, who will be our first Henken Family Scholars, and will use such support to pursue their master's thesis research in 2008-2009.

Many thanks, Rick! Congratulations, Alex and Yulya!

First Economics Society Alumni Achievement Award Presented



From left to right: N. Haslett, A. Nambian, S. Atlas, and P. Jia

Panle Jia, Tufts University Economics Alum, and now Assistant Professor in Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was the inaugural recipient of the 2008 Tufts Graduate and Undergraduate Economics Society Alumni Achievement Award.

After the Presentation Ceremony, Professor Jia gave an insightful seminar on "Tracing the Woes: An Empirical Analysis of the Airline Industry".

Panle Jia received her Master of Arts in Economics from Tufts in 1999 and her PhD from Yale University.

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This year the Department hosted a large number of research seminars and other events, which are described in this newsletter. They included two fascinating presentations: Caroline Hoxby of Stanford University gave our Marvin and Carolyn Birger Lecture on "Educating People to Produce Economic Growth: The New View", and Esther Duflo of MIT gave our Wellington Burnham Lecture on "Fighting Poverty Effectively: The Role of Creative Experimentation". During our Seminar Series, our alum Panle Jia (G '99), now Assistant Professor at MIT, gave a very interesting talk on "Tracing the Woes: An Empirical Analysis of the Airline Industry", and was presented with an Alumni Achievement Award from the Tufts Graduate and Undergraduate Economics Societies.

We are very proud of the outstanding achievements of our students, faculty, and staff. Thanks to all for your commitment, hard work, and dedication. We are now looking forward to an exciting and productive 2008-2009!

Enrico Spolaore Chair

Department of Economics Tufts University

Featured Talks and Lectures

Wellington Burnham and Birger Lectures

In the past we have presented outstanding and topical lectures with the Wellington Burnham and Birger Lecture series. This year was no exception. The Economics Department brought two gifted and admired scholars whose topics were significant in addressing the condition of today's social economy.



Professor Esther Duflo of MIT gave our Wellington Burnham Lecture on "Fighting Poverty"

Effectively: The Role of Creative Experimentation". Professor Duflo's fascinating lecture was followed by a lively discussion by Professor Dani Rodrik of Harvard University and by numerous questions from a large audience of Tufts faculty and students. The event was co-sponsored by the Institute for Global Leadership's EPIIC program.

Professor Caroline Hoxby of Stanford University gave our annual Marvin and Carolyn Birger Lecture on "Educating People to Produce Economic



Growth: The New View". Professor Hoxby's interesting and informative lecture was attended by numerous students and faculty, followed by a discussion with the lecture audience, and finishing off with a reception.

Both lectures were well received and demonstrated the Department's continued desire to bring exciting topics to the forefront.



Braker Hall gets a face lift. Renovation project summer 2007.

Economics Department Seminar Series

The Economics Department in conjunction with the Fletcher School presented various noteworthy speakers in 2007-2008.

Yannis Ioannides Professor of Economics, Tufts University	"Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Cities"
Charles Engel Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin - Madison	"International Trade in Durable Goods: Understanding Volatility, Cyclicity, and Elasticities"
William Gale Vice President and Director, Economics Studies Program, Brookings Institution, Washington D.C.	"Effects of Individual Development Accounts on Asset Purchases and Saving Behavior: Evidence from a Controlled Experiment"
Costas Azariadis Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in Arts and Sciences, Washington University	"The Optimal Inflation Target in an Economy with Limited Enforcement"
Oded Galor Professor of Economics and Director of the Minerva Center for Macroeconomics and Growth, Brown University	"Cultural Assimilation, Cultural Diffusion and the Origins of the Wealth of Nations"
Michael Kremer Gates Professor of Developing Societies in the Department of Economics at Harvard University	"The Impact of the Hajj"
David Weil Professor of Economics, Brown University	"When Does Improving Health Cause Economic Growth?"
Panle Jia Associate Professor in Economics, MIT	"Tracing the woes: An Empirical Analysis of the Airline Industry"
Alan Manning Professor of Economics London School of Economics & Inter-University Committee to International Migration	"Culture Clash or Culture Club: The Identity and Attitudes of Immigrants in Britain"
Melissa Kearney Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Maryland	"Subsidized Contraception, Fertility, and Sexual Behavior"

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Faculty on the Go

Professor Marcelo Bianconi presented his joint paper: "Cross-listing Premium in the U.S. and the UK Destination", at the Department of Economics of FEA-USP in Sao Paolo, Brazil in March 2008.

