
Graduate Connection

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This is the sixth year of the Department of Economics' newsletter for graduate students. The newsletter will be published three times a year on approximately Labor Day, December 1, and March 1. It contains information and notices about activities in the department of interest to graduate students. It also serves as a formal notification of events, application deadlines, and course offerings.

From the Department Chair . . .

Welcome to our first-year grad students!

Welcome to the Department of Economics and to Evanston. We hope that your years with us are productive and fulfilling. Please take the opportunity to mix with other graduate students and the faculty. A good way of doing this is at the TGIF held every Friday at 5:00PM.

Andersen Hall addition

In theory the new addition is supposed to be ready for occupancy on December 20. However, difficulties attaching the limestone plus labor shortages in the present economy have meant that the opening will be somewhat delayed. The architect and the contractor have not been very forthcoming with a realistic completion date. As an (uninformed) guess, mid-February might be more realistic. Therefore we are planning that our seminars will have to remain in Leverone 165, and our graduate classes be held in regular university class rooms, through the end of the winter quarter.

As soon as the addition is opened, we will have to vacate the second floor of Andersen Hall and the extreme south end of the third floor. The second floor will

then be repainted prior to the move of KGSM Alumni Relations into the space. Alumni Relations are currently located on the third floor of the connector building in space that we are to receive.

When Alumni Relation have vacated their space, there will be a period of two months of construction in the connector building to form our main office and lounge, plus additional reconfiguration.

The implication is that, at best, our space will not be in its final finished form until June 2001, and perhaps not until later in the summer.

Our current working assumption is that the majority of graduate student accommodations will remain in Cresap until some point in the summer of 2001, and then move directly to their final locations.

The good news is that plans for the new space should mean that virtually all graduate student offices will have windows, and be smaller than is the case in Cresap and the old Andersen. Hopefully this will provide for better and quieter working conditions. We will also be purchasing some new carrel units to supplement those we already own.

Office allocations

A provisional allocation of students to rooms was circulated last week. We have been able to seat all of the students on our published priority list. However, we still have some older students who would like some space. Therefore if you believe that you will not use your carrel please tell the Ian Savage so he can reallocate it.

Students are encouraged to make Pareto-improving exchanges of spaces, but please let the Assistant Chair <ipsavage@northwestern.edu> know so that we can produce a student directory within the next few weeks.

Keys to the offices will be ordered through Mercedes Thomas. You will need

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to complete a card to request your keys. You will receive two keys: one to your office and one for the outside door of Cresap. The key to the outside door also opens the TA room in room 110 South. In addition you are entitled to an electronic key to Andersen Hall so that you can have access to the computer laboratory.

Departmental management

The management team of the Department continues unchanged for the coming year. The team is:

Joel Moky - Chair

Ian Savage - Assistant Chair

Joe Ferrie - Director of Graduate Studies

Mark Witte - Director of Undergraduate Studies

Asher Wolinsky - Director of Graduate Admissions

Robert Gordon - Director of Graduate Placement

Joe Altonji - Director of Computing

Recent honors

I would like to congratulate **Stefania Albanesi** on winning the NU Alumnae Dissertation Fellowship, and **Donato Gerardi** and **Jim Stewart** on winning the NU Dissertation Year Fellowships.

Congratulations as well to **Dale Mortensen** on his election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. **Burt Weisbrod** has been invited by the Social Science Research Council to chair a committee that will guide and advise the SSRC in establishing a new Program on the economics of philanthropy and the non-profit sector.

John Panzar and **Ian Savage** have taken up interim positions as Director and Associate Director of the Transportation Center for the fall quarter, pending the arrival of the new permanent Director in January. Both will be serving in addition to their regular duties here in Economics.

Faculty changes

The Department is pleased to welcome our new permanent and visiting faculty.

We have three new Assistant Professors. **Atila Addulkadiroğlu** joins us from the University of Rochester. He is a native of Turkey. He is a theorist with interests in mechanism design, dynamic contracting and the political economy. Until our new space is ready, Atila is in the Math Center in room 380 (phone 1-2529). **Luoja Hu** is a labor economist and an applied econometrician from Princeton University. She is in room 211 (1-8224). Also joining us is **Ricky Lam**, an Australian, from Yale University. He is interested in micro theory, psychology and economics and applied microeconomics. He is in room 310 (1-8233).

