



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
Department of Economics



**Newsletter 2011**



## Chair's Introductory Remarks

This has been another eventful year for the Department of Economics. Once again, we experienced record enrollment in our undergraduate courses, while our full-time faculty complement continued to decline. Our graduate programs also experienced substantial growth after several years of declining enrollment. Our honors program has also shown a healthy increase, in part as the result of international students arriving from Shandong and Southwest Jiaotong Universities. To help us manage our increasing enrollment, we relied on the excellent teaching efforts of our contract instructors: Gordon Lee, Susan Kamp, Andrew Wong, Scott Beesley, Fedja Lazarevic, Iryna Nekhayevska, Junaid Jahangir, Lorne Priemaza, McKay White, Allan Wesley, Elena Spinu, Zhen He, JoAnn Kingston-Riechers, Noha Abdel Razek and Saktinil Roy.

A number of our faculty and staff received special recognition and appointments this year. Andrew Eckert received the Faculty of Arts Research Award. Brenda Carrier was the recipient of the Faculty of Arts Non-academic Staff Award. André Plourde has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs at Carleton University, effective July 1, 2011, and will likely not be returning to the UofA. Rick Szostak was appointed Interim Director, Science Technology and Society Program in the Faculty of Arts. Claudia Landeo spent part of the year as a visitor to the Northwestern University School of Law. Bev Dahlby was appointed to the Independent Panel on Federal Support to Research and Development by the Minister of State for Science and Technology. Effective July 1, 2011 Brad Humphreys was appointed editor of Contemporary Economic Policy.

In May, we celebrated the careers of our long serving (and now retired) Department members, Mel McMillan and Sam Wilson. Mel continues to teach a course for the Department on a post-retirement basis.

The Department's Institute for Public Economics had another busy year, and Bob Ascah, the

Institute's Director, provides an excellent summary of its activities later in this newsletter. The Department's Canadian Building Energy End-use Data and Analysis Centre (CBEEDAC) also had a very productive year, and its activities are summarized by Lucie Maruejols later in this newsletter.

The Department's new speaker series, "Business and Economic Leaders of Alberta", had a second successful year. We were fortunate to have Dave Mowat, CEO of ATB Financial, Leo de Bever, CEO of AIMCo, Shirley McClellan, former Minister of Health and Finance for the Alberta Government, and Ron Gilbertson, CEO of Edmonton Economic Development Corporation, address Econ 101 and 102 classes during the past year.

Finally, we were pleased to sponsor a talk by probably the only stand-up comedian economist on the planet, Yoram Bauman. He performed for over 200 students, faculty and staff, and put to rest the awkward speculation that economists don't have a sense of humour.

*Douglas West, Chair*

## NEW FACES

### Visiting Assistant Professor - Rachidi Kotchoni

Rachidi received a Ph.D. in Economics and a M.Sc. in Mathematical and Computational Finance from the *Université de Montréal* (Quebec), and received his B.Sc in Statistics from the *Ecole Nationale d'Économie Appliquée* (Dakar, Senegal). His main research interests are in the field of econometrics, both theoretical and applied. His ongoing research focuses on the application of continuum-GMM for the estimation of financial models, the estimation of financial market volatility using high frequency data, the use of sample selection models to infer bias-corrected cartel overcharge estimates, and the specification and estimation of frontier-like international trade gravity models.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Louise, Charlene, Audrey, Brenda, Chelsi and Debbie have all had a challenging year with the added duties involved in covering for the admin position the department lost last year. The ladies remain a tight-knit, cohesive unit. Brenda was awarded a Faculty of Arts Non-Academic Staff Award (Administrative) for 2010-11. Brenda insists it's an award she shares with Louise and all Economics admin staff, as her achievements are not possible without the guidance and support of her supervisor and her peers.

## STUDENTS IN THE WORLD

### Kevin Birn

I graduated with a Master of Arts (MA) in Economics in 2006, preceded by a Bachelor of Commerce in 2000, both from the University of Alberta. I had an interesting career prior to my MA, however, it was my education in economics that dramatically shifted my career path. Economics taught me to be pragmatic about the world, to see it as it is, not as I would like it to be. I see cause and effect in everything I do, and as a self-professed contrarian, it makes being irritating easy. Not only did economics change my perspective, the UofA's heavy concentration in econometrics and mathematics provided me the analytical skills to think critically across disciplines.

Since graduating, I have worked for Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa. I have spent most of this time working on energy issues, such as pipeline regulation, natural gas and oil markets. For the past few years my work has focused on oil sands development and the associated environmental implications. I have had the opportunity to publish and present papers at international events, contribute to federal oil sands strategy and learn about a broad range of associated issues, such as other unconventional oil deposits/production, Aboriginal rights, climate change policy, water and air pollution etc. Behind all of these great opportunities, it was my MA that opened these doors to me.

Within the federal government I found a high demand for my skillset and a range of opportunities. For example, I have recently changed my role again at Natural Resources, taking on a special project looking at Canada's energy futures. In this latest opportunity I am looking at both qualitative and quantitative (modelling) analysis into possible scenarios for Canada over the next thirty years. Who knows what will be next, but I am confident opportunities abound and whatever I choose it will be interesting.

I truly cherish the knowledge and perspective I gained from my MA at the UofA. Thank you to all the professors, lecturers and supervisors that took the time for me.

### Michael Holden

Michael Holden joined the Canada West Foundation as a senior economist in October, 2010. Michael's work with the Foundation focuses primarily on policy issues related to energy and natural resources in the western Canadian economy. His other research interests include fiscal federalism, international trade and public finance.

Prior to assuming his present position, Michael worked for nine years as an analyst at the Library of Parliament in Ottawa, providing objective, non-partisan research and analysis to Senators, members of Parliament and parliamentary committees, most notably the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade. Michael also worked for three years as an economist with the Halifax-based Atlantic Provinces Economic Council.