Professor Bianconi joined efforts with Liang Tan (Tufts Economics MA '06, currently studying at Northwestern).



Marcelo Bianconi

Professor David Dapice traveled to Vietnam in both January and June of this year.

Professor Dapice participated in meetings with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung. At one meeting, he presented a paper on development strategy (mainly its weak points) and during another summit, he focused on macroeconomic policies.

Professor Dapice also performed some executive training and research into urban issues.



David Dapice

Professor Yannis Ioannides gave a research seminar on "Searching for the Best Neighborhood" and a series of three lectures titled "Economics of Social Interactions", to graduate students and faculty of the Department of Economics, University of Cyprus in March 2008.



Yannis Ioannides

Professor Ioannides also worked as a member of the organizing committee for the Conference in Memory on Antoni Calvo-Armengol in May 2008, at the Institut d'Analisi Economica (the Institute of Economic Analysis), Barcelona, Spain. This committee was composed of an international group of scholars (Salvador Barbera, Andreu Mas-Colell, Mathew Jack-

son, Yves Zenou, and others). The title of the conference was "Social Networks and Peer Effects".

Finally, Professor Ioannides completed his work as an Associate Editor of the New Palgrave Dictionary in Economics, second edition. Palgrave McMillan, general eds. 2008; forthcoming in hard copy in May 2008. Ioannides' areas of responsibility: urban and regional economics, economic geography, and network formation and complexity.

Professor Linda Loury presented "All in the Extended Family: Grandparents and Educational Attainment" at the *Conference on Social Networks and Peer Efforts: Theory and Applications* at the Institute of Economic Analysis, Barcelona, Spain in May 2008. Professor Loury also presented "Am I Still Too Black for You? Schooling and Secular Change in Skin Tone Effects" at the Midwest Economics Association Meetings in Chicago, March 2008.



Linda Loury

been cited by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a speech before the U.S. Conference of Mayors where Bloomberg came out in support of a carbon tax. Metcalf gave Bloomberg a private briefing on carbon policy before the mayor's speech at the Conference of Mayors.

Professor Metcalf also gave a presentation on carbon taxation and participated at an event hosted by Vice President Al Gore on climate policy in New York City. Other participants at the event included George Soros and John Doerr, a principal at the venture capital firm, Kleiner Perkins.

In the spring semester, Professor Metcalf presented a paper on federal energy tax policy at the American Economic Association annual meeting in New Orleans in January.

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Professor Margaret McMillan's research continues to focus on the distributional consequences of Globalization. Last October,

McMillan was invited to speak on globalization and poverty in Bogota, Columbia by the Latin American & the Caribbean Economics Association (LACEA). She is also the recipient of two grants for her work in this area. The first is from an anonymous donor and will fund a study of the impact of financial literacy training on savings and investment in rural Ghana. The second is from the National Bureau of Economic Research and will fund research on demographic pressure and institutional change in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Zambia. Professor McMillan also continues to do research on the distributional consequences of off shoring. Last year she presented results from this research at Maryland, Indiana, Purdue, Harvard, Yale, and the NBER.



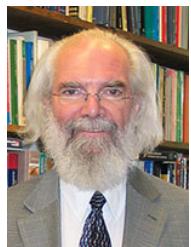
Margaret McMillan

Professor Gilbert Metcalf was on sabbatical this past year. While on leave, he has continued research on various topics including energy and climate issues. During the fall semester, he made numerous presentations including several in Washington. Talks included the Congressional Budget Office's *Director's Conference on Climate Change*, a presentation at an American Meteorological Society conference on climate change and a seminar at the International Monetary Fund. The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution also held an event at which Metcalf's paper on a proposal for a distributionally neutral carbon tax swap was released. His research on carbon taxes has



Gilbert Metcalf

Professor George Norman continued his research on the economics of the movie industry. His paper, "Product Line Rivalry: An Application to Motion Pictures", was presented at the Eighth Workshop on Motion Picture Industry Studies, De Santis Center, Los Angeles in November 2007. Another of his papers, "Spatial Competition and Agglomeration: An Application to Motion Pictures", was presented at the 6th Annual Industrial Organization Conference in Washington D. C. in April 2008. His co-author, Professor Darlene Chisholm of Suffolk University, presented a variant of the latter paper at the 15th International Conference on Cultural Economics in Boston in June 2008.



