



# Leo Hurwicz Turns 90

On Saturday April 14, 2007 the department hosted a 90th birthday celebration for Leo Hurwicz in the form of a conference and dinner. Entitled "Perspectives on Leo Hurwicz," the event was attended by many colleagues, family, friends, and former advisees. One hundred people came from near and far--as far away as China, Japan and Spain. Held at the Holiday Inn near the West Bank campus, the event started at 1:45pm with opening remarks by University

Provost Thomas Sullivan. Sean McDaniels, representing the State of Minnesota, delivered two proclamations by the Governor and the State House declaring April 14th to be "Leo Hurwicz Day." The program then commenced with half-hour talks, beginning with Kenneth Arrow from Stanford, who spoke on "Limited Communication and the Allocation of Labor," followed by Stanley Reiter from Northwestern, "Remarks on Leo Hurwicz's Work on Mechanism Design." After a break, Jim Jordan from Penn State presented "The Communication Required for Convergence of Equilibrium in Economies and Games," and then Daniel McFadden from Berkeley ended the program with "The Human Side of Mechanism Design." All the speakers emphasized Leo's immense contributions to mechanism design. (And, just last year *Designing Economic Mechanisms*, by Leo and Stan Reiter was published by Cambridge University Press.)

After a cocktail hour, dinner was held, followed by additional speakers. **Dan McFadden** ('62) started off the dinner with a toast to Leo:

"I would like to raise a toast to Leo on behalf of all his former students. Your reputation for placing economics and social science on a rigorous foundation attracted us to the discipline and gave us an appreciation of careful mathematical analysis that threads through and ties together all of economics.



We learned from you that stating and proving theorems is a participatory activ-

ity, not a spectator sport. And, you've vaccinated us for life against the modern disease of showing how clever you are by doing economics without a safety net.

Leo, you have one of the longest resumes in economics, once you add to it all of your students who have prospered on your training and ideas. Thank you."

The emcee for the dinner was Ket Richter. Ket also gave an interesting history timeline of Leo's life, noting that, "Leo was born before the Communist regime, outlasted it and is still going strong." To hear Ket's wonderful tribute with all the amazing details, go to <http://www.econ.umn.edu/hurwicz> and click on "Pictures;" the video clip is then at the top of that next page.

Hugo Sonnenschein, former Minnesota professor, former President of the University of Chicago, and now Professor Emeritus at Chicago, spoke next. Leo helped to hire him in 1964 as an assistant professor on his NSF grant. Hugo

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## Minnesota Alum Geir Haarde is Prime Minister of Iceland

**Geir Harde** (MA 1977) became Prime Minister of Iceland on June 15, 2006 after the resignation of Halldor Asgrimsson. He was born in Reykjavik and received a B.A. at Brandeis University and an MA in international relations at Johns Hopkins before coming to Minnesota for his Master's in Economics. While here, he worked with Anne Krueger. Prime Minister Haarde has been a member of Althing (the Icelandic Parliament) since 1987, and served as the Minister of Finance (1998-2005) and as the Minister of Foreign Affairs (2005-06). Early in his career he worked for the Central Bank of Iceland (1977-83).

In May of 2007, a U of M delegation led by President Bob Bruininks visited Iceland. The U of M has had a cooperative agreement with the University of Iceland since 1982. A very successful student exchange program has ensued with alumni who have close ties to both schools.

### *Hurwicz continued...*

said that Leo argued that the department needed a "critical mass" of mathematical economists, who, if not kept in adequate number, would disappear like whooping cranes! The next speaker, John Chipman, also emphasized Leo's support of mathematical economics--Leo would say "you can't quarrel with logic" -- which John said was Leo's legal background coming to the fore. John added that Leo helped to make mathematical economics respectable and indispensable to the profession, and it was Leo who was mainly responsible for making the department grow to be ranked 5th in the nation. Don Fraser, former congressman from Minnesota, spoke about his friendship with Leo and Evelyn and their political support over the years. Stan Reiter told a charming story of very young Leo's early grasp of mathematics. Leo's daughter, Sarah Kogut, read letters from former students, and grand-daughter Sophie Kogut spoke about Leo's love of family. Ken Arrow ended the program by hopping up to the podium to say that Leo was instrumental in getting former Minnesota professor and (then) current Prime Minister of Greece Andreas Papandreu out of jail after the 1967 coup. Links to video clips of the speakers can be viewed on the above website.

During this trip, Geir was presented with an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Minnesota for his distinguished leadership and public service. The ceremony was held May 24, 2007, the same day that Iceland's new government was announced, with Geir continuing as prime minister. During the presentation, President Bruininks detailed many of Geir's accomplishments, including "playing a critical role in the liberalization and transformation of the Icelandic economy, leading his homeland to achieve one of the highest consistent growth rates in the world with the lowest rates of inflation and unemployment," and Bruininks also mentioned the Prime Minister's work "to establish a global outlook, expanding Iceland's potential for growth in new areas and cultivating beneficial relationships with nations around the world." This award is the highest that the University confers and since 1851 only 200 honorary degrees have been awarded. Congratulations Geir!

It was a wonderful gathering of people important to Leo, including his entire extended family. The department was honored to be able to host this event and it was a festive occasion.

Minnesota alumni who attended: **Shomu Banerjee** ('92), **Paulina Beato** ('79), **Kim Border** ('79), **Bob Dildine**, **Chuen-mei Lee Fan** ('72), **Liang-Shing Fan** ('65), **Lu Hong** ('91), **Hideo Kanemitsu** ('65), **Kunio Kawamata** ('72), **Richard Kihlstrom** ('68), **Meg Ledyard** ('04), **Daniel McFadden** ('62), **James Moore** ('68), **James Quirk** ('59), **Luis Sanchez-Mier** ('04), **Rubin Saposnik** ('59), **Joaquim Silvestre** ('73), **Jim Simler** ('59), **Guoqiang Tian** ('87), **Jose Trujillo** ('80), **Fernando Vega-Redondo** ('84), **Julio Vinuela**, and **Myrna Wooders** ('76).



*Lu Hong and Shomu Banerjee*

Leo's actual birthday was August 21. If you would like to call or send a greeting, he can be reached at:

5015 35th Avenue South #605,  
Minneapolis, MN 55417-1566  
612-728-0388.

-- Wendy Williamson

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## Arrivederci Jerry

Some of you may remember the long-haired fellow who was often in the ERC Library.

His name was Jerry Donato and he first walked into the library about 1992. He was affiliated with the IMA (Institute for Mathematics and its Applications) in Vincent Hall. Jerry was always looking for anything written about geometry with economics—two topics that rarely go together, but somehow, he saw the connection. He was very courteous and thankful for my research help. Jerry spent many, many afternoons in 525 SCB and later, in 1235 Heller. Often times it was 4-5 days of the week, other times only two. But there was rarely a week in which I didn't see him unless he was out-of-town.

