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Our Mission

To provide curricula that promote critical thinking skills and enhance decision making abilities, which help students become productive and informed citizens. Our faculty will engage in research to create and disseminate new knowledge, develop quality-teaching skills, maintain high professional standards, and actively serve the University and Community.

Our Vision

To develop outstanding Economics, International Business, and Business Analysis programs with faculty that is recognized for excellence in instruction, research, and service.

Letters From the Chair



Puebla Field School, 2007

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter. This issue features an interview with one of the most important people in our world: our department secretary, Sally Kundig. Sally's knowledge and experience are vital to me in my job. All of us, from student assistants to faculty to department majors, benefit from her ability to negotiate the maze of paperwork and forms that goes along with being part of a major university.

Thank you, Sally, for all that you do for us!

We'll also tell you about two new scholarships being offered by the department: one in honor of Dr. Bill Green, my predecessor as department chair, being sponsored by Leenette Wilke and Ashley Fairfield-Riley, two of our generous alumni, and one in honor of Assam, the state in India that is home to Dr. Hiranya Nath, one of our faculty. Dr. Nath's generosity carries on a wonderful tradition of faculty giving by our department, with six faculty-funded scholarships awarded last year, and more planned in 2008.

Finally, you'll learn about two big events for the department this spring and summer: our first-ever conference, sponsored in collaboration with the Gibson D. Lewis Center, and our Puebla Field School. The conference will be held the weekend of April 12-13, and will focus on regional trade agreements, migration, and remittances, with special emphasis on Latin America. Many of our faculty are presenting papers, and we have several distinguished speakers scheduled. Enrollment for our Puebla Field School is exceptionally strong this year, with approximately 15 students signed up to study business and economics while immersing in the culture of the delightful city of Puebla, Mexico. We're pleased to see that students are seizing the opportunity to gain international experience, and have some fun, too!

As always, we'd love to hear from you. Send us an e-mail, give us a call, or stop by. We have lots of good things going on in our department, and we would like to know about the good things going on with you.

Sincerely,

Don Freeman

About SHSU Economics and International Business

The Department of Economics and International Business is one of four academic units of the College of Business Administration (COBA) at Sam Houston State University. The department offers courses that lead to majors and minors in **ECONOMICS** as well as in **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS** for the undergraduate program in business administration. It also offers graduate courses that are part of the **Master of Business Administration** curricula.

For more information visit our website at: http://www.shsu.edu/~eco_www/

In This Issue

Congratulations, Class of 2008

Marcus Brent Backor
Ralph T. Baling
Emilee E. Bentz
Zachary A. Bethune
Rene O. Casallas
Liesl Carmel Chappell
Stephanie C. Emig
Andrew P. Fertsch
Katherine E. Franke
Dustin J. Glisson
Geoffrey J. Green
Hayley E. Harris
Keea A. Healey
Sohna Jaye
Donald R. Jefferson
Katie Ann O'Day
Edgar S. Santana
Steven Mark Rehm
Beatriz A. Sosa
Cameron J. Stawicki
Chris Charles Telschow

Experience Mexico and the Puebla Program

SHSU and the College of Business Administration offer a unique opportunity for students to earn college credit in Puebla, Mexico during Summer I session, 2008. This Summer, approximately 20 students will be traveling to Mexico.

Classes will be taught by SHSU faculty members on the beautiful campus of the **Universidad Iberoamericana**. Students will have many opportunities to interact with the local community. Field trips to major businesses, museums and archaeological sites.