George Norman

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Professors Lynne Pepall, Dan Richards, along with Professor George Norman earlier this year, celebrated the publication of the fourth edition of their advanced undergraduate textbook, *Industrial Organization: Contemporary Theory and Empirical Applications*, now published by Wiley-Blackwell. This edition covers more extensively the recent and important advances in empirical industrial organization. It is currently being translated into Korean and Italian.



Lynne Pepall



Dan Richards

Moreover, Norman, Pepall, and Richards have a paper forthcoming in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* that offers a new approach to modeling advertising in imperfectly competitive markets selling a relatively homogenous or non differentiated product such as milk, beef, or other agricultural commodities. Their results predict that advertising intensity, as measured

by the ratio of advertising expenditure to sales revenue, will first increase as an industry becomes more concentrated and then decrease. Because this is a standard finding in many empirical studies, the paper has generated considerable interest and was invited to be the lead paper at the annual meetings on Commodity Promotion research sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and held in Hilton Head, South Carolina in March 2008.

Professor Winifred Rothenberg will be teaching an exciting new class this fall titled, Foundational Ideas in Economic Theory (EC 191). Professor Rothenberg describes the class in the following: "The Department has announced a new course, EC 191: Foundational Ideas in



Winifred Rothenberg

Economic Theory. The course is offered as an opportunity to deepen the understanding our majors have of the principal *ideas* that constitute the building blocks of almost all modern economic theory. It is probably fair to say that our students are being trained at present to use ideas functionally, instrumentally, as tools. But most of these ideas—among which are: causality, equilibrium, utility, rationality, property, the market, competition, contract, money, path-dependence, economic growth, risk—have long pedigrees in history, deep roots in philosophy, and powerful metaphorical analogies in the physical and biological sciences, a deeper understanding of which, it is hoped, may help to explain how and why it is that, at its best, economic theory—so skeletal, so abstract, so particular, so 'unrealistic'—nonetheless, appears to fit the disordered state of nature with what has been called 'eerie accuracy'."

"Trade, Geography and History" at the Kellogg School's Political Economy Workshop at Northwestern University. In December, he presented his research on the diffusion of development and on civil conflict and secessions at seminars at the European University Institute and the University of Florence. In June 2008, Spolaore gave a talk on "Federalism, Interregional Redistribution, and the Stability of Countries" at an international conference in Barcelona, Spain, and presented his research on "Long-Term Barriers and Economic Outcomes" at the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF) in Rome. In July, he gave a series of lectures on the "Political Economy of Geography, Institutions and Development" at the IMT Institute for Advanced Studies in Lucca, Italy.



Enrico Spolaore

Professor Chih Ming Tan visited the Economics Department of the University of Cyprus in June, 2008, to continue his work on threshold regression models with members of the Cypriot faculty. He has also been nominated to become a Fellow of the Rimini Center for Economic Analysis (RCEA) in Italy. The RCEA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to independent research in Applied Economics, Theoretical Economics and related fields. The fundamental goal of RCEA is to further advance research in Economics, Econometrics and related studies, and to promote contact between economists, econometricians, and scientists from other fields all over the world.



Chih Ming Tan

Professor Enrico Spolaore gave a talk on "Civil Conflict and Secessions" at a conference on "New Perspectives on Fiscal Federalism: Intergovernmental Relations, Competition and Accountability", hosted by the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) in October 2007. In November, Professor Spolaore presented his research on



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Highlights from the Masters Program in Economics

The Department's Master of Arts (M.A.) graduate program is thriving. First, late in the academic year, we have received a generous donation from Mr. Richard Henken, who holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Economics from Tufts University, in support of graduate research thesis. We are indeed grateful for the Henken's support of our program. Also, we have received a record number of 175 applications for the 2008-2009 class, making it the most competitive and selective entering class in the program's history. Lastly, we had a record number of five Masters' theses successfully completed in late April 2008.

Here are some of the 2007-2008 M.A. class specifics. We had 13 enrollments with a split of 40% female and 60% male. Of the total, 30% enrolled student were foreign nationals, including students from Bulgaria, Germany, India, and China. The remaining 70% U.S. Nationals came from different areas and backgrounds. Six students from this class have served as teaching assistants for undergraduate classes, and several others served as research assistants and graders. Another group of six students of the 2007-2008 class have been accepted to stay a second year for a Masters thesis. Two students of the class were chosen, according to their excellence in academic performance and potential for research, as the first Henken Scholars for the 2008-2009. They are Yulya Truskinovsky and Alexander Oliver, who will be working on health economics and political economy issues respectively. Also, one student, Lisa Kalajian, has been accepted to a competitive internship program at the U.S. State Department. We congratulate Yulya, Alex, and Lisa!