He was almost single-handedly responsible for financing our first photocopier: the clunky second-hand machine with the scratched glass which provided non-optimal copies. Jerry was also the main user of the two newer copiers at our Heller Hall location. At a nickel a page over the years, Jerry's contributions paid for the purchase of the latest machine.

I was never sure of Jerry's past. There was always an aura of mystery about him. Jerry said he was born and raised in Syracuse, New York. He lived in an apartment in Dinkytown, and would go off traveling for 1-2 months each year, to visit some of his six kids. I never knew how old he was, but my guess was he was born in the mid-1940s. He told me he had been an accountant with the GAO (the Government Accounting Office) and had audited Alcatraz when it closed in the late 60s or early 70s (whether it was closed/audited before or after the Native American sit-in, I don't know). But the question remained: How could he be unemployed for all the time that I knew him? Family money? A killing in the stock market? An early buy-out retirement policy? I never knew. I asked him more than once if he was in the Witness Protection Program. That would explain some of it. He just laughed. One of the last things he worked on was obtaining joint citizenship in Italy. So maybe it was Mafia ties! Such conspiracy theories naturally arose when one had so few facts. No one else seemed to know his story either. Professors and students would quiz me about him because he was in the library so often, and also attended many economics seminars.

Jerry was always looking for obscure things in odd journals. His luck was incredible – we would be able to find free journal articles not subscribed to by the university

library just on chance – posted illegally on a foreign site, or as the ONE free article from an issue that a publisher would allow. Conversely, his luck would run the other way – the article he wanted would be just one year, or even one issue, off from a journal's free electronic articles. Over the years, I requested many books and articles from Inter-library Loan on Jerry's behalf. I'm sure the ILL staff thought I was off my rocker, requesting geometry papers from obscure Russian journals, and articles written in Italian about mathematical economics. One thing is for certain, however: in all the quests he set me on, I always learned something.

Jerry made me a better reference librarian, as I learned to think WAY outside-of-the-box. It was fun to dig up stuff for him when I had the time – we would joke about his research and I was amazed to be able to find useful information for about three-fourths of his requests. Some of his questions, however, just could not be answered. Such as the one about the total amount of cloth produced in the 1800s, in metres, in Britain. He never really said why he wanted to know such things. He got off on so many tangents that it would have been impossible to chart those connections. Over the years I taught him computer searching skills so he could dig further on his own – and what he came up with was always out of the mainstream.

One of the last things he told me was of old St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Syracuse – when a city stoplight reversed the green and red. Or, perhaps it was the one hanging stoplight that flashed green instead of red that day. He found such confusions funny. He was big on mathematical logic.

How ironic that I found out on April 16th, the day of the Virginia Tech murders, that Jerry had died. I got an e-mail message from his ex-wife (I'd sent Jerry a couple of messages in late 2006, asking how he was). She was trying to find a paper of his, the abstract of which I helped upload to the American Mathematical Society website. She couldn't find a copy and said a colleague wanted it to publish it posthumously. She wrote that Jerry died in October 2006 from complications of diabetes. I didn't even know he had the disease. When he left in late May of 2006 he said he was moving temporarily out east to visit his kids, and then retiring to Italy. He was looking forward to doing research in Italian libraries. I don't know if he ever got overseas again, but I suspect not.

*Arrivederci, Jerry.*

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## The 2006 Minnesota Lecture

**Richard Kihlstrom** ('68) gave the ninth Minnesota Lecture on Friday November 17, 2006. Entitled, "Reflections on Forty Years of Economic Theory," Richard reviewed the state of economic theory in 1968 when he finished his Ph.D. and then discussed the contributions of some papers from the past 40 years. He focused on papers he thought important, some of which were unknown, some underappreciated or forgotten, some with interpretations that probably were not appreciated, some showing the power of rational models as alternatives to behavioral models, some with Minnesota connections, and some "I just like."

Theory in 1968: Main topics mentioned were General Equilibrium Theory results proven in the 50s, Consumer Theory, Social Choice Theory, Growth Theory, Economics of Uncertainty, the beginning of Rational Expectations, Risk Aversion, Economics of Information, and Game Theory. In Finance, such things as the Mean Variance Portfolio Theory, Sharpe-Lintner CAPM, Random Walk model and Efficient Markets, Tobin's Liquidity Preference, and the Modigliani-Miller Theorem were mentioned.

The developments since 1968 included Financial Market Equilibrium and Rationality, the impossibility of arbitrage and implications of the Law of One Price, Second Order Stochastic Dominance, applications of Blackwell's Theorem on the comparison of experiments, Social Information, further development of Rational Expectations theory, Adverse Selection, Signaling, Mechanism Design (especially Leo Hurwicz's contributions), Financial applications of Mechanism Design, Auctions, Moral Hazard, "Bonding" Equilibrium, Continuum Models, Product Variety, Duopoly; and Finance topics, such as the Dynamic Consumption Savings Portfolio Problem, Continuous time, Dynamic Equilibrium Asset Pricing Models, and the Black-Scholes-Merton Option Pricing Model. Richard ended

up with a more detailed examination of Risk Aversion.

It was impressive to realize the depth and breadth of the "expansion" of the economics literature (at least in theory!) of the last 40 years. The growth of the discipline has been astounding. As a librarian, I'd heard of most of the papers he talked about, but I hadn't realized their relevance and inter-twining relationships. Richard related well how the papers contributed to the field of economics as a whole, and helped me to understand how the subject I've been working with for 30 years has evolved so quickly.



Richard E. Kihlstrom is the Ervin Miller-Arthur M. Freedman Professor of Finance and Economics and Chair of the Finance Department at the University of Pennsylvania. He received a BA at Purdue University in 1964 and his Ph.D. at Minnesota in 1968. His advisor was Cliff Hildreth, and his dissertation was "On the use of discrete prior restrictions in Bayesian decision theory."

### *Research Areas*

Information and uncertainty in economics; financial market equilibrium; managerial incentives

### *Academic Positions Held*

Wharton: 1979-present (Chairperson, Finance Department, 2006-present; Chairperson, Finance Department, 1988-94; named Ervin Miller-Arthur M. Freedman Professor of Finance, 1986; Associate Director, Doctoral Programs, 1986-88). Previous appointments: Northwestern University; University of Illinois; State University of New York at Stony Brook; University of Massachusetts.

Richard is a Fellow of the Econometric Society (elected in 1981) and a Research Fellow of the Penn Institute of Economic Research.

