I am proud and humbled to be writing to you this year as the new head of the Department of Economics. I have been at the University of Cincinnati since 1990, and in those years I have seen our previous department heads work tirelessly to improve our teaching, research, and outreach to alumni and the broader community. I promise you I will do my very best to build on their many efforts to strengthen the Department of Economics, as well as to continue the process of building synergies with other departments throughout the Lindner College of Business.

The start of every academic year is always exciting, with the return of many undergraduates and a new cohort of masters students bringing a sense of renewal and excitement back to campus. This year, we are particularly pleased to welcome two new PhD students to the department. We opened admissions to our PhD program as one of the concentrations in the existing doctoral program in the Lindner College of Business. These are the first PhD students we have admitted since the late 1990s. PhD students bring a dynamic energy that will undoubtedly spill over throughout the department. Professor Jeff Mills is the coordinator of our PhD program, and we all appreciate his many efforts to get our PhD program up and running.

My taking on the headship has led to two other administrative changes. Professor Debashis Pal is now serving as Academic Director of the Masters in Applied Economics. Professor David Brasington is now serving as Undergraduate Director. I am confident that both of them will provide exceptional leadership for these programs. I would like to thank Bill Whitaker who served last year as our interim department head. Bill did an exceptional job promoting the interests of the department, allowing us to continue to move the department forward.

We also need to sadly report on several faculty departures. Professor John Winters left to take a position at Oklahoma State University, while Professors Asawari Deshmukh and Ben Passty left to pursue new opportunities in Tucson and Charlotte. Their many contributions to our students and department will be sorely missed, however, we wish them all the best in their new endeavors.

The annual James C. Kautz lecture will unfortunately not be held this year. However, this is a one-year hiatus, and we have already starting planning for the talk to return in October 2014.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support and interest in the Department of Economics.

Thanks,

Nick Williams
Department Head
We would like to congratulate the following students on their academic achievement and awards.

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**Kautz-Uible Fellowship**
- Sally Amkoa
- Ryan Azbell
- Dinushki De Livera
- Kevin Gade
- Erica Goubeaux

**Department of Economics Scholarship**
- Chloe Bieman
- Dakota Fulton
- Bennett Moss
- Tyler Newscock

**Citicorp Scholarship**
- Seth Adamson

**Taft Research Center Research Fellowship**
- Erica Goubeaux

**GRADUATE**

**Virginia and Gordon Skinner Scholarship**
- Patrick Allen
- Michael Dickson
- Baoning Fan

**faculty and staff news**

**David Brasington** had an article published in Contemporary Economic Policy. He presented a paper on school district consolidation (joint with Olivier Parent) at the Western Regional Science Association conference in Santa Barbara, CA. He won a Lindner College Business Research Fellows award, and also a LCB Summer Research Grant to study school district open enrollment in Ohio. He continues to be James C. and Caroline Kautz Chair in Political Economy, serves as Associate Editor of Journal of Regional Science, and is a fellow of the UC Economics Center.

**Lenisa Chang** was included in the Dean’s List of Teaching Excellence at the Carl H. Lindner College of Business in Fall 2012. She published one paper at the Health Affairs journal and presented her research at the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management and the Midwest Economics Association conferences with grants from the Taft Research Center. She was also invited to attend the NBER Summer Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Midwest Health Economics conference in Madison, Wisconsin. Lenisa was awarded two Faculty Development Grants to organize workshops in health economics with leading experts in the field.

**Debashis Pal** was included in the Dean’s List of Teaching Excellence at the Carl H. Lindner College of Business in Fall 2012. This recognition identified faculty who were assessed by their students as providing high quality classroom experience. Professor Pal published two research articles in leading economics journals. He was invited to present his research at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH), Bergen, Norway in August 2012, and at the HEC workshop on entrepreneurship, Paris, France in September 2012. Professor Pal also continued to serve as the undergraduate program director in economics.