Eric Schulz will be rejoining us this fall. Eric is a 1993 graduate of our doctoral program, and latterly has been teaching at Williams College. Eric has a multi-year appointment to our teaching faculty. He is in room 228 (1-8204).

Yossef Spiegel will be spending a second year with us. He is on leave from Tel Aviv University. We also welcome **Nancy Hammond** as a full-time visitor. She has recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. She will be residing in room 229 (1-8482). **Lynne Kiesling** joins us as a part-time lecturer. She is also a graduate of our doctoral program, and recently was teaching at the College of William and Mary. You can find her in room 320 (1-8250).

The Center for the Study of Industrial Organization has two visitors this year. The first is **Aviv Nevo** from the University of California at Berkeley. The second is **Jacques Cremer** from the University of Toulouse in France. Professor Cremer will be team teaching a course with **Michael Whinston** on information economics during the winter and spring quarters. Due to the construction in our own space, both CSIO visitors will be housed in the Transportation Center building at 600 Foster Street.

Finally we welcome back Professor **Eddie Dekel-Tabak** after a two-year leave of absence in Tel Aviv.

Carolyn Tuttle our visitor last year has returned to Lake Forest College, and **Kathryn Ierulli** has return to her permanent position at the University of

Illinois at Chicago. **Marco Bassetto** has taken a leave of absence and is now at the University of Minnesota. **Paula Ramada** is still on leave at the London Business School, while **Juuso Valimaki** and his family have taken up permanent residence in Southampton, England.

Nemmers prize

I am pleased to announce that **Dan McFadden** from the University of California at Berkeley has been awarded the fourth Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics. Professor McFadden will be visiting with us during the spring quarter of 2001.

Staff changes

Last spring **Terri Parrish** joined us to fill a position joint between the Math Center and the Department. Currently she is physically located in the Math Center in Leverone 371 (1-3528).

Congratulations to **Rhonda Jefferson** on the birth of her son, Ryan Allen, on June 29, weighing in at 8 lbs 5 ozs. Mother and son are doing well, and Rhonda returned to work in August.

Quarter dates

At somewhat late notice, the University has revised its arrangements for Undergraduate New Student Week. This has been shortened from 7-days to 3-days. Consequently the start date for classes in the winter quarter has been put back two days compared with that contained in many University publications. The first day of fall quarter classes will be **Wednesday September 20**. Registration will take place the day before.

Prelims and funding policies

The Department has set policies on written qualifying examinations ("prelims"), and on the allocation of funding support. The policies have implications as to whether you will be permitted to continue in the program if you

do not make good progress. It will be strictly enforced. The text of the policy is available on our web page, and I urge students to study it closely.

TA performance

Receiving funding as a Teaching Assistant is a privilege and not a right. We expect all of our TAs to make a good faith effort to do their best. We would like to make it known that exceptionally poor performance or unprofessional conduct will be grounds for your dismissal as a TA. The Department will do this even if you have met the other criteria for funding.

TSE test

The University requires that foreign students from non English-speaking countries must pass the Test of Spoken English (TSE) before they can become a TA. TAships are the principle form of funding for second through fourth years. TSE tests taken before July 1997 require a passing score of 45. Those taken in July 1997 and later require a score of 50.

Therefore, **foreign students should sign up for the TSE as soon as possible. Now is not too soon!** This is a rigid Graduate School requirement, beyond the Department's control. The Department has a policy of not asking for waivers of this requirement, neither will it support you in requesting alternative forms of testing. Otherwise qualified students have been denied funding in the past because they have not passed the TSE. **Take the TSE early and often.** Leaving it until next summer is not a good idea. Indeed if you have not received notification of a TSE pass by July 30, 2001, you will probably not receive departmental funding for any part of your second year.

Nine-month versus twelve month funding

As some of you are aware, there is a debate within the University concerning the nature of funding for graduate students. The Graduate School would like for all

students to be paid, registered, and be in residence over the summer. In some Departments, but not this one, recent entering classes have received fellowships of this nature. This has caused friction with older graduate students who are still paid on a nine-month basis. The central administration have not provided any additional funding for older students to be given comparable remuneration to recently arrived students. In addition there is currently no clear plan for how to provide a summer funding to people employed as TAs which are inherently nine months in nature.

