Koehn Receives Prestigious Truman, Udall Scholar Designations

While studying abroad in Kyrgyzstan late last semester, Ashlie Koehn was surprised with a Skype call from KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. The Chancellor had called to tell Ashlie that she had been named winner of a prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship, the 18th KU student named a Truman Scholar since the foundation was established by Congress in 1975.

During that call (video available here: http://news.ku.edu/2015/04/15/junior-ashlie-koehn-named-kus-18th-truman-scholar), Ashlie surprised the Chancellor by telling her that she had been helping her host family prepare a meal that included horse and goat before getting the Skype call to hear the big news.

Ashlie, now a senior who is double-majoring in economics and global and international studies with a minor in environmental studies, will have access of up to $30,000 for graduate study as a Truman Scholar; receive priority admission and supplemental financial aid at premier graduate institutions; and have access to special leadership training and federal internship opportunities. A native of Burns, Kansas, she is a member of the Kansas Air National Guard who was on leave to study abroad in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan last semester. A member of the University Honors Program, she also was named a Newman Civic Fellow in 2014.

Just days before she received the exciting Truman news, Ashlie had learned that she is one of only 50 students nationwide to be designated a 2015 Udall Scholar. The Udall Foundation Scholarship, named after former congressman and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, honors undergraduate college students across the nation for leadership, public service and commitment to issues related to American Indian nations or to the environment.

Planning her career in environmental economics, Ashlie credits her accelerating interest in that field to her work with Dr. Dietrich Earnhart.

“A unique, clarifying moment came last summer (2014) while I was studying abroad with Environmental Studies in Freiburg, Germany,” she said. “There, Professor Earnhart taught a class on environmental economics, and I began think-

(continued on page 8)
Research Highlights Domestic Abuse Risk Factors Throughout Africa

African women in polygamous marriages and those with alcoholic husbands have a significantly higher risk of suffering physical abuse from their husbands than women in monogamous marriages or husbands who do not abuse alcohol, according to research unveiled in August by Dr. Elizabeth Asiedu. The work, which was co-conducted with Christobel Asiedu (associate professor of sociology at Louisiana Tech University) and Tatenda Zinyemba (graduate student in public affairs at Indiana University), was presented in Chicago at the 110th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Using data from the Demographic Health Survey to look specifically at intimate partner violence in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, the researchers analyzed survey responses from more than 14,000 married women and found that physical violence from husbands occurred in 13 to 28 percent of all marriages, depending on the country. But women in polygamous marriages (representing up to 17 percent of all sampled marriages) in those four countries also were 1.3 to 2 times more likely to suffer violence than those in monogamous marriages. Women with alcoholic husbands also were up to 3 times more likely to experience physical violence, an especially troubling finding given that husbands were classified as alcoholics in up to 45 percent of the sampled marriages.

“Domestic violence is a big issue in the continent,” Dr. Asiedu said. “In the U.S. there are many laws to protect women. However, in countries where some cultures don’t consider domestic violence to be an issue of concern, such laws may not exist or may not be enforced.”

The project also found that while polygamy and alcohol abuse were universal risk factors for intimate partner physical violence, women’s education levels, whether they lived in urban or rural areas, age difference with their husbands, and being employed did not have a uniform effect.

The researchers also observed that while the results regarding polygamy came as no surprise (since women in polygamous marriages tend to have less power and are more likely to be dependent on their husbands), they were surprised that women’s education levels did not make much of a difference in violence rates in two of the countries, Malawi and Ghana.

The study, which was facilitated through the Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists, was designed to verify that certain domestic violence risk factors differ throughout Africa, a point that policymakers need to understand when crafting preventive measures.

Keinsley Lands at Weber State

Andrew Keinsley, who received his PhD in May, has been hired as an assistant professor of economics at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. Dr. Keinsley, who is part of that institution’s Goddard School of Business and Economics, is teaching courses in principles of macroeconomics and intermediate macroeconomic theory this semester.

While still at KU during the summer of 2014, he attended the historic Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany, a special international conference that featured 18 Nobel Laureates and over 460 promising young scientists from 80 countries (see Fall 2014 issue of the KU Economist). Andrew, who had been nominated to attend the prestigious event by Dr. Shu Wu, said that he thought the honor of the trip to Lindau and the entire experience were instrumental in helping him land the tenure-track position at Weber State.

Econometrics Conference Unveils Latest Research

The Economics Department in May hosted the Workshop on Advanced Econometrics, featuring prominent econometricians from around the world.

