Greetings from Carbondale!
As far as I can recall, the department always mailed the Marginalist in the late or early spring. But this year, for various reasons, the Marginalist has been delayed. We had a very mild winter and a long beautiful spring, but we are now going through a few weeks of hot weather.

In spite of budget and enrollment issues at your alma mater, the department is doing great. Professor Sajal Lahiri, the Vandeveer Chair professor, is the recipient of the 2016 university-level Scholar Excellence Award. He finished his three-year term on the Faculty Senate and was elected to the Graduate Council. Professor Alison Watts completed her three-year term on the Graduate Council, and Professor Chifeng Dai is serving a two-year term on the College of Liberal Arts Council. Thus, the economics faculty are being busy in the department as well as very active in serving on the university/collegewide committees. In April 2015, I testified (along with SIU President Randy Dunn and Dr. Kyle Harfst, executive director of the SIU Research Park and of economic development) to the state Senate Appropriations Committee on the SIU Carbondale campus regarding the economic impact of the proposed state budget cuts to the region. The local newspaper, The Southern Illinoisan covered the testimony in a front page story. The link to article is: http://goo.gl/K6B0MV

Our department is the most international department on campus. During the 2015-2016 academic year we had graduate students from 22 countries, and during the last 10 years I can recall that we always had students

Our department is the most international department on campus. During the 2015-2016 academic year we had graduate students from 22 countries, and during the last 10 years I can recall that we always had students...
from at least 15 countries. Thus we have many very successful and famous alumni around the world. This year the biographies of two of our very successful alumni are included in this issue: Southern Methodist University professor Ravi Batra and Arizona State University vice provost Arthur Blakemore.

In spite of a decrease in enrollment of 6,000 to 6,500 students at SIU Carbondale during the last 15 years, the enrollment in the department at the graduate and undergraduate levels has stayed fairly steady. We have 45 to 50 graduate students and an equal number of economics majors. During the last 10 years, on average, the department graduated six Ph.D. students and five master’s students per year. As always, the department faculty is regularly publishing in referred journals. During 2015-2016, the department graduated ten Ph.D. students, and all have received job offers so far.

The students in the department are fortunate to have a variety of scholarships available to them. These scholarships include: the Thomas and Chany Chung Scholarship; the Glen W. and Cornelia Y. Miller Scholarship; the Garret A. and Susan J. Pierce Scholarship; and the Elizabeth Goyak Endowed Scholarship that was started last year. The department is very grateful to the individuals who have endowed these scholarships. These scholarships have made a major impact on the lives of so many of our students.

Many of you contribute quite generously to our alumni fund, and some of you have been contributing regularly to it. I sincerely thank you for your contributions. This money has been used to provide cash awards to our undergraduate students at the Honor’s Day ceremony, and to provide some support for travel to meetings for our graduate students. This support is very much appreciated by our students.

I would like to list information about all of our alums (Ph.D., M.A., M.S. and B.S.) on our website. It will allow all of us to stay in touch with each other, and also will allow the department’s prospective students to see what our graduates have been able to accomplish with their degrees. I would appreciate it if you can update your information on the department web page by using the following link: http://cola.siu.edu/economics/alumni/keep-in-touch.php. I am always interested in hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me via email at sharma@siu.edu, or by phone at 618/453-5082.

Subhash C. Sharma, professor and chair
July 21, 2016

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**Scholarships and Awards**

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<th>Thomas and Chany Chung Scholarship</th>
<th>Glenn W. and Cornelia Y. Miller Scholarship</th>
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<td><strong>Undergraduate</strong></td>
<td>Samuel Brittingham</td>
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<td>Ryan Hilgen</td>
<td>Jasser Reyes Portillo</td>
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<td>Justin Jackson</td>
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<td>Tabitha Juneau</td>
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<td>Michal Kianicka</td>
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<td>Kenneth King</td>
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<td>Ishraq Ahmed</td>
<td>Sungida Rashid</td>
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<td>Genevieve Alorbi</td>
<td>Shucui Zheng</td>
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<td>Assyad Al-wreikat</td>
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<th>Garrett E. and Susan J. Pierce Scholarship</th>
<th>Outstanding Seniors</th>
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<td>Austin Schultz</td>
<td>Nicholas Tyrell</td>
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<td>Lakshila Wanigasinghe</td>
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<th>Outstanding Junior</th>
<th>Michael Serna</th>
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Faculty News: Accomplishments in 2015-2016

Dr. Scott Gilbert
Publications:
➢ “Evidence from Structural and Factor-Augmented VAR Analyses,” with MD Rafayet Alam, forthcoming in Agricultural Economics.