There was a flurry of activity at the end of the Spring Quarter with a group of rather angry students meeting with Dean Morimoto of the Graduate School. The Assistant Chair accompanied by Wojciech Lyszkiewicz, Tom Geraghty, David Barth and Peter Meyer attended this meeting. Any of these people can give you a rundown of what transpired.

In this Department, all of our students are on nine-month funding, because we have had to use additional monies from possible 12-month first year fellowships to pay for additional TAships to support the bulge in the number of second through fourth year students. Basically we traded off a higher stipend for some students in favor of supporting a larger number of students.

There have not been any developments over the summer. However with the start of the academic year, the issue is sure to arise again. I will attempt to keep you informed as events develop, but based on past experience, we have been kept as poorly informed as you have. When, and if, there is a realistic and concrete proposal from the Graduate School and WCAS, we will seek your opinions as to the costs and the benefits and the trade offs.

Events . . .

Teaching assistant training

A one-morning program will be held on Wednesday, September 13 for the training

of new Teaching Assistants. This is organized by the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence. All TAs who will be teaching for the first time in 2000-01, or missed last year's program, are required to attend. The training will last from 8:30AM to 12:30PM. The program starts in Technological Institute M193 (formerly LR5). You will then attend a specialized session for economics TAs led by **Nick Kreisle**, a past winner of our Distinguished TA award.

Orientation for second year students

Second year students are invited to attend a session on Friday September 15 at 1:00PM - 4:00PM in Leverone Hall 165. Presentations will be made by the Director of Graduate Studies on the requirements for the Ph.D. degree, funding mechanisms, and the 501 seminar. Short presentations will then be made by faculty describing the field course choices available in the Department and within KGSM.

Start-of-year reception

Faculty, staff, graduate students, and their families are all invited to the start of year buffet and reception that will be held in the Andersen Hall atrium at 7:00PM on Wednesday, September 27.

This reception will also feature the awarding of the Department's Distinguished Teaching Assistant awards for 1999-00. The winners will receive a certificate and a year's subscription to *Econometrica*.

Orientation for students on the job market

Robert Gordon, Director of Graduate Placement, will be holding an orientation session for students who are going on the job market on Monday October 2 at 5:00PM in the Seminar Room (Leverone 165). For more details see the "From the Director of Graduate Placement" section below.

Department wide seminar

I am pleased to report that **George Akerlof** of the University of California at Berkeley will be our distinguished guest for the fall department-wide seminar. He will be here on October 4 and 5. The main seminar will be on October 4 with the title "Economics and Identity." On the following day he will be presenting a related paper "Education and Identity."

501 Seminar . . .

The 501 (formerly E01) seminar enters its fifth year. John Panzar returns to head up the seminar for the coming year. Because we have retimed some of the Department's workshops, the seminar will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:00PM in the Seminar Room (Leverone 165). There will be one presentation each day and the seminar will last for one hour including the question-and-answer period. We cannot schedule two seminars on one day as the room is needed for a KGSM class at 6PM. Therefore we have to conclude by 5:55PM.

The method for signing up for presentations has changed. Starting this fall, the organizing faculty member will prepare an initial draft schedule with random assignments of students to specific dates. This allocation is listed below. Pareto-improving exchanges are permissible, and should be communicated to Professor Panzar.

For admission to candidacy students need to make two 501 presentations. Typically these are made in the third year, one in the Fall and the other in Winter or Spring. Therefore this fall third-year students will be presenting the paper that they submitted earlier this summer.

Week of	Monday	Wednesday
9/25	Jirnyi	Nixt
10/2	Job Market Meeting	Dept Wide Seminar
10/9	Vongsin-sirikul	Drelichman
10/16	Kaluzny	Watson
10/23	L. Moore	Lyszkiewicz
10/30	Adulwattana	Macskasi
11/6	Tatur	Di Cecio
11/13	Sinitsyn	Erus
11/20	F. Molinari	Thanksgiving
11/27	Barseghyan	Aguilar-Ceballos
12/4	Fusaro	Gonzalez

Please remember that you need two faculty members to read your paper and attend the seminar before "signing off" on the form available from the Graduate Secretary's office. Students should arrange immediately for the relevant faculty members to be available on their assigned date. Attendance at 501 seminars is compulsory for all third year students. Permission for absence should be requested from the organizer. You should also register for 501 all year but register on a P/N basis. Letter grades will not be given.

Please remember that two 501 presentations are required as a prerequisite for doctoral candidacy. This is a requirement irrespective of whether you wish to have Departmental funding in your fourth year. This year at least one person was denied fourth year funding because they had not completed the 501 requirement.