A few happy graduating M.A. Students at 2008 Commencement. (Standing left to right: M. Dalton, R. Chen, and Y. Miyoshi).

From the previous class of 2006-2007, we had five students who have successfully completed their Masters theses in April. Mr.

Stephen Atlas, who wrote on "Economic Experiments in Virtual Worlds: Framing, Reciprocity and Trust", under the guidance of Professor Enrico Spolaore. Stephen also won a Tufts graduate school research award and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Marketing at Columbia University. Congratulations Steve! Richard Chen wrote on "The Cross-listing Decision: Analyzing Sarbanes-Oxley's Effect in the U.S. Financial Markets" with Marcelo Bianconi. Maurice Dalton wrote on "House Price Appreciation: The Role of Land Use Regulations in Eastern Massachusetts" with Professor Jeffrey Zabel. Yoshiyuki Miyoshi wrote on "Adversity of Strategy? The Effect of Credit Constraints and Expectation on the Decision of Mortgage Default and Personal Bankruptcy" with Professor Yannis Ioannides. And Wei Yao on "Agricultural Commodity Prices and Welfare in Ghana" with Professor Margaret McMillan. Ms. Yao will be joining the Kuwait China Investment company in August. Congratulations again to all!



Graduate student, Hanlu Li, enjoys the festivities at this year's Commencement reception.

Finally, our research colloquium, where faculty members present a research project interactively with students, specially designed for students to improve their research skills, has had successful presentations by Professors Enrico Spolaore, Gilbert Metcalf, Chih Ming Tan, a special guest, Dr. Martina Hancova from Slovakia, and others during the academic year.

We hope you keep in touch with us by writing to Caroline Kalogeropoulos at caroline.kalogeropoulos@tufts.edu; and for the latest news and events, please check our website at http://ase.tufts.edu/econ/ma_program/index.html.

Best wishes in your endeavors,

Marcelo Bianconi, Director of the Graduate Program in Economics

Tufts Economics Society News

This past semester, the Tufts Economics Society created and hosted a brand new event for the Tufts student body: a round-table discussion of the upcoming Presidential election from the perspective of economists. The event consisted of Tufts economics professors speaking on three different topics that have come up as prescient issues during the primary season. The speakers included Professor Anna Hardman on immigration, Professor Drusilla Brown on trade, and Professor Gary McKissick on health care. The event was structured as a forum, with speakers each having turn to present the issue, discuss potential policies, and address questions from the audience.

The combination of relevant political issues and economic staple topics proved to be a winning formula. The audience was clearly interested, as these points of debate have helped to shape the Presidential election and have come up frequently in the media. However, it was a rare occasion to hear an economics professor's opinion and analysis of certain policies.

For example, though the debate over free trade may not be the critical issue in the fall, Professor Brown articulated that it will continue to be a relevant subject for economists, saying "International trade does have distributional consequences. There are gainers and losers. Do we care? Should we come up with policies that redistribute some of the gains from the winners to be losers?" Students seemed to enjoy hearing this viewpoint and took the opportunity to probe deeper. Professor Brown felt that students

asked "excellent and challenging questions".

When it comes to immigration, Professor Hardman emphasized that though the candidates agree that "something must be done", "each also fears the repercussions of legalization" and shies away from talking "openly about the longer run impact of legalization" in encouraging future migration. As immigration continues to grow into a polemical international issue, it will certainly be an important topic to watch out for as the general election draws closer.

Now that Obama has won the Democratic nomination, the Presidential race will change again as parties face off against each other. With Obama and McCain both supports of free trade, trade policy may fade to the background, but immigration and health care will still be contentious topics and environmental policy may gain importance, as the candidates have differing views here. This leaves plenty of scope for a follow-up event in the fall. As the Presidential election only comes up every four years, it is a rare opportunity for the economics department, the student body, and current events to all come together in this manner. It is our hope that a second lecture panel will be just as successful, if not more so, than the first. Guest lecturers already offer students the unique opportunity to see their class work "in action" and applied to real world examples. By hosting more panels featuring Tufts professors, the Economics Society hopes to also strengthen and ameliorate student-faculty interaction in the near future.