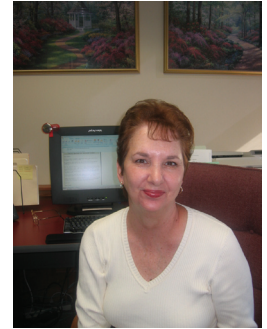
If you want to know more about the Puebla Program, contact Dr. Ulyses Balderas at: eco_jub@shsu.edu

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Meet Sally

In this edition of our newsletter, we dedicate a space to Sally Kundig, the department secretary, in appreciation for her service and commitment to our department. Sally joined SHSU in 1971 and has worked for our department for 31 years. She has been honored with two awards for service and has earned the thanks of countless students and faculty. Sally really loves summer time and her favorite hobby is dancing. When we asked Sally what is that she likes the most about working for our department, her answer was: "the interaction with students." Heather Watkins and Maggie Manzano, two of our student workers, often tell us that Sally is like a mother to them. "She makes sure that we get what we need, and that we stay on the straight and narrow!"

We asked Sally about a funny story about her experiences. What we got was unexpected! She told us she needed to get something from a retired professor's office (who shall remain anonymous), so she went to his desk to find it and found his false teeth instead!!! Sally, we are very fortunate to have you with us. You make everyday so much better.



Sally A. Kundig

William B. Green International Business Scholarship Fund

It is with great pleasure that we announce the "William B. Green International Business Scholarship Fund" created January, 2008. The scholarship was created to honor Dr. Bill Green, former Chair of the Economics and International Business Department at SHSU. This scholarship will be offered each year to full-time juniors or seniors majoring in International Business. The scholarship fund was created by Alumni Ashley Fairfield-Riley ('03) and Leenette Wilke ('03), both graduates of the International Business Program. In a recent interview, Ms. Wilke stated that both she and Mrs. Fairfield wanted to honor Dr. Green while also providing the type of scholarship opportunities afforded to them during their tenure as students. Mrs. Wilke said that the commitment of many faculty members contributed to their success but that Dr. Green stood out as not only assisting them and many other students with their academic careers but also playing a vital role in the success of the College of Business and the growth of the City of Huntsville, including eight years as mayor. Ms. Wilke told us, "I worked under Dr. Green as an economic Intern for the City of Huntsville. He was always gracious to provide opportunities for learning and growth for students. The thing that impresses me most about Dr. Green is his commitment to make the University and the community of Huntsville the best it can be. He is always looking for ways to improve his surroundings be it academically-driven or community-related. He truly cares about the success and reputation of SHSU and the City of Huntsville. That is why it seemed appropriate to honor him in this manner."

Assam Scholarship for Economics and International Business Majors

Hiranya K Nath, Associate Professor of Economics, has established the Assam Scholarship fund to provide financial assistance to selected students who meet the following criteria. A recipient must (1) be a full-time junior or senior student in good standing enrolled at SHSU, majoring in economics or international business; (2) have received the highest grade in the Monetary Economics course in the previous semester; and (3) have maintained a minimum GPA of 3.0 overall. This will be one-semester scholarship. The scholarship is named after Assam, Dr. Nath's home state in India. In the previous eleven years of his residence in Texas, he has come to realize that although most people recognize some places in India, few have heard of Assam, a state in the northeast region of India. It is a beautiful place with its own history, culture, and language. This region holds enormous potential for economic growth and is rich in natural resources with a pool of highly talented professionals, well-groomed in modern science and technology. Assam is also the eastern corridor to Southeast Asia. The proposed scholarship is intended to increase name recognition for Assam among SHSU students who may become interested in or may generate interest among others in that part of emerging India from a global business perspective. Dr. Nath also believes that the name of the scholarship itself will help him urge his fellow expats living in the United States to contribute to the scholarship fund.

Spring 2008 Seminar Series

Friday, Jan. 18

"Price Dispersion Under Costly Capacity And Demand Uncertainty" Diego Escobari, Texas A&M University

Wednesday, Jan. 23

"Controlling Pollution with Fixed Inspection Capacity" Lirong Liu, University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Friday, Jan. 25

"Any Causal Link Between Breastfeeding and Scholastic Achievement?" Bhavneet Valia, Kansas State University

Monday, Jan. 28

"Evidence on Asymmetric Gasoline Price Responses from Error Correction Models with GARCH Errors" Jinping Gu, Texas A&M University

Friday, Feb. 1

"The Informal Labor Market in Mexico" Carlo E. Alcaraz, Banco de Mexico, Mexico.

