Jen Winter has just accepted a position as an Economist in the Research and Data Development Division at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada in Ottawa. Her current research examines the optimality of government taxation of exhaustible resources, and the effect of government institutions on the development of exhaustible resources. She uses empirical and theoretical methods to address her research questions. Her job market paper is an application of auction theory to new data, and examines strategic interaction by firms in the auctions. Her other thesis papers examine i) optimal taxation of an exhaustible resource in the presence of asymmetric information and ii) the effect of a government expropriation threat on investment in Saskatchewan’s oil and gas industry.

http://econ.ucalgary.ca/profiles/jennifer-winter

Jesse Matheson will join the Department of Economics at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. His job market research, “Peer Effects and the Public Policy Multiplier: Lessons from Estimating Tobacco Price Elasticity in Canada’s Aboriginal Communities”, examines the contribution of peer effects to policy effectiveness. Jesse’s broad research focuses on applied microeconomics, applied econometrics and health economics.

http://econ.ucalgary.ca/profiles/jesse-matheson

Itziar Lazkano will join the Department of Economics at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as an assistant professor. Itzi’s job market paper, “Intergenerational Externalities and Sustainable Growth”, studies the effects of intergenerational externalities on economic growth and the environment. In particular, she examines how intergenerational externalities may lower the demand for clean technologies leading to a situation with no-growth and environmental degradation. Itzi’s research focus is on economic growth and the environment.

http://econ.ucalgary.ca/profiles/itziar-lazkano

Juan Moreno-Cruz has accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Georgia Tech. His research focuses on the role that technology can play in facilitating the sustainable development of poor nations. In particular, he is interested in the role that climate engineering technologies may play in dealing with climate change. His research interests are climate change economics, environmental and natural resources economics, economic growth, and public policy.

http://econ.ucalgary.ca/profiles/juan-moreno-cruz
Report from the Head 2010-2011: Dr. Chris Bruce

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Head's office (to which our department manager, Julie Suffield, is a major contributor) made some progress on a number of fronts:

The head's first job this year was to hire a new department manager, to replace Moira Jensen who retired in June. After a lengthy interview process, we were very fortunate to be able to hire Julie Suffield, who had previously worked in the Faculty of Education. Julie has done extremely well, especially considering that she began her job with us after both the previous department manager and the previous head had left their positions.

As the department has been expanding rapidly in recent years, both in terms of numbers of faculty members and numbers of graduate students, office space had become very tight. Accordingly, we made numerous representations to Dean McQuillan and the Associate Dean responsible for space allocation, Geoffrey Simmins, requesting both an enlargement of our department seminar room and an addition to the number of offices available to us (preferably in space that was contiguous with our traditional allocation on the fourth floor of Social Sciences). Fortunately, we were successful in both endeavours. The seminar room was expanded by a third in May; we were given two offices on the third floor; and our allocation of offices on the fifth floor was increased substantially (to the point that we now occupy almost half of that floor). This means that, for the first time in many years, all of our staff and students are located within close proximity to one another, and that our graduate students are no longer quite so “cheek-by-jowl” as they had been in recent years.

This year the Dean responded well to our request for an increase in the budget - primarily to allow us to provide more funds to graduate students and to fund visits from eminent scholars. This response derived in part from the considerable base of information that had been built by our past heads and, in part, from our ongoing success at publishing in high quality journals and in attracting top-rated graduate students.

Because the School of Public Policy has an economics focus, we have received many requests to allow our faculty members to accept part-time positions with the School. After numerous meetings with Dean McQuillan and Dr. Mintz (head of the School), it was decided that three of our current faculty members would take up (approximately) half-time positions at the School and that, in return, Economics would be allowed to hire one individual in a limited term position (a non-tenured, full-time teaching position) and one individual in a tenure track assistant or associate professor position.

With the encouragement of the Head’s office, but primarily at his own initiative, Jeff Church undertook negotiations to establish a new M.A. in Regulatory Economics. If all goes well, it appears that we may begin offering this degree as early as the Fall of 2012.

It has long been the goal of the department to obtain more resources for the teaching of writing and researching skills, particularly to undergraduate students. Although many attempts were made this year to convince members of the senior administration to provide such support, we were completely unsuccessful.
I want to thank members of the department for their confidence and support in my transition to department Head. Rational academics do not seek out such a position primarily because years of training as a scholar do not prepare one for the murky, haphazard and bizarre world of administration. Yet we take it on because of a responsibility to the department, the hope of doing something good, and it's your turn. I am sure I will disappoint many of you all the time. I will work hard to try not to disappoint all of you all of the time.

We are a big department with 32 faculty members on the masthead. We play many roles at the University with two members at the Associate Dean level, three members seconded to the School of Public Policy half time, a Svar Chair half time with Health Sciences, CRC I and CRC II positions, and two University Professors. Our members are engaged in high-level research with recent publications in *American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Econometrics, Review of Economics and Statistics* and many others. Canadian and Foreign governments seek out our members for advice on competition policy, resource management, health initiatives and other issues. Many of our members are outstanding teachers winning both University and department teaching awards. We have achieved much in the last ten years as a department and have been climbing in the ranks of the Canadian economic profession.