## Alumni News

**Jim Likens** ('70) is still at Pomona College where he is the Morris B. and Gladys S. Pendleton Professor of Economics. He also continues his involvement nationally in the financial services sector--which includes serving as President & Dean of Western CUNA Management School, an executive development program for credit union personnel. He and **Lowell Orren** ('79), who is now an attorney with an estate planning and probate practice in Pasadena, recently had dinner with Herb Mohring at a restaurant in Newport Beach, California. Jim and Lowell made a point of letting Herb know how important he was to them as a teacher and mentor. With the help of good food and ample wine, the three of them particularly enjoyed remembering old times and solving several world problems.

**Terry Monson** ('72) will retire from Michigan Tech on June 30, 2008. "This academic year, I will serve as associate dean of the School of Business and Economics - a position I held until about five years ago when I went back on the faculty. I look forward to retirement."

**Paul Manchester** ('73) writes: "In April I was promoted to the position of Director of the Financial Institutions Regulation Division here at HUD. This Division undertakes research and policy analysis related to the HUD Secretary's regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) in the secondary mortgage market. Not surprisingly, this keeps us very busy. In the "small world" department, my predecessor in this position was **John Gardner**, who, if I recall correctly, received his Ph. D. in 1971, two years ahead of me.

We welcome any research from any U. of MN grads related to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac or to the mortgage markets in general.

Last August we visited **Arild Saether** (MA '68) and his wife Ellen at their home in Kristiansand, Norway. We actually spent most of the time at their lovely vacation cabin nearby on the coast, and we were there to celebrate Arild's birthday. Arild is a man of many talents, with all the work he has done on their cabin, casting fishing nets, etc., in addition to his teaching and research at the University." (Agder University, in Norway).

**Don Elliott** ('76) wrote to tell us, "I retired from the Department of Economics and Finance at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in November after more than 30

years, including more than seven years of service as department chair and graduate program director. My book *Measuring Your Library's Value: How to Do a Cost-Benefit Analysis for Your Public Library* was published by the American Library Association in early 2007."

**Lars Peter Hansen** ('78) won the 2006 Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics. He is the Homer J. Livingston Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. During the January 2007 ASSA Conference in Chicago, Lars was honored for his achievements at a reception at the home of Ellen and **Richard Sandor** ('67).

**Merton Finkler** ('79) has been appointed the John R. Kimberly Distinguished Professor in the American Economic System at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

**Fred Johnson** ('80) says: "I've been working at GM for the past 17 years, 10 of which were in Germany and Switzerland, but have been back in the U.S. for almost 6 years. Varied assignments in Engineering, Planning, Cost Reductions and more recently Marketing (I'm Director of Cross-Brand Marketing, which means being responsible for things that cut across divisions, including new features and technologies). I've reengineered myself from being a practicing economist, finding that I like working on a tangible product and enjoying the range of different aspects of the business that I get to play with and making things happen.

Marcia (who you might recall from when I was at the U) and I have three sons. The eldest graduated from Cornell last year in Chem Eng. and is working for Exxon-Mobil in Houston. The second just finished his junior year at Case Western (Mech Eng / Biomechanical) and is actually in Minneapolis this summer working for Boston Scientific. He's living on University Ave. just by the campus and made a point of walking across to the West Bank and the BA Tower the day he arrived! The youngest has one year more at home before he's off to college."

**Julio Nogues** ('80) was elected to the National Academy of Economic Sciences of Argentina in 2006.

**Mike Stutzer** ('80) wrote: "I enjoyed the article about the ERC. I think I enjoyed my office there more than any other I have had since. I probably still have a key to the  
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building! While pulling all-nighters, **Kemal Kasaroglu** and I occasionally slept on those long tables in “The Boardwalk”, only to be awakened by a security guard’s flashlight, who would then walk away shaking his head. I think I took a Ph.D class from Cliff Hildreth that was held there. It was also a favorite winter storage depot for the bicycles of the students who officed there, until one spring thaw when Alice Jacobi decided she had seen enough of them, and unilaterally moved the unlocked bicycles outside on the pedestrian walkway. Over the years, I am sure you have heard many other similarly endearing stories about Alice. Actually, I have had more fond thoughts about the Alice incident, and believe she just put the unlocked bikes in the ERC meeting area, where the pool of potential thieves consisted solely of angry undergrads coming to complain about exams and the janitorial crew. I think Kemal is now a businessman in Turkey.”

**Alfonso Martinez** (’81) wrote to say, “This past January I visited Spain with my whole family (my wife Marita and our five children, Alfonso (21), Ana María (19), Estefanía (17), Arantxa (13) and Micaela (8)). In Madrid we met some of the old classmates from the late 70’s. **José y Elsa Trujillo** hosted the meeting in their quasi private art gallery, i.e., their home. **Carlos Cuervo Arango, Teo Millán** and **Alfonso Novales** were there too with some of their children. It was very nice to see that after so many years we were able to talk as “it was yesterday in the elevator of the BA Tower we had met”. A huge bonus was to see that the next generation had a lot in common too. For my son, who studies economics, it was a plus to meet the authors of books he used at school (he used not to believe that they were friends of mine). A special comment is to the delicious food that was put on the table, a speciality of each corner in Spain. The challenge now is if we would ever be able to rewrite this story from Buenos Aires at my place.”

**George McCandless** (’81) is still living in Buenos Aires and working in the research section of the Argentine Central Bank and teaching some courses in local universities. “I have a book coming out of Harvard University Press: *The ABCs of RBCs: An Introduction to Dynamic Macroeconomic Models*, that might be of interest to some of the old grads. My eldest daughter just finished up her first year at Boston College while the two youngest are busy in the second and third grades and trying their best to keep me young. A few years back , I wrote a novel, *Catbird*, that doesn’t seem to want to find a publisher.

Doing a bit of sailing, taking photos, printing books, and a lot of being a dad. That’s all the news from here. Best to put my e-mail as: [catbirdsouth2000@yahoo.com](mailto:catbirdsouth2000@yahoo.com).”

**Richard Rogerson** (’84) was named a Regents Professor at Arizona State University in early 2007. He is the Rondthaler Professor of Economics in the W.P. Carey School of Business.

**Len Burman** (’85) did another extreme fundraiser. “I walked 62 miles in one day--from Georgetown, DC, to Harpers Ferry, WV--to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The walk started at 3am and I finished at 10pm. I posted my diary of the walk on the web at <http://home.comcast.net/~longwalk/>. At work, the Tax Policy Center has been getting great press. The New York Times endorsed a proposal I made to eliminate the AMT and replace it with a simple surtax in its lead editorial on Memorial Day (“Fixing the Alternative Minimum Tax,” May 28, 2007). And the Washington Post has made me their unofficial tax geek. (Google “Washington Post tax geek” and follow the link to a column by Ruth Marcus. The reference to “tax geek” has a hyperlink to my Urban Institute home page.) Not sure what part of my Ph.D. training qualified me for that honor, but it causes me great glee.”

