Hello from the Department of Economics! As one of our alumni, you probably remember the challenging yet caring professors, the excitement of learning something new, the opportunities you found at Colorado State University, and the personal relationships you experienced with other students and with our faculty. In short, a “learning community.”

We have always believed that new knowledge and new skills could be developed in a positive, supportive environment. We pride ourselves on the ease with which students can get to know their professors and interact with them outside of the classroom. This is unusual for a department with a Ph.D program and the attendant emphasis on research. But we are not interested in being like other departments. We aspire to bring something special to the learning experience, to personalize it as much as possible. The “learning community” is an ideal that guides our actual practice as teachers and researchers.

All of this intellectual activity creates an exciting environment for our students. The Department is certainly different than you remember, but I’m sure that it would also seem very similar. I have been on the faculty here since 1984, and to me it has always been a great place, both professionally and personally, for students and faculty.

You can stay in touch with us through our website at economics.colostate.edu/alumni. We want it to become a means of hearing about your old friends and staying in touch. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Send any comments or questions you might have to me at steven.shulman@colostate.edu. I’d love to hear from you.

Best wishes,

Steven Shulman
Professor and Chair
Department of Economics
Colorado State University
Department of Economics

The Department of Economics says good-bye to Dr. Chuen-mei Fan and Dr. Charles Revier

By Charles Revier

Dr. Charles Revier (far right) in Vietnam with Bob Kling (far left) and FTU employee Toan Nguyen (middle). Department of Economics alumni, current students, faculty and staff gathered at the Lory Student Center for a memorable retirement party for Dr. Charles Revier and Dr. Chuen-mei Fan.

Among the stories shared by Charles’ and Chuen-mei’s former students and work colleagues, many were about Chuen-mei’s cooking. Charles’ sense of humor, and each of the professor’s caring and considerate manner toward their students.

Stephanie Shwiff ’97, ’04 remembered how L.S. and Chuen-mei took her into their home while she searched for a place to live, while another graduate student thanked Chuen-mei for providing a home away from home.

“I remember Chuen-mei and L.S. for their generosity. They provided a place for us graduate students—especially for those who were far from home,” said associate dean of CSU’s College of Business and alumnus John Olienyk ’74.

As the party came to an end, Charles and Chuen-mei spoke about their time at CSU.

“The department has always seemed like one big family, and I am going to miss you all very much,” said Charles as Chuen-mei stood next to him and nodded. “It's been a wonderful ride.”

Dr. Chuen-mei Fan with student and Fulbright Scholar Anthony Mveyange.

professor Alex Bernasek. “She’s been an incredible mentor and an incredible inspiration to women in economics.”

As the former chair, Dr. Revier’s emphasis on technology and “bringing the department into the digital age” was an accomplishment that professor Nancy Jianaholops recalls.

“If it weren’t for Charles, we would still be using typewriters,” she said.

Among the stories regarding his accomplishments spanning 30 years in the department, most were centered around Charles’ humor.

“Dr. Revier is my favorite professor at CSU because he is so funny. I’ll never forget the first day in class when he said ‘budget surplus’ and started laughing,” said undergraduate James Clark. “He is also willing to take the time out to discuss what’s going on in the world without pushing his views upon his students, and that was something that I really appreciated.”

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Dr. Chuen-mei Fan with student and Fulbright Scholar Anthony Mveyange.

It took some inspiration for Bret Anderson to realize that he wanted to pursue his Ph.D in Economics while teaching at Colorado State University.

Before graduating from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Anderson decided to take a backpacking trip through South America. Traveling throughout Ecuador and Peru, Anderson realized that he wanted to study economics in the international sense.

“Ecuador and Peru were formative for me,” said Anderson. “It wasn't as much what I saw - I expected to see poverty—but what was different was I could be there and think about those things and see the contrasts. That was really the tipping point that made me see that I wanted to study economics.”

Anderson decided to apply for his combined master’s and doctorate in the Department of Economics at CSU. He was attracted by the extra attention the department spends on the politics around the complex social science.

“The Department is very pluralistic in nature here; it’s a little more economics in a social context. Studying political economy puts the three other core pillars of economics in perspective,” said Anderson.

In 2010, Anderson won the Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Liberal Arts. As an instructor, Anderson enjoys watching his students learn and grow in a science that at times can be hard to grasp.

“Teaching is a good way for me to express my own curiosities for knowledge, but the bigger picture is watching students have these discoveries, even if they are small, from week to week. Economics is a lot like a foreign language, those little victories are fun to watch with students,” said Anderson.

After finishing his Ph.D., Anderson will remain on the academic path. He will finish his dissertation on chronic poverty and human development in South Africa in the next few months. With Dr. Elissa Braunstein as his advisor, Anderson feels that the emphasis on collaborative research with the faculty is unique to the department.

“A benefit of our department is that it’s hometo in a sense that we have access to research with a good balance of teaching from the faculty’s perspective,” he said. “We always have an opportunity to do research with them, there’s a personal touch.”
The focus of the Department of Economics at Colorado State University is to create an academic environment that enables students to apply innovative solutions to real world problems. You can help us achieve this goal by making a gift to one of the many scholarships we offer to hard working students or to the Department of Economics Enrichment fund. Our goal is to ensure that our students have the background and resources to make a real change in this uncertain economy. Visit www.advancing.colostate.edu/econ-enrichment to make a gift to the Department of Economics or visit the alumni website at www.economics.colostate.edu/alumni to give a gift to any of the scholarships we offer our students.

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Colorado State University
Department of Economics
C306 Clark Building
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1771
970-491-6324
economics.colostate.edu/alumni