Second year students should start attending 501 seminars in the winter or spring quarters so that they can appreciate the acceptable standard for field papers.

Full information on our 501 requirement, and practical information, is available on our web page.

Teaching Matters . . .

Course offerings 2000-01

The schedule for graduate courses for 2000-01 is shown on the last page of this newsletter. Please note that Economics 414-2 will be taught jointly by Professors Michael Whinston of NU and Jacques Cremer of the University of Toulouse. It will meet for both the winter and spring quarters. Students must register both quarters, but will receive one credit and a grade at the end of the Spring Quarter.

Course descriptions - fall 00-01

Economics 412-1

Economics Theory and Methods

Professor Ely

MW 1-3

101 ANN

This course is intended to provide graduate students an understanding of the theory of non-cooperative games sufficient for a careful application to practical economic problems. The emphasis is therefore on areas of game theory most often encountered in applied analysis games with incomplete information in normal and extensive form, extensive form games with perfect information, and repeated games. We will introduce solution concepts appropriate to these classes of games and see them at work in standard applications such as bargaining, oligopoly, signaling models, auctions, and voting. There will be weekly problem sets and a take-home final exam.

Economics 415-1

Advanced Microeconomics

Professor Reiter

TTh 11-1

372 LEV

The course will focus on informational aspects of design of decentralized resource allocation mechanisms. We will read and discuss basic papers on decentralized

resource allocation mechanisms. The main material of the course consists of new results on algorithms for designing decentralized mechanisms to realize a given goal or social choice function.

A basic paper for background is L. Hurwicz "On Informational Decentralization and Efficiency in Resource Allocation Mechanisms," in *Studies in Mathematical Economics*, (S. Reiter, ed) Vol. 25, MAA Studies in Mathematics, 1986.

Following that we will work through parts of book on the design of resource allocation mechanisms by Hurwicz and Reiter currently in preparation.

Economics 416-1

Advanced Macroeconomics

Professor Christiano

TTh 1-3

101 ANN

Quantitative Monetary Economics. The purpose of the course is to provide an overview of theoretical, empirical and policy issues in modern quantitative, monetary economics. The course will address seven topics (i) optimal monetary policy when the central bank has the ability to commit to future policies; (ii) optimal monetary policy when the central bank has no ability to commit; (iii) using evidence from impulse response functions to discriminate between alternative broad monetary traditions; (iv) the operating characteristics of simple monetary policy rules, such as the Taylor rule; (v) the role of monetary policy in the achievement of price stability; (vi) monetary policy issues in the open economy; (vii) quantitative numerical techniques necessary for the analysis of dynamic general equilibrium models.

Evaluation will be based on homework exercises, and a choice between a final exam or a class paper. Readings will be articles made available on Professor Christiano's web site..

Economics 420-2

European Economic History

Professor Mokyr

TTh 8:30-10:30

101 ANN

This is the first of a two-sequence series of courses in economic history, one of which satisfies the history requirement toward the Ph.D. degree. The course will focus on economic development in Europe since 1800, especially the economic analysis of technological progress and demographic change, as well as the economic history of the twentieth century. Readings will consist of a package on sale from the department which is mandatory. There will be a late midterm after week 6 which will test students on the readings, and a research paper due a year after the end of the course.

Economics 425-1

Theory of Economic Development

Professor Matsuyama

TTh 11-1

154 KRG

This course explores a variety of the factors that present the barriers to economic growth and development. These factors include endogenous technological progress, nonhomothetic preferences, income and wealth inequality, imperfect capital markets, endogenous fertility, and cultures.

Evaluation is based on class attendance and a review article. Readings will be from journals plus two textbooks: *Development Economics*, by Debraj Ray (Princeton University Press), and *Development Microeconomics* by Bardhan and Udry (Oxford University Press).

Economics 436-1

Theory & Practice of Public Finance

Professor Meyer

MW 11-1

G32 ANN

This course will cover several areas of very active research on the design and effects of taxes and government spending. The areas covered will be welfare

economics, income taxation and labor supply, optimal income taxation, the effects of welfare and social insurance programs including AFDC/TANF, social security, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and disability insurance. While the emphasis will be primarily empirical, we will begin each topic with the main theoretical work in that area.