**Miguel Sebastian** (’85) sent this message: “I quit my position as Head of the Council of Economic Advisors of Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero in December 2006 to run for Mayor of Madrid in the election of May 27, on behalf of the Socialist Party. Although I got 500,000 votes, I was actually badly defeated by the conservative candidate and incumbent Mayor, who gathered 800,000 ballots. In consequence, I quit my (short but intense) political career and I am back in the Universidad Complutense. A big hug for everyone.”

**David Eagle** (’86) wrote: “I am still an Associate Professor of Finance at Eastern Washington University, but my research has returned to monetary economics. Currently my research is challenging the price-determinacy and rational expectations assumptions that their solutions must either be bounded as proposed by Sargent or must meet the Blanchard-Kahn restrictions. I argue that these techniques have really been abused in the price-determinacy literature, and that inflation targeting does leave prices indeterminate even when a central bank follows a Taylor’s rule. I argue that the reason that inflation targeting now appears to be working is that the public currently confuses it with price-level tar-

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geting, which does determine prices when the central bank follows a sufficiently strong McCallum-Woodford rule. These papers can easily be found at IDEAS and I recently presented them at the WEAI meetings in Seattle. I've been separated from my wife, Lisa Conger, for over two years and we will soon be divorced. She and I have two daughters: Emily, graduated from college and now struggling with the job market, and Annica, a freshman in college."

**Eric Leeper** ('89): "I now have two children, Sam (age 9) and Sydney (age 6). My wife, Susan Monaco, is taking leave this coming year from the finance department at Indiana University. In 2006 I was promoted to full professor and given the directorship of the Center for Applied Economics and Policy Research at IU. I continue to serve as an external advisor to the Sveriges Riksbank (Swedish central bank) and work directly with Anders Vredin, head of the monetary policy division, who also attended Minnesota as a visiting graduate student in the 1980s."

**Insill Yi** ('91) wrote: "How nice to hear from you again. Last Fall Semester, I moved to Sogang University, Graduate School of Economics. My husband Jaeho Kum, is still working for the Korea Labor Institute and my daughter Minyou, born in Minneapolis at the U of M Hospital, is a senior student studying economics. I want to say hello to you and other alumni; especially Emily, Stacey, and Beth."

**Vito Inoferio** (MA, '92) wrote: "I just moved to a new job here at Ingenix, a subsidiary of the UnitedHealth Group. I'm now Director of Mathematical Rules and Modeling, a statistical research and data mining program to detect fraud and abuse in medical and pharmaceutical claims reimbursements. A significant cause of rising health care costs in the U.S. is the ease in which health care providers can bill insurance companies for higher reimbursements simply by using inappropriate treatment procedure codes. Because there are millions of claims processed everyday, it is not feasible to look at these claims one by one. Instead, I'm managing a group of master's / PhD level statisticians and researchers and SAS programmers (10 here in Eden Prairie and 9 in India) performing data analysis, modeling and working with our medical directors and subject matter experts. The findings after validation are developed into computer software that we install in a parallel claims processing system. The software detect highly-probable fraudulent claims, that are denied for payment (example - a chiropractor submitting a claim for

a knee surgery that he/she performed) or required to submit medical records for more review. This is the second year UnitedHealth is instituting this research program and the amount of money recovered or prevented from payment due to fraud and abuse is enormous.

When I joined Ingenix about 4 years ago, I was asked to develop a forecasting model that could predict where medical cost trends are going. Actuaries use predicted estimates to set reserves (how many million dollars an insurance company needs to put as reserves to cover anticipated medical costs) and to price insurance policies (that is, how much premiums consumers should pay for a health care policy). In the past, the forecast variance was so wide because actuaries were using outdated econometric / statistical techniques. Thanks to what I learned from my years at the U of M, I developed a time-series macroeconomic model of medical cost trends using the assumption that health care is just another economic good subject to the vagaries of economic forces. I used the vector-autoregression technique to estimate the parameters, refined the model further, and used it for forecasting. (People are impressed that I studied and learned VAR under Chris Sims.) For the past 10 quarters in a row, the model has predicted the direction of the change in medical cost trends correctly with a minimum observed variance. Needless to say, the actuaries are extremely happy. UnitedHealth has developed a reputation in Wall Street for its solid forecasts. Humana, a competitor of UnitedHealth, and Medica, a local health plan, both have bought the quarterly trends forecasting services. I have not kept up with the news on the department. My life has been work, work, and more work. Best regards to you. Vito."

**Luis Carranza** ('96) was named the Minister of the Economy of Peru in July 2006, in the administration of Alan Garcia. Luis formerly worked at BBVA as chief economist for Latin American and emerging markets where he oversaw Peru's sale of \$1.5 billion in bonds for early repayment of part of the country's debt.

**Vita King** ('98) finished her assignment at the academic development project "EUROFACULTY" in Riga, Latvia, in the summer of 2006. "I had worked in Riga since 1998 - since I left the University of Minnesota - eight eventful years. I started my new job in Norway in the Fall of 2006, but remain strongly connected to the University of Latvia, where I teach a block course in one of the masters programs each semester. I also keep

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my research fellowship at the Centre for European and Transition Studies at the University of Latvia. My primary affiliation, however, is with Østfold University College.” Vita can be reached at [roswitha.king@hiof.no](mailto:roswitha.king@hiof.no).

**Zuzana Brixiova** ('96) wrote, “Starting this September I will be on leave from the IMF and will be spending one academic year at the Addis Ababa University as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar. While in Addis, I will teach two courses (on macro and growth) in the University’s M.A. Economics program and carry out research on fiscal decentralization. In my spare time, I hope to get to my neglected hobby of long distance running; Ethiopia’s climate should be ideal for that. If anybody plans to visit Ethiopia during the next academic year, please let me know at [zbrixiova@hotmail.com](mailto:zbrixiova@hotmail.com).”

**Betsy Caucutt** ('97) announces: “Cecelia Lochner was born May 22, 2006. It has been a busy year, full of lots of changes and little sleep. Her first year has somewhat coincided with our sabbatical. So we hauled her along on a 6 week trip to Australia and New Zealand when she was 9 months old, and plan to bring her to Spain in October. Lucky for us she doesn’t seem to mind.”

**Hsiao-Lei Chu** ('97) moved to the Department of Economics, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan) about one year ago. She can be reached at [hlchu@mx.nthu.edu.tw](mailto:hlchu@mx.nthu.edu.tw).

**Ron Gecan** ('97) wrote last winter: “Hope you are well and that MN is enjoying some of the winter benefits associated with global warming. Ourselves, I don’t think we’ve received a flake of snow thus far here in DC and there’s word of the cherry blossoms gearing up, three months earlier than they otherwise should.”

