As 2003 winds down and we move into the holiday season, I am sitting in my office, looking out the window at Pullman, reflecting on a year of change for the Department of Economics. The most obvious development is that Duane Leigh is not the one writing this note to you. Duane ended his nine-year term as chair of the department in May, and I assumed the post. Duane is on professional leave this semester. Meanwhile, I took on the headaches and thrills that go along with being head of the Department.

We’ve had lots of other changes as well. Dean Len Jessup has instituted some radical changes within the College in the quest for AACSB re-accreditation. Many of these changes have impacted our department, including some reductions in our resources (we lost several TA slots), the phasing out of the Business Economics option in the undergraduate business degree, and new requirements in our graduate programs. At the same time, discussions with the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) culminated in a proposal to the Provost to form a School of Economic Sciences. We discuss the proposed School in more detail in another part of this newsletter.

Despite the loss of the TA slots, the PhD program brought in three new students, as did the MA program. With 19 Economics graduate students in residence, and the entering classes in AREC and Finance, we seem just as busy as ever. We had eight students finish their PhDs this year (see the list elsewhere in this newsletter) and four students finish their MA degrees. The undergraduate program continues to be strong, with somewhere between 50 and 60 majors (we are busy processing new majors as I write this) and 17 BA degrees awarded last year.

Many of you have taken the time to write us over the past year, and we always enjoy hearing about your families or careers. It makes me proud to see how successful our graduates are in the wide variety of paths their lives have taken. Please keep the news coming. For your convenience, I’m enclosing a business reply envelope, so feel free to contact me at yamaka@wsu.edu. We are exploring the possibility of developing an advisory board for the department, to help us in outreach and development. If you are interested in joining the Board, or would like to suggest someone for it, I’d especially like to hear from you.

I’d also like to thank those of you who contributed financially to the Department. Budgets continue to be tight at WSU, and your contributions make it possible to continue providing the same high quality education that you enjoyed. These contributions help support our active visiting speakers program, as well as scholarships for undergraduate and fellowships for graduate students.

My best wishes for a fun and fulfilling holiday season with family and friends.

Robby Rosenman, Chair
Across the Middle East, Mike writes that the project has a very high risk factor but also a lot of potential upside. He completed the Master of Public Administration & International Development program in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1999.

Jess Colby, BA 1985, is a credit manager with Genie Industries. She lives in Edmonds, Wash.

Kyle Grafius, BA 2003, is working as a national sales recruiter for Cuyler Careers in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

The text continues with more detailed information about the experiences and achievements of various alumni mentioned in the document.
Kelly Meyers, BA 1997, recently changed jobs within PACCAR and is now a senior commodity manager working in PACCAR corporate headquarters in Bellevue, Wash., in Kirkland.


Scott McGlinney, BA 1980, is a sales representative for Box Makers, Inc. in Kent, Wash. He and his wife live in Kentwood.

Leo Penius, BA 1959, retired from IBM in 1981. Leo and his wife live in Howell, Ga.

Kara K. Reihart-Brehm, BA 1997, is a senior financial analyst at Washington Mutual Bank in downtown Seattle. She recently moved with her husband and two year old daughter Katelyn to a new home in Normandy Park, Wash.

Kimberly Shelton, BA 1987, is a senior business systems analyst in the Field Operations department at Washington Mutual Bank in Seattle. Kimberly writes that she spent the year 2000 living in the Old City of Jerusalem and in Kaineh, a village near Nazareth. While in Israel, she volunteered for a few NGOs and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. She found working on projects that grant proposals aimed at helping underserved people in Gaza and on the West Bank especially gratifying.

Jen Semstelle, BA 1968, is back at his regular job as professor of economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was on leave at the Institute for Public Policy in San Francisco where he is working on a major study of the K-12 education system in California.

Dameon Willbur, BA 1999, is completing the PhD program at the University of Oregon. His fields are game theory and industrial organization.

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"Calculating the Candy Price Index: A California Excursion" Experiment, that appeared in the summer 2003 issue of Journal of Economic Education.

Shaomin Huang, PhD 1993, is on sabbatical leave at Peking University in Beijing. His regular job is teaching economics at Lewis & Clark College in Northfield, Minn.

Dare Huck, MA 1999, has moved to a new job at American Marine Bank from his old job at Frontier Bank. He continues to live in Seattle.

Minoo Lee, PhD 1999, is a senior lecturer at Lincoln University in Canterbury, New Zealand.

Patricia Mitchig, MA 1984, was recently promoted to associate professor of human resources and employment relations at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He received his PhD degree in labor and industrial relations from Michigan State University in 1995.

Chris Stover, PhD 2001, is teaching in a tenure-track position at Eastern Washington University in Cheney.

Aran Raha, PhD 1996, is a senior economist at Eaton Corp. in Cleveland. He is a member of the U.S. Department of Labor's forestry panel and of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, and he chairs the Commercial Vehicle Committee for the Agricultural and Industrial Council.

Lucy Vredenburg, PhD 1983, recently stepped down after 13 years as department chair at Oregon State University. We were happy to hear that she is enjoying teaching and research full-time again and taking more time to watch his son's sporting events.

Qun Wei, PhD 2003, is working for the American Express Co. in Boston.