The Economics Department played host to a wide variety of exciting new research papers on May 2 when KU hosted the 2015 Workshop on Advanced Econometrics. The workshop, organized by Dr. Zongwu Cai and Dr. Ted Juhl, allowed top econometricians, researchers and theoreticians to convene and present their latest findings while interacting with one another to provide additional constructive input.

The workshop featured a number of prominent econometricians from around the world, including Dr. Whitney Newey from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who outlined his work on “The Influence Function of Semiparametric Estimators” during his presentation.
The Society for Economic Measurement (SEM), founded in 2013 by Dr. William A. Barnett, Oswald Distinguished Professor of Macroeconomics at KU, held its second annual conference in Paris in late July. That event featured numerous prominent speakers from around the world, including Nobel Laureate Daniel McFadden.

Dr. McFadden delivered a special Hirofumi Uzawa Memorial Lecture on “Direct Elicitation of Indirect Preferences” to the conference. His presentation reviewed methods for stated preference elicitation and concluded that while the collection and analysis of stated preference data is a powerful tool for predicting consumer behavior, a great deal of caution is necessary before inferring that the results are predictive and reliable for real market behavior.

SEM's long-run objective is to meet the data standards established for the physical sciences, notwithstanding the fact that economics as a social science is subject to certain inherent limitations. In his Presidential Address (“Robustness of Dynamical Inferences to Measurement Error”), Dr. Barnett noted that there is currently both bad news and good news relative to that objective. The bad news is that dynamical inferences need to be qualified by the risk of bifurcation boundaries crossing the confidence regions; and that macroeconomic investment in measurement remains inadequate. The good news is that SEM's growing membership includes many applied macroeconomic experts, both in government and academia, many of whom were in attendance at the conference.

As of this semester, SEM membership was expected to exceed 725 members from around the world.

The third annual conference for SEM will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece from July 6-8, 2016, and details may be found at: http://sem.society.cmu.edu/home.html.

Addressing the hotly debated topic of income inequality, Dr. Joe Sicilian in April served as a panelist for a special moderated forum at KU’s Dole Institute of Politics, “Income Inequality: Is America Still the Land of Opportunity?” A packed house heard Joe participate in the discussion about what may be causing growing inequality; as well as what its political and societal implications may be.

The panel reviewed data that indicate the income inequality has been accelerating in the United States since around 1980; and that wealth inequality and concentration (a separate issue) represents an even greater potential problem. Dr. Sicilian observed that wage inequality appeared to be one important reason behind growing US income inequality since 1980, whereas the previous three decades during the immediate post-WWII era had seen declining wage and income inequality.

A significant part of the discussion focused on arguments made in French economist Thomas Piketty’s best-selling 2013 book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. Piketty generally argues that there appears to be a natural historical tendency for wealth accumulation to increase over time in capitalist societies.

Focusing on Piketty’s thesis, the panel discussed whether high levels of income and wealth concentration could cause significant political disruptions. The discussion indicated that one key question appears to be what should be the trade-off between other societal values and our desire to maintain economic incentives that encourage and reward entrepreneurship.

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) announced late last semester that KU’s Dr. Donna Ginther has been officially appointed as a Research Associate. Dr. Ginther, who serves as Director of the Center for Science Technology & Economic Policy at KU’s Institute for Policy and Social Research (as well as Professor of Economics), made national news most recently in 2014 with the publication of an article relating to the work experiences and relative under-representation of young to mid-career women in math-intensive fields (see Spring 2015 edition of the *KU Economist*).
Comings and Goings

The Department in August was pleased to welcome aboard Dr. Tsvetan G. Tsvetanov, an expert in environmental and resource economics; energy economics; and climate-change economics, as assistant professor. Dr. Tsvetanov, who hails originally from Bulgaria, had been serving for two years as a postdoctoral associate at Yale University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in 2013.


Dr. Tsvetanov is teaching ECON 510 (Energy Economics) at KU this Fall.

Alfred Okao, originally from Uganda, has joined the Department as a lecturer. Alfred is a doctoral candidate who lists macroeconomics; international economics; monetary theory and policy; and imperfect competition as areas of his expertise. An experienced teacher who previously has worked on the faculty at Friends University, Washburn University, and Johnson County Community College, he is teaching intermediate macroeconomics (ECON 522) this Fall.