**Sourushe Zandvakili** published an article with D. Gray and fellow UC professor Jeff Mills in Canadian Journal of Regional Science. He presented at California Lutheran University and University of Malaya. He received a grant from The Academy for Educational Development, a partnership between UC and Salahaddin–Hawler University. He continues to serve on the editorial board of Review of Middle East Economics and Finance. Sourushe serves on the Board of Trustees and other roles with the Talbert House and with Beech Acres Parenting Center.
Economics department offers new PhD concentration in economics

The economics department is pleased to announce that the academic year will be the inaugural year for the Concentration in Economics, recently added to the PhD in Business Administration. We have two excellent students entering the program this inaugural year, Gary Cornwall and Hamed Namavari. Both Gary and Hamed completed the MA in Applied Economics at UC recently and so are familiar faces to the current faculty.

The PhD in Business Administration program involves a core sequence of classes that all PhD students in the College take, an area of concentration in a particular field within the College of Business, and a support area drawn from a wider base of offerings at the University. Last year, the department received approval to offer the concentration in economics, adding to the existing concentrations in finance, information systems, management, marketing, and operations and business analytics.

Wolfgang Mayer, influential despite retirement


After publication of Mayer’s short-run trade model in the *Journal of Political Economy* in 1974, international trade economists quickly adopted it as an alternative to the traditional, long-run Heckscher-Ohlin model. The newly-gained recognition resulted in invitations to join the editorial boards of *Economics Letters* and the *Journal of International Economics*.

Mayer’s model on trade-policy formation under majority voting appeared in the *American Economic Review* in 1984. It significantly contributed to the launching and ensuing rapid expansion of trade-related political-economy research. Ten years later, the article was considered a classic. The accompanying professional recognition led to invited lectures at major universities, research institutes, and international organizations around the world, to membership on another five editorial boards, and to the election as President of the International Economics and Finance Society in 1996. UC honored Mayer in 2001 with the George Rieveschl Award for Scholarly or Creative Work.

1. *International Trade Policy Formation: Theory and Politics* was published by World Scientific Publishing at the invitation of Bob Stern, the Series Editor of *World Scientific Studies in International Economics*.

2. The short-run trade model greatly benefitted from the publication of a very similar model by Michael Mussa, also published in the *JPE* one issue after my paper. Mussa was then an Assistant Professor at the University of Rochester, before joining the University of Chicago where he had been a graduate student. Later, some trade theorists referred to the model as the Mayer-Mussa model. Also, one of the early users of the model was Janet Yellen when she was an Assistant Professor at Harvard.

3. Calling the 1984 AER article a classic is quite common, as the support letters for the Rieveschl Award explicitly state:

   Bhagwati (Columbia): “This is a classic article, widely cited as a major and pioneering contribution in the theory of the political economy of trade policy. . .”

   Baldwin (Wisconsin): “With this paper, Mayer placed a large part of the informal, intuitive literature on political economy into a formal theoretical framework that opens up the topic to trade (as well as political science) theorists. The subject is now one of the most active areas in economics and a new journal, *Economics and Politics* (with Wolfgang as an Associate Editor), was started largely because of the interest stimulated by Mayer’s paper.”

   Rodrik (Harvard): “His AER (1984) piece applying the median voter theorem to the standard trade models is a true classic.”

   Riezman (Iowa): “This paper is the seminal paper on the political economy of protection using models of majority voting.” It establishes “a very profound result that has changed the way that international economists look at protection.”

   Also, I am aware of at least three different advanced readings books on international trade that include the 1984 AER paper.
The annual Economics Society trip was a successful and enriching experience as usual! This year The Society went to Chicago for three days and met with several companies and organizations on the forefront of economic development and activity, in Chicago, and the world alike. Upon arrival, we had meetings with World Business Chicago, an organization that works to attract international corporations to Chicago using tax and other economic incentives, as well as The Federal Reserve where we were able to tour The Federal Reserve Money Museum. The second day of meetings consisted of The CME Group and an incubator for internet start-ups called 1871. This was a very interesting meeting because the concept was so innovative and original: rented, shared office space for internet start-ups. This included conference rooms, open work space, small rooms equip with phones, and even a coffee bar and auditorium area for hosting guest speakers and networking events. Our last day was reserved for sightseeing. Among our favorites were the bean, the lake-
Donald Wellington manages to fully retire after publishing nine articles and a book.