Jason Whitcomb, PhD 2003, recently accepted a tenure-track position in sports management at the University of Michigan. He is teaching sports economics and sports finance. Jason was a Thomas S. Foley Graduate Fellow at her last year at WSU.

Shanhe You, PhD 2006, is an assistant professor of economics at the Chinese Culture University in Taipei, Taiwan.

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Maxim's and PhD Degree Munson

Dale Austin, PhD 2003, is teaching economics at Whitworth College in Spokane.

Saradora Al-Khali, MA 2003, is a member of the department of economics and finance at the Institute of Public Administration Central Branch in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Bruce Callan, MA 1982, is a bookkeeper in downtown Pullman, Brad's Books, were featured in an article in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News in May. Bruce moved his greatly expanded store to a new location on Main Street in January.

Kynna Curtis, PhD 2003, is an assistant professor in the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics at the University of Nevada-Reno.

Francis Dodd, MA 1986, is professor and chair of Afro-American Studies at the University of Maryland. He previously taught at Vanderbilt University, and from 1998-2000 he was director of the Rockefeller Foundation-funded African Population and Health Research Center in Nairobi, Kenya. His research interests are in the areas of gender, power, and fertility decision making in Africa and on the socio-economic attainment of immigrants and minorities in America. He received his PhD degree in demography in 1986 at the University of Pennsylvania.

Thom Rottersmith, PhD 2003, is teaching at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Grant Forgh, PhD 1996, was married in November. Grant and his wife, Shane, live in Cherry, and Grant continues to teach at Eastern Washington University.

Dan Fineiner, PhD 2000, recently moved back to the Northeast to join the economics department at Connecticut College in Providence.

John Fuller, PhD 1968, visited the campus with his wife in July. John is professor in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Iowa. We were overjoying attending a Transportation Research Board meeting in Portland.

Ted Gates, MA 1997, writes that he is full-time director of his new-18- month-old son in junior. Ethan Gary, MA 1993, is the Senior Consultant at Emory University. Ethan also has a nine month old son in junior.

Cindy Hill, PhD 1997, has been awarded tenure in Economics at Idaho State University. You might want to check her out now.
Friends and Former Faculty

Carol Clark, faculty member from 1973 to 1999, continues as state director of the Small Business Development Centre located in Spokane. Carol also serves as one of 13 members of the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors. She loves to hear from former students. Please write her at jclark@wsu.edu.

John Donnelly, faculty member from 1968 to 1998, is living in Sonoma, Calif. with his wife, Sara, and continues to pursue his interests in development economics. He serves on the board of directors for Seeds of Learning (SOL), a Sonoma-based nonprofit organization working with rural communities in El Salvador and Nicaragua to expand access to education. John and Sara have traveled to El Salvador three times as members of SOL volunteer work groups (partnering with villagers to build school in rural areas). This year he helped launch a pilot microcredit program in Chalatenango, El Salvador. John can be contacted at jdonnelly@jcom.com.

Greg Duncan, faculty member from 1978 to 1987, retired from his position as tenured vice president at the consulting firm National Economic Research Associates. He continues to teach economics part time at UC Berkeley.

Teng Li, faculty member from 1997 to 1999, was promoted to associate professor of economics with tenure at Indiana University.

Bob Wallens’s wife, Sarah, passed away on Oct. 1. Bob was a long-term faculty member and department chair.

New PhD’s and MAs

Bandar Aba-Al-Khalil, MA, Major professor: Tom Lowinger.
Nydda Curtis, PhD, “The Industrialized Global Market for Processed Plasma: Contracting, Westernization in Asia, and Biotechnology.” Major professor: Jill McCleary and Tom Wall.
Ahmed Elameer, MA, Major professor: Dave Holland.

Sopon Sakultrakhtita, MA, Major professor: Tom Lowinger.

2003 Donor Honor Roll

$100 or more

Robert Berney
Henry T. Buechel Memorial
Rob Funk
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$100 - $999

James and Jill Beaver
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John Soder
Jan Stohr
W. Randall and Wendy Stoddard
Lawrence A. Wohl
Shwe-Yien Yu
Economic Holidays

by an anonymous faculty member

'Twas near to the holidays, and look hard you'll see,
Nervous politicians flock out of D.C.
The economy, you see, danced in their brains,
With inflation, unemployment, and other such pains.
Most scary of all, was Greenspan, of course,
Whose words, more than theirs, carries such force.
A wrong word or two, or maybe some more,
Could shake the economy down to its core.
With interest rates low, and no lower to go,
With fear they anticipate a change in the show.
What if feared Greenspan thinks inflation is nigh?
And raises those interest rates up to the sky?
But Bush, who of course, sees elections forthcoming,
Claims jobs and low taxes keep the economy humming.
While 6 (or some 7 or 5 other rubble),
Democrats see future economy trouble.
They push all their plans, that they say, they are sure,
Will bring to us all jobs, low prices and more.
But few can agree on a path to this place,
Leaving students and others staring off into space.
For we try to teach all these bright shining students,
How to analyze all of those economic rudiments.
And our frustration, of course, is that we know what to do,
If only the world were really true blue,
But the micro we teach shows it won't have a chance,
While macro just puts them all in a trance.
So with Christmas, Kwanza and Hanukkah near,
Put aside economics for holiday cheer.