Evaluation will be on a 10-15 page research proposal and an in-class final exam. Reading list will consist of selected readings, many in a course packet. There is not a required text.

Economics 450-1

Industrial Organization and Prices

Professor Rogerson

MW 9-11

307 HRS

This is the first quarter of a three quarter sequence in industrial organization and regulation. The first quarter covers basic industrial organization theory that will provide a basis for the study of topics in empirical industrial organization, topics in regulation, and advanced topics in theoretical industrial organization in the subsequent two quarters. Evaluation will be based on several problem sets and a final exam. Readings will consist of journal articles, many in a course packet, and a required textbook *The Theory of Industrial Organization*, by Jean Tirole, (MIT Press, 1988).

Economics 481-1

Econometrics

Professor Matzkin

MW 1-3

307 HRS

The course deals with parametric and nonparametric methods for estimating popular microeconomic models. The models studied include qualitative response models, tobit models, duration models, simultaneous equations models, and panel data models. Evaluation will be on several problem sets and a final exam. There will

be selected readings, most in a course package.

MECS 460-1

Foundations of Management Economics
Professor Vohra

Time and place to be decided. Interested students should e-mail Professor Vohra at r-vohra@northwestern.edu with their time availability by September 20th.

All of mathematics is devoted to answering one of three types of questions. Given a function f and a set S , (1) find an x such that $f(x)$ is in S . This is the **feasibility** question; (2) find an x in S that optimizes $f(x)$ - this is the problem of **optimality**; and (3) find an x in S such that $f(x) = x$; this is the **fixed point** problem. Economic theorizing reduces to the solution of one of these three problems. This course explores the solutions to these three problems.

Most of what will be covered can be found in the Mathematical Appendix of *Microeconomic Theory* by Mas-Colell, Whinston and Green. In addition, other topics such as submodularity and approachability will be explored. The theory will then be applied to problems in mathematical economics and game theory, such as input/output systems, no-arbitrage theorems, Arrow's Impossibility theorem, the mini-max theorem, the principal agent problem, existence of Nash and correlated equilibria and existence of the core.

Grading will be based on weekly homework assignments. Prerequisites are a knowledge of linear algebra and some real analysis.

MECS 465-1

Contract Theory and Mechanism Design
Professor Eso

Organizational meeting at 2PM on Thursday, September 21 in 561 LEV.

The course covers recent developments in contract theory and mechanism design with a special emphasis on applications to auction theory. Its successive parts are

moral hazard models (static and dynamic), asymmetric information models (static and dynamic), single- and multi-good auctions, multi-dimensional screening, common agency models, and, if time permits, models and foundations of incomplete contracts. Evaluation will be by problem sets and exam. Readings will be Fudenberg and Tirole's *Game Theory* (MIT Press, 1991), Salanie's *Contract Theory* (MIT Press, 1996), and journal articles.

MECS 469

Advanced Applied Economics
Professor Kamien

MTh 11-12:30 561 LEV

This course replicates material in Economics 410-1, and therefore will not be considered for credit as a field course.

Finance 487

Dynamic Asset Pricing Theory
Professor Daniel

Organizational meeting on September 22, time and room TBA.

This is the last quarter in the Ph.D. Finance sequence. This course covers the basic arbitrage and equilibrium models of asset pricing in dynamic settings under uncertainty. We first develop a theory of contingent claims analysis, and a set of continuous-time models of asset pricing with Ito-process dynamics. Then, the course develops the theory of optimal lifetime consumption and portfolio selection and the Intertemporal Capital Asset Pricing Model (ICAPM) of Merton. Mathematical tools such as Ito calculus, stochastic control, and changes of measure are introduced as needed.

Evaluation is based on problem sets and a final examination. Reading List is mainly drawn from two required textbooks: R. Merton *Continuous Time Finance* (Blackwell Publishers), and D. Duffie *Dynamic Asset Pricing Theory* (Princeton University Press).

From the Director of Graduate Studies . . .

Office hours

I will have weekly walk-in office hours for graduate student matters on Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM in my office (AAH 318). You can drop by at these times without an appointment to discuss issues relating to the graduate program or just to introduce yourselves. If these times conflict with other commitments, email me <ferrie@northwestern.edu> and we'll arrange another time to meet.