With some 700 majors the department of economics is the largest teaching department amongst the group of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Arts. Total course enrollees taught by members of the department amount to about 7500 students per year. Our graduate program has some 35 PhD and 20 MA students. Our PhD program is young compared to other economic departments in Canada but as measured by the market we have been very successful in placing our people at Universities in Canada and elsewhere, the Federal and Provincial Governments, and in the Calgary and International oil industry.

For some years now our goal as a department has been to climb to the fifth ranked economics department in Canada. We started a long way back but we have come a long way. This rise in rank has not been easy. Hard decisions had to be made on department personnel and the direction and focus of the research and PhD programs. We are on the right track! Recently the University has refocused its’ commitment to research and scholarship with a goal of achieving a top five ranked University in Canada. The department of economics welcomes this new initiative and as a department we are well positioned to lead the University in this new challenge.

Finally, my predecessors accomplished much in the position as Head of department. Dr. Bob Mansell deserves credit for starting the new era of economics at the University of Calgary. Drs. Elizabeth Wilman, Ken McKenzie and Chris Bruce built on this early success to where we are now a respected and top ranked economics department in Canada. If I can make a positive contribution to my department and University it is ‘because I stand on the shoulders of giants’.

Professor Daniel V. Gordon stepped into the position of Head of the Department of Economics for a three year period beginning on July 1, 2011.
The Department of Economics Distinguished Lecture Series brings some of the world’s top economists to Calgary to lecture on an important public policy topic to a mixed audience of undergraduates, graduates and university faculty. Its purpose is to enrich the undergraduate and graduate experience at the University of Calgary, raise the Department’s international profile, and provide thought provoking lectures to the University community. In March of this year we welcomed Dr. Larry Samuelson. Lawrence (Larry) Samuelson is the A. Douglas Melamed Professor of Economics at Yale University. He is currently coeditor of the American Economic Review, and a former coeditor of Econometrica.

Information is central to our economy - a relationship enshrined in the oft-heard phrase “information economy.” However, an effectively functioning economy requires not just information, but common information. This talk will examine the difference between information and beliefs about information, and common information or common beliefs. We will see that the coordinated activity that provides the foundation for a healthy economy requires the full strength of common information, while any shortfall can be crippling.

For more information please visit his website:
http://cowles.econ.yale.edu/faculty/samuelson.htm
Honours and Awards

Dr. Scott Taylor

Scott Taylor, our Canada Research Chair in International, Energy and Environmental Economics, was recently awarded an honorary degree from the University of Basel. This is a rare honor, and very well deserved. The Faculty has actually only given out one h.c. (that is honors causa) before in 2002 and that was to Roger Myerson (Nobel laureate in 2007).

Dr. B. Curtis Eaton

Dr. B. Curtis Eaton is one of Canada’s leading microeconomic theorists. His work has spanned several areas, including spatial competition, urban/regional economics, industrial organization, labour economics, game theory, the economics of information and social interaction. The defining characteristics of his award winning research are its highly original and seminal/foundational nature, the elegant simplicity of his approach to modelling, and the underlying policy implications that motivate much of his analysis. He is past-President of the Canadian Economics Association, the author of an acclaimed textbook in microeconomic theory, and has two volumes dedicated to celebrating his contributions. This is a well-deserved honor.

Dr. Olena Ivus

The article by Olena Ivus, entitled “Do stronger patent rights raise high-tech exports to the developing world?”, studies the effects of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement on the volume and the price of high-tech/patent-sensitive exports from developed to developing countries. According to the Selection Panel, this paper is an extremely well-crafted analysis that offers insights relevant to the policy debate. Their papers were ranked equal first by the Selection Panel (see below). Mr Donaldson and Ms Ivus will share the prize of CHF 5,000 for the Essay Award, which was launched in 2009. Olena Ivus is from Ukraine and studied economics at the Chernihiv State Institute of Economics and Management (Ukraine). She received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Calgary (Canada). She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Queen’s School of Business at Queen’s University, Kingston (Canada).

Dr. Ken McKenzie

Economics and School of Public Policy professor Dr. Ken McKenzie says that despite providing generous tax incentives, until recently Canada has had only mediocre performance in the area of research and development. In a recent paper, he and co-investigator Natalia Sershun, MA ’05 researched the impact of the Canadian tax system on research and development (R&D). Their efforts were rewarded early this month with the Purvis Prize, a prestigious award that recognizes a significant contribution to Canadian economic policy.

McKenzie says that until recently this typified the Canadian tax system and provides a partial explanation for Canada’s mediocre R&D performance with respect to other OECD countries despite the presence of one of the most attractive tax incentive regime for R&D in the world. Recent general corporate tax cuts that have reduced taxes on the fruits of R&D efforts have led to a more balanced tax system as it relates to R&D from both the push and pull perspectives. This is the second time McKenzie has won the Purvis Prize. The first time his work was recognized by the Purvis Foundation was in 2000 for his book Past (In)Discretions: Canadian Federal and Provincial Fiscal Policy co-authored with Dr. Ron Kneebone, also of the Economics department.