We’ve had a couple of life changes this past fall to pass along. After five years I’ve left economic consulting and accepted a job as the in-house energy expert at the Congressional Budget Office. I will be working on large scale energy-related policy matters for the U.S. Congress and expect to have occasional briefings with Senators, Representatives, and their staff. Happy to be back in more of an academic environment with time to work on issues of my own interest. Not sure what I’ll be able to do about taxes, but at the very least, pretty nice to have the entire Library of Congress available to me with the click of a mouse.

But more importantly, my wife, Mara, and I have had

our second child, Gianna Marie, this past September. Gianna is pretty easy-going and sleeps a whole lot more than her older brother, Luke, ever did at the same age, which, of course, allows mom and dad rest that much better at night. Luke, just now two, gets along well with his sister, though tends to be much too busy running around to take a whole lot of notice of her yet. We are, of course, overjoyed with our children.”

**Dirk Krueger** ('99) writes: “After 2.5 years of home vacation in Frankfurt Germany I finally went back to UPenn for good (they were kind enough to give me tenure in the meantime). I am re-joining a macro group with a strong MN history (**Randy Wright**, Hal Cole, **Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde**, **Jose-Victor Rios-Rull** and Jeremy Greenwood). I also got married to an Italian (Danila Oldani) and produced two sons (Nicolo, 4 and Daniel, 18 months). Greetings from MN-East.”

**Toshi Arimura** ('00) says: “It is really hot in DC. I miss Minneapolis at this time of year. I would like to share a story with you. Last month, I was using the Metro on my way home. At the station in Virginia where I live, I found a familiar face. It was **Ron Gecan** who finished his Ph.D. in 1997. Though I was not in the same cohort with him, I remember him well since I played on an econ softball team with him. In fact, it had been 10 years since I saw him last: I’d not seen him since he left the Ph.D. program. We had a chat for a while at the station and are planning to have lunch together sometime in July. By the way, I have a paper in a new book published by Edward Elgar, which is a product of an OECD project I participated in. Here is the URL for the book; [http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/Bookentry\\_contents.lasso?id=12551](http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/Bookentry_contents.lasso?id=12551).”

**Mingtui Huang** ('00) is now at the Department of Finance, Ta Hwa Institute of Technology in Taiwan. He can be reached at: [mthuang@thit.edu.tw](mailto:mthuang@thit.edu.tw).

**Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde** ('01) was promoted to Associate Professor at the department of economics at Penn. “Moreover, I got married to Jing Li, also at Penn, who is a Wisconsin Econ Ph.D. Since neither of us care that much about sports, we do not have fights about the Gophers versus the Badgers games, but we have strongly different opinions regarding the relative merits of Minneapolis versus Madison.”

Starting in late-July 2007, **John Stevens** ('01) will be on leave from the Federal Reserve Board’s Division of

*Continued next page .....*

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Research and Statistics to spend one year as a senior economist at the Council of Economic Advisers.

**Miguel Cardoso** ('03) moved to Chile in 2004, and is now the BBVA's Chief Economist for the country.

**Patrick Leoni** ('03): "Long time no see, I hope that everything is going smoothly for you in Minneapolis. I don't have much news to report; I have a lecturer position in Dublin that gives me a lot of time for research and, above all, consulting in Finance. I traveled quite a lot lately, with visiting positions in Portugal, Zurich, Marseille and Venice (yep, that was pretty romantic for one year...)."

### Constantly moving and under construction

by Wendy Williamson

Our move next May to the Carlson School addition is making me think a lot lately about space and place. Moving and reorganizing. Tossing and prioritizing.

Last year's newsletter featured our former ERC space. I plan to write a feature next year about the BAT/Mgmt-Econ/Heller Hall space, so any memories of yours about that you'd like to share would be appreciated! Being housed in three places during my tenure here at the University is probably an average number of moves for anyone in academia.

Personal space: For 3 years I was essentially "homeless." I sold my house in Roseville before the housing slump, stayed with friends and relatives, house-sat, dog-sat, and lastly, cat-sat. I just rented a place (a small house on Lake Minnetonka) and am moving in as I write. I finally got my furniture out of storage, and soon should have "all my things about me." (See: *Quiet Man*, 1952, directed by John Ford.) I've learned something valuable, however, from this experiment: you don't need a lot of stuff around you to be functioning and well off (if you don't have kids or pets, that is!). And, it is a lot easier to travel now because I know exactly what I need. In the last two years I've been to San Francisco (once), New York City (twice), and Chicago (twice, by train) and what to pack is no longer a worry. Just getting the luggage there is!

I'm still very involved with my family place, "The Cottage," which I wrote about here in 2005. Since the front porch reconstruction in 2004, we've hosted three new graduate student receptions. Also, last year we did two more Hometime shows, where a small side porch was rebuilt, an outer wall was stabi-

**Aleh Tsyvinski** ('03) has won a 2007 Sloan Research Fellowship. Granted by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the fellowship honors researchers with "outstanding promise," according to the foundation's website. It is a two-year \$45,000 award. Aleh says "I will be using it to go to Moscow, and to Italy, and to a couple of other places to get different ideas and viewpoints on the problem of how to design governmental taxation policy." {Quoted from *The Harvard Crimson*.) Aleh is an associate professor of economics at Harvard.

lized (again, Wes jacked up the house and put in a steel I-beam), siding was replaced, and the brick sidewalk was extended. You can see a little bit about this project at

<http://www.hometime.com/TV/pastshow/pastshows/2006/2023sideporch.htm>

Our contractor, Wes, is married to my niece, and he also did a non-Cottage Hometime show this year, becoming quite the TV star. Hometime pays for materials, but sometimes the guys stand around too much yakking and re-taking shots (while I'm paying them, of course). I just have to tell myself that I am buying a reality show! There are plans for another show this fall to redo the kitchen floor and install new upstairs bathroom fixtures. Working on the house is a labor of love and it is fun to host events. This year for July 4th we had over 70 family members attend, with cousins from Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, and Oregon for the 120th anniversary of the house, which was built in 1887 for my great-grandparents. It is still just a summer house (it's never been winterized) and we are trying to keep the place as authentic as possible. Just walking in the door, you can feel the history of the house, and as a physical "archive," it is a powerful place! Will it ever be done being worked on? Never!

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#### *In next year's issue –*

"A History of Heller Hall." If you have some fun memories or other stories (not necessarily "fun!") to share about the building, whatever name it was when you inhabited it, please send them to [wendy@umn.edu](mailto:wendy@umn.edu).

## John Chipman Retires

John Chipman became a Regents Professor Emeritus in May of this year. On March 4, 2007, the department held a reception in the Campus Club to recognize John's many contributions. Many department members and University colleagues attended, and it was a festive occasion. Narayana Kocherlakota welcomed everyone,

and Ed Foster, Ket Richter and Dean Steven Rosenstone spoke of John's importance to the department, his impact on the profession, his work with students, and his long-term service to the College of Liberal Arts. John turned 80 in 2006. If you would like to send a message of congratulations, his e-mail is [jchipman@econ.umn.edu](mailto:jchipman@econ.umn.edu).