Contributed by: Aseem Nambiar ('09), Jonathan Mazumdar ('09) & Shruthi Tewarie ('09)

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This and other research on the movie industry resulted in Professor Norman being appointed as a Senior Scholar in the De Santis Center for the Study of the Motion Picture Exhibition Market, Florida Atlantic University.

Professor Norman also presented a paper, "Internalization Revisited", based on his research on foreign direct investment, at the 6th Annual Industrial Organization Conference in Washington D.C. in April 2008, and also at the 26th Seminar on the New Institutional Economics: Coordination in the Absence of Sovereignty in Lubbenau, Germany in June 2008.

On a lighter note, Professor Norman was the keynote speaker at the first Leadership Day on the Hill, organized by the Tufts Community Union Senate Alumni Gavel Association. He filled in the rest of the time collaborating with Professors Pepall and Richards to complete the fourth edition of their Industrial Organization textbook.

*The term economics comes from the Greek for *oikos* (house) and *nomos* (custom or law). Hence, "rules of the household".*



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Student News

Departmental Awards for 2007-2008

The Department congratulates the winners of our 2007-2008 academic awards:

The Charles G. Bluhdorn Prize in Economics is awarded annually to the most outstanding senior economics major. This prize was founded in 1983 by Donald Gaston in memory of Charles G. Bluhdorn.

Honorees for 2007-2008: **Megan Chang, Christopher S. Dutton, and Eric Hansford**

The Marion Ricker Houston Prize Scholarship in Economics is awarded to junior or senior economics majors who have been responsible citizens of the Tufts community and demonstrated mastery of economics. This prize was established in memory of a faculty wife whose friendship and gracious hospitality enriched the lives of many students.

Honorees for 2007-2008: **Diana M. Chang and Radha Kanubhai Patel**

The Lewis F. Manly Memorial Prize is awarded to undergraduates who combine a record of academic excellence with superior athletic performance. This prize was established in memory of Lewis F. Manly, a member of the Tufts faculty for 40 years, and chairman of the Department of Economics for 26 of those years. He also served for six years as head coach of basketball and for 15 years as head coach of football.

Honoree for 2007-2008: **William A. Fleder**

The Daniel Ounjian Prize in Economics is given to junior economics majors who are encouraged to pursue graduate studies in economics. This award was established to honor Daniel Ounjian, who graduated from Tufts in 1957, received his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard in 1966, and returned to teach at Tufts until his retirement in 1993. He served for over a decade as chairman of the Department of Economics, and was an important contributor to many University committees and activities.

Honoree for 2007-2008: **Jonathan B. Mazumdar**

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Later in the semester, Professor Metcalf gave a paper on climate policy at a Conference on Climate Change Policy held at the Baker Institute at Rice University and was one of two main speakers at Baruch College Public Affairs Week's evening event on Climate Change and U.S. Climate policy. Later in the month he participated in a conference on Cost Containment in U.S. Climate Policy held by the National Commission on Energy Policy and Resources for the Future in Washington D.C. That event included a briefing for Senate staff in the Capitol on climate policy. He also gave a talk at the New England Sustainable Energy Association annual meeting in Boston and at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington D.C.

In addition to his work on climate change, Metcalf presented new research on federal tax expenditures at a National Bureau of Economic Research conference in Florida, as well as the National Tax Association Spring Symposium held in Washington D.C. He also served as an outside expert for the Department of Energy on a DOE report on federal

subsidies in energy markets.

In addition to conference participation, Metcalf gave seminars at the Tufts Energy and Climate Forum, MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, the Brookings Institution, the Harvard Environmental Studies Seminar Series, and Harvard Kennedy School's New Directions in Regulation Seminar Series.

In May, Metcalf, along with Henry Aaron at Brookings circulated a non-partisan letter opposing a Gas Tax Holiday. The letter gathered over 300 signatures including those of six Nobel Laureates in Economics and four current or former presidents of the American Economic Association.

Professor Metcalf's research on tax policy has been cited in Forbes Magazine, the New York Times, Reuters, the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch, Tim Harford's weekly column on economics on the Financial Times website, and in numerous blogs and media outlets.

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2008 Summer Scholars

For the fifth consecutive summer, our Department is once more sponsoring the Summer Scholars Program which offers research apprenticeships with faculty mentors to motivated Tufts undergraduates.