With the Department’s move to new quarters in the Business School it has been a few years since we have seen Professor Donald Wellington around the Department. For a few years after he retired in 2001 he taught a class or two to help us out, but he did keep active in the research area. Nine articles were published after he retired, several jointly with Professor Sourushe Zandvakili. The last article, published in 2007, again with Sourushe, had the provocative title, “Karl Marx and Milton Friedman: Bedfellows in Thought” and caused Mrs. Wellington to worry that the University of Chicago might try to take away his Ph.D.

There was also a book, French East India Companies: a Historical Account and Record of Trade in 2006. The raw data with which to compile the extensive tables recording in detail the goods and their volume imported into France by the trading companies took him over a decade to compile. However, it did provide him (and his wife!) the wonderful opportunity to visit many cities primarily along France’s Atlantic and Channel coasts while he searched through city and regional archives for illusive pieces of 17th and 18th century ephemera – “affiches” announcing upcoming company auctions which listed the goods available and their quantity. Also, since the French had so very kindly moved all their colonial archives to a modern facility in Aix-en-Provence, it required several long stays in Provence. Ahhh, the sacrifices we make for research!

In the last few years Donald has finally managed to fully retire. At 83 he now spends his time between Cincinnati and Winter Park, Florida. While in Florida Donald and Jean spend time visiting with their daughter, Evelin, spoiling their grandchildren, and indulging their ever present Cocker Spaniel, the latest being a chocolate Cocker named CoCo. They also have the opportunity to visit with Professor Ed Herman and his wife Halina who now reside in St. Petersburg close to their daughter and her family.
Amanda L. Wait  (B.A. Business Economics, 2000) is a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Hunton & Williams LLP, where her practice focuses on antitrust law. Amanda credits her experience in the UC Economics Department with igniting her interest in antitrust law. During her undergraduate studies, one of her professors enlisted her help in researching the Department of Justice’s merger review program. Throughout the project, she realized that antitrust law would provide the right combination of applied economics and real-world practice.

After law school at the College of William and Mary, Amanda joined the Federal Trade Commission as a staff attorney, where she worked primarily on oil and gas mergers, negotiating consent decrees on behalf of the FTC, and litigating challenges to mergers and acquisitions in federal and administrative courts. In 2008, Amanda joined Hunton & Williams where she represents clients in DOJ and FTC investigations, in significant merger matters, in complex litigations, and provides compliance training and counseling on numerous competition-related issues.

Amanda and her husband, Phil (B.S. Criminal Justice, 2001) live in Arlington, Virginia, with their two dogs and are looking forward to the arrival of their first child in November.

Gary Cornwall  is Ph.D. candidate at the University of Cincinnati. He is pursuing this line of study to better understand the structural dynamics of the U.S. retirement and healthcare systems. He is specifically exploring the driving factors and societal implications of private sector and government involvement in implementing and managing sustainable retirement programs. A particular area of study is the individual’s decision to participate in late life planning. Cornwall considers this area of research to be a critical confluence of labor economics, healthcare economics and public policy. Cornwall is confident that the University of Cincinnati offers the ideal combination of staff, infrastructure and innovation to fuel and guide his research via its new post graduate program, which presents unique opportunities and challenges.

Gary currently holds the position of Financial Services Professional with Fidelity Investments, where he has over a decade of experience working with institutional investors in the retirement industry. He received both a B.A. and M.A. in Economics from the University of Cincinnati and studied Music Performance and Education at Transylvania University. Gary is a dedicated lifetime student with interests that range from economics and music to politics and natural sciences. When Gary is not working or attending class he spends most of his time with his wife Danielle and their three year old daughter Claire.

Hamed Namavari  I first came to the University of Cincinnati in 2011 as an exchange student from Norway. Initially I had planned to complete the Applied Economics program however I quickly saw the benefit of also completing the Business Analytics program as they complemented each other nicely.

