

Department of Economics & Business 2006-07 News

2007 was a busy and successful year for the Department of Economics and Business. Students formed a chapter of the Financial Management Association, and Omicron Delta Epsilon helped sponsor an on-campus lecture by economic development expert William Easterly which filled the McCallum Ballroom. Read on for more news and information.



NYC Career Tour

Twenty-five students considering majors in business or economics spent part of the first week of January becoming acquainted with job opportunities in their area of interest in the financial capital of the world—New York City.

This joint effort involving Professors Deborah Pittman and John Planchon from the Department of Economics and Business, Career Services, Alumni Relations and the Rhodes Alumni Chapter of NYC brought the students together with NYC-based Rhodes alumni for information sessions, networking events, and individual interviews. Topics of interest included course selection, internships and resume preparation as well as career opportunities.

Bud Richey, Director of Alumni Relations, commended the New York Alumni for helping “our students not only learn more about fields they wish to enter, but also find courage through word and example as they contemplate the possibilities of living in communities where their Rhodes education and experiences will help them succeed.”

A second NYC Career Tour planned for this upcoming January was filled quickly.



Maymester in Antwerp, Belgium

Professor John Planchon took 27 students to the University of Antwerp for a new Maymester program case course in international business. Students studied three international companies within specific industries and then visited that company as field experience. Students were also exposed to lectures on the E.U. from the faculty

of the University of Antwerp that enhanced their understanding of the environment in which these companies operate. The course involved case studies in the diamond industry, the malt-based beverage industry, and luxury-good management. Case studies began at the University of Antwerp, Belgium and involved lectures from Belgian professors and expert business consultants. Site visits to the European Commission, InBev, the International Diamond Council, Val St. Lambert, Moët & Chandon, The European Council, Royal Museum of Art, Peter Paul Rubens House, and the Antwerp Port were coordinated with business case studies. Students completing the program gained a better perspective on international business and its cultural/economic context.



Student Research

In 2007, 11 Department students presented papers at URCAS. The students, mentored by Professors Daniel Arce, Teresa Beckham Gramm, Art Carden, and Nick McKinney, presented papers on the following topics:

- Armstrong, Lorelei. “Asymmetric Deadlock Under Evolutionary Conditions”
- Buckner, Katy. “Predicting Test Scores: ACT v. Gateway”
- Howden, Stephen. “The Prisoner’s Dilemma Squared”
- Huddleston, Meredith. “The Effects of Immigration on Wages in US Cities”
- Josephs, Steven Michael. “The Wright Amendment: How Southwest Airlines Still Struggles to Freely Reduce Airfares Three Decades after Airline Deregulation”
- Lambert, Ben. “The Factors that Influence Criminal Sentencing”
- Lipscomb, Lisette. “The Red Scare: Understand the Fear Towards China and the Apathy Towards India”
- Mondragon, Christine. “Homeschooling: An Alternative Form of Education”
- Ortiz, Cassie. “The Economics of Religious Mobility”
- Phillips, Lizzie. “Financial Services for the Poor: The Effects of Micro-savings on the Operational Sustainability of Micro-finance Institutions”

- Reynolds, Reed. "Predicting Presidential and Congressional Elections"

Our student researchers continue to be well-represented at the annual conference of the Missouri Valley Economic Association. In 2006, Katie Frink ('08 ECIS) and Thomas Hook ('06 ECB/'07 Acct) presented research at the MVEA meetings. From October 25-27, Reed Reynolds, Lorelei Armstrong, and Carter Lawnin will accompany Professors McKinney and Carden to the 2007 MVEA meetings.



The MS in Accounting Program

The M.S. in Accounting program has maintained an annual enrollment of approximately 12 to 16 students per year. For the 2007-08 academic year, 13 students are enrolled in the program. Graduates of the program have traditionally secured employment with Big Four CPA firms, other national and international CPA firms, local CPA firms, and investment banking institutions. Each year, the department hosts a reception for students to meet representatives from various accounting firms. This year, the reception included representatives from ten different firms and utilized a new Career Fair format.



After Rhodes: Placement

The Department of Economics and Business continues to place its students successfully throughout the country. 2007 graduates found employment with many major firms:

- Bear Stearns
- FedEx
- Deloitte & Touche
- Thompson Dunavant
- Valiant Marketing Concepts
- L'Oreal-Maybelline Garnier
- Stanford Group

Several students and alumni are also pursuing graduate study at of the following schools:

- Harvard Business School
- Southern Methodist University

- Florida State University
- Texas A&M University
- University of Kentucky
- University of Texas
- Northwestern University
- University of Virginia
- Emory University
- University of North Carolina



Student Honors, Awards, and Activities

Students majoring in the Department have been honored for their leadership and academic prowess across campus. In 2007, Meredith Huddleston won the College's Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, and Lizzie Phillips won the College's Hall of Fame Award.



Faculty News

Department faculty members continue to produce research that is presented and published in influential outlets. In 2006 and 2007, department faculty presented at numerous national and international conferences, gave research seminars at universities such as West Virginia, Memphis, Nevada-Las Vegas, and Southern Mississippi, and published research in journals such as the *Southern Economic Journal*, *Economic Inquiry*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of International Development*, *Business and Society Review*, *American Review of Political Economy*, *Applied Economics*, *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, *Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Applied Economics*, and *International Journal of Business Research*.



For more information on department news and events, visit the Department's website at www.rhodes.edu/academics/143.asp.