Presentations:

Dr. AKM Mahbub Morshed
Publications:

Paper Presentations:
➢ “Unconditional Convergence of Labor Productivity in the Service Sector,” (with Bisrat Kinfemichael) Department of Economics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois Midwest Econometrics Group Meeting, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO (October 2015).
➢ “Inequality in Landownership and Real Wage,” Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (March 2014).

Dr. Sajal Lahiri
Presentations:
➢ “Foreign penetration and domestic competition,” presented at the Seventeenth Annual Conference, 10-12 September, 2015 at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon -Sorbonne, France.

Publications:

Dr. Andrea Sorensen
Publications:

Dr. Kevin Sylwester
Publications:

Dr. Alison Watts
➢ Grant Awarded: "Efficient Temporal-Spatial Sharing through Voluntary Exchange", Xiangwei Zhou and Alison Watts (Co-PIs), NSF (SES 1343380), award of $896,629 for 9/15/2013 to 8/31/2017.

Presentations:
➢ “Opting out of Buyer-Seller Networks,” Spring 2015, Midwest Economic Theory Meetings at Ohio State University.
➢ “Opting out of Buyer-Seller Networks,” August 2015, the 11th World Congress of the Econometric Society, Montreal.
➢ “Opting out of Buyer-Seller Networks,” September 2015, Conference in honor of Hervé Moulin in Marseille, France.
Dr. Raveendra N. Batra (“Ravi” Batra) received his Ph.D. in 1969 from the Department of Economics at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and is one of the most distinguished world renowned alumni of the department. Batra’s main areas of interest are international economics, macroeconomics, labor economics and economic development. Batra is professor of economics at Southern Methodist University, Dallas. He was the chairperson of the Department of Economics at the Southern Methodist University from 1977 to 1980. In October 1978, because of dozens of publications in top journals such as the American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, Journal of Economic Theory and the Review of Economic Studies, among others, Batra was ranked third in a group of “superstar economists” selected from all the American and Canadian universities by an article in the learned journal Economic Enquiry. Specifically, during 1970-1980, Batra published 10 papers in American Economic Review, one in Econometrica, three in Oxford Economic Papers, two in Review of Economic Studies and two in Journal of International Economics, among others. In 1990 the Italian prime minister awarded him a Medal of the Italian Senate for writing a book that correctly predicted the downfall of Soviet communism 15 years before it happened.

Batra has written in major newspapers and magazines, such as the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Time, Newsweek and the U.S. News and World Report, and has appeared on all major U.S. television networks including CBS, NBC, CNN, ABC and CNBC, among others. In 2009 Batra received the Pratina and Navin Doshi Award for his contributions to economic analysis.

Batra has written 15 books so far; among these, six have been international best-sellers and two have appeared on the New York Times best-seller list. The books written by Batra are:

Some Comments on Batra’s work:
◆ "Ravi Batra has made an outstanding reputation in the United States as an international economic theorists in the best Western tradition." Leonard Silk, New York Times. ◆ "The forecasting record of this widely respected Southern Methodist University economist has won glowing praise from many pragmatic investment masters." Tom Peters,
Dr. Arthur Blakemore received his Ph.D. in 1977 from the Department of Economics at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. After that, he served for three years as staff economist and senior staff economist in the Executive Office of the President, including the Council of Economic Advisers. After serving three years in Washington, he joined Arizona State University (ASU) in 1979. He was chair of the Department of Economics at ASU from 1994-2014. He added the duties of senior vice provost of ASU in 2006 with responsibilities in retention and graduation policies, assessment of learning and initiatives related to adaptive learning. As chair he oversaw a major expansion in undergraduate teaching, economics majors and Ph.D. students. At the same time, the department grew in research reputation, rated recently within the top 20 departments in research productivity by the National Research Council.