Michael was born and raised in Edmonton. He has a BA in honours economics from the University of Alberta and an MA in economics from Queen's University.

### Jonathan Milroy

I graduated from the University of Alberta in June of 2006 with a BA, major in Economics. While economics was definitely something I was passionate about, I never had serious scholastic



aptitude, as many young men are when they don't really know what they're going to do with the rest of their lives (and feeling as though the decision has to be made before you graduate). I personally went on to the real estate sector, as my family is in the business and real estate is another thing I am passionate about. I started off moving to Calgary right after graduation and joining an investment sales team for a commercial real estate brokerage called Avison Young. In those 4 years I sold over \$175M worth of real estate to pension funds, REITs, syndicators and private investors. While the real estate brokerage business is a job that requires more hard work than pure smarts, the economics background helped immensely in understanding Calgary from a business perspective (ex: testing demand for a product, understanding the supply relationship to it, evaluating the net present values of future cash flows from a long term lease, understanding how the interest rate will affect cap rates and property values, using game theory during negotiations/auctions, etc.). Douglas West was a favorite teacher of mine (and of my cousin who was a scholar and got her Master's degree in Economics).

I've since joined my father's business, Westcorp Properties Inc., and have been back in Edmonton over a year now working as the Commercial Leasing Manager and Broker for the property management side of the company. This is really coming full circle as we are the University of Alberta's landlord, and I now use the skills and knowledge I've gained over the years to negotiate their lease renewals in our property up the street from you: College Plaza!

### **Alumni Please Drop Us a Line...**

We thank Kevin, Michael and Jonathan for taking the time to share with us their academic and career experiences. We are always glad to hear about our alumni from both our undergraduate and graduate programs. Please let us know what you are up to, and how your education here at the University of Alberta has served you in your life. We are also curious as to how our present students view their experience in our programs. If you drop us a line at [bcarrier@ualberta.ca](mailto:bcarrier@ualberta.ca) we may profile you in a future newsletter!

## **Institute for Public Economics (IPE) UPDATE**

This past year four major activities took place: the 16<sup>th</sup> Eric J. Hanson Memorial lecture; the publication of seven essays under the title "Becoming Alberta's Next Premier: Policy Ideas for Leadership Candidates"; the appointment of the External Advisory Committee by the Dean of Arts; and, in May the conference "China and India/Global Power Shift/Opportunities for Canada and Alberta".

**Eric J. Hanson Memorial Lecture.** On October 22, 2010, the Honourable Kevin Lynch delivered the 16<sup>th</sup> Hanson Memorial Lecture. Lynch is Vice Chair of BMO Financial Group and the former Clerk of the Privy Council, Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Public Service of Canada. Dr. Lynch's address was entitled "Escape from the Productivity Trap: The Sequel." Lynch reviewed the failure of Canadian industry to enhance productivity over the past 25 years in particular *vis-à-vis* the United States. Lower productivity has a direct impact on the standard of living and is an important factor in investment decisions for corporations. Reasons cited for poor performance include: slower adoption of information technology, poor record of innovation and research and development, absence of competition in certain sectors, and lower levels of investment in machinery and equipment per worker. Dr. Lynch's recommendations included: more competitive and international mindset for Canadian business leaders; improvements to financing both in venture capital and traditional bank financing; a trade and investment focus on Asia and Brazil; and the ability to attract top global talent to the Canadian marketplace. The lecture was attended by over 100 academics, students and government officials.

<http://www.ipe.ualberta.ca/EventsandSeminars/~media/ipe/Events%20and%20Seminars/Hason%20Lecture/2010/Escape-From-the-Productivity-Trap.pdf>

**Becoming Alberta's Next Premier.** In July 2011, the Institute, in collaboration with the Western Centre for Economic Research and the Canada West Foundation, released a series of 7 essays by prominent Alberta policy analysts

directed to the leadership candidates for the Progressive Conservative and Alberta Liberal parties. The contributors, including a Fellow of the Institute, represented a wide range of disciplines and occupations (trade associations, consultants, advocacy groups, and research institutes). These essays cover a broad spectrum of public discourse ranging from specific advocacy pieces to questions of Alberta's role in shaping national policies. It is the hope of the sponsoring organizations that ideas presented here will influence the policy discussion within the different parties as well as to contribute to the broader public debate. The policy issues surveyed ranged from the environment and oilsands development, to financial sector policy, tax and social policy, health policy and intergovernmental policy. These essays are found at

<http://www.ipe.ualberta.ca/en/~media/ipe/Becoming%20Alberta%20Next%20Prem/AB-Next-Premier-July-2011.pdf>. Several of the essays appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* over the summer.

**External Advisory Committee.** In January the Institute advertised for applications and nominations to its External Advisory Committee. The role of the Committee includes identifying: emerging public policy issues; public policy issues that are not being explored but that are relevant and require investigation; topics for conferences and seminars that the Institute would organize; and fundraising strategies for individual events and of an ongoing nature. In April, the Dean of Arts appointed the following as members of the EAC:

- **Honourable John Agrios**, retired justice of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench, Edmonton;
- **Dr. Leo de Bever**, President and CEO, Alberta Investment Management Corporation, Edmonton;
- **Roxanna Benoit**, Deputy Secretary, Alberta Executive Council, Government of Alberta, Edmonton;
- **Patricia Nelson**, consultant and former Minister of Finance, Minister of Energy, Government of Alberta- Calgary;
- **Phil Ponting**, Senior Counsel, MacLennan Ross- Calgary;

- **André Juneau**, Director, Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, Queen's University, Kingston;
- **Sharon Vogrinetz**, Coordinator, Teacher Welfare, Alberta Teachers' Association-Edmonton

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the External Advisory Committee met at its inaugural meeting.

