



The last newsletter produced by the Department of Economics was distributed in 1997. As usual the process of change and renewal has continued since that time within the Department. Faculty have left through retirement and new faculty have been hired. Even the position of Chair has been one of change as Ken Norrie replaced Mel McMillan only to go on to become Dean of Arts at the University of Alberta in 1999, leading to my appointment to the position. The current edition of the newsletter introduces you to some of the new faces in the Department. It also reports on the lives of two former students, the “real world” activity of our academic staff, some of the exciting new courses that have been developed by the Department, and some of the current research activities of the faculty. We hope to produce the newsletter on a more regular basis and welcome your comments on the content and suggestions for future editions.

*Bradford G Reid*

Chair

## NEW FACES

Since 1998, six new Assistant Professors have joined the Department of Economics, injecting some youth into the faculty mix. We profile four of them here. John Maheu and Heather Eckert will be profiled in the next newsletter.

### **Andrew Eckert**

Are you paying too much for your gasoline? Newly-hired Andrew Eckert wants to find out.

Dr Eckert, a UBC graduate (PhD), joined the Department in 2000. Andrew spent one year working for the Competition Bureau before making the move to Edmonton.

The 28 year-old from Stoughton, Saskatchewan specializes in industrial organization and has specific research interests in the pricing practices of firms.

In particular, Andrew is interested in how Canadian gas stations set their prices. Are the prices we pay determined by a competitive marketplace, or do gas stations tacitly collude with one another to keep prices high?

Andrew comes from a farm background and when he was young he wanted to be a vet. What turned him to economics? “I was afraid that if I became a vet I would have to work for free on my dad’s farm on weekends,” replied Dr Eckert.

Away from the office, Andrew enjoys curling with his wife, Heather, and listening to music. Asked which three albums he would want if stranded on a desert island, Andrew picked Donald Fagen’s “The Nightfly”, Stevie Wonder’s “Songs in the Key of Life”, and Michael

Franks' "The Art of Tea."

Andrew's favourite Simpsons episode is "Marge Takes Bowling Lessons", and his favourite restaurant in Edmonton is Denny's, where he enjoys their breakfasts and presumably is satisfied with their pricing practices.

Andrew's proudest accomplishment to date is winning a CBC radio contest for an Easter story he wrote at the age of eight.

## **Maxim Nikitine**

It has been a long journey from Communist Moscow to Edmonton for newly-appointed Assistant Professor Maxim Nikitine.

The Russian native worked for various institutes in the former Soviet Union before going to the University of Pittsburgh, where he recently graduated with a PhD. Dr Nikitine also spent time at the World Bank and the Center for European Integration Studies before joining our department in 2000.

At age 35, Max has seen more of the world than most of us, and lists as his proudest accomplishment learning the English language. "As you might imagine, it was difficult in the former Soviet Union to practice spoken English," he says.

Max specializes in macroeconomics and has two research projects on the burners right now.

The first project looks at borrowing by sub-national governments. Max wants to evaluate under which conditions national governments should place restrictions on their sub-national counterparts.

The second project looks at contagious investment in emerging markets. Was the "Asian Crisis" caused by irrational investor behaviour or was it a rational response to a sudden deterioration in economic fundamentals?

Max has only been in Edmonton for a few months but already has found some favourite restaurants, including Sorrentino's and The Crêperie. He's still looking for some good Russian rye bread though...

Max is a big fan of live theater, and in particular enjoys absurdist such as Beckett. Shakespeare, however, will have to wait for this non-native speaker.

Max's dream vacation would be a one-month tour of European cities such as London, Amsterdam, Paris, Vienna, and Prague. While traveling, Max's choice of music would be a selection of Russian vocalists. Asked to sing a few bars for this reporter, Max unfortunately declined.

Asked who his favourite Simpsons character is, Max replied "Fred Flintstone." Shocked by this response, this reporter has already decided to take it upon himself to bring Max up to speed with modern cartoon culture in North America.

## **Pushan Dutt**

Since he was 11 years old, Pushan Dutt dreamed of becoming a chartered accountant. Really. Three days of a BCom program, however, convinced him otherwise.

From his home town of Calcutta, India, Pushan's academic journey took him to New York University where he graduated with a PhD in economics. In 2000, Dr Dutt joined our department.

Prior to Edmonton, Pushan spent some time in Washington at the World Bank and in Oregon, teaching at the University of Oregon Business School. He is particularly proud of the high teacher-evaluation scores he picked up there from the normally-frugal business students.