Elizabeth Lwanga Nanziri in August finished her stint as the Department’s first AAAWE (Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists) Visiting Scholar and departed for the University of Massachusetts, where she is currently a Rockefeller-AAAWE-PERI (Political Economy Research Institute) Visiting Research Fellow. She will be returning briefly to the University of Cape Town in December to receive her doctoral degree and then hopes to return to the United States in 2016. An expert in financial literacy and inclusion, Elizabeth presented papers and chaired sessions at the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University and the Western Economic Association International Conference in Honolulu over the summer; and in September presented a poster at the 30th Anniversary Conference of the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) in Helsinki, Finland.

She serves in two key roles with AAAWE as the Director of Communications and as a Director of AAAWE-South Africa. She said that she was very grateful to KU and Dr. Elizabeth Asiedu for all the efforts that have gone into the organization since it was founded in 2012.

“As a woman, AAAWE understands your challenges and helps you excel,” Nanziri said.

Pym Manopimoke has left KU to become Senior Economist at the prestigious Bank of Thailand. Dr. Manopimoke, a specialist in applied econometrics, empirical macroeconomics, time-series analysis, and financial economics, originally joined the faculty at KU in 2010 as assistant professor.

Malokele Nanivazo, a visiting scholar at KU during 2014-15, will be a lecturer during the 2015-16 academic year. An acknowledged expert on gender economics, she applies her research more broadly to issues of poverty, growth, rural transformation, trade, and foreign aid. Dr. Nanivazo, who also serves as the First Vice President of the Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists, is teaching ECON 104 (Introductory Economics), ECON 522 (Macroeconomics), and ECON 587 (Economic Development of Africa) during the Fall 2015 semester.

Joshua Rosenbloom announced at the conclusion of the 2014-15 academic year that he was leaving KU to become Chair of the Department of Economics at Iowa State University. Dr. Rosenbloom, a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, also is a former Program Director of the National Science Foundation’s Science of Science and Innovation (SciSIP) Program. While at KU, he was Director of the Institute for Policy and Social Research’s Center for Economic and Business Analysis (2001-2006); and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies (2006-2012). He joked that while he will no doubt have a tougher time finding a ticket to get into Allen Fieldhouse on return visits to KU, he is also very much looking forward to watching Iowa State play basketball in Ames.
Graduation Ceremony Celebrates New Group of Economists

Dr. Joe Sicilian, Chair, congratulates the Class of 2015.

Dr. Ann Cudd tells the 2015 graduating class to keep in mind both of economist and philosopher Adam Smith’s major works.

The 2014-15 academic year concluded for the Economics Department with the Graduation Recognition Ceremony on May 16, a formal event at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union that honored graduating seniors, masters, and doctoral students. The departmental ceremony nicely complemented the less formal University of Kansas Commencement held the next day at Kansas Memorial Stadium, where many students took the traditional “walk down the Hill” with heavily decorated caps and gowns.

Following introductory remarks from Dr. Joe Sicilian, Chair, the 2015 Guest Speaker, Dr. Ann Cudd, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, was introduced by her husband, Dr. Neal Becker. Dr. Cudd, also a Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, gave a fascinating talk on the works of renowned Scottish economist and moral philosopher Adam Smith. In addition to Smith’s most famous work, *The Wealth of Nations*, she said that the graduating group of economists would do well to seek guidance from his second most famous work, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*.

Happy 2015 graduates celebrate their degrees at the Departmental Recognition Ceremony held at the Kansas Union on May 16.
Three students (Ryan Doherty, Jordan Marie Koch, and Chin Hung Gregory Leung) also received special Departmental Honors recognition for completing their undergraduate economics degrees with a 3.5 grade point average in economics courses and 3.25 overall; and researching, writing and defending a thesis before a faculty committee.

Newly minted economist Freddie Owens receives congratulations from Dr. Joe Sicilian.

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Message from the Chair

As the University of Kansas celebrates its 150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) this year, the Department of Economics can take special pride in knowing that we have been a part of the foundation of the university; a course in “political economy” appears in the inaugural 1866 course catalog, and the first instructor of the course was KU’s second chancellor, John Fraser. The Charles W. Oswald Program in Economics is a major part of our efforts to build on the history of the Department. Moreover, in this edition, we highlight the opening of Charles W. Oswald Hall, named in honor of our accomplished 1951 alum (page 11). One of the first residents is KU freshman, Thomas Becker, son of our own Professor Neal Becker.