**China and India/Global Power Shift/Opportunities for Canada and Alberta.** On May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Institute hosted a conference entitled "China and India/Global Power Shift/Opportunities for Canada and Alberta". The conference attracted about 85 registrants from government, business, and academic circles. There were 29 presenters, commentators and chairs for six panels. Keynote addresses were given by the Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta, the Honourable Stockwell Day, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, His Excellency Zhang Junsai, Chinese Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Shashishekhar M. Gavai, Indian High Commissioner and Dr. Jayson Meyers, President of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters. Two articles related to the conference were published in the *Edmonton Journal* on May 10<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup> raising the profile of the Institute and the University. Written feedback received from a dozen registrants was positive. Principal sponsors (\$5000+) included the Government of Alberta, Deloitte LLP, Alberta Investment Management Corporation, the China Institute, the International Development Research Centre, Enbridge Inc., Encana and Nexen. The conference served to build goodwill with the Chinese and Indian attendees. The Institute also worked with the Government of Alberta in hosting a tour of the Albian oilsands facility the day following the conference.

Presentations are found at:

<http://www.ipe.ualberta.ca/EventsandSeminars/ChinaandIndiaGlobalPowerShiftO.aspx>

**Media Profile** During the year, the Director appeared on Alberta Prime Time (Access network) six times to discuss the federal budget, labour shortages, financial institutions, pensions, and Alberta Treasury Branches. He appeared on

the Lang-O'Leary Exchange as an expert commentator on the provincial budget in March.

**New Fellow** In July Professor Ergete Ferede was appointed as a Fellow of the Institute. Dr. Ferede is an assistant professor of Economics at Grant MacEwan University. His BA and MSc are from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and his Ph.D is from the University of Alberta. While in Ethiopia he served as a researcher to the Ethiopian civil aviation authority and the National Bank of Ethiopia (the country's central bank). He previously taught a wide range of courses at Addis Ababa University, University of Alberta, and University of Windsor. His areas of research interest include public finance and economic growth. In collaboration with Professor Bev Dahlby of the University of Alberta, he has been involved in studies focusing on the various impacts of taxes and tax structure in Canada.

**Eric J. Hanson Memorial Lecture.** On September 27th, Professor Jack Mintz, Director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary gave the 17<sup>th</sup> Eric J. Hanson lecture. Dr. Mintz is the former President of the C.D. Howe Institute and former senior official at the federal Department of Finance. His lecture, was titled "The VAT as Game-Changing Tax Policy in the U.S. and Alberta Contexts." An internationally respected tax expert, in 2007 he chaired the Alberta Financial Investment and Planning Advisory Committee. He has held the position of Professor of Business Economics at the Rotman School of Business from 1989-2007 and Department of Economics at Queen's University, Kingston, 1978-89. Further information on the 2011 Hanson lecture may be found here:

<http://www.ipe.ualberta.ca/Eric%20J%20Hanson%20Memorial%20Lecture/HansonLecture2011.aspx>

**Imagining Alberta- A Symposium on Alberta's Economic Future.** On October 14, 2011, the Institute in partnership with the Western Centre for Economic Research, Alberta School of Business hosted the above-noted conference, with the Government of Alberta as one of the conference co-sponsors. Topics addressed included: costs of raising taxes; the impact of the equalization formula on Alberta; good government and well-being; commentary

on the recent Premier's Council on Economic Strategy report; and productivity, competitiveness and sustainability. Over 100 attended. The Honourable Anne McLellan, former Deputy Prime Minister was keynote speaker. Please see the following link for further information:

<http://www.business.ualberta.ca/en/Conferences/ImaginingAlberta.aspx>

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**Conference 2012.** Plans are underway for a conference on May 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The provisional conference theme is "Boom and Bust Again: The Sequel". Building on the success of the May 2010 conference, the speakers will address the myriad challenges of yet another boom driven by oilsands investments. The topics to be covered include labour shortages; taxation policy; fiscal stabilization; the environmental challenge; and the productivity challenge.

## The Canadian Building Energy End-Use Data and Analysis Centre (CBEEDAC)

The Canadian Building Energy End-Use Data and Analysis Centre (CBEEDAC), funded primarily by Natural Resources Canada, with David Ryan as Director and Lucie Maruejols as Executive Director, undertook several research projects over the past year. This was an especially busy year with a number of graduate and undergraduate students providing research assistance.

Many of these students were involved in the collection of large amounts of field data for a study on *standby power* (power consumed by electronic equipment while plugged in but not in use). Reducing the amount of electricity used to power remote control sensors, clock displays, memory, and various other functions when products are not performing their primary function – that is, when they are switched off or put in standby mode – may provide important and relatively easy-to-exploit energy savings potential. The research team, which included several economics students as well as one

student from engineering, gathered and processed data for over 450 household and office electronic products and appliances at various retail outlets in Edmonton. Using specialized meters, the amount of energy used by each product was measured in both active and standby modes of operation. Compared with data obtained in previous years, the results indicate that standby power use for some products – such as computers, printers, and televisions – has declined in newer models. For other products, however, the incorporation of additional secondary functions – such as electronic displays on toasters, microwaves, or clothes washers – has resulted in an increase in standby electricity use.

As part of its mandate to improve knowledge on energy use, CBEEDAC researchers also continued to add to the centre's extensive energy data sets. Over the past year, updates were made to several annual series (dating back to 1958) on consumption and prices for a variety of energy types for several sectors for Canada at both the provincial and national levels. Furthermore, the range of data was expanded to include the industrial and transportation sectors, new energy types, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Directly building on CBEEDAC's data compilation, two editions of a yearly digest of energy economic facts were developed, each focusing on a different aspect of Canadian energy markets. Laura Adkins-Hackett, an economics undergraduate student, contributed to the data collection and analysis for these digests. Portions of the CBEEDAC datasets were also used by research assistant Ryan Thompson, an economics/finance MA student, who helped out on a study of the similarities and differences in energy use patterns in Canada's residential and commercial sectors. Noha Abdel Razek, a doctoral student in the department, used these datasets in conjunction with data from the US to explore aggregate US and Canadian energy use since 1960.