Pushan specializes in international trade and development economics. He currently has two research projects on the go.

The first is a look at foreign direct investment (FDI) in developing countries. In particular Dr Dutt wants to test the theory that high tariff rates are conducive to FDI. He believes there may be important considerations which may refute that age-old theory.

The second project looks at the academic job market for economists. Pushan wants to see whether candidates are awarded jobs based on their merit or whether job offers depend more on the name of the PhD graduate's university and/or supervisor.

Outside of economics, the 29-year-old enjoys racquetball, jazz, and watching movies. Favourite directors include Akira Kurosawa and Atom Egoyan, while favourite jazz artists include Miles Davis and Weather Report.

Which three albums would Pushan want on a desert island? Weather Report's "8:30", Bob Dylan's "Blood on the Tracks," and "Spirit Chaser," by The Dead Can Dance.

Pushan is a big fan of Indian food, and in particular enjoys kebabs. Asked about his favourite restaurant in Edmonton, however, Pushan named the French "Three Musketeers" restaurant on Whyte Ave.

Nicknamed "The Strange Attractor" by friends, Pushan has an uncanny ability to attract strange people to him. Asked whether he had a theory to explain this, Pushan hazarded the following guess: "Maybe because I tolerate them..."

Homer is Pushan's favourite Simpsons character. "He's just such a lucky guy. I mean he survives all of these horrible situations that surely would have killed most people." In particular, Pushan admires Homer's ability to disregard the larger issues of existence, enjoying life in the moment.

## **James Smythe**

No stranger to Edmonton, Dr James Smythe grew up in Spruce Grove and graduated with a BA(Honors) in economics from the U of A, earning the Governor General's Silver Medal for highest marks in the 1994 University graduating class. He went on to get a PhD from the University of York in England, and in 1999 returned to the U of A, this time as an Assistant Professor in Economics.

Jim specializes in health economics and currently has two research projects on the go. The first looks at flexible workplace arrangements, such as telecommuting, and population health. Flexible jobs can improve household health and can have external population effects, for example, by reducing the ill effects of traffic and contagious diseases. Is the market providing an efficient number of these types of jobs?

Dr Smythe's second project looks at the financing of health care in Alberta. What share of income do households pay for health care, either out of their pockets or through the tax system? Is this distribution of the financial burden efficient and/or equitable?

Away from the office Jim enjoys contemplating investment strategies, hockey pools, and playing computer games. He claims to have not lost a game of computer hockey since 1994. This claim, however, could not be substantiated.

Jim's favourite vacation was his trip to Australia. "Snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef is something I will remember for the rest of my life," said the normally absent-minded professor.

Asked which three albums he would want if stranded on a desert island, Jim candidly pointed out that without electricity, the question was moot. Nonetheless Tragically Hip's "Fully Completely". Genesis' "Invisible Touch" and Miles Davis' "Kind of Blue" were mentioned as favourites.

Jim's favourite restaurant is The Crêperie. "Can't beat the atmosphere," he claims.

Growing up, Jim dreamed of becoming an actor. How did he end up in economics? "A speech impediment and the theory of comparative advantage," he replied. Still Jim dreams of Broadway...

Asked about his favourite Simpsons episode the 28-year-old chose "Homer and Ned go to Las Vegas".

## **STUDENTS IN THE WORLD**

**Spencer D. Heath,**

**Barrister and Solicitor**

I am a U of A Alumnus (Arts, 1987). Although Economics was not my major (I refused to take statistics!), I studied a number of macro and micro as well as international economics courses (hats off to Professors Szostak and Wilkinson - my favourites).

I have been practising law in Toronto since my call to the bar in February, 1992. I currently practise with a boutique corporate law firm, which I joined after leaving Bay Street in 1999. My primary focus is on corporate structuring and reorganizations and corporate finance – on a transactional basis. This type of law includes aspects of asset and share purchase transactions, income tax driven transactions, and bank financing for new and established businesses. This is a very brief description of the type of work I do, and does not necessarily do justice to the level of complexity which is sometimes involved.

I have represented a broad range of clients, including software development companies to textile and other types of wholesalers to private secondary schools, to name a few. I have also represented American, German and Austrian clients in respect of domestic and cross-border corporate structuring.