Funding guidelines

The Department has brought together the guidelines for supporting students in years two through four into one document. This document is posted on our web site. I encourage you to read it carefully. *The Department strictly enforces these funding criteria.*

2001 spring prelim dates

The June examinations will be held:
Wed June 13 Macroeconomics
Wed June 20 Econometrics
Wed June 27 Microeconomics
All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM.

2001 fall prelim dates

Tues Sept 4 Macroeconomics
Wed Sept 5 Econometrics
Fri Sept 7 Microeconomics
All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM.

Fall quarter TA course allocations

The forms that allow TAs to express preferences for duties will be placed in your mailbox on the afternoon of September 12. Completed forms have to be returned to Scott Zacher by September 15. Unfortunately, the allocation can only

be announced at 4:00PM on Tuesday September 19 because we do not know enrollment in 201 and 202 until freshman enrollment closes that afternoon. Classes start the following day.

TA periods in residence

Each quarter that you are a TA, you must be in Evanston from the first day of classes until the Monday after examinations end (which is the day that grades are filed). In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some cases without informing the instructor. The Department will not tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights so as to be able to fulfill your duties. Failure to do so will be grounds for rescinding your TAship. For 2000-01 the dates for which you must be in attendance are:

Fall: Wed Sept 20 - Mon Dec 11
Winter: Wed January 3 - Mon March 19
Spring: Mon March 26 - Mon June 11

FAQs by entering students

FAQ1: What courses should I register for?

A1: You really have very little choice in your first year. Unless you are EXTRAORDINARILY well prepared due to previous graduate work, you should plan on taking the three, three quarter core sequences: 410, 411, and 480.

FAQ2: How many courses must I take this year?

A2: You must take 10 courses, in addition to 401, over the course of the academic year. That is, you must take a fourth course in at least one quarter.

FAQ3: What can I take as my "extra" course?

A3: You can take any course carrying graduate credit as your 4th course. Courses 300-level and above generally carry graduate credit. It need not be an Economics course nor a graduate course. In fact, the Department strongly

recommends taking undergraduate Real Analysis (Math 310-1) as a 4th course in the fall quarter, unless your math background is too weak or too strong. This is a matter to discuss with your Advisor.

FAQ4: Can I take Math 310-1 Pass/Fail?

A4: Yes! We recommend 310-1 to expose you to mathematical reasoning and gain a deeper understanding of what constitutes a rigorous "proof," not to fatten your GPA. While the grade you earn in Math 310-1 is not important *per se*, the Graduate School requires you to maintain a B average. If you're nervous about getting a C, take it P/N.

FAQ5: Can I "place out" of one or more core courses?

A5: Yes. You can skip any course whose material you feel you've already mastered. Just inform me, your Advisor, and the instructor, so we know what you're doing. However, bear in mind that you CANNOT "place out" of the associated Prelim exams, which are based on the material covered in the core courses. For this reason, few students elect to skip any core courses.

FAQ6: How do I apply for financial aid for my 2nd year?

A6: The Department assumes that continuing students are interested in receiving financial aid for next year, so you do not need to formally "apply" for it, even if you are not receiving aid this year. Sometime this spring we will ask all continuing students to fill out a brief information form. The rules for qualification for second (and subsequent) year funding are posted on our web page.

FAQ7: If I am a foreign student, what else do I have to do to ensure second year funding?

A7: Foreign students from non English-speaking countries must pass the Test of Spoken English before the Graduate School will award a Teaching Assistantship, the most common form of 2nd year funding. Please read the comments in the "From the Department

Chair" section of this newsletter. Failure to give prompt attention to these matters can have disastrous consequences for your financial ability to continue in the program in twelve months time.

In addition, the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence that has an excellent program for new graduate students, called the "International Scholars Program." The program matches you with NU undergraduates for weekly sessions focusing on improving presentational skills and understanding the culture of North American undergraduates. The Department regards your involvement in this program as **mandatory** unless you are a United States or Canadian citizen. Even if English is the first language of your country, or of the undergraduate institution you attended, you will still find a knowledge of the different classroom culture invaluable.

I know that the first year is a busy time for you, and that TA duties do not start until your second year, but ignoring this opportunity is a big mistake. We have a number of second-year graduate students who have struggled with their TAing, and have been given final warnings that their funding will be removed unless they improve. Don't let this happen to you!

FAQ8: Is it possible to obtain financial aid for 2000-01 at this point?