Xuanye Lu, an MA student, used recent residential energy surveys from the US and Canada to examine factors influencing household energy use in these two countries. Xuanye also worked on an analysis of household energy

expenditure shares in Canada. Faced with energy price increases over the past 12 years, the share of budgets allocated to energy has also increased for low income Canadians. Even so, these budget shares tend to be rather small, although they are twice as large for households in the lowest income quintile than for their higher income counterparts.

In collaboration with the Maguire Energy Institute of Southern Methodist University, CBEEDAC, along with the Surrey Energy Economics Centre (SEEC) in Guildford, UK, and the Centre for Energy Economics and Policy (CEPE) in Zurich, helped co-organize the 4<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Empirical Methods in Energy Economics, held in Dallas, Texas in July 2011. David Ryan presented recent work on rebound effects, while Denise Young and André Plourde acted as discussants. The next workshop is planned for Berlin, Germany, in June 2012.

If you are interested in learning more details about any of these projects, or more generally about CBEEDAC and its activities, or if you would like to receive our tri-annual newsletter, or wish to discuss data or research issues on energy end-use consumption in the buildings sector, please visit our website [www.cbeedac.com](http://www.cbeedac.com) or write to us at [cbeedac@ualberta.ca](mailto:cbeedac@ualberta.ca).

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

**FACULTY PUBLICATIONS** (Selected from staff annual reports for academic year 2009-2010)

**Brencic, Vera:** "Do Employers Respond to the Costs of Continued Search?" *Oxford Bulletin of Economic and Statistics*, 72(2), 2010: 211-245.

**Brencic, Vera and Denise Young:** "Time-Saving Innovations and Canadian Household Energy Use." *Ecological Economics*, 68(11), 2009: 2859-2867.

**Brencic, Vera and John B. Norris:** "On-the-Job Tasks and Performance Pay: A Vacancy-Level Analysis." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 63(3), 2010: 511-542.

**Brencic, Vera:** "Employers' Hiring Practices, Employment Protection, and Costly Search: A



Vacancy-Level Analysis." *Labour Economics*, 16(5), 2009: 461-479.

**Dahlby, Bev** and J. Roberts: "Fiscal Federalism in Canada" in *Fiscal Federalism and the Comparative Experiences, Special Edition of the Review of Argentinean Association of Comparative Law*, Volume II, edited by Pablo María Garat and Miguel Angel Asensio, Rubinzal and Culzoni Publishers, Santa Fe and Buenos Aires.

**Dahlby, Bev**, M. Smart, and B. Dachis: "New Housing and the Harmonized Sales Tax: Lessons from Ontario" C.D. Howe Institute Backgrounder, No. 119, October 2009.

**Dahlby, Bev**: "Once on the Lips, Forever on the Hips: A Benefit-Cost Analysis of Fiscal Stimulus in OECD Countries" *C.D. Howe Institute Backgrounder*, No. 121, December 2009.

**Eckert, A.** and **D.S. West**: "The Spatial Evolution of Alberta's Privatized Liquor Store Industry." *Industrial Organization, Trade, and Social Interaction: Essays in Honour of B. Curtis Eaton*, G.K. Dow, A. Eckert, and D.S. West (eds.), Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 60-83.

Dow, G.K., **A. Eckert** and **D.S. West**: "Introduction." *Industrial Organization, Trade, and Social Interaction: Essays in Honour of B. Curtis Eaton*, G.K. Dow, A. Eckert, and D.S. West (eds.), Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 3-15.

Dow, G.K., **A. Eckert** and **D.S. West** (eds): *Industrial Organization, Trade, and Social Interaction: Essays in Honour of B. Curtis Eaton*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press

**Eckert, A.** and **D.S. West**: "Exclusive Dealing in On-Premise Sales of Beer in Edmonton." *Antitrust Bulletin* 54, 2010: 401-434.

Helliwell, J., C. Barrington-Leigh, A. Harris, and **H. Huang**: "International Evidence on the Social Context of Well-being." *International Differences in Well-Being*. Ed. Diener, Helliwell and Kahneman. Oxford University Press, Chapter 10, 2010.

**Galvani, Valentina** and **André Plourde**: "Portfolio Diversification in Energy Markets", *Energy Economics* 32(2), 2010: 257-268.

**Humphreys, Brad R.** and **Jane E. Ruseski**: "Problems with Data on the Sport Industry," *Journal of Sports Economics*, 11.1, 2010: 60-76.

**Humphreys, Brad R.**: "Point Spread Shading and Behavioral Biases in NBA Betting Markets," *Rivista Di Diritto Ed Economia Dello Sport*, 6.1, 2010: 13-26.

Price, Joseph, Brian Soebbing, David Berri and **Brad R. Humphreys**: "Tournament Incentives, League Policy, and NBA Team Performance Revisited," *Journal of Sports Economics*, 11.2, 2010: 117-135.

**Landeo, C.M.** and K.E. Spier: "Naked Exclusion: An Experimental Study of Contracts with Externalities." *American Economic Review*, 99, December 2009: 1850-1877.

**Landeo, C.M.**: "Cognitive Coherence and Tort Reform." *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 6, December 2009: 898-912.

**Landon, Stuart**: "The Capitalization of Taxes in Bond Prices: Evidence from the Market for Government of Canada Bonds," *Journal of Banking and Finance* 33:12, December 2009: 2175-84.

**Landon, Stuart**: "The Capitalization of Taxes in Bond prices: Evidence from the Market for Government of Canada Bonds," *EERI Research Paper Series No 20/2009*, Economics and Econometrics Research Institute, Brussels, Belgium.