Rachel Bergenfield (A' 08) and **Professor Margaret McMillan**'s project is entitled: "Invisible and Visible in Cameroon: The Relationship Between the Political and Economic Grievances articulated during the February 2008 Protests." This research aims to better understand the relationship between physical violence/conflict and the structural violence embedded in institutions and social structures by examining the protests that occurred in Cameroon during February 2008. During this time, violent protests took place throughout the country in response to rising food and fuel prices. In the past four months, similar protests have occurred in several countries throughout Africa, in addition to over 20 countries worldwide. Though the protests in Cameroon began in response to the high prices, soon the message of the protestors became political. They opposed an attempt by President Biya to amend the Constitution, thus extending his term limits and allowing him to remain in office. Why did Cameroon break into protests in late February, rather than other times during which food and fuel prices increased or there were other rumors about the President trying to distort democracy? How are these political and economic grievances linked? The hypothesis is that these events are not a "random outburst of violence", as violence in Africa is often portrayed in the West, but a response to a legacy of structural violence. The increased food and fuel prices were simply the triggers.

Sudeep Bhatia (A' 09) and **Professor Linda Loury**'s project is entitled: "Racial Differences in Economic Well Being". Racial differences in individual and family annual income capture only a fraction of the gap between blacks and whites in economic well-being. The purpose of the study is to quantify other aspects of well-being and compare

how blacks fare relative to whites. These would include easy to measure items such as wealth and lifetime family income. It would also include differences in economic resources due to differences in social networks, neighborhood characteristics, and provision of public goods and services.

Emily E. Morgan (A '10) and **Professor Anna Hardman**'s project is entitled: "Housing Prices, Bubbles, and Foreclosures: Impacts on Somerville, MA". This is a study of the impact of the current crisis and rising numbers of mortgages in arrears or in foreclosure on different neighborhoods in Somerville, exploring impacts on renters as well as owners, and how impacts vary with demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. Prepare research paper and report with policy implications for municipality. The crisis is likely to impact owners without mortgages via the housing market as well as those with recent subprime loans.

Jarrod Smith (A '09) and **Professor Drusilla Brown**'s project is entitled: "Monitoring Working Conditions in Cambodia". In 1999, the International Labour Organization (ILO) began the Better Factories Cambodia (BFC) project. The tasks of BFC was to monitor conditions of work in Cambodian apparel factories, report on compliance with Cambodian labor law, suggest remediation plans, provide training to factories seeking help achieving compliance and develop monitoring capacity in the Cambodian government. The BFC staff maintained records of factory characteristics, violations, recommendations and outcomes. This data is currently in narrative form. However, once coded, it can be used to answer fundamental questions as to what factory characteristics give rise to labor standards violations, is there some systematic relationship among code violations that tells us how factories think about labor management, do factories change behavior if they are monitored, are simple or systemic remediation plans most effective in changing factory behavior, etc.

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Alumni News

Alumni Spotlight

Our spotlight is on Caroline Epe, class of 2007, who is currently teaching in Africa. The following is a letter describing her experience in Tanzania.

After graduation I moved to Tanzania in July to volunteer for a year. I started teaching at a small kindergarten, Kilimahewa Nursery School., and working at an orphanage, Light in Africa, in the afternoons. My everyday life is pretty normal. I live at the bottom of Mt. Kilimanjaro, in a town called Moshi. I teach four-year old children letters and numbers in the morning, then I spend my afternoons with infants and toddlers. All they need from me is some attention and affection. I'm more than willing to give that but I also know that with the education that Tufts has given me I can make much more of a difference. I see potential in the children and want them to have a better education and opportunities later in life.

The kindergarten is run by a Tanzanian who started teaching his children and the ones of the neighborhood in his house because there was no other school close enough for his children. In the last few years with the help of volunteers, NGOs, and his hard work, Kilimahewa has built two bigger classrooms in the addition to his converted living room. We have between 70-100 children everyday, divided into three classes. The owner, Mr. Massawe, is the only main teacher and the other classes are taught by volunteers like myself. Many of the other volunteers are more short term and therefore there is little continuity. The children pay very low fees compared to government schools and many don't have proper school uniforms, but in contrast to government schools, we don't send the children away, and they all get a cup of porridge in the morning; for many this will be breakfast and lunch. I teach in a strange mix of Eng-

lish and Swahili since they don't really speak English and try to teach them to write and read their ABC's. Since my



Classroom filled with eager students at the Kilimahewa Nursery School in Tanzania

students are only three and four years old, we spend much time drawing and coloring. In the afternoons I work at Light in Africa, an orphanage run by a British woman. Although Light In Africa now has four homes in different locations and children of all ages, I mainly help with the infants and toddlers. They have nine healthy kids between six months and four years old as well as five disabled children. The majority of toddlers are almost two years old and therefore they cause quite a bit of chaos everyday. My job is simply to play and stimulate them. They all know me really well and sometimes I just only thing they never get enough of is love and attention.

