

January 2014

Dear Alumni,

With a new master's program in computational economics, 17 Ph.D. students on the job market, and the addition of new faculty members to the Department, 2014 is off to a great start! I would like to share with you these and other updates as well as some highlights from the fall of 2013.

◆ **Master's of Science in Economics and Computation**

Do you know someone who is interested in economics and computer science? Our new **Master's of Science in Economics and Computation (MSEC)** begins this fall. This program has arisen out of an already close relationship between our Department and the Department of Computer Science, and addresses critical needs of industry and research. Please help us get the word out to prospective students by the **February 15 application deadline**.

◆ **Job Market**

This year we have **17 Ph.D. students on the job market**, representing a wide range of specialties, including macroeconomics, microeconomics, econometrics, theory, development, and labor economics. Additionally, **15 alumni from our master's program** are on the job market. We wish them the best of luck and are excited to see where they land.

◆ **New Faculty Members**

We plan to hire again this year and have visits scheduled throughout January and February with various junior and senior economist. I am pleased to already have a few recruiting announcements early in the season:

Modibo Sidibe specializes in urban economics and labor economics. He began a postdoc in our Department in 2012 and will join the department as Assistant Professor this July.

Juan Carlos Suarez Serrato, who is completing a postdoc at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, and **Robert Garlick**, who is completing a postdoc at the World Bank, will also be joining us this year.

◆ **Research and ERID**

Earlier this month many of our faculty and students headed to the American Economic Association (AEA) meeting in Philadelphia

to present research and keep abreast of developments in various fields.

Economic Research Initiatives at Duke (ERID) continues to significantly contribute to the research life of the department by hosting visitors and conferences. Learn more about [ERID with director Nir Jaimovich](#).

I also encourage you to check out some of our latest research in the ERID working paper series.

◆ Alumni Spotlights

Some of our alumni made it into the news last fall. Fred Ehrsam (T'10) was selected by TIME as one of the [30 people under 30 changing the world](#). Sonal Shah (M.A.'93) was included in a Washington Post article on "[16 Women Who Deserve a Spot On The Board of Directors of a Tech Company](#)."

You can also read spotlight articles on our alumni on our website. This fall we checked in with:

- [Hung-Chia Yang](#), a M.A. alum who now works at Berkeley National Laboratory;
- [Shanjun Li](#), a Ph.D. alum who is a professor at Cornell;
- [Sabrina McCutchan](#), an undergraduate alum who works as a research associate for [Professor Frank Sloan](#); and
- [Lirong Xia](#), an M.A. alum who also received a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Duke and now teaches at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

◆ Undergraduate News

[Emma Rasiel](#) is teaching "Behavioral Finance: A Taxonomy of Money Mistakes" this spring, the first Duke undergraduate economics course for credit that is being offered almost exclusively online.

The [Financial Education Partnership](#) (FEP) just held its second annual [Finance Boot Camp](#). The 5-day program is invaluable to juniors who have studied abroad in the fall and have therefore missed training and networking opportunities for competitive summer internships.

Our undergraduates continue to have to the opportunity to publish in the [Duke Journal of Economics \(DJE\)](#). Articles for the DJE are written by participants in the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. Be sure to check back at the end of April for this year's edition.

◆ In Closing

Our goal is to email you once or twice per year so that we can remain connected. We hope you find these emails valuable. Please feel free to contact our communications specialist Ana Glass (ana.glass@duke.edu) or me (patrick.bayer@duke.edu) at any time with suggestions for the Department.

Consider joining the more than 1,000 of us in the [Duke Economics LinkedIn Network](#) if you haven't already, and please know our [Facebook page](#) is also available for interactive communication.

Wishing you a happy new year,

[Patrick Bayer](#)

Chair, Department of Economics