Crampes, Claude and **Corinne Langinier**: "Are Intellectual Property Rights Detrimental to Innovation?" *International Journal of the Economics of Business*, Vol. 16, No. 3, 2009: 249-268.

**Langinier, Corinne**: "Pool of Basic Patents and Follow-up Innovations," *Economic Inquiry*, online December 2009.

Fisher, Jonathan D., David S. Johnson, **Joseph T. Marchand**, Timothy M. Smeeding and Barbara Boyle Torrey: "Identifying the Poorest

Older Americans." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 64B.6, 2009: 758-766.

**McMillan, Melville:** "Breaking the Myth: Alberta's Spending is Medicare at best." Report, Parkland Institute, University of Alberta, October 2009.

**McMillan, Melville** and Edward C. LeSage: "Alberta: Municipal System Overview Update," Information Bulletin 135, Western Centre for Economic Research, University of Alberta, January 2010.

**Ruseski, Jane E:** "Competition in Canadian Health Care Services Provision: Good, Bad or Indifferent? SPS Research Papers, The Health Series, University of Calgary, School of Policy Studies, 2.4, 2009: 1-43.

**Ryan, David L. and André Plourde:** "Empirical Modelling of Energy Demand", in J. Evans and L.C. Hunt (eds.), *International Handbook on the Economics of Energy*. Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar, 2009: 112-143.

**Ryan, David L. and André Plourde:** "Energy Demand Models and Modelling". *International Handbook on the Economics of Energy*. Editors: Joanne Evans and Lester C Hunt. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2009: 112-143.

**Ryan, David L. and Denise Young:** "Modelling Energy Savings and Environmental Benefits from Energy Policies and New Technologies". *International Handbook on the Economics of Energy*. Editors: Joanne Evans and Lester C Hunt. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2009: 234-256.

**Smith, Constance** and Stuart Landon: "Investment and the Exchange Rate: Short Run and Long Run Aggregate and Sector-Level Estimates," *Journal of International Money and Finance*, September 2009, Vol 28, September 2009: 813-835.

**Smith, R.T.,** Max Nikitin and John Duffy: "Dollarization Traps." *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking* 38, 2006: 2073-2098.

**Smith, R.T.** and Mike Bleaney: "Explaining Inertia in Closed-End Fund Prices." *Finance Research Letters*, 3, 2006: 147-153.

**Smith, R.T.** and Dick Beason: "Japan's Fiscal Crisis and Implications for Imports from Korea." *Journal of the Korean Economy*, 8, 2007: 261-272.

**Szostak, Rick:** "A Canadian and Collaborative Perspective: The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta," in Tanya Augsburg and Stuart Henry, eds., *The Politics of Interdisciplinary Studies: Interdisciplinary Transformation in Undergraduate American Higher Education*. McFarland Press, July 2009: 212-26.

**Szostak, Rick:** "Comment on Hjørland's Concept Theory" (letter to the editor), *Journal of the American Society for Information Science & Technology*, 2010: 61:5, 1076-7.

**Szostak, Rick:** "Universal and Domain-specific Classifications from an Interdisciplinary Perspective" Claudio Gnoli and Fulvio Mazzochi, eds., *Paradigms and Conceptual Systems in Knowledge Organization: Proceedings of the 2010 conference of the International Society for Knowledge Organization* (Rome, February, 2010).

**Xu, Yingfeng:** "China's Export-led Growth Strategy: an International Comparison," *China & the World Economy* 18.4, 2010: 18-33.

## WORKING PAPERS

The following 2010 Working Papers may be viewed at the RePEc website:  
<http://ideas.repec.org/s/ris/albaec.html>

**Chakravorty, Ujjayant:** Think Globally, Act Locally? Stock vs Flow Regulation of a Fossil Fuel (with J. Amigues and M. Moreaux)

**Chakravorty, Ujjayant:** The Effect of Local and Global Pollution Mandates on a Nonrenewable Resource (with J. Amigues and M. Moreaux).

**Chakravorty, Ujjayant:** Would Hotelling Kill the Electric Car? (with A. Leach and M. Moreaux).

**Hryshko, Dmytro:** House Prices and Risk Sharing (with M. Luengo-Prado and B. Sorenson).

**Huang, Haifang and Brad Humphreys:** Sports Participation and Happiness: Evidence from U.S. Micro Data.

**Huang, Haifang:** Residential Land Use Regulation and the US Housing Price Cycle Between 2000 and 2009 (with Y. Tang).

**Humphreys, Brad:** Prices, Point Spreads and Profits: Evidence from the National Football League.

**Humphreys, Brad:** Consumption Benefits and Gambling: Evidence from the NCAA Basketball Betting Market (with R. Paul and A. Weinbach).

**Humphreys, Brad:** Do Gamblers Think That Teams Tank? Evidence from the NBA (with B. Soebbing).

**Humphreys, Brad and Jane Ruseski:** The Economic Choice of Participation and Time Spent in Physical Activity and Sport in Canada.

**Humphreys, Brad:** A Test of Monopoly Price Dispersion Under Demand Uncertainty (with B. Soebbing).

**Landon, Stuart and Constance Smith:** Government Revenue Volatility in Alberta.

**Lindsey, Robin:** Nonlinear Pricing on Private Roads with Congestion and Toll Collection Costs (with J. Wang and H. Yang).

**Lindsey, Robin:** State-dependent congestion pricing with reference-dependent preferences.

**Marchand, Joseph:** Local Labor Market Impacts of Energy Boom-Bust-Boom in Western Canada.

**Marchand, Joseph:** Does the Retirement Consumption Puzzle Differ Across the Distribution? (with J. Fisher).

**Plourde, André:** Oil and Gas in the Canadian Federation.

**Plourde, André:** On Properties of Royalty and Tax Regimes in Alberta's Oil Sands.

**Smith, Constance:** Does Financial and Goods Market Integration Matter for the External Balance? A Comparison of OECD Countries and Canadian Provinces.