I have found that the work I do often requires understanding of concepts of fundamental business economics in order to properly service clients. For example, concepts such as fixed and variable costs and their impact are important in corporate work. Also, the economics of industrial organization often come into play in the field of competition law, depending on the identity of the parties to the transaction, particularly in the Canadian economy. In some matters a background in international economics can be helpful, especially in light of the impact of *NAFTA* on cross-border business transactions.

I am grateful for my exposure and education in economics which I received at the U of A. I strongly believe that it has contributed to my success as a corporate lawyer.

### **What Ever Happened To Jan Damery?**

I've been told somewhere along the line that on average each of us will have 6 careers over our lifetime. I'm way beyond that number and believe that two factors greatly helped with the career transitions: my propensity to bore easily and my economics education.

I am grateful that I was able to follow my BA Honors in Economics (University of Alberta, 1985) immediately with a Masters Degree in Economics (University of British Columbia, 1986). I see friends struggle to get their MBAs while working full time and managing a family life. I thank my lucky stars that it is something I did right away. I also think the MA degree is far superior to the MBA. Of course I'm biased but I believe it really solidifies a way of thinking – a way of analyzing. This has served me well and has allowed me to move between industries and between the government, private and not-for-profit sectors.

My first job after graduating from the University of British Columbia was right back at the University of Alberta. I taught introductory and intermediate microeconomics courses during the winter session. I remember one of my UBC professors telling me that teaching is where I'd really begin to learn – he was absolutely right. Adding my usual flair to the material – Opportunity Curves with pink flamingos and Porsches rather than the usual boring guns and butter – I developed a great rapport with the students and learned several years later that I had inspired several students to pursue the field.

Job number two was with the Alberta Department of Energy. This proved to be a wonderful training ground as I arrived just as natural gas prices and transportation were being deregulated in Canada. This meant that all of us, private and public sector, were starting at

ground zero. I had learned a great deal about price forecasting, royalty systems, transportation tolls and the overlap of environmental and sustainable energy policies. Many contacts in the private sector were also made which lead me to job number three at TransCanada PipeLines in the fall of 1990.

I lived many lives at TransCanada over my 10-year career with the company. My first task (job number 3) was defending the economic feasibility of the pipeline's expansions before its regulator – the National Energy Board. I wrote evidence and arguments and appeared as an expert witness. As perceived competition increased in the gas pipeline sector my focus turned to competitive analysis and competitive positioning of the pipeline (job number 4). This led to a brief stint (job number 5) working in the trading room of TransCanada's wholly owned gas marketing firm projecting long-term natural gas market and pricing trends. A restructuring of this business led me back to the pipeline to help draft the first ever pipeline price incentive agreement in Canada. And then it was off to the core of the business – Pipeline Operations – where I helped to manage the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the pipeline business (job number 6). This meant getting out to the field and working with our field employees. It meant flying the line in a helicopter and getting dirty in pipeline ditches. My tenure in operations ended with my leading a business process re-engineering project (job number 7) which challenged employees to find new and more efficient ways of working. Next challenge, a re-engineering project identified an opportunity to lay fibre-optic cables in the rights-of-way of the pipeline. This is where my economics background really paid off (job number 8). Going back to those economic fundamentals, I was able in one year's time to lead a team, which analyzed the structure of the telecommunications business in Canada, which anticipated market developments, which devised a business strategy for TransCanada's entry into the sector and which negotiated a partnership agreement to implement the strategy. Unfortunately, the merger of TransCanada PipeLines and Nova Gas Transmission dealt a deadly blow to the deal and I was off to job number 9 – President of TransCanada Hot Taps Ltd., a 100% owned subsidiary of TransCanada PipeLines. Hot Taps was a small spin-off company that specialized in pipeline welding. My primary task was to market and grow the company world-wide. This provided me the opportunity to see the world – literally: Buenos Aires one week, Sydney, Australia the next and Houston after that. Again my economics background was helpful in sizing up the market and also the “way of thinking” allowed me to distill a very technical, engineering focused product into simple market value terms.

While many would argue that I was climbing the ladder of success at TransCanada, I felt a growing need to give back to the community that nurtured me. The opportunity presented itself in 2000 from seeds that were sown in 1994 when I was TransCanada's campaign coordinator for the United Way Campaign. So the new millennium has seen me launch my tenth career at the United Way of Calgary. Rather than asking people to invest in the business of pipeline, telecommunications or hot taps, I'm now asking people to invest in their community. And this is a place where the returns are real ...Real Lives!