Speaker: Enhancing Incentives to Maintain Forests, Improve Carbon Sequestration an Important Tool in Fighting Global Warming

A leading environmental economist unveiled fascinating research at KU in September on how certain collective action in developing countries to prevent further deforestation that has also enhanced carbon sequestration appears to represent a relatively cost-effective approach to address global warming. Randall Bluffstone, professor of economics at Portland State University, presented findings from his research on the extent to which community and non-community forests in Nepal subject to certain collective action management techniques have managed to forestall further degradation and maintain higher levels of carbon sequestration.

Since virtually all net deforestation occurs in developing countries, and those countries also generate a majority of global emissions, the research highlights the importance of international cooperation. Dr. Bluffstone noted that a United Nations program (Reduced Emmissions from Deforestation and Degradation) currently provides support for Nepal and other developing countries in exchange for measurable additional carbon sequestration. Current estimates are that net deforestation and forest degradation account for up to 20 percent of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

The existence of a community forest program in Nepal made it the ideal setting for testing the hypothesis that forest collective action sequesters carbon. Analyzing the impact of collective action on 130 forests, he and his co-authors found that it has important and generally positive effects on forest quality and carbon sequestration.

One important policy implication involves the researchers’ conclusion that communities in Nepal may have been engaging in collective action largely to allow forests to grow with an eye on harvesting them later. Since this view makes the benefit of carbon sequestration potentially ephemeral, enhancing the UN REDD program and providing additional financial incentives for developing countries could secure more permanent sequestration.

The analysis (“Carbon Sequestration from Commonly Held Forestland in a Developing Economy”) was presented at Snow Hall on September 18 as part of the Economics Department’s Guest Speaker Series, which gives visiting faculty the opportunity to present their latest research. Dr. Dietrich Earnhart served as the faculty host for Dr. Bluffstone’s visit.

Alumni News

Alums and friends of Economics at KU, we want to hear from you! Please keep us updated on what is happening in your lives. We look forward to including your news and events in the next KU Economist.

Mail
Alumni News
Department of Economics
415 Snow Hall
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Email Your News
econalums@ku.edu
Subject Line: Alumni News
**Alumni Updates**

**S. Jill Hastings (Eddy),** who received her BA degree in economics in 1985 prior to her law degree in 1988, lives in Phoenix and is a partner in an actuarial firm specializing in ERISA-qualified plans. She says that Mohamed El-Hodiri and David Faurot inspired her to major in economics; and that she very much loves receiving the *KU Economist* to stay on top of the current happenings in the Department. She adds that although both of her kids attend the University of Arizona, her niece is a freshman at KU this Fall and should provide a perfect excuse for a return visit.

**Dylan Rassier,** who received his Ph.D. from KU in 2005, was recently promoted to a senior economist position at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis in Washington, DC. His research focuses on measuring production of multinational firms in national economic accounts. His recent publications include an article in a conference volume on globalization sponsored in part by the W.E. Upjohn Institute; and an article forthcoming in the *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*. He also recently presented a paper at a conference in Paris in which he proposed fundamental changes to global statistical standards for capturing multinational firms in national economic accounts.

**Leo Chan,** currently Associate Professor of Finance at Utah Valley University’s Woodbury School of Business, has just published an important new article that develops a new measure to capture excessive speculative activities in oil futures markets – “A New Approach to Measure Speculation in the Oil Futures Market and Some Policy Implications” in *Energy Policy* (with Chi Nguyen and Kam Chan), November 2015. Specifically, the finding that oil futures markets have been dominated since 2003 by uninformed speculators carries a number of policy implications, including the notion that the position-limit rule in the Dodd-Frank Act should have its implementation accelerated; and that stronger and more meaningful enforcement actions by regulators are required to punish and deter market manipulators. Dr. Chan, whose areas of expertise include investment, risk management, financial markets, derivatives, and financial education, received both his undergraduate and doctoral degrees in economics at KU.

**Juhl Named New Chair of Economics Department**

KU announced over the summer that Dr. Ted Juhl had been promoted to full professor and named as new Chair of the Economics Department. Dr. Juhl, who specializes in econometrics, statistics, and financial economics, came to KU as an assistant professor in 1999 before being named associate professor in 2005. His numerous honors include being named recipient of the initial Wu Faculty Award in Economics in 2013; and the Center of Teaching Excellence Celebration of Teaching Award in 2011.

Ted succeeds longtime Chair Dr. Joe Sicilian, who had served in that role since the late 1990s, as well as a stint in the 1980s.
Economics Department Student Awards, 2015-16

The Economics Department gives a number of annual awards to outstanding economics majors. The selections are made by the faculty and are based upon academic achievement.

