Economics Department Seminars – 2007-08

Mark Kurt, University of Iowa
Thursday, February 7, 2008
Presentation: 9:00am-10:00am KoBC 300

"The intra-industry wage differential, educational choice and directed search"

Andrew Ewing, University of Washington
Monday, February 11, 2008
Presentation: 9:30-10:30 KoBC 300

"Estimating the impact of relative expected grade on student evaluations of teachers"

Subhra Saha, Ohio State University
Wednesday, February 13, 2008
Presentation: 9:00-10:00 KoBC 300

"Economic effects of universities and colleges"

Steven McMullen, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Wednesday, February 20, 2008
Presentation: 1:30-2:30 KoBC 145

"The impact of homework time on academic achievement"

Pietra Rivoli, Georgetown University
Monday, February 18, 2008
Presentation: 6:00 pm, KoBC 101

"Who Made Your Shirt?"

A Symposium on Fair Trade Practices in a Global Economy, Sponsored by the Love School of Business, the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, and Students for Peace and Justice.

Dr. Pietra Rivoli, professor of finance and international business at Georgetown University, will discuss her investigation of the markets, power and politics of world trade. Her investigation was inspired by students at her university who were picketing to change university purchasing practices in favor of companies that employ fair labor standards.

Pietra has served on the Georgetown faculty since 1983. Her academic research has been published in numerous leading journals, including the Journal of International Business Studies, Business Ethics Quarterly, and Journal of Money Credit and Banking. Professor Rivoli’s recent book, The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy, has been widely acclaimed by both the popular press and the academic community as a pathbreaking study of globalization. Professor Rivoli’s book has received numerous awards. These honors include being named one of the best business books of the year by the Financial Times, Booz Allen Hamilton, Foreign Affairs, the Library Journal, and by Amazon.com. In addition, the book was also named as a finalist for the Inaugural Financial-Times-Goldman Sachs Book of the Year.
Award. Finally, Travels of a T-Shirt was recently designated by the American Association of Publishers as the best scholarly book of 2005 in the category of Finance and Economics. Translations are underway into 12 languages.

Fall 2007

Joni Hersch, Vanderbilt University

September 27, 2007
Q&A: 4:00pm KoBC 101
Reception: 5:00pm in 1st floor Atrium (hosted by the Econ Club)
Presentation: 6:30pm KoBC 101

"When Do We Know It's Discrimination? Gender, Skin Color, and Wages"

Men earn more than women, and workers with lighter skin color earn more than workers with darker skin color. Is a white man really the best worker? Or does discrimination play a role? How would we know?

Joni Hersch joined Vanderbilt University Law School as Professor of Law and Economics in 2006, with secondary appointments in the Department of Economics and the Owen Graduate School of Management. Over the course of her career, Professor Hersch has published numerous articles in the leading economics journals on gender differences in labor market outcomes, the economics of home production, law and economics, job risks, and product safety regulation. Her recent research examines discrimination on the basis of darker skin tone among immigrants and African Americans, public perception of climate change risks, and smoking regulations. Hersch currently serves on the editorial board of Social Science Quarterly. Before joining the Vanderbilt faculty, Professor Hersch was an adjunct Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. She was a Professor of Economics at the University of Wyoming from 1989-99 and has been a Visiting Professor of Economics at Northwestern, Caltech, Duke, and Harvard.

Relevant Papers for Q&A:

"Profiling the New Immigrant Worker: The Effects of Skin Color and Height," July 19, 2007 manuscript.


Eric Young, University of Virginia

October 25, 2007
Meeting with prospective economics graduate students: TBA
Presentation: 4:00pm KoBC 145
Reception: 5:00 pm (KoBC 1st floor atrium)
"Credit Market Innovations and the Changing Role of Unsecured Credit?"

PDF Version of Paper

Eric Young joined the University of Virginia as Assistant Professor of Economics in 2004. He earned his PhD from Carnegie Mellon University in 2001. Previously he held positions at Florida State University, and has been visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and Johns Hopkins University. His research uses computational general equilibrium models to address questions in labor economics and monetary policy.

Philip Shaw, University of Connecticut

November 9, 2007
Presentation: 12:15 pm, KoBC 237

"Educational Corruption"

PDF version of the paper

Educational corruption is a worldwide phenomenon yet its impact on economic growth is unknown. In the paper we formulate a macroeconomic model to explore the impact educational corruption may have on growth, educational attainment, and the education wage premium. We find that our model can produce a negative relationship between economic growth and educational corruption as well as a positive relationship between the education wage premium and educational corruption. We find strong empirical support for these relationships in a cross-section of countries. Our model also produces a negative relationship between the level of educational attainment and educational corruption as found in a cross-section of countries. To add to a recent line of literature on social status and its implications for growth, we also show that attaching status to education can be growth enhancing in countries that experience low to medium levels of educational corruption but growth reducing in countries that experience high levels of educational corruption. We also show that borrowing constraints can exacerbate the impact educational corruption has on economic growth, wage inequality, and educational attainment rates.