**Stephens, Eric:** Education vs. Optimal Taxation: The Cost of Equalizing Opportunities.

**Young, Denise:** Split Incentives and Energy Efficiency in Canadian Multi-Family Dwellings (with L. Maruejols).

**PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES** (Selected from staff annual reports for academic year 2009-2010)

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Brencic, Vera:** "Employers' Use of Pressure and Profit Sharing in Teams." 9th IZA-SOLE Transatlantic Conference, Buch/Ammersee, Germany, May 2010.

**Dahlby, Bev:** "The Sensitivity of Tax Bases to Tax Rates and the Marginal Cost of Public Funds: Evidence from Canadian Provinces", Fiscal and Tax Competitiveness Council meeting, C.D. Howe Institute, Toronto, May 2010

**Dahlby, Bev:** "Global Value Chains, Foreign Direct Investment, and Taxation", Ifo Institute, University of Munich, June 2010.

**Dahlby, Bev:** "The Impact of Tax Competition Between Sub-Central Governments: The Canadian Experience", OECD Fiscal Federalism Network meeting, Bern, Switzerland, May 2010.

**Eckert, Heather and Andrew Eckert:** "Rationalization in the Canadian Retail Gasoline Industry: The Role of Environmental Regulations". Presented by H. Eckert at: the 2010 International Industrial Organization Conference, Vancouver, BC, May 2010.

**Hryshko, Dmytro:** "RIP to HIP: The Data Reject Heterogeneous Labor Income Profiles." Presented at: NBER Summer Institute, EFG Group, Cambridge, MA, July 2009; seminar at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, October 2009; and seminar at the University College London, London, UK., February 2010.

**Hryshko, Dmytro, Maria Luengo-Prado and Bent Sorensen:** "House Prices and Risk Sharing." Consumer Finance Workshop at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, May 2010.

**Huang, Haifang and Brad Humphreys:** "Sports Participation and Happiness: Evidence from U.S.

Micro Data", presented by B. Humphreys at V Gijon Conference on Sports Economics, 2010, Spain.

**Humphreys, Brad R.** and Brian Soebbing: "Sports Betting, Sports Bettors, and Sports Gambling Policy", 9th International Hamburg Symposium; "Sport and Economics" Hamburg, Germany, August 2009.

**Humphreys, Brad R.:** "Prices, Point Spreads and Profits: Evidence from the National Football League", presented at: University of Kentucky, Department of Economics, February 2010; and the Midwest Finance Association conference, Las Vegas, February 2010.

**Landeo, Claudia:** "Naked Exclusion: An Experimental Study of Contracts with Externalities", presented at: Northwestern University, Law School, February 2010; and Faculty Workshop, April 2010.

**Landeo, Claudia:** "Trigger Happy or Gun Shy? Dissolving Common-Value Partnerships with Texas Shootouts." Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, University of Southern California, October 2009.

**Landon, Stuart:** "The current economic contraction: Is it really that different from previous contractions?" Encana Lecture sponsored by University of Alberta external relations, Calgary, July 2009.

**Landon, Stuart** and Constance Smith, "Energy Prices and Revenue Volatility," Conference: Boom and Bust Again: Policy Challenges for a Commodity-based Economy, May 2010.

**Langinier, Corinne** and Philippe Marcoul: "Subjective Performance of Patent Examiners and Implicit Contracts." Presented at: International Industrial Organization Conference, Vancouver, May 2010; and Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference, Quebec, May 2010.

**Langinier, Corinne** and Philippe Marcoul: "Monetary and Implicit Incentives of Patent Examiners," invited seminar Carleton University, Ottawa, December 2009.

**Langinier, Corinne** and Stéphanie Lluís: "Mobility and Career Concerns of patent examiners: an analysis of U.S. data," invited seminar ZEW, Mannheim, July 2009.

**Marchand, Joseph T.:** "Local Labor Market Impacts of Energy Boom-Bust-Boom in Western Canada." CEA 44th Annual Conference, Quebec City, QC, May 2010.

**Marchand, Joseph T.:** "Local Labor Market Impacts of Energy Sector Boom and Bust in Western Canada." Presented at: CRDC Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, October 2009; EEA 36th Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, February 2010.

**McMillan, Melville, Bev Dahlby** and Kathleen Macaspac: "Output Instability in Western Canada." Boom and Bust Again: Policy Challenges for a Resource-Based Economy Conference, Edmonton, May 2010.

**McMillan, Melville:** "Reflections on Alberta's Budget 2010." Alberta Budget 2010 - Post Mortem, Institute for Public Economics, University of Alberta, March 2010.

**McMillan, Melville:** "Five Vignettes on Public Spending." Alberta Government 2010 Policy Matters Conference, Edmonton, June 2010.

**Plourde, André:** "On Canada's Importance as an Energy Supplier to the United States", Energy in the Americas conference, University of Miami, March 2010.

**Plourde, André:** "Oil and Gas in the Canadian Federation", "Canadian-United States Energy Issues after Copenhagen: Oil Sands and Energy Interdependence", Northwestern University, May 2010.

**Plourde, André:** "La Situation économique en 2008-09: crise ou recession comme les autres?" Conférence Louis Desrochers, Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta, October 2009.

**Ruseski, Jane E.** and **Brad R. Humphreys:** "The Economic Choice of Participation and Time Spent in Physical Activity and Sport in Canada". Southern Economic Association 79th Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX., November 2009.



**Ruseski, Jane E. and Brad R. Humphreys:** "Physical Activity and the Production of Health". 8th European Conference on Health Economics, Helsinki, Finland, July 2010.

**Ryan, David:** "Tribute to Bradford Reid", presented at Conference entitled "Boom and Bust Again: Policy Challenges for a Commodity-Based Economy", Edmonton, May 2010.