Stemming from my time at UC I quickly found employment in the analytics department of Unifund in May of 2012. During my time at Unifund I quickly realized that while I had obtained a great skillset there was still much more to learn in the field and I continued to be interested in new research and developments. This interest led me quickly to the PhD program that was being constructed at UC and while I had planned to start the PhD process after a few years of professional experience the opportunity being presented was too much. Not only did I quickly decide the program was the right fit, I also received a great deal of encouragement from Unifund as well.

Right now I am so excited and counting down for the beginning of the program. Knowing some of the faculty and their remarkable capabilities from the master's program, living in Cincinnati, a city with its unique character, a somewhat “Little America” to me, and studying what I am passionate about make me feel that I made the right choice and I am on the right track.

Vanessa Finzer  earned a bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of Cincinnati in April 2013. Her favorite courses included Money and Banking, Game Theory, Stock Market and Investments, and Wall Street Uncovered. During her studies, Vanessa discovered her interest in investments, which led her to pursue a career in wealth management. She joined Johnson Investment Counsel in June 2013 where she is a Portfolio Manager Assistant. She plans to pursue the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. Vanessa currently resides in Cincinnati with her husband.
Erwin F. Erhardt, III, receives Outstanding Adjunct Award

Dr. Erwin F. Erhardt, III, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Economics was the 2013 recipient of the Carl H. Lindner College of Business Outstanding Adjunct Award. He was presented with this award by Dean David Syzmanski at the Spring Awards Ceremony. The award was based on teaching performance and service to the college and university.

Dr. Erhardt is currently the Faculty Advisor to the Economics Society and the Developing and Emerging Nations Society within the Department of Economics. Last year marked the seventh year Dr. Erhardt brought a group of U.C. students to the Global Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska—Omaha to present papers on select developing nations.

In April, Dr. Erhardt was elected as one of two Adjunct Representatives to the Faculty Senate of the University of Cincinnati.

Nicholas W. Puncer graduated sum cum laude from the University of Cincinnati in 2010 with a BBA specializing in finance and business economics. During his time as a student at UC, he participated in the university’s renowned co-op program, working for local investment management firm Bahl & Gaynor Investment Counsel.

In addition to gaining practical work experience through the co-op program, Nick participated in a host of study-abroad opportunities including a month-long symposium in Bergen, Norway with a focus on the economics of natural resource endowments.

Upon graduating from UC, Nick was invited to join Bahl & Gaynor as a full-time analyst with responsibilities including client financial planning engagements and investment research in the telecommunications sector. Nick is currently a 2014 Level III CFA candidate.

Outside of work, Nick enjoys giving back to his alma mater by serving as a Trustee for the Kautz-Uible Economics Department Scholarship Fund.

Stephanie Larios was awarded the Taft Senior Thesis Fellowship to complete her independent research project. She completed her project “The Effects of Demographic and Socioeconomic Variables on Vehicle Trip Length and Duration in Hamilton County,” under the supervision of Professor Olivier Parent. In recognition of her superior project, she was selected to present her project at the University Undergraduate Conference at the Fifth Third Arena. Stephanie is a Kautz Uible Fellow and a McNair Scholar. She is pursuing majors in economics and mathematics, and would like to pursue graduate study in economics.

student news
Looking for Career Advancement?

Our MA in Applied Economics program has been very successful in providing students with solid training in applied economic theory and applied econometrics — skills that are clearly in high demand. Students (1) gain the skills to manage and analyze data using familiar software packages, such as SAS; and (2) acquire advanced quantitative and econometric skills to design and conduct research.

Students can earn a MA in Applied Economics degree in as little as twelve months.

Our job placement has been exceptional, with graduates landing positions in leading U.S. companies including JPMorgan Chase, Fidelity, dunnhumby, Nielson, ThinkVine, NIOSH and more. Furthermore, our program is recognized within the STEM disciplines, which allows International students to work in the United States up to twenty nine months following their graduation. We do offer merit-based scholarships, and students would be eligible to compete for these scholarships. Please encourage students to visit the following website. Also, they are welcome to email Professor Pal (debashis.pal@uc.edu) if they have any questions.

For more info: business.uc.edu/programs/graduate/ma-applied-economics.html