Monday, Feb. 4

"Firm Heterogeneities, Click through fees and Pricing in Oligopoly: Theory and Evidence." Guoning Yang, Indiana University.

Thursday, Feb. 7

"Non-linear PPP Deviations: A Monte Carlo Investigation of their Conditional Half Life." Ming Lo, St. Cloud State.

Wednesday, Mar. 5

"Lame Duck Governors and Vertical Tax Externalities" Per Fredrikson, University of Louisville.

Thursday, Apr. 17

Javier Reyes, University of Arkansas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Trade Agreements, Migration and Remittances Conference - April 12-13 2008

The Department of Economics and International Business is pleased to invite you to the Conference on Regional Trade Agreements, Migration and Remittances it is organizing in collaboration with the Gibson D Lewis Center for Business Research and Economic development (CBED) on April 12-13, 2008.

The focus of the conference will be on Latin America and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). In addition to four special lectures by experts in the topic areas of the conference, presentations by researchers from all across the globe are expected.



Conference Invited Speakers

Mauricio Cárdenas,

Dr. Cardenas is the Executive Director of Fedesarrollo, an independent policy-oriented research center in Colombia. His publications include edited volumes such as *Inflation, Stabilization and Exchange Rates in Latin America* (1997) co-edited with Sebastián Edwards and journal articles such as "Stabilization and Redistribution of Coffee Revenues: A Political Economy Model of Commodity Marketing Boards" in the *Journal of Development Economics* and "On the Effectiveness of Capital Controls: The experience of Colombia during the 1990s" (with F. Barrera) in the *Journal of Development Economics*.

Pia Orrenius,

Dr. Orrenius is a senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. She spent the 2004 - 2005 academic year as senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisers in the Executive Office of the President, Washington D.C., where she advised the Bush administration on labor, health and immigration issues. Her recent journal publications include "On the Determinants of Optimal Border Enforcement" (with M. Guzman and J. Haslag) in *Economic Theory* and "Self-Selection among Undocumented Immigrants from Mexico" (with M. Zavodny) in the *Journal of Development Economics*.

Susan Pozo

Dr. Pozo is a Professor of Economics at Western Michigan University. Her main areas of research are workers' remittances, illegal migration and the underground economy, all with a focus in Latin America. Pozo has also edited and written many books in related topics. She has also collaborated in publications for the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations WIDER project, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. Some recent journal publications include "Migration, Remittances and Male and Female Employment Patterns" (with C. Amuedo-Dorantes) in the *American Economic Review* and "Below the Surface: Underground Economic Activity" in the *Harvard International Review*.

Kamal Saggi

Dr. Saggi is the Dedman Distinguished Collegiate Professor of Economics at Southern Methodist University (SMU). Currently, he is also the Chairman of the Department of Economics at SMU. He has been a consultant for the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, the Andean Development Corporation, the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Finance Corporation and KPMG. Some recent journal publications include "Tariff Bindings and Bilateral Cooperation on Export Cartels" (with B. Hoekman) in the *Journal of Development Economics*, "Is There a Case for Industrial Policy? A Critical Survey" (with H. Pack) in the *World Bank Research Observer* and "Preferential Trade Agreements and Multilateral Tariff Cooperation" in the *International Economic Review*.

For more information visit the conference website:

http://www.shsu.edu/~eco_www/resources/conference08.htm

Information

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Tell Us About You!

Our SHSU majors would like to know what you are doing, and so would we.

Information concerning who you work for and what your current position is gives our graduating seniors valuable information upon their entry into the job market. Our students can also benefit from any internship opportunities your company may provide.

Please keep us updated with articles or information about you for inclusion in our next newsletter.

One of our main goals is to maintain lines of communication between all of our alumni and current students, and to keep you informed of the latest developments in the Economics Department.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Employer _____

Current Job Position _____

E-mail _____



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