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Life After Tufts

Andrew Felton (AG '03) has been steadfastly climbing the ladder of "Economic" success since leaving Tufts. Andrew works as a Financial Economist for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), where he works on pricing deposit insurance and risk analysis. He also works on a Ph.D. part-time at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. His advisor is Professor Carmen Reinhart, and he will be studying innovation and regulation. "This has certainly been an interesting time to be working on those issues", states Andrew, who is also editing a book on sub-prime crisis with Dr. Reinhart, that will be published this summer by the Centre for Economic Policy Research.

Before the FDIC, Andrew worked at the Brookings Institution, where he studied international development. He, along with Carol Graham, a Senior Fellow at Brookings, published, among others, a paper in the *Journal of Economic Inequality* on inequality and happiness in Latin America. Furthermore, Andrew and Caroline Moser, a social anthropologist and social policy specialist at Brookings have written several papers on measuring asset accumulation in Ecuador, including chapters for the books *Reducing Global Poverty: The Case for Asset Accumulation* (2007, Brookings Institution Press) and *Poverty Dynamics: An Interdisciplinary Perspective* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press).

Alumni in Brief

Giuseppe Michael Aldina (A '06) works in Commodities Trading and Risk Management for an oil and energy company.

Melissa Ausman Barkley (A '02) has been in fee-based financial planning for nearly 6 years. She currently works for a financial planning firm based out of Houston, TX called Stavis, Margolis Advisory Services. Melissa is employed in their Birmingham branch and has been married for five years to her husband—an attorney who graduated from Harvard in 2002 and the University of Alabama Law School in 2005. They have a son, Owen, who is now almost two!

Andrew Eggers (AG '02) is now in year four of his Ph.D. at Harvard University. He has enjoyed the last couple of years teaching and doing research. Andrew recently wrote a paper along with Jen Haimmueller, also of Harvard, which received some exciting media attention. The title of the paper is *MPs For Sale? Estimating Returns to Office in Post-war British Politics*.

Mantian (Mandy) Hu (AG '05) is currently a Ph.D. candi-

date at Stern Business School, majoring in Marketing. Mandy had a "great time in the Economics Department" at Tufts and enjoys receiving her annual Maximizer newsletter.

Farhana Huq (A '98) is the founder and CEO of Creating Economic Opportunities for Women (C.E.O. Women) in Oakland, CA in 2000. She created the company to help immigrant and refugee women start small businesses.

José J. Vincens-Villafañá (A '04) is finishing his fourth year of medical school and aspires to become either an OB Gyn or internal medicine specialist. José is applying to various residency programs, including Tufts School of Medicine!



Christine Wu (AG '98) works as a systems analyst (formerly a mid-level management consultant) in a fortune 500 banking company.

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The children are all well fed and have a place to sleep, they spend an hour with as many children on my lap as possible.

During the summer months, the orphanage is packed with volunteers but during the year I was often the only one who came regularly to play with them. I got to know how different their characters and histories are. They have given me something that I could not have found anywhere else.

I have never thought much about international development as a career for me and saw this year more as a break before getting a job or going back to school. As an economics and psychology major, I had always seen myself in the business world and thought I would go into organizational psychology or something similar. My experience here has certainly changed me but I cannot say that my reason for going into development is out of obligation or pity. I don't see the people in Moshi as poor and helpless. Instead, I see what they could accomplish if development was more efficient and created more carefully for the people its trying to help. The people here are working hard to have a better way of life and especially the women do everything they can to provide for their families. I have taken the year to learn about the culture and the people and be-

lieve that with better education and access to information the people here would start to help themselves. When I arrived I had no illusion that my year here would change the world; instead I expected it to change me and it has. But I did not forget all the other experiences that have shaped me and my four years at Tufts made me into a logical and realistic person above everything else. Next year I shall spend studying for a Masters in Development



A friendly smile from a young student at Kilimahewa Nursery School in Tanzania

Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. I hope the combination of my year in Tanzania, my Tufts education, and my Masters will give me the skills I need to make a difference in places like Tanzania.