**Ryan, David** (with Junaid bin Jahangir): "What Would Electricity Prices be in Alberta had Electricity Market Restructuring Not Occurred: A Simulation Approach", 2nd International Workshop on Empirical Methods in Energy Economics, Jasper, Alberta, August 2009.

**Ryan, David** (with **Denise Young**): "Forecasting Alberta WCB Insurable Earnings", Alberta Workers' Compensation Board, Edmonton, September 2009.

**Smith, Constance:** "The Role of the US Dollar as a Reserve Currency: What is the Alternative?" School of Business, University of Alberta program prepared for China's National School of Administration, October 2009.

**Smith, Constance and Stuart Landon:** "Energy Prices and Revenue Volatility." Boom and Bust Again: Policy Challenges for a Commodity-Based Economy. Edmonton, AB, May 2010.

**Stephens, Eric:** "Education vs. Optimal Taxation: the cost of equalizing opportunities". Journées Louis-Andre Gerard-Varet #9 in Marseille, and the Canadian Public Economics Group, Quebec city, May and June 2010.

**Stephens, Eric:** "Leaky Lifeboats in Stormy Seas: How Financial Insurer Instability Can Survive and Thrive". Canadian Economic Association, Quebec City, May 2010.

**Szostak, Rick:** "Universal and Domain-specific Classifications from an Interdisciplinary Perspective." International Society for Knowledge Organization, Rome, February, 2010.

**Szostak, Rick:** "Solving the Information Needs of Transdisciplinary through Classification?" TD-Net, Bern, Switzerland, Nov 2009.

**Szostak, Rick:** "Beyond Aboutness: Classifying Causal Links in the Service of

Interdisciplinarity." American Society for Information Science and Technology Special Interest Group on Classification Research 20th Workshop, Vancouver, November 2009.

**Ural-Marchand, Beyza, R. Rees and R. Riezman:** "Globalization, Gender and Development: Effect of Trade on Child Outcomes." Midwest International Trade Meetings at Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania, USA. October 2009; CESifo Area Conference on Global Economy, Munich, Germany, February 2010; Canadian Economic Association Meetings, Quebec City, May 2010.

**Ryan, David L. and Denise Young:** "Estimation of Site-Specific Electricity Consumption in the Absence of Meter Readings." 2nd International Workshop on Empirical Methods in Energy Economics, Jasper AB, August 2009.

Maruejols, Lucie and **Denise Young:** "Energy Use in Canadian Multifamily Dwellings." 3rd International Workshop on Empirical Methods in Energy Economics, University of Surrey, June 2010.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**FACULTY GRANTS** (Selected from staff annual reports for academics year 2009-2010)

**Humphreys, Brad:** Alberta Gaming Research Institute 2009-10.

**Langinier, Corinne:** Killam fund 2010-11.

**Langinier, Corinne:** SPAA research network 2010-12.

**Langinier, Corinne:** Killam Research Fund SSHRC 4A 2010-11.

**Langinier, Corinne:** SAS University of Alberta 2010-11.

**Ruseski, Jane:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2010-11.

**Ruseski, Jane:** Alberta Gaming Research Institute 2010-10.

**Ryan, David:** University of Alberta Conference Fund 2009.

**Szostak, Rick:** SAS Travel Grant, 2009.

**Szostak, Rick:** Killam Cornerstone Travel Grant, 2010.

**Young, Denise:** Workers Compensation Board – Alberta, 2009-10.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Congratulations to the Department of Economics 2011 Scholarship and Prizewinners:

- E. Adjei – Graduate Student Tuition Remission (\$3,500);
- A. Banihashem – Alberta Gaming and Research Institute Scholarship and Research Allowance (\$25,000);
- N. Cao – Graduate Student Tuition Remission (\$3,500);
- Z. Chu – Graduate Student Tuition Remission (\$3,500);
- J. Fisher – Research Prize (\$250);
- S. Hashmi – Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship; Masters level (\$10,800);
- L. Li – Core Prize (250);
- X. Lu – Graduate Student Remission (\$2,000);
- X. Ma – Graduate Student Tuition Remission (\$3,500);
- S. Priyanka – Graduate Student Tuition Remission (\$3,500);
- N. Sharma – Graduate Student Tuition Remission (\$3,500);
- R. Tang – Provost Award (\$5,100);
- R. Tang – China Scholarship Council Award (4 yr living stipend);
- H. Watson – A.D. O’Brien Graduate Scholarship in Public Finance (\$4,750);
- F. Xu – Graduate Student Tuition Remission (\$3,500);

- J. Yang – Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry Inter-Faculty Graduate Scholarship (\$20,000 + tuition for 2 yrs);
- C. Yau – A.D. O’Brien Graduate Scholarship in Public Finance (\$4,750).

## STUDENT PROGRAM INFORMATION

We hope it will be of interest to our alumni and those outside the Department of Economics to see a summary of the past ten years of graduate and undergraduate convocations and of ten years of undergraduate registrations. The following tables illustrate the growth in enrolments and the interest in our programs that the Department has been experiencing in the past ten years.

Ten-Year History of Majors and Honors			
Year	# of Majors	# of Honors	# of Registrations
2010-11	783	44	8153
2009-10	705	29	7949
2008-09	632	27	8164
2007-08	565	32	8138
2006-07	651	23	7575
2005-06	600	30	7349
2004-05	613	28	7285
2003-04	532	23	6989
2002-03	354	20	6541
2001-02	327	10	6088

## CONVOCATIONS

Graduate Convocations 2001 to 2011					
Year	Fall		Spring		Total
	MA	PhD	MA	PhD	
2010-11	20	5	10	1	36
2009-10	9	0	13	0	22
2008-09	6	1	7	0	14
2007-08	1	0	15	0	16
2006-07	12	0	6	0	18
2005-06	5	0	7	0	12
2004-05	11	0	5	1	17
2003-04	5	0	9	0	14
2002-03	8	1	2	0	11
2001-02	5	0	5	0	10

**Fall 2010****PhD**

CHANG, Y.: Three Essays on International Finance.

