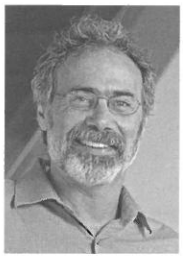
The Department of

ECONOMICS

Fall 2011

From the Department Chair



Greetings from the Colorado State University Department of Economics! This year begins my second term as department chair. The support of the faculty and the dean means a great deal to me personally, but more importantly, it reflects a belief that our department has been moving in a positive direction that we all hope will continue. In these times of budget cuts, salary freezes, faculty reductions, and tuition increases, it is all too easy to be negative. I am grateful to the faculty, staff, and students who work so hard and who keep a positive attitude. They make this job worthwhile.

Although we were not able to hire any new faculty members last year, we did succeed in transferring assistant professor **Sammy Zahran** from the Department of Sociology into the Department of Economics. Professor Zahran is a demographer who has quickly achieved an impressive reputation as a prolific scholar. He is co-director of the Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis, and a resident fellow in the School of Global Environmental Sustainability. In 2010, he was awarded a Monfort Professorship (one of only two ever to have been awarded to faculty in the College of Liberal Arts). In 2008, he was awarded Best Paper of the Year by the American Planning Association.

We are very pleased that Professor Zahran wanted to join our faculty. We are excited by the interdisciplinary opportunities that he brings to our department. We want our students to learn not only the tools and methods of economics but also to appreciate its larger intellectual and practical significance, including its connections to the other social sciences. Our department is unusual in its openness to alternative perspectives and methodologies. We have something special to offer our students, and I think that is why they express high levels of satisfaction with their experiences in the Department of Economics.

Other faculty news:

- **David Mushinski** and **Martin Shields** were both promoted to full professor.
- **Elissa Braunstein** received tenure and was promoted to associate professor.
- **Karen Gebhardt** was promoted to special assistant professor.
- **Bob Kling** received the CLA Distinction in Outreach Award.
- **Sammy Zahran** was awarded a $215,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.
- **Stephan Weiler** planned and coordinated the 2010 meetings of the Regional Science Association in Denver.
- **Chuen-mei Fan** and **Charles Revier** retired. We will miss them, and we wish them all the best in the next phase of their lives.

Our graduate and undergraduate programs continue to flourish. Last year 25 students entered our graduate program, twice the usual number. This jump in enrollment clearly reflects the sad state of the economy, but it also indicates that our graduate program has gained more recognition for its breadth, for the teaching and research opportunities it provides to our students, for its supportive environment, and for the success our graduates have had on the job market. We had six Ph.D. students on the job market last year, and every one received either a solid academic job offer or a highly valued postdoc. This track record demonstrates that our graduate program continues to be the largest and most successful in the College of Liberal Arts.

Our undergraduate program is also thriving. For example, Professors **Harvey Cutler** and **Nancy Jianakoplos** organized poster sessions

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Faculty Highlight: Professor Stephan Weiler

Stephan Weiler is a professor of economics and research associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University, and founding co-director of the University's Center for Research on the Colorado Economy. He received his B.A. (Honors) in economics and M.A. in development economics in 1988 from Stanford University, and his Ph.D. in economics in 1994 from the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied with eventual 2001 Nobel Laureate George Akerlof. From 2004 to 2006, Stephan served by appointment as assistant vice president and economist at the Federal Reserve's Center for the Study of Rural America and led the Center's applied research work. The center was the focal point in the Federal Reserve System for rural and regional development issues, providing cutting-edge research perspectives to private, public, and nonprofit decision makers. Stephan became a frequent speaker before industry, university, and public policy audiences throughout the nation, is a regular contributor to media outlets ranging from the *Wall Street Journal* to National Public Radio, and has published more than 80 articles, book chapters, and policy papers. His research has spanned a variety of development and labor market issues in Africa, Appalachia, Europe, and the American West. His current work focuses on regional economic growth and development, particularly in

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Professor Bob Kling teaching at Foreign Trade University, Hanoi, Vietnam.

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and public presentations of their students' research on regional economics and sports economics. It was a really exciting experience both for the students (and their parents!) and for us. Professor Stephan Weiler sends his students around Colorado to work in conjunction with state economists and demographers on regional economic issues. Professor Bob Kling has set up student and faculty exchanges with Foreign Trade University in Vietnam. We just welcomed 28 FTU students who will be studying at CSU over the next academic year. These are just a few examples of the exciting opportunities that our faculty are creating for their students.

We'd love to hear from you! You can stay in touch with us and find out more about the Department of Economics through our website at **http://economics.colostate.edu.**

Best wishes,

–Steven Shulman, Professor and Chair

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struggling rural areas, combining theoretical, empirical, and policy analyses in areas such as geographic informational asymmetries, public/private partnerships, industrial restructuring, housing, real estate, immigration, entrepreneurship, and the environment.

Stephan's current teaching focus is the senior capstone seminars, which he has oriented toward applied service-learning research projects that support the state demographer's work in understanding regional economies in Colorado, particularly in more rural areas of the state. Each semester, the course and its particular set of geographically specific projects are designed to balance the pedagogical background and interests of students with the applied research needs of the state and communities themselves, with all sides hopefully benefiting in the process.

Selected publications

Graves, Philip, Stephan Weiler, and Emily Bonner (2010) "The Economics of Ghost Towns." *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, 39(2), 131-140.

Henderson, Jason and Stephan Weiler (2010) "Entrepreneurs and Job Growth: Probing the Boundaries of Space and Time." *Economic Development Quarterly*, 24(1), 23-32.

Zahran, Sammy, Howard Mielke, Christopher Gonzalez, Eric Powell, and Stephan Weiler (2010) "New Orleans Before and After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: A Quasi-Experiment of the Association between Soil Lead and Children's Blood Lead." *Environmental Science and Technology*, 44, 4433-4440.

Zahran, Sammy, Jeffrey Snodgrass, Lori Peek, and Stephan Weiler (2010) "Maternal Exposure to Hurricane Andrew and Fetal Distress." *Risk Analysis*, 30(10), 1590-1601.

Zahran, Sammy, Howard Mielke, Stephan Weiler, and Christopher Gonzalez (2011) "Nonlinear Associations between Blood Lead in Children, Age of Child, and Quantity of Soil Lead in Metropolitan New Orleans." *Science and the Total Environment*, 409, 1211-1218.

Chalmers, Katherine and Stephan Weiler (2011) "Sorting Winners and Losers: Using CGE Models to Assess Income Distribution Effects of Economic Development Choices." *Regional Science Policy and Practice*, 3(1), 1-15.

Please Keep in Touch!

Send your name, graduation year, address, phone number, and e-mail address – along with news you'd like to share about your current employer, degrees, awards, births, etc. – to the address below, or e-mail Jenifer.Davis@colostate.edu.

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