A8: Unfortunately, the Department has no additional financial aid it can award to entering students, not even a "tuition waiver." (Many departments at state universities have continuing access to such funds. We do not.) If you are entering the program without financial aid, you should not expect to receive any later this year. For your second year, however, you will be considered for aid based on the same standards of satisfactory progress as those currently receiving aid.

From the Graduate Secretary's Office . . .

I'd like to welcome all of the students, new and continuing, to the 2000-01 school

year. I hold an open door policy to all of the graduate students in my office in Andersen 215. If you should have any questions or need anything, please feel free to come and see me.

First year students

First-year students have been assigned a Faculty Adviser, please make an appointment to talk with your adviser before you register for your Fall classes.

Important dates

September 22 submit your Application for Admission to Candidacy to the Graduate School to be granted a Master's Degree in December.

November 3 is the last day for return of the Application for a Degree for all candidates who expect their degrees to be awarded in December.

December 1 is the last day for submission of the COMPLETED dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School for students who expect to receive the Ph.D. degree in December.

December 8 is the last day for receipt of the Final Examination Report and any Change of Grade forms for 499 Projects or 590 Research to the Graduate School for Master's candidates who expect their degrees to be awarded in December.

TAs and RAs to file a W2

In order to be paid as TAs or RAs, grad students have to go to payroll at 720 University Place and fill out a W2 form.

Funding . . .

Teaching for Summer Session 2001

Application forms for teaching in the Summer Session 2001 will be circulated to all graduate students in the third year and above in early October. Appointments to

these positions will be made by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Assistant Chair.

Appointment of lecturers for the School of Continuing Studies (formerly University College) 2001-02 will be made in February 2001. Please note that appointments to these positions are made by the associate dean of University College and not by the department. After reviewing the forms and checking your CTEC records as a teaching assistant, he will invite a short list of candidates to attend an interview.

These positions provide valuable teaching experience for students with good teaching skills. They can provide a more certain form of funding for students in their fifth year, or those fourth year students who are not admitted to candidacy on time.

Information on funding opportunities

The Director of Graduate Studies has established a web page which presents information on funding opportunities for graduate students, other than the TA and RA opportunities within the Department. The web page will be updated regularly and contains links to other web sites and PDF documents that give further information and contain application forms for you to download. The web page can be accessed from the "Information on the Ph.D. program" subpage of the Department's website.

From the Director of Graduate Placement . . .

Last year was an exceptionally successful year for student placement. Best wishes are offered to the following people as they start their professional careers:

Marco Battaglini - Princeton University

Benjamin Chabot - Univ. of Michigan

Andrew Cohen - University of Virginia

Li Cui - International Monetary Fund

Jean-Pierre Dubé - University of Chicago Business School

Tricia Gladden - Louisiana State Univ.
Christopher Jepsen - Public Policy Institute of California

Dan Levy - Mathematica, Washington DC

Mark Manuszak - Carnegie Mellon Univ.

Chuck Moul - Washington U., St Louis

Hiroshi Ohashi - UBC, Commerce

Tsunao Okumura - Yokohama National University

Jonathan Powers - Knox College

Paulo Santiago - OECD

Yoshimasa Shirai - Kaio Univ., Japan

Francesco Squintani - Univ. of Rochester

Ernesto Villanueva - Pompeu i Fabra

This year's job market

Robert Gordon, Director of Graduate Placement, will be holding an introductory meeting on Monday, October 2 at 5:00PM in Leverone 165 for students planning to be on the job market. Please note the following deadlines in preparation of materials for the job market.

October 2: A completed draft of students' job market papers should be in the hands of their Ph.D. committee members.

October 13: Students must have entered their vita on the standard template. Procedures will be distributed at the introductory meeting. Vitae will be collated and mailed to over 200 institutions by Maryann Semer. The "vitae packet" will also be posted on the Department's World Wide Web site. To prepare the web version of your vita please see under "Ph.D. Job Candidates" on our web site.

October 27: Approval of the list of 100 addresses for packet labels by your advisor. The Department will process a maximum of 100 labels. You should prepare the labels yourself. If you need assistance, please see Maryann Semer in Cresap 108.

November 1: Students should prepare

multiple copies of their paper for their packets. A photocopy account set to a maximum of 5,000 copies, which is the limit for which the Department will bear the cost, will be in operation for the calendar month of November. Individual code numbers can be obtained from the main office on or after November 1.

