



# Economics News

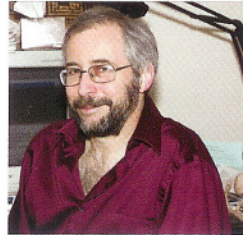


SPRING 2006

## A letter from the Chairman

Dear Students, Parents, Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends,

My first year as Chair of the Department of Economics has been even more rewarding than I anticipated. I am frequently reminded of the dedication of our faculty to research and teaching and of the quality of our students. It has been a highly successful year for our faculty and our students at all levels. Thanks to the hard work of our stellar editorial team, this year's Newsletter highlights the accomplishments of some of our outstanding current undergraduate and graduate students and wonderful alumnae/i.



But first let me brag about my colleagues. At the senior level, Robert Margo joined us from Vanderbilt and Andrew Newman came to us from University College, London. At the assistant professor level, we were joined by Ivan Fernandez-Val (MIT), Francois Gourio (Chicago), Jawwad Noor (Rochester), Gregory Pavlov (Northwestern), Adrien Verdelhan (Chicago) and Sujata Visaria (Columbia). Barton Lipman was elected a Fellow of the Econometric Society, joining Christophe Chamley, Laurence Kotlikoff and Andrew Weiss. Robert King was awarded a Honorary Doctorate by Universitat Berne. Three of our colleagues were awarded new grants from the National Science Foundation, adding to the Department's already substantial number of grants. Robert King, Laurence Kotlikoff, Pierre Perron and Andrew Weiss continue to be ranked by Thomson-ISI as "highly-cited scholars" and ten of our faculty are included in *Research Papers in Economics* as top economists. Andrew Weiss has announced his formal retirement from the Department, but we look forward to his continued participation in the Department.

This year our undergraduate class was so strong that we awarded two College Prizes for Excellence in Economics (to Kaiwen Leong and Laura Diane Shiers) instead of the usual single award. Kaiwen (who also won the College Prize for Excellence in Mathematics) will be pursuing a PhD in economics at Princeton University. Laura will be starting a very exciting job as a research analyst at the Analysis Group in Boston. We congratulate them and their advisors. Inside the Newsletter I invite you to read their candid perspectives on their experiences at Boston University.

Under the direction of Randall Ellis, this has also been a fantastic year for job placement in our graduate program. Our students received job offers from Carleton University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Cleveland State University, the University of Colorado, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the University of Montreal, both the Kellogg School of Business and Economics Department at Northwestern University, Princeton University, Wayne State University, the World Bank and several consulting companies. Inside the Newsletter, three graduate students tell about their experiences at Boston University.

The Newsletter also features one of our outstanding alumni, Surendra K. Kaushik, who is currently a Professor of Finance at the Lubin School of Business of Pace University. He discusses his experience setting up a college for women in rural India. We are very proud of our undergraduate and graduate alumnae/i, our best ambassadors throughout the world. We also want to express our deepest gratitude to all the alumnae/i and other donors who have generously contributed to the Department in the past year. This financial assistance greatly enhances the Department's teaching, advising, and research missions.

With my best wishes,

Kevin Lang

## Grants from the National Science Foundation

The excellence in research of our faculty is proven by the successful record in getting grants from various funding agencies. Congratulations to these colleagues who have been awarded new grants from the National Science Foundation.

**Barton Lipman**  
"Temptation and Related Concepts"

**Claudia Olivetti**  
"Collaborative Research: Understanding the Gender Gap in Earnings: Household Production, Market Production and Labor Contracts" with Co-PI Stefania Albanesi (Columbia University)

**Marc Rysman**  
"Collaborative Research: Dynamic Demand for New Durable Goods: An Empirical Model and Applications to Pricing and Welfare" with Co-PI Gautam Gowrisankaran (Washington University St. Louis)

## Our Wonderful



A special thanks to Andy Campolieto, Margie Chapman, Andrea Chong, Norma Hardeo, Miriam Hatoum, Foni Lam, Gloria Murray, Janet Newhall, Arthur Omondi, and Karen Rodi for being such a great staff!

# Building a College in Rural India

*An Interview with*

**SURENDRA K. KAUSHIK**

BU Alumnus,  
Professor of Finance at the Lubin School of Business,  
Pace University



**You are an alumnus of Boston University. What is the most important thing you learned when you were in graduate school here? Who were the professors or courses that made the major impact on the way you think as an economist?**

The most important thing I learned as a graduate student in the Department of Economics from 1971 to 1976 was to analyze problems and questions from different perspectives but always with a context and in a logical way. I was most fortunate to have professors with different international backgrounds. I worked closely with and learned a lot from: Professor Karol Holbik, an expert in monetary economics and central banking from Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia via Detroit, Michigan and Madison, Wisconsin; Professor Kathleen Langley, an expert in development economics and growth models from Britain via Baghdad, Iraq; Professor Mark Karp, an expert in development economics and northeastern African countries of Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, from Poland via Trieste, Italy and Rabat, Morocco; and Professor John Hughes, an expert in microeconomic theory via Brown University. Their influence was clear in my decision to focus on financial and development economics.

**As a teacher, what is the most important thing you aim to convey to your students?**

As a teacher I wish to teach my students how to think about financial and economic problems and application of economic ideas to problem solving. Hopefully, it facilitates innovative and creative thinking in whatever they decide to do as professionals with the highest integrity and ethical standards in the conduct of their personal and business affairs.

**Can you tell us about your project of developing a college in rural India? Where did the inspiration come from, and how are you going to implement it?**

As a Baby Boomer in India I was inspired most by Mahatma Gandhi who brought freedom to more people in this world than anyone else in history. He did so by learning from Indian history, great American minds like Henry David Thoreau, British thought, legal system and history, and used them most effectively to bring about freedom to India and many other peoples around the world that followed India's success in getting independence from the colonial powers. Other

people who have inspired me are my grandmother, Parvati, who was most respected and generous lady in our village; my mother, Ratni, who worked tirelessly for the family; and my wife, Helena, who insisted on complaining to the head of WHO in Delhi about open sewers and heaps of garbage in her first morning in India and warning him of a potential plague that the WHO and India should do something about. All these four people cared deeply about others. This is also one of the high American values - some 90% and more Americans participate in community service and sharing their fortunes with others.

The Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's PG College is one more example of converting that inspiration of giving into a most useful action to help others stand on their own feet. There is no more important resource in the world than human capital and a college is the highest level where one creates and disseminates the capital of human knowledge, such as at Boston University. The College started in 1999 and has completed seven academic years, helping 230 young women receive Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees so far. Degree programs and courses are added each year on a 30-acre new campus of more than 80,000 square-feet of modern space. For example, a Master of Science in Biotechnology will be offered in 2006.

**If people who read this newsletter want to help with this project, what should they do?**

I do hope people become interested in this project. People can find current information about the College on the website [www.helenakaushik.org](http://www.helenakaushik.org). Of course, they are welcome to contact me at [skaushik@pace.edu](mailto:skaushik@pace.edu) and (914) 422-4350, (914) 762-6168, (914) 924-5236. They can also reach the College at Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's College, Malsisar, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, India 331 028. Phone: 91 01595 276593, 276818, 276561. E-mail: [helenakaushikpgcollege@yahoo.com](mailto:helenakaushikpgcollege@yahoo.com)

Any help in providing higher education to women in rural India, where only a fraction of 1% of women have received college education, would be most appreciated. I look forward to working with the Department of Economics, other parts of Boston University, and its alumnae/i, on the one hand and Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's PG College on the other.