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

Our thanks to **Jan Damery** and **Spencer Heath** for taking the time to share their career experience with us. We are curious about our alumni, both undergraduate and graduate. Please let us know what you are up to, and how your education here has served you in your life. We are also curious as to how our present students experience our program. We may profile you in a future newsletter!

Contact information: [use our web feedback form](#) or [send e-mail to a member of the department](#)

## FACULTY IN THE WORLD

A number of departmental faculty have spent time working outside the department. **Mike Percy**, after serving as a provincial MLA (Liberal) from 1993 to 1997, has been Dean of the Faculty of Business since 1997. **Ken Norrie** has been Dean of the Faculty of Arts since 1999. **Rick Szostak** was President of the Association of Academic Staff at the University of Alberta 1995-6 and of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations 1996-8. Several faculty members have gone much further afield. **Sam Wilson, Mel McMillan and Bev Dahlby** continue to advise the Malaysian government on local public finance issues. In this issue of the newsletter we profile the efforts of **Doug West, Todd Smith, and Paul Boothe**.

### **Separating the Wheat from the... Boothe Goes to Saskatchewan**

Paul Boothe was appointed Deputy Minister of Finance, Province of Saskatchewan in 1999. We asked him for some comments on the role of an economist in the provincial civil service. He replied:

Letter From the Policy Front:

People often ask me what I find most different in moving from University of Alberta Economics Professor to Deputy Minister of Finance for Saskatchewan. The answer is easy: it's the scope, pace and volume of work! Leading a Finance Department with over 400 employees exposes you to all the policy issues contained in a public finance textbook and then some. For example, part of my time is spent deploying revenue enforcement officers and tax auditors to ensure compliance with sales and tobacco tax laws. More in line with textbook public finance, I also spend a lot of time advising Ministers and watching them debate and decide spending and tax questions.

Does economics training help when you find yourself in the world of policy making? You bet. I am constantly surprised and pleased at how much economic analysis informs policy discussions in government – and how well it predicts government decisions. Of course, politics is another important ingredient in all government decisions, and seeing the political side of policy making has been a great experience for me. I'd urge anyone interested in making public policy to get an economics degree. One thing is for sure ... I'm going to have lots of material to add to my public finance course when I return to teaching.

### **Dr Smith Goes to Washington**

Todd Smith began a two-year term as an international civil servant with the International Monetary Fund in July 2000. Todd is a member of a group that travels around the world meeting head government finance officers reporting on the state of affairs of the world capital market. This is his second stint with the IMF. He worked from 1994 to 1997 in the research departments. The contacts he made at the time had been pestering him to return ever

since.

Among his primary reasons for deciding to go, Todd says he feels it is important to continue to gain practical experience as opposed to merely studying and teaching economics in theoretical terms. He finds it more effective in the classroom to look outward – students like real world perspectives and applications.

In 1997 Todd Smith traveled throughout Europe and Asia on a fact-gathering and analysis mission. His group's report on the Asian countries was handed in about five months before the big [economic] crisis hit Asia and it turns out most of their data and analysis was correct about what was going to happen in that region. He said that the reports submitted by his group contain "90 per cent descriptive information and the other 10 per cent notes possible future economic risks and makes policy recommendations."

Although he will be busy working on the Capital Market Report, Todd Smith expects his two years in Washington will be productive from a research standpoint as well. He says the work at the IMF takes up about as much time as teaching so he finds time to dedicate to research as well.

### **West Goes East to the Competition Bureau**

Doug West spent 1999-2000, as the T.D. MacDonald Chair in Industrial Economics at Industry Canada's Competition Bureau in Hull Quebec. The Economic Policy and Enforcement unit, to which he was attached, had a staff of 12, including 7 PhDs in Economics. The position involved both participation in the assessment of cases and in the development of policy. Doug provided expert testimony on how to define markets geographically (Doug's research has focused on spatial competition) in a case involving the propane industry; his testimony was later reprinted in a technical bulletin on geographical market definition.

On the policy side, Doug was deeply involved in the revision of guidelines in such areas as abuse of dominance, and predatory pricing. These new guidelines reflect recent developments in economic theory. Doug also participated in the ongoing process of evaluating proposed amendments to the Competition Act. Not surprisingly, issues related to the merger of Air Canada and Canadian occupied a great deal of Doug's time. Doug provided advice to the Commissioner of Competition on the economic issues underlying the regulations defining 'anti-competitive' acts by a dominant air carrier.