November 10: Students are responsible for "stuffing" their own packets with their vita and paper. A box containing the addressed stuffed envelopes must be delivered to room 308 on November 10.

November 22: The Department will hire temporary help to place reference letters in the packets in a confidential manner and mail the packets. The temporary help will be available November 13-22. Students will receive notification in their boxes when their completed packets have been mailed. If you have more than 100 packets, you should expect to be charged for postage and materials.

Notes . . .

E-mail addresses

The Department has replaced most paper memoranda by e-mail. A group mailing list for graduate students is <econ-grads@northwestern.edu>. There is also a list called <econ-1stys@northwestern.edu> which is for first year and BA/MA students. Do not mail to both of these lists as the second is a sub-set of the first.

To permit these mailing lists to be updated, first-year students should get an e-mail account as soon as possible, and certainly by September 18. We will then set up the group mailing lists. If you change your e-mail address after this date, you risk not being on the mailing lists.

Personal copy accounts

Graduate students can obtain a personal account on our copy machines. You will be billed at the end of each month at 5¢ a copy. To obtain an account please send an e-mail to the Assistant Chair <ipsavage@northwestern.edu> with your name and a 5-digit number to be used as your personal access code (the number must not start with a 0).

Web page

The department's web site contains directory information for faculty and staff, seminar listings, class information, and official documents on degree requirements. There are also links to information provided by the Graduate School, plus many interesting economics databases and sources. The URL is:
<http://www.econ.northwestern.edu>

Graduation Rates

Class	Prelims	Candidacy	Completion
1985	100%	73%	67%
1986	79%	68%	58%
1987	74%	47%	47%
1988	72%	56%	50%
1989	66%	61%	54%
1990	52%	48%	28%
1991	54%	49%	43%
1992	58%	52%	39%
1993	75%	69%	56%
1994	79%	73%	na
1995	74%	63%	na
1996	91%	78%	na
1997	91%	na	na
1998	81%	na	na

The department has kept detailed records on the progress of students entering our Ph.D. program since 1985. You may find the following information of use to you. The first table shows the percentage of

each class making it to completion of preliminary examinations, candidacy, and completion.

The second table shows the time to completion for students entering between 1985 and 1993. Completion is based on the date that the degree was awarded, which may be up to a year from the time that the student left Northwestern to take up a job. The mean is 5.98 years and the median is 6.0 years.

Duration	Number of Students
3 years	2
4 years	7
5 years	32
6 years	29
7 years	16
8 years	5
9 years	4
10 years	3

New NU domain name

As of March 1, the University has changed its domain name from "nwu.edu" to "northwestern.edu". This will affect both e-mail addresses and web URLs. Both names will exist in parallel until 2004 when the former will be retired. However, new faculty and students joining this summer will only be reached on e-mail using the northwestern.edu domain.

For this reason the Department changed over to using the "northwestern.edu" for all e-mail and URL's on July 5. I suggest that you do the same, and alter the return address and signature in your e-mail program.

Next Graduate Connection

Volume 6, number 2 will be published on December 4.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics

COURSE OFFERINGS 2000-01

	<u>FALL</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
401 Mathematical Methods	Ely		
410 Microeconomics	(-1) Panzar	(-2) Zheng	(-3) Whinston
411 Macroeconomics	(-1) Christiano	(-2) Barlevy	(-3) Eichenbaum
412 Economic. Theory & Methods	(-1) Ely	(-2) Chung	(-3) Abdulkadiroğlu
414 Economics. of Information		(-1) Wolinsky	
		(-2) Whinston#	(-2) Whinston#
415 Advanced Microeconomics	(-1) Reiter	(-2) Reiter	
416 Advanced Macroeconomics	(-1) Christiano	(-2) Eichenbaum	(-3) Monge
420-1 American Economic. History		Ferrie	
420-2 European Economic. History	Mokyr		
425 Economic Development	(-1) Matsuyama		
436 Public Finance	(-1) Meyer		
440 Economics of the Labor Market		(-1) Taber	(-2) Mortensen
450 Industrial Organization and Prices	(-1) Rogerson	(-3) Panzar	(-2) Porter
480 Introduction to Econometrics	(-1) Manski	(-2) Matzkin	(-3) Conley
481 Econometrics	(-1) Matzkin	(-2) Manski	(-3) Conley
483 Cross-Sectional Methods			L. Hu
498 Advanced Topics			(-1) Zheng (-2) Shotts