**Spring 2011****MA**

CAO, N.: A Study of the Correlation Between Individual Corporate Bonds and Stocks Issued by Canadian Companies.

CARVER, J.: Straight from the Horse's Mouth: Does Expert Opinion Lead to Market Inefficiencies?

CHANG, L.: Financial Development and Economic Growth: New Evidence from a Panel Data Analysis.

FISHER, J.: Is Canada Closing the Gap? Aboriginal-White Wage Differentials over the Last Two Decades.

FRANCISCO, S.: Cyclicalities of Canadian Revenues and Expenditures.

HE, L.: The Impact of Deregulation on the Alberta Power Market and Pool Price.

MA, D.: Which is the Main Cause of the Trade Imbalance: The Exchange Rate or Credit Expansion?

ZHOU, S.: The Supply Side Determinants of Canadian Inter-City Differentials in Housing Price and Construction.

**MA; Econ and Finance**

LI, D.: Chinese Housing Market in the Next Twenty Years: A Forecast Based on Demographic and Income Trends.

XU, W.: The Impact of U.S. Monetary Shocks on Emerging Market Economies.

**Fall 2011****PhD**

BEHNAMIAN, A.: Three Essays on the Market for Canadian Bonds: An Examination of Diversification Benefits and Yield Spreads.

GAMTESSA, S.: Three Essays on Energy Efficiency and Environmental Policies in Canada.

HE, W.: The Effects of the Exchange Rate on Sectoral Profits, Value Added, Wages and Employment.

HE, Z.: Three Studies of Shopping Centers.

JAHANGIR, J.: Determining the Effects on Residential Electricity Prices and Carbon Emissions of Electricity Market Restructuring in Alberta.

**MA**

BARTMANOVICH, E.: Aviation Fuel Tax Shifting to Airline Ticket Prices.

HASHMI, S.: Lead Firm Dominance in a Multimarket Setting: A Price-Concentration Analysis.

HASSAN, F.: Nexus Between Environmental Vulnerability and Antiquity: A Cross-Country Analysis.

JADIDZADEH, A.: Modeling Residential Energy Demand in Canada and Alberta under Two Popular Flexible Functional Forms: The "Almost Ideal Demand System" and "Minflex Laurent Model".

KHAN, F.: Do Family-Friendly Fringe Benefits Affect the Gender Wage Gap? – The Case for the United States.

KOIZUMI, H.: Labor Market Outcomes of 2002 Immigration Policy.

LI, L.: Examining the Role of the US Refinery Utilization in the Oil Industry and the Impact of the Hurricanes on the Utilization.

MARINOV, B.: The Effect of the 2008 Recession on Time-Varying Risk of Value and Growth Stocks Within the Framework of the Conditional CAPM Model.

MARTIN, E.: Immigration: British Columbia's Experience Since 2004.

McELWAIN, S.: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Canada: Analyzing Trends Using Data from Canada's Mandatory Reporting System.

NI, F.: A Study of the Role of Finance in Economic Growth.

OLFERT, S.: The Gender Wage Gap and the Business Cycle: The Effect of the 2008 Recession.

SANJANA, A.: An Analysis of Earning Differences Between Canadian Born and Immigrant Workers.

SCHATZ, G.: Determinants of Time Needed For Environmental Regulatory Approval.

SONG, T.: Gender Income Gap in the Chinese Urban Labour Market between 1995 and 2002: The Observed and the Ignored.

TURVEY, J.: Distance Effects of Casino Siting: Does Accessibility Trump the 'Vegas Effect'?

WANG, Q.: An Analysis of Age Structure and the Tax Mix in OECD Countries from 1980 to 2007.

XIE, Y.: New Immigrant Education-Occupation Mismatch and the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

YAU, C.: The Impact of Obesity on Income Using Canadian Data.

ZHANG, Impact of Financial Development and Financial Liberalization on Economic Growth.

## THANKS

The Department also gratefully acknowledges all of our donors for their contributions towards helping the Department pursue its mandate of excellence in teaching. Donations may be designated for a particular purpose. Following are examples of active donation accounts:

- A.D. O'Brien Graduate Scholarship in Public Finance;
- Departments' Institute for Public Economics;
- the Balder von Hohenbalken Memorial Book Prize in Economics;
- Eric J Hanson Memorial Lecture;
- Education Endowment in Economics;
- Economics Society of Northern Alberta MA Scholarship;
- Institute for Public Economics

For information on donating to any of these or for further information on giving opportunities, please contact:

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## VISIT OUR WEB SITE

To keep up-to-date with Department activities and events, please visit our website often:

<http://www.economics.ualberta.ca/>



## Photos from Department Activities



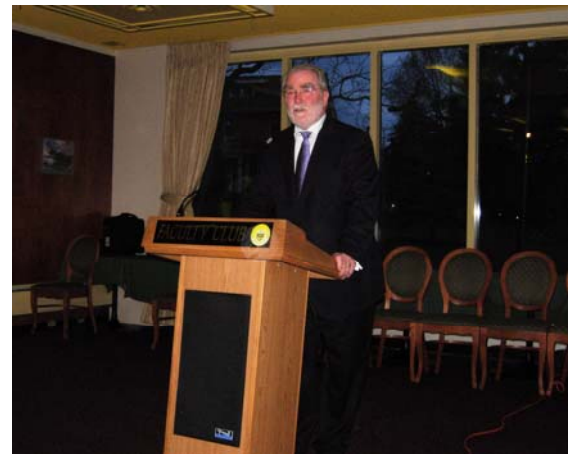
**2011 Awards Night**



**2011 IPE Conference**



**Wilson/McMillan retirement function**



**McMillan/Wilson retirement function**



**Holiday Celebration**



**2011 Fall Welcome**



**Hanson Lecture**