Competition policy, and decisions regarding particular cases of merger or anticompetitive practices, are grounded in the theory of industrial organization. Last fall, while teaching the industrial organization course "Market Power, Pricing, and Policy", Doug found himself referring regularly to his experience in Ottawa. While he had often in the past acted as a consultant in competition cases, he had not previously observed the process by which the Competition Bureau decides the merits of a case. He was thus able to convey to students a clear sense of the case evaluation process. He was also able to observe and to evaluate, while in Ottawa, the incentives facing firms in bringing complaints against their competitors, and more generally the constraints faced by the Competition Bureau in ensuring that firms follow the rules of fair competition. His students spoke highly of these 'practical' insights in the course evaluations.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & DONATIONS

Through generous donations from many alumni and our own staff, this year the Department of Economics has been able to establish an endowment fund to support student scholarships in economics. Our thanks to everyone who contributed to creating this fund.

The Department is very proud of a \$500 annual scholarship for undergraduates funded by two 1997 graduates of our honors program, Mr Keith Verville and Mr Donovan Lowtan. This scholarship has been awarded twice already.

Through the fund raising efforts of Paul Boothe, colleagues and friends of AD O'Brien, upon his retirement from his position as Deputy Provincial Treasurer in 1999, have endowed a \$5,000 annual graduate scholarship in public finance. The scholarship was awarded for the first time this year to Junaid Bin Jahangir, a student who came all the way from Pakistan to study at the UofA.

We are honored that the friends of Dr Manmohan Singh have endowed a \$500 annual scholarship for undergraduates in recognition of his receiving an honorary degree from the UofA in 1997. Dr Singh, former finance minister of India, is the architect of India's market-oriented economic liberalization program. He has played a key role in convincing the world that his country is committed to trade liberalization and freer markets.

## NEW COURSES

The department undertook a major revision of its course offerings three years ago and a number of new courses were added, a couple of which we profile here.

### **Technology, Institutions, and Growth**

Rick Szostak developed and taught this course for the first time in the Winter term of 2001. The course begins with a survey of formal growth models, and econometric analysis of the variables that contribute to growth. It then studies technological innovation and institutions (including property rights) in depth, drawing on diverse types of research from both economics and other disciplines. The course also includes a discussion of the ethics of growth (is growth good?), and closes with recent debates concerning productivity slowdown and the 'new economy'. Rick has enjoyed creating the course, and has received great feedback from the students so far.

### **Law and Economics**

Shortly after the arrival of Henry van Egteren as a faculty member in 1991, he encouraged the creation of our first course in Law and Economics. The course stimulated Henry to do research on the harmonization of environmental standards across jurisdictions (research

which harmonized well with his expertise in environmental economics); the insights from this research were brought back into the classroom.

The original course stressed issues in property, contract, and tort law. Students in the course were able to see how basic elements of economic theory (efficiency, Pareto optimality, competition) influence the formulation and enforcement of laws and regulations. There were, however, many areas of the law which could not be covered. As a result, the Department has created a second course with a focus on criminal law, family law, legal processes (why do we have discovery', contingency fees, and class action lawsuits?), and discrimination. With respect to the latter, topics include: how to measure discrimination, the incentive effects of laws governing discrimination, the Charter of Rights, and how to strike a balance between free speech and limitations on hate speech. The course was offered for the first time in Winter of 2001 by Henry and Brad Reid.

### **New Courses in Health Economics**

This past year, the Department added two new courses in health economics. Previously the only offering was a second-year Interdisciplinary course designed to introduce non-economists to the subject. The new additions, a third-year course and a graduate course, will give more advanced economics students an opportunity to pursue this emerging field at a higher level.

Health care is one of the largest sectors in the economy, accounting for nearly 10% of GDP. Nevertheless the health care sector in Canada has not traditionally relied on economic analysis to a great extent. That has started to change, however, as questions of resource allocation take on ever greater importance, driven by often-expensive medical and technological breakthroughs. The practical nature of the new health economics courses should position students well for the strong employment opportunities in this field.

The courses are designed to address resource allocation questions such as: How do we measure health? Why are some people healthy and others not? Should government intervene in private health care markets? Should Canadians pay any money out-of-pocket for necessary medical care? How should doctors be paid? What are the implications of having a private health care system run parallel to a public system? How should regional health authorities allocate their budgets across diverse programs? Which health care systems around the world are the most efficient? The most equitable?

Take the new courses and find out!