Blakemore has published in the area of labor economics and applied macroeconomics pertaining to productivity and economic growth. At ASU he also received twice the “Teacher of the Year” award in the Department of Economics. While at ASU he has had extended leaves as a research fellow at Australian National University and as a visiting professor at the London School of Economics.
Graduate Student Teacher of the Year

Eric Lenz was honored for his work in the classroom with the Graduate Student Teacher of the Year Award.

The Graduate Student Teacher of the Year Award is awarded annually to one or two graduate students whose classroom teaching has been deemed exemplary by a faculty committee chaired by Dr. Zsolt Becsi, director of undergraduate studies. Selection is based on classroom student evaluations, teaching observations and student testimonials.

Eric’s Teaching Philosophy
“Every instructor has his or her own philosophy of teaching, but generally I’ve found three keys to successfully communicate economics. First, the teaching material must be organized and presented clearly to students. Second, the style of teaching must be focused and direct for a hard subject such as economics. Finally, the lecture should include current events and personal examples so that students find the information relevant.

“A good instructor understands the importance of clear and visually attractive learning materials. The SIU economics department gives its graduate students the tools to communicate economics. I use statistical software such as Stata and Eviews, but also the presentation and word-processing program called LaTeX. Professor Scott Gilbert and my fellow graduate students use this highly customizable word processor for presentations, research and creating course content. These programs are the standard among economists, and I continue to use LaTeX as an instructional tool for graduate students in international affairs at Texas A&M.

“My style of teaching is goal-oriented, with a focus on solving interesting problems and efficiently completing tasks. The economics department at SIU imparts these skills to graduate students, and I’ve also found them to work in teaching. Every one of my lectures has learning objectives, but I also give students time for questions and discussion. My communication style is informative and concise, and emphasizes a unique objective. I believe that a direct approach is effective and appreciated when communicating a subject that students think is hard.

The communication of economics is also easier if students relate the ideas to something personal and current.

“I find that a successful lecture illustrates economic concepts through current events. For instance, Russia’s embargo of foreign goods and Donald Trump’s proposed tariff on Chinese imports explain the effects of trade restrictions. Economic substitutes and complements abound at local supermarkets, and opportunity costs arise daily for undergraduate students who attend events, join clubs and purchase new IPads. These news headlines and everyday examples are familiar and memorable, which makes learning easier.

“Overall, my teaching experience with two undergraduate economics courses at SIU adds to the quality of my instruction at Texas A&M. I continue to learn and improve just like my students, but the teaching opportunities at SIU provide a strong foundation for the future.”

Eric teaches a graduate course in International Affairs at Texas A&M titled “Fundamentals of the Global Economy.” It is a course in international trade, finance and development. The master’s program that he teaches in at Texas A&M is in the top 25 for international affairs.

“A good instructor understands the importance of clear and visually attractive learning materials.”
Ouadie Akaaboune  
Journal Articles:  
➢ “Accounting Education and Reform: A Focus on Pedagogical Intervention and Its Long-Term Effects,” *Accounting Educators’ Journal* XXV, 6459, 01-93 (with Marc Morris, Royce D. Burnett, and Chris Skousen).  

Md. Rafayet Alam  
Publications  

Genevieve Alorbi  
Presentations  

Bizuyehu Bedane  
Presentations  

Lisa Breger  
Presentations  
Publications  

Md. Didarul Hasan  
Presentations  
➢ “Natural Resources and Civil Conflicts: Policy Analysis under General Equilibrium,” paper presented at the 10th Annual Economics Graduate Student Conference, St. Louis MO (October 2015).  

Erick Kitenge  
Presentations  

Hio Loi  
Presentations  

Dmitrii Pianov  

Mohammad Sediq Sameem  

Dambar Uprety  
Vandeveer Chair Speaker Series, spring 2016

Presentations take place in Faner 4125

March 4
Speaker: Professor Joonhyung Lee, University of Memphis
   Topic: “An Empirical Investigation on the Transfer of Expatriates within MNCs from a Knowledge Perspective”

March 25
Speaker: Professor Rajeev Goel, Illinois State University

April 1
Speaker: Professor Subhash C. Sharma, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

April 8
Speaker: Professor George Gayle, Washington University in St. Louis and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
   Topic: “What is the Source of the Intergenerational Correlation in Earnings?”

April 15
Speaker: Professor Marieke Kleemans, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
   Topic: “Migration Choice under Risk and Liquidity Constraints”