## Faculty News

### New Hires

Many of you are probably aware of how difficult hiring has become in academic economics. Even at the very top schools, roughly four out of every five tenured offer recipients say no. At the junior level, we made fifteen offers over two years (2004-05 and 2005-06) without getting a single acceptance.

Last year, with the strong support of the College of Liberal Arts and the University, we made a big push in hiring. We focused on building onto our areas of strength: economic theory, industrial organization, and macroeconomics. We were remarkably successful in this push: we hired TEN new faculty members. Five are untenured assistant professors, three are tenured associate professors, and two are tenured full professors. Their research is wide-ranging: social insurance, estimating the social benefits of new goods, estimating new models of mergers, new robust approaches to mechanism design, and a host of other exciting topics.

Our biggest recruiting coup is that we were able to recruit **Jose-Victor Rios-Rull** ('90) away from the University of Pennsylvania. Victor was a chaired professor at Penn, and will hold the prestigious Carlson Chair in Economics. Over the past twenty years, thanks in part to innovations in computer technology, macroeconomists have become increasingly successful at integrating differences across firms and people into their models. Victor has been perhaps the major scholar in this agenda. He is also a remarkable adviser of Ph. D. students. It is great to be able to bring him back to his intellectual home! We now have three Minnesota Ph.D.'s on our faculty – Victor, **Zvi Eckstein** ('81) and **Pat Bajari** ('97).

A complete list of the new hires, their areas of specialization, and their Ph. D. details follows. More details are available on our webpage ([www.econ.umn.edu](http://www.econ.umn.edu)).

Carlson Professor: Jose-Victor Rios-Rull, macroeconomics, Minnesota, 1990.

Professor: Christopher Phelan, macroeconomics, Chicago, 1990.

Associate Professor: Kim-Sau Chung, economic theory, Wisconsin, 1999.

Associate Professor: Ichiro Obara, economic theory, Pennsylvania, 2001.

Associate Professor: Amil Petrin, industrial organization, Michigan, 1998.

Assistant Professor: Fatih Guvenen, macroeconomics, Carnegie-Mellon, 2001.

Assistant Professor: Kyoo-il Kim, industrial organization/econometrics, UCLA, 2006.

Assistant Professor: Minjung Park, industrial organization, Stanford, 2007.

Assistant Professor: David Rahman, economic theory, UCLA, 2005.

Assistant Professor: Itai Sher, economic theory, Northwestern University, 2007.

– *Narayana Kocherlakota*

**Zvi Eckstein** ('81) was appointed by the government of Israel to a 4 year position as the Deputy Governor of the

Bank of Israel. He participates in setting monetary policy, bank regulation, and advising the government.

# From the Archives

## Ragnar Frisch at the University of Minnesota, 1930-1931

by Warren Young\*

Ragnar Frisch visited the University of Minnesota twice, both times being invited by Alvin Hansen. His first visit was during the summer of 1930, and he returned for a more extensive stay during the spring of 1931. Frisch delivered lectures and wrote a number of papers while at Minnesota, that not only became the basis for some of his seminal contributions, but also for his legacy in the areas of empirical macroeconomics and econometrics. These were, decades later, to become key fields of endeavor of leading figures in the University's Department of Economics, such as Prescott, Wallace, Sargent, Sims and Chipman, among others.

In 1930, Frisch spent a week at the University of Minnesota, and gave a series of four lectures over the period 7-10 July. These were entitled "General considerations on static and dynamic economics"; "Dynamic formulation of some parts of economic theory"; "The significance of economic theory in modern life"; and "Statistical verification of the laws of dynamic economics." Their popularity was seen in the fact that the third lecture was announced in the weekly calendar of the University of Minnesota Daily Bulletin and presented in a large auditorium.

Frisch returned to the University of Minnesota School of Business Administration at the beginning of April, and left to return to Norway at the end of May 1931. While at Minnesota he gave two courses under the joint rubric "Modern economic theory from a quantitative viewpoint". The first course was on productivity theory, and the other on statistical verification. This involved students becoming actively involved in numerical work.

During his stay at Minnesota in 1931, Frisch also wrote three papers. One was entitled "The optimum regression." Another was essentially the first draft of what was to eventually become a part of his famous "propagation and impulse" paper [1933], which was originally entitled "Business cycles as a statistical and theoretical problem". At Minnesota, he wrote this draft of the paper for a meeting in Stockholm, which was to take place in June 1931. The first "trial run" of the paper, however, was actually presented at an invited talk given by Frisch at the University of Minnesota Campus Club on 15 May 1931, hosted by Alvin Hansen. The third paper written by Frisch while

at Minnesota was his critique of J.M. Clark's approach to production and the "Acceleration principal," published in the *Journal of Political Economy* in 1931, which brought on an exchange in the *Journal* between Frisch and Clark that extended into 1932. Before publishing it, however, Frisch had convinced Hansen that his "argument" was correct. Frisch's draft manuscript on the "business cycle" and his critique of Clark formed the basis for his now classic paper "Propagation and impulse problems in dynamic economics" [1933] that eventually stimulated the modern approach to the empirical analysis and modeling of business cycles as manifest in the work of Kydland and Prescott, among others.

### *Dramatis Personae*

Ragnar Frisch (1895-1973): Co-founder, Econometric Society, and first editor, *Econometrica*. Frisch shared the first Nobel Prize in Economics with Jan Tinbergen in 1969.

Alvin Hansen (1887-1975): Professor at the University of Minnesota, 1923-1937. After his appointment at Harvard in 1938, he became one of the foremost exponents of "Keynesian" economics in the US.

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\*Warren Young, Ph.D (Cantab.)  
Associate Professor, Economics  
Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel  
Symposia and Book Review Editor,  
*European Journal of Political Economy*

## In Memoriam - E. Scott Maynes

- by Ed Foster

E. Scott Maynes, whose newspaper obituary is reprinted below, was a faculty member in our department from 1956 to 1974, when he moved to Cornell University. His fields of specialization were consumer economics, consumption theory, and sample survey methods – fields not often found in departments bristling with economic and econometric theorists, as ours was. Indeed, in moving to Cornell he followed Keith Bryant, a colleague in Minnesota's Agricultural Economics department, to one with more colleagues who shared his interests: Consumer Economics and Housing, in Cornell's College of Human Ecology. But while at Minnesota he was a vital and stimulating presence for students and faculty alike, fully engaged in the intellectual and social life of the department.