The 2011 Purvis Prize winning paper is entitled Taxation and R&D: An Investigation of the Push and Pull Effects and was published in Canadian Public Policy in September 2010. The paper is available at http://utpjournals.metapress.com/content/t55p8368m668l4u2/. The prize was presented at the Purvis Lunch at the annual Canadian Economics Association Conference in Ottawa on June 4.

Congratulations to Dr. Ken McKenzie on winning the Purvis Prize for his research on Canadian Economic Policy.
In the News

Professor Aiden Hollis recently talked to the Globe and Mail about the EU—Canadian trade deal. His analysis was reported in news sources across the country in English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Spanish and Greek, and was raised in Parliament. You can read the story at: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/eu-trade-deal-could-cost-canadian-drug-plans-billions/article1896747/. His comments were in regards to the potential billions it would cost Canadian drug plans if this trade deal went through.

Professor John Boyce spoke with the Globe and Mail last June about his research on peak oil theory. He finds the peak oil model an inadequate empirical representation of historical patterns. He based his research on his study of oil discovery and production in 44 countries and 24 U.S. States. Read more about his research at: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/there-is-no-peak-oil-but-there-is-supply-and-demand/article1613877/. His comments were in regards to the potential billions it would cost Canadian drug plans if this trade deal went through.

Professor Scott Taylor had his paper highlighted last April in an article in the German paper, Handelsblatt. Dr. Taylor’s analysis of the near extinction of the American bison in a very short time period was well received and discussed. His paper, which is forthcoming in the “American Economics Review” is titled, “Buffalo Hunt: International Trade and the Virtual Extinction of the North American Bison”. You can read more about this at: http://economicsintelligence.com/2011/04/13/how-free-trade-killed-the-buffalo/

Comings and Goings

New Arrivals...The department welcomed Drs. Arvind Magesan and Kunio Tsuyuhara as Assistant Professors starting in July 2010. Dr. Magesan completed his PhD at the University of Toronto and works in the area of Applied Microeconomics, Empirical Industrial Organization and Political Economy. Dr. Tsuyuhara completed his PhD at the University of Toronto and works in the area of Macroeconomics, Search Theory, Contract Theory and Labour Economics.

Departing...The department has had to say goodbye to Dr. Chris Auld. Dr. Auld is a specialist in Econometrics and Heath Economics. Dr. Auld joined the Department of Economics, University of Victoria January 2011.

On the Go...Dr. Jared Carbone is spending a sabbatical and research leave with Resources for the Future, Washington DC July 2011 to June 2012.

Drs. Joanne Roberts and Eugene Choo are spending a sabbatical and research leave with the Department of Economics, National University of Singapore July 2011 to June 2012.

Visiting...Dr. Qin Wang is visiting our department for the coming year. Dr. Wang is an Associate Professor at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai, China. Her primary fields of research are Applied Microeconomics, Industrial Organization, Value Network, and Network Governance.
PhD Students Mini Conference

The PhD Mini Conference was held this last spring on May 16th. Each speaker was allowed 15 minutes to present their research, with a 5 minute discussant and 5 minute response. The presenters this year were Cecilia Garcia, Victor Yang Song, Fatih Yilmaz, Juan Moreno-Cruz, and Jevan Cherniwchan.

Rocky Mountain Empirical Trade Conference

The Economics Department is proud to host this annual conference in Banff every spring. Leading scholars and graduate students from around the world with an interest in international economics come to the Banff Centre for the three-day event. The conference is a collaborative effort with colleagues from the University of Calgary, the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria and scholars at the Forum for Research in Empirical International Trade (FREIT). The 2012 Conference will be held at UBC Robson Square located downtown Vancouver, British Columbia. As always, the conference organizers are planning activities to take advantage of our unique location. There will be a walk and dinner in Stanley Park; afternoon kayaking near Granville Island; and dinner downtown. For more information on this and other FREIT conferences consult the web page: http://www.freit.org/index.html

46th Annual Canadian Economics Association (CEA)

The Department of Economics at the University of Calgary is very pleased to be hosting the 46th Annual Canadian Economics Association meetings June 8-10, 2012. The conference attracts approximately 1,000 economists from the academic, business and government sectors from around the world for this three-day event. This is a great opportunity for graduate students to present their work and to meet and mingle with leading economists. For more information go to the CEA web page:

We’re Online!

http://econ.ucalgary.ca/

Check out our Department Facebook Page!
“University of Calgary Economics Graduate Program”
When you find us, join our page!

Get Involved!

General Information:

Name:________________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________
City:____________________ Prov:_________       PC:_________________
Telephone:(H)________________________(C)_______________________
Email________________________________________________________

Credit Card#____________________________________________________

Please charge my credit for the gift of $__________ to the University of Calgary, Department of Economics. □ Visa □ Mastercard

Exp Date:___/____ Signature:____________________________________

Cheque or Money Order:

Please find my cheque or money order attached in the amount of $_______

Cheques can be made payable to the University of Calgary.