—Caroline Epe (A '07)

FACULTY AND STAFF

Full-Time Faculty

Jenny Aker	<i>Development</i>	jenny.aker@tufts.edu
Lawrence S. Bacow	<i>Environmental</i>	bacow@tufts.edu
Andreea Balan-Cohen	<i>Health economics</i>	andreea.balan-cohen@tufts.edu
Marcelo Bianconi	<i>Macroeconomics, international</i>	marcelo.bianconi@tufts.edu
Drusilla Brown	<i>International trade theory and policy</i>	drusilla.brown@tufts.edu
David Dapice	<i>Development</i>	david.dapice@tufts.edu
Rajeev Dehejia	<i>Applied econometrics, labor economics</i>	rajeev.dehejia@tufts.edu
Thomas Downes	<i>Public finance, education</i>	thomas.downes@tufts.edu
Joshua Fischman	<i>Law and economics</i>	josua.fischman@tufts.com
David Garman	<i>Applied econometrics</i>	david.garman@tufts.edu
Yannis Ioannides	<i>Macroeconomics, growth, urban, housing</i>	yannis.ioannides@tufts.edu
Edward Kutsoati	<i>Money and financial markets</i>	edward.kutsoati@tufts.edu
Linda Loury	<i>Labor, education</i>	linda.loury@tufts.edu
Margaret McMillan	<i>Development</i>	margaret.mcmillan@tufts.edu
Gilbert Metcalf	<i>Public finance, applied microeconomics</i>	gilbert.metcalf@tufts.edu
Stelios Michalopoulos	<i>Development</i>	stelios.michalopoulos@tufts.edu
Sharun Mukand	<i>International political economy</i>	sharun.mukand@tufts.edu
George Norman	<i>Industrial organization, spatial economics</i>	george.norman@tufts.edu
Lynne Pepall	<i>Industrial organization</i>	lynne.pepall@tufts.edu
Daniel Richards	<i>Macroeconomics, industrial organization</i>	dan.richards@tufts.edu
Jay Shimshack	<i>Environmental and resource economics</i>	jay.shimshack@tufts.edu
Enrico Spolaore	<i>Political economy, international, growth & development</i>	enrico.spolaore@tufts.edu
John Straub	<i>Public finance, applied econometrics</i>	john.straub@tufts.edu
Chih Ming Tan	<i>Macroeconomics, growth</i>	chihming.tan@tufts.edu
Jeffrey Zabel	<i>Econometrics, labor economics</i>	jeff.zabel@tufts.edu

Adjunct and Part-time Faculty

Siddiq Abdullah	<i>Microeconomics</i>	siddiq.abdullah@tufts.edu
Onur Akmehmet	<i>Economics of the Middle East, microeconomics</i>	onur.akmehmet@tufts.edu
Joseph DeJuan	<i>Macroeconomics, monetary economics</i>	joseph.dejuan@tufts.edu
Arhan Ertan	<i>Development</i>	arhan.ertan@tufts.edu
Fernanda Goncalves Estevan	<i>Development, microeconomics</i>	fernanda.estevan@tufts.edu
Michael Fenollosa	<i>International Finance, monetary economics</i>	michael.fenollosa@tufts.edu
Richard Fey	<i>International finance</i>	richard.fey@tufts.edu
Ekaterina Gnedenko	<i>Environmental</i>	ekaterina.gnedenko@tufts.edu
Jack Green	<i>Business law</i>	jack.green@tufts.edu
Anna Hardman	<i>Urban, migration</i>	anna.hardman@tufts.edu
Christopher McHugh	<i>Finance</i>	chris.mchugh@tufts.edu
Deborah Menegotto	<i>Microeconomics, Industrial Organization</i>	deborah.menegotto@tufts.edu
William Mosher	<i>Macroeconomics</i>	william.mosher@tufts.edu
Charles Murphy	<i>Accounting</i>	charles.murphy@tufts.edu
Winifred Rothenberg	<i>Economic history</i>	winifred.rothenberg@tufts.edu
Joseph Swingle	<i>Statistics</i>	joseph.swingle@tufts.edu

Staff

Linda Casey	<i>Staff Assistant</i>	linda.casey@tufts.edu
Caroline Kalogeropoulos	<i>Grad Program Assistant & Editor of the Maximizer</i>	caroline.kalogeropoulos@tufts.edu
Debra Kendrick	<i>Department Administrator</i>	debra.kendrick@tufts.edu

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Braker Hall
8 Upper Campus Dr.
Medford, MA 02155
Phone: 617-627-3560
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Tufts University
Department of Economics
Braker Hall
8 Upper Campus Road
Medford, MA 02155

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