Wendy Williamson provided a 1994 letter that Scott wrote to her after she had asked for reminiscences about notable happenings in the department. Scott said:

“The first relates to Andreas Papandreu, the current prime minister of Greece. Papandreu was a member of the Minnesota Economics Department from 1947 to 1955... During the 1960's Papandreu and his father, the then Prime Minister, were imprisoned by the Greek dictators from about 1965 to 1969. It was due to the efforts of Walter Heller through LBJ, Leo [Hurwicz], and John Buttrick that P and his father were released from prison. Later, when Buttrick moved to York University in Canada, he arranged for a professional position there, from which Andy sought to organize an insurrection against the dictators. He was successful in restoring democracy, and later served two or three terms as Prime Minister... Papandreu visited Minnesota several times. He was a most charismatic character: his eyes seemed to burn with zeal. It bothered me that he seemed to see the CIA under every bed (probably true of some beds, but not all). But what impressed me most of all about Papandreu was strong commitment he inspired in three whom I respected greatly (and who had not been close to him for 10 years): Heller, Hurwicz, and Buttrick.”

Scott was right about who drove the campaign to reach LBJ, but he, and I think all of his colleagues, were also engaged in the effort: an early exercise in “six degrees of separation,” trying to enlist acquaintances to enlist their acquaintances to finally get to the President's ear. I have been told that it was John K. Galbraith who finally succeeded in bringing LBJ's attention to the issue and getting the Papandreu's release.

Scott was a wiry, determined athlete – sailing, canoeing, bicycling, squash – one who needed companions to share his joy in athletic activity. I doubt that I had unpacked my books when I arrived in 1961 before he recruited me for my first (and last) squash match. When he learned that neither Janet nor I were experienced in canoeing he had us out on Lake of the Isles learning the J-stroke, and before long, with a growing list of departmental colleagues and their families, Scott and Blanche led us on white water canoeing adventures in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin – some of our fondest outdoor memories.

Several of Scott's Minnesota colleagues joined the 1992 celebration of Scott's retirement from Cornell. Appropriately for one who lived life to the fullest, he extended just one piece of advice in his response to the speeches: never be ashamed to take an afternoon nap!

### E. SCOTT MAYNES

ITHACA - E. (Edwin) Scott Maynes passed away at his home in Ithaca on Sunday, June 24, 2007, at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife, Blanche; his sister, Phyllis of Meriden, CT; his three children, Lisa Maynes, son-in-law, Timothy Pointon, and grandson Alexander Scott Maynes-Pointon of Albuquerque; Philip Maynes of Los Angeles; and Christina Maynes of Singapore.

Born in Meriden, CT, in 1922, Scott was raised with interests in sports and people, and developed a questioning mind. These remained essential elements throughout his life. He attended Springfield College, Springfield, MA, in 1940. Entering the U.S. Army Air Force in January, 1943, he served in the United Kingdom, France, and Spain as a cryptographer and was discharged in December 1945 with the rank of Sergeant. Returning to Springfield College after World War II, Scott exhausted the resources of the economics department there and was allowed to take economics courses at nearby Mt. Holyoke College, thereby becoming its first male student. He graduated from Springfield College with a B.S. in Social Sciences (high honors) in 1947. At Wesleyan University for his MA in Economics, he came under the influence of Colston Warne, one of the founders of Consumers Union, from whom he derived a lifelong scholarly focus in consumers and the consumer interest, one of two interests that drove his entire scholarly

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career. After completing his MA in 1949, he pursued the Ph.D. in Economics at U. of Michigan, graduating in 1956. During his Ph.D. studies, he worked and studied at the Survey Research Center, U. of Michigan, coming under the influence of George Katona. Survey research became the second scholarly interest that strongly influenced his career.

His career spanned 18 years in Economics at the University of Minnesota and 17 years in Consumer Economics at Cornell, with visiting appointments at U. of California, San Diego and the U. of Michigan, and leaves with the Federal Trade Commission, National Council of Applied Economic Research (New Delhi, India), Instituto Torcuato Di Tella (Buenos Aires, Argentina), National Consumer Council (London) and Stifun Warentest (Berlin). He served as Chair of the Dept. of Consumer Economics & Housing (now Policy Analysis & Management) and contributed critically to the development of the consumer economics field, both here at Cornell and internationally. His research centered on consumer decision making, survey research methodology and consumer policy. He pioneered the "perfect information frontier" model of consumer choice in which quality is conceptually specified and measured. In India he was instrumental in designing and conducting the Delhi Savings Survey (1958-59) and he importantly influenced the All-India Urban Savings Survey (1960-61) and the Rural Savings Survey (1962-63). In Argentina he designed several consumer surveys. He was the organizer of the first International Conference on Research in the Consumer Interest in 1986 and edited its volume of proceedings. He was the author of *Decision-Making for Consumers: An Introduction to Consumer Economics* (MacMillan), 1976, as well as more than 70 other scholarly publications. True to the legacy of Colston Warne, he served on the Board of Consumers Union and was its Treasurer 1972-75; he was active in the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI), the scholarly association for consumer economists and consumer affairs pro-

fessionals; and he participated in the worldwide consumer movement through contributions at several Congresses of Consumers International. He became Professor Emeritus in 1992, but remained active in ACCI until very recently.

Scott led a fully engaged life and lived it passionately. A staunch member of the Unitarian Societies wherever he lived, he participated fully in them, frequently as a discussion leader and on various committees. Scott loved people, was always interested in listening to what they did and thought, and brought to these interactions an intellectual *joi de vivre* that was as endearing as it was heartfelt. He was a generous mentor and friend. In late life his grandson Alex became the apple of his eye. Family, family vacations and travel were very important to him. His wife and children shared in these interests and were willing participants with him in his hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, sailing adventures and international travel. He wrestled in college and was an avid biker and body surfer throughout his life. Squash and tennis were passions that he played with a competitiveness that marked everything he did. He met Blanche, his wife, on a bike-hosteling trip in 1951 to Nantucket Island. They married in 1953. He reveled in having canoed the length of the Connecticut River in 1950, rafted the Colorado River in 1997 (in the shoes of John Wesley Powell), and the upper reaches of the Missouri River in 1999 (following the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition). On Nantucket during many family vacations and elsewhere, he loved body surfing regardless of the water temperature. During Ithaca winters, he could frequently be found on Connecticut Hill cross-country skiing.

A celebration of his love of life will occur in September. If desired, donations in Scott's memory may be sent to the First Unitarian Society, P.O. Box 6, Ithaca, NY 14851; or Hospicare, 172 E. King Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

(Published in the Ithaca Journal from 6/25/2007 - 6/29/2007.)

