



# Economics Newsletter:

## April 2007

I am making up for being early with my previous two newsletters by being especially late with this one.

Congratulations to all our B.A. graduates! If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter, please email me at econch@mcmaster.ca with your permanent email address and I will add you to the list.

In April **Adrienne ten Cate** successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis "Three Essays on Maternity and Parental Leave Policy in Canada". Congratulations Adrienne! Her committee was **Stephen Jones** (supervisor), **Martin Dooley** and **Lonnie Magee**. Adrienne is currently Manager, Program Research and Innovation, Human Resources and Social Development Canada. Adrienne is also a B.A. alum of our program (her M.A. is from Queen's). When at McMaster she won two major in course undergraduate awards in Economics: the Class of '50 Scholarship and the Pevensing Scholarship.

Economics undergraduates **Dale Marsden** and **Lei Tang** each won SSHRC CGS Masters awards valued at \$17,500.00 for one year. Congratulations! Next year Dale will be pursuing his M.A. in Economic Policy at McMaster while Lei Tang will be attending the University of Toronto.

From a recent university press release: "McMaster University has appointed Canadian business leader **Lynton Ronald (Red) Wilson** O.C., B.A., M.A., D.h.c; LL.D., D.C.L., as its 17th Chancellor. Wilson, a distinguished McMaster graduate with an Honours BA in economics (1962) and an MA in international economics from Cornell University, is chairman of CAE Inc. and a founding co-chairman of the Historica Foundation of Canada.

His career spans both public service and the private sector, including appointments as Ontario Deputy Minister of Industry and Tourism; president, CEO and chairman of Redpath Industries Ltd; president, CEO and chairman of BCE Inc., and chairman of the board of Nortel Networks Corporation. Wilson is an Officer of the Order of Canada, (1977), and holds six honorary university degrees, including one from McMaster in 1995."

Chancellor Wilson will also serve on the cabinet in McMaster's new fundraising campaign. Another member will be our B.A. alum **David Feather**, President of Mackenzie Financial Services Inc. Mr. Feather is also a McMaster MBA alum, was named on Canada's "Top 40 Under 40" list in 2002 and won the 2007 DeGroot School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award.

A press release from UNICCO Service Company (a facilities management company with 16,000 employees and \$700 million revenues) announced that **Steve Malcolmson** had joined the company as director, business development. "Malcolmson joins UNICCO from Hurley Corporation where he served in several business development capacities culminating in the position of vice president, sales & marketing...Malcolmson holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics and sociology from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario."

McMaster B.A. and M.A. alum **Andrew Heisz** is a Senior Research Economist at Statistics Canada and coordinator of the new Canadian Household Panel Survey. His research is well known, a recent example being his NBER working paper on the effects of recession on an individual's career at the time of college graduation, co-authored with **Phil Oreopoulos** of the University of Toronto and **Till von Wachter** of Columbia University. He has published articles in outlets such as the Journal of Human Resources, Canadian Public Policy, the Review of Income and Wealth and the Canadian Journal of Economics. He has also published a number of articles and monographs through Statistics Canada, a notable one being "Low-income in Census Metropolitan Areas, 1980-2000", with co-author **Logan McLeod**, now a Ph.D. candidate in our department.

**Guo Ying (Rosemary) Luo** is an M.A. alum in Economics (1990) who did her Ph.D. at Western Ontario. She is an Associate Professor in the DeGroot School of Business at McMaster and has published a number of articles including in the Journal of Economic Theory, the Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, *Economica* and the Journal of Business and Economic Statistics.

Our M.A. alum **Peter Aglobitse** is currently a Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University of Cape Coast in Ghana and in final stages of his Ph.D. in Demographic Economics. The topic for his thesis is "Determinants of School Attainment and Schooling Achievement in Ghana". He recently presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (PPA) on "Social Networks and Contraceptive Use Dynamics in Ghana".

**Stuart Mestelman** points out that our M.A. and Ph.D. alum **John Ohiorhenuan** is Senior Deputy Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery in the United Nations Development Programme. Stuart, **Syed Ahmed** and the late **Bill Mackenzie** were his thesis advisors when he received his Ph.D. at McMaster in 1975. He subsequently was Professor of Economics at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, was a visiting fellow at the University of Sussex and authored over 50 scholarly contributions. For more, and a photo, see:

[http://jiu-web-a.jonesinternational.edu/eprise/main/vda-undp/un\\_ohiorhenuan.html](http://jiu-web-a.jonesinternational.edu/eprise/main/vda-undp/un_ohiorhenuan.html)

The CBC news story at

<http://www.cbc.ca/money/story/2007/04/13/equalization.html>

is one of many stories (including the Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star) that cited McMaster Ph.D. alum **Wade Locke** regarding equalization payments, and the controversy between the governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador. Wade is a Professor of Economics at Memorial University.

Mac Ph.D. alum and former SEDAP fellow **Mat Brzozowski** has accepted a tenure-track position in Economics at Atkinson College, York University (joining another Mac Ph.D. alum, **Neil Buckley**). Mat's most recent paper, "The CPI and Canadian Seniors", appeared in the journal Canadian Public Policy in December.

Our postdoctoral fellow **Robert Nuscheler** has accepted a position as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Economics, University of Waterloo. Robert recently gave a paper "Optimal Public Provision of Nursing Homes and the Role of Information" at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Health Economics Workshop held in Magdeburg, Germany.

Two department Assistant Professors gave recent talks at other universities. On April 13, **Phil DeCicca** gave a seminar at the Department of Economics, University of Toronto on "Local labor market fluctuations and health: Is there a connection and for whom?" On May 4, **Seungjin Han** of our department gave a seminar to the Department of Economics at McGill with the title "Strongly Robust Equilibrium in Common Agency".

The Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network (CLSRN) is a large network initially funded by SSHRC through its Strategic Research Cluster Design Competition and is now funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. It is holding its inaugural conference in Toronto on June 14-15. Mac Econ Professor **Stephen Jones** is on the CLSRN Steering Committee and is Program Director for Research on Labour Market Adjustment. (Our Ph.D. alum, **Arthur Sweetman**, Stauffer-Dunning Chair and Director of Policy Studies at Queen's is also a program director.) Graduate students are particularly encouraged to participate in this conference: travel and accommodation subsidies may be available. For more information on the network and conference see:

<http://www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca/>

In the London Free Press, April 8, Ian Gillespie wrote a column about research by **Frank Denton** and **Byron Spencer**, emphasizing their prediction that 70 will gradually replace 65 as a social standard for the old age threshold.

Our sessional lecturer **Tsvetanka Karagyozova** has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Economics at UBC. I congratulate Tsvety and thank her for her significant contribution to teaching in our program over the past year.

On March 15th I moderated the "Get Hired" Panel, an event sponsored by Career Services at McMaster.

Our alum **Gary Kain** is a member of the McMaster Board of Governors and is in the McMaster alumni gallery. There is a detailed biography at

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/bog/membersbio.cfm>

where highlights include his founding of Regional Cablesystems Inc., which was sold for \$406 million in 2004 as well as serving on the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Oakville and of Sheridan College.

And finally, Mac Econ professor **Steve Jones** continues to demonstrate his running prowess. He, **Will Coleman** (Political Science) and **Brian Baetz** (Civil Engineering) won the men's corporate relay as the team "Mac Fac" in the Around the Bay Race.

Best wishes, [Mike Veall](#)

May 11, 2007

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[http://www.mcmaster.ca/economics/dept\\_newsletter.cfm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/economics/dept_newsletter.cfm)

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