## **FACULTY RESEARCH**

Economics department faculty perform research across virtually all fields of economics. This research not only influences developments in economic theory and practice, and often public policy decisions, but is regularly used in our teaching to provide both (real world) illustrations of the material covered and an insight into how scholarly research is performed. We sample a couple of examples of faculty research here.

## **Mel McMillan and the Flat Tax**

Mel published an article on the Alberta flat tax initiative in the *Canadian Tax Journal* in 2000. As Mel noted in that paper, his efforts were stimulated by the MA project research of Jason Waywood. Mel noted that the combination of a tax cut and a move to the flat tax has obscured the distributional implications of the flat tax initiative. Along with other options, he compared the results of the flat tax with results that would hold with a similarly sized tax cut but the maintenance of the existing tax structure. He found that those with an income below \$30,000 gain from the flat tax, because of the increased size of the personal exemption. Those with incomes between \$30,000 and \$100,000 pay a greater share of the income tax. Those with incomes over \$100,000 as a group pay the same share of taxes as before. The biggest winners by far are those at the top end of this group the top 2 or 3% of the income distribution who gain a 25% reduction in their taxes compared to a 16% reduction for middle income earners.

Mel also briefly discussed the brain drain as a rationalization for the single tax rate. He noted that the size of the modern exodus is not particularly unusual in Canadian history. Moreover, the exodus is predominantly made up of people in a limited set of occupations – including professors and health care providers – where differences in salary levels between Canada and the United States far exceed differences in tax incidence. He agreed with several leading economists in suggesting that concerns with the brain drain should not drive our decisions regarding tax rates.

The Canadian Tax Foundation received numerous inquiries from media and government when it simply mentioned the forthcoming publication of Mel's work. Mel himself has drawn on this research in his 300 and 400 level courses on tax policy. He is thus able to provide a topical real world application of various aspects of public finance theory.

## **Doug West on Liquor Store Privatization**

Doug West analyzed the privatization of liquor retailing in Alberta in a paper published by the Fraser Institute in 1997. He then appeared, along with people from government and industry, at conferences in Vancouver and Toronto which discussed the pros and cons of privatization. He received innumerable requests for copies of his paper from people in the media, government, and the liquor retail industry, and several telephone inquiries from civil servants or government consultants in other provinces.

Doug's paper focused on measurable economic impacts (though it also included a section on social effects). He looked at what happened to real prices (which rose slightly, though this may have been more than offset by increased consumer convenience as store hours and locations were extended), the number of stores (which rose), product variety (which expanded several times), employment (up) and wages (down). Sticking to such variables, Doug left room for observers to disagree on whether increased numbers of stores or employees, or decreased wages, were a 'good' or 'bad' development.

Doug is in the process of updating his results, to measure the effects of privatization several years later. He also wants to use the case of liquor store privatization to test predictions of spatial economic theory, and he hopes to compare the development of the liquor store

industry with that of video rental stores, another industry he has followed from its inception in previous research. One interesting question: why have we observed dominance by chains in video rental but not liquor stores? Doug has found his liquor store research relevant not only to the IO courses he teaches, but also to courses on micro theory.

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Canada-Europe Student Exchange Program

The University of Alberta is one of five Canadian universities (also six European universities) participating in this international program for advanced training in energy, environment, and resource economics. Senior undergraduate or graduate students are eligible to apply for grants of \$3000 for short (3-4 week) intensive courses in Europe (in English); or \$5,000 for one or two semesters of study in Europe. The program commences in January 2002; applications for long term exchanges should be in by April 1 for Fall, Jan 1 for Winter, applications for short courses are due three weeks before the course commences. The CERES web site [www.ceres-web.net](http://www.ceres-web.net) lists current course offerings. Denise Young is the contact person in our department.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Our recent PhD graduates: Ebenezer Asem, Spring 1997, Eva Tomaszewska, Fall 1997, Marian Weber, Fall 1998, Worawan Chandoevmit, Fall 1999, and Michael Hoffman, Spring 2001.

### RETIREMENTS

After a long and productive career, including several years serving as Chair, Bruce Wilkinson retired in 1998. This year we say farewell to Kanhaya Gupta who will retire on July 1, 2001. Dr Gupta will take up the position of Professor Emeritus and plans to continue his research in the immediate future. Both Alec Jenkins and Richard Plain have decided to take early retirement this year. Dr Jenkins plans to pursue a consulting business and Dr Plain will continue with his research and well as taking up a three-year post-retirement teaching position at the UofA.

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Please send us your [comments](#).

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