## Remembering John Buttrick –“Lifelong Peace Activist”

by Herb Mohring

John A. (for Arthur) Buttrick, a 1953-1970 member of this department, has left us. He and Ann, his beloved wife of 49 years, had led a peripatetic life; he taught and researched in Colombia, Japan, Singapore and, after his 1989 retirement, in Jamaica where he taught at the University of the West Indies with interruptions to visit universities in China and Bangladesh. In 2004, the Buttricks

moved from Jamaica to Gabriola Island, “a retirement community for artists and intellectuals,” off the east coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. He left their home July 16 to pick up a pizza order. He didn't return. Two days later, searchers discovered that his car had gone off a road over a steep embankment where his body was found.

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John was always a dedicated activist for liberal causes. He was a committed pacifist who ardently believed that equalization of economic opportunity was essential. He was a passionate civil libertarian who hated racism. He was a conscientious objector in WW II and an ardent activist in opposing the Viet Nam War. That opposition led the Buttricks to emigrate to Canada in 1970 where he joined the economics department of York University, founded in 1965 near Toronto.

John received his PhD from Yale in 1950. He became Assistant Professor of Economics at Northwestern in 1953 and moved to Minneapolis in 1958 as associate professor. In 1960-63, he served as department chair and as DGS in 1967-69.

As chair, John revealed remarkable entrepreneurial skills. He came to the strong belief that the department vitally needed an NSF-financed research facility remote from its West Bank offices where faculty and, maybe, graduate students could retire to think noble thoughts free of jangling telephones and other interruptions. Getting NSF financing required a matching contribution from the University. Badgered as only John could, the University powers that be gave the department for its library most of the top floor of the Science Classroom Building at the northeast corner of the Washington Avenue bridge and land to it at the north end of the SCB. The NSF accepted the match! It awarded funds to build and furnish a two-story structure at the north end of the classroom building.

Immediately after his triumph, John abandoned his baby to spend a year at the University of Tokyo. For reasons unclear, I got stuck with the thankless and extraordinarily unpleasant task of doing battle with the University's Plant Services bureaucracy to get the place built. Its primary goal in designing new structures was to make them as maintenance-free as possible. If spending \$1,000 in construction costs today would save \$1 fifty years hence, they would spend the \$1,000. The justification: their maintenance budget wasn't increasing as rapidly as the space for which they were responsible. My major design triumph was getting them to agree to substitute steel for marble partitions in the lavatories in return for installing valves on office radiators to adjust the rate at which steam flowed into them. After all, valves require occasional oiling and steel partitions get rusting scratches which must be cared for while marble partitions are maintenance free. NSF closed its grant with appreciable unspent money in it. If John had been here, he would have been able to wake up

the Plant Services bureaucrat in charge of decorating new buildings long enough to sign purchase orders. I wasn't.

As time progressed, the tenants of "Buttrick Hall" gradually shifted from faculty and their RAs to entirely graduate students. About when the Management and Economics Building was renamed "Heller Hall," and the business school moved to its palatial West Bank palace, the Economics Department swapped the Economic Research Center for the twelfth floor of Heller Hall (and some eighth floor space that we never got).

At York, John served as DGS during 1979-83 and as perennial battler for justice as he saw it. In 1972, he arranged an invitation for me to join the York faculty. My eldest son was nearing draft age. I accepted. My students at York liked me; York's junior economics faculty didn't. They had few academic accomplishments. One, an ABD, devoted most of his scholarly effort to painting pretty concentric circles. Another devoted his attention to leading the Toronto Area Ayn Rand cult. Their concern about rapidly approaching tenure decisions led them to discover the virtues of Canadian identity. I became a Yankee predator who deprived a qualified Canadian of an academic job. As far as I could tell, John, born in Vermont, was accepted as properly Canadian; Ann's Canadian origins may have helped. Fortunately for me, my son's peril diminished as the Viet Nam War wound down and I was able to arrange a sabbatical visit to the University of Toronto – a very pleasant place to spend a year.

Seven York faculty members were forced to retire at age 65 in 1984, John among them. They sued to stay active at York. They won. John delayed his retirement until 1989 when he was 70. The Buttricks then moved to Jamaica where he taught at the University of the West Indies, did research for the Jamaican government and for Latin American countries. They moved to Canada in 2004.

The Buttricks on Gabriola Island: John and Ann spent only three years together on Gabriola Island. For me, one of those who prefers to blend into the woodwork in social gatherings, John and Ann's quick integration into the Island community of about 4,500 people was amazing. The Islands two local news sources, the Gabriola Sounder, a weekly newspaper, and The Flying Shingle, a monthly magazine, reported on a gathering of more than 100 people on July 20 for a memorial and celebration of John's life.1

The Sounder reported that John joined People for

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a Healthy Community, the local Trust Committee's Advisory Planning Commission and Ratepayer's organization, a group, Ann reported, "He thought made sensible decisions, which appealed to his pragmatic nature." On behalf of the Ratepayer's, Randy Young said: "We valued his independent thought and ability to think things through."

Also from the Sounder: "John's son Peter described him as 'aggressively a-religious.' Despite, or perhaps because of this lack of respect for established religion, John's 'ethical constancy was the most central part of him.' He was a 'strongly committed moral person who challenged political expediency his whole life.' He was 'always cynically idealistic and never complacent,' and one of the most noted of his features was that 'he interacted with everyone without distinction of class.' "

The Flying Shingle added, "As John was such a modest man it may come as a surprise to some the degree to which John has left the world a better place than it would have been without him. Of the causes most dear to his heart his pacifism, and his belief in the need for the equalization of economic benefits, stand out most

strongly. Peter's 'aggressively a-religious' remark raised chuckles of recognition throughout the room. Despite, or perhaps because of this lack of respect for established religion, John's 'ethical constancy was the most central part of him.' He was a 'strongly committed moral person who challenged political expediency his whole life.' He was 'always cynically idealistic and never complacent,' and one of the most noted of his features was that 'he interacted with everyone without distinction of class.'"

John's daughter Hilary said: "Wherever they went, my parents got involved and made a huge number of friends. Although he had slowed down somewhat, he strongly believed in fairness for people, in the equitable distribution of resources and wealth and that continued to motivate him."

1 " 'Who was John Buttrick' some islanders asked" by an un-named author in the The Gabriola Sounder – see <http://www.soundernews.com/fullstory/EEIVkAkIVhtYFBMjZ.shtml> and "John Buttrick 1919- 2007" by Chris Bowers in the Flying Shingle.

## Recent Books by Alumni

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*The newsletter is now published once a year.*

*Editor: Wendy Williamson*

*Design and Layout: Caty Bach*

*Let us hear from you!*

*We can be reached at the following:*

**Mail:** Department of Economics  
University of Minnesota  
1035 Heller Hall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

**Phone:** 612-625-6353

**Fax:** 612-624-0209

**E-mail:** econdept@econ.umn.edu  
wendy@umn.edu

**Web:** <http://www.econ.umn.edu>

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GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
Fall 2007**

**Department of Economics  
University of Minnesota  
1035 Heller Hall  
271 - 19th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455**

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