The 2015-16 awards were presented at a special awards banquet held April 16 at the Oread Hotel just off campus. A number of faculty and alumni joined with Dr. Joe Sicilian, Chair, in congratulating the winners, all of whom are required to have exceptional academic records as a prerequisite for being considered for the honors.

The John Ise Award, Domenico Gagliardo Award, R. S. Howey Award and Arthur J. Boyton Award are granted each year to graduating seniors. The John Ise Award recognizes the most outstanding achievement.

* The Arthur J. Boynton Memorial Awards and Scholarships were established by friends, former students and associates after Professor Boynton's death in 1928. A longtime member of the Economics Department, Professor Boynton graduated from Harvard in 1903 and came to KU, where he served as head of the department from 1915 to 1924. An asset to the entire Lawrence community, he served on the KU Athletic Board and the Lawrence School Board. An avid golfer and one of the founders of the Oread Golf Club in 1908, Professor Boynton built a nine-hole golf course between Mississippi Street and Potter Lake. He also was a member of the Beloit College Glee Club and the Harvard Double Quartet. When his wife, Flora Boynton, died in 1978, most of her estate was added to the fund.

* The Domenico Gagliardo Award was established after Gagliardo's death in 1955 to honor his teaching, scholarship and impressive accomplishments in scholarship and public service. He joined the Economics Department faculty in 1923. Professor Gagliardo, born in Frontenac, Kansas in 1895, began working in coal mines in Crawford County as a seventh-grader and did not start high school until age 20. After serving in the Navy in World War I, he came to KU originally in 1920, received a degree in just three years, and subsequently obtained his Master's degree from Harvard in 1924 and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1931. He later received the Legion of Merit and the Army Commendation Ribbon for again serving his country in World War II. He was a renowned for his scholarship and expertise in labor economics.

* The R.S. Howey Award, established upon the retirement of the late Richard S. Howey, recognizes outstanding students majoring in economics. He received a B.S. from Harvard in 1926, an M.A. from Southern California in 1929, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1955. He joined the KU faculty in 1929, taught for 44 years, and subsequently helped establish the notable Howey Economic History Collection of literature at Spencer Research Library. The Howey Collection, considered one of two benchmark collections in the world alongside the Kress holdings at Harvard University, now includes over 15,000 items. Exceedingly rare books, pamphlets and journals from most major European countries from 1700 through the 1850s form the backbone of this

Amanda Gress, winner of a Gagliardo Award, received her B.S. in economics and political science in May and now works as a policy research analyst for Kansas Action for Children in Topeka.

Winners of Economics Department Student Awards celebrate their achievements in front of the fireplace at the Oread Hotel on April 16.
one-of-a-kind archival resource. Adam Smith’s *The Wealth of Nations* is available in 53 editions and translations. Even after he became professor emeritus in 1973, Dr. Howey continued to serve the university in a variety of capacities and conduct research in economic history.

Logan Swafford, who received the John Ise Award for most outstanding achievement, graduated with a B.S. in economics and mathematics in May and now works as a technical services analyst for Epic Systems in Madison, Wisconsin.

before getting advanced degrees at Harvard. The author of a total of eight books, he served as president of the American Economics Association and on the editorial board of the *American Economic Review*. His great generosity is reflected not only in numerous large gifts that helped aid generations of KU students, but also in helping the city of Lawrence build and support its first humane animal shelter.

* The John Ise Award is funded from sales of Ise’s book, *The American Way*, a collection of his speeches. A committee from the Economics Department and the KU School of Business published and distributed the book. Professor Ise, a native of Downs and the author of *Sod and Stubble*, was a member of the economics faculty at KU from 1916 to 1955. One of eleven children, he obtained degrees from KU in Fine Arts (1908), Liberal Arts and Sciences (1910), and Law (1911) before getting advanced degrees at Harvard. The author of a total of eight books, he served as president of the American Economics Association and on the editorial board of the *American Economic Review*. His great generosity is reflected not only in numerous large gifts that helped aid generations of KU students, but also in helping the city of Lawrence build and support its first humane animal shelter.

**2015-16 Student Awards**

**John Ise Awards**
Logan Swafford

**Gagliardo Award**
Ryan Doherty and Amanda Gress

**Howey Award**
Jennifer Gaskill

**Arthur J. Boynton Awards**
Aaron Miller, Justus Gardner, Chin Hung Gregory Leung, Nichole Multer, Katharine McBride

**Earnhart Receives Sustainability Leadership Award**

The KU Center for Sustainability announced in late April that Dr. Dietrich Earnhart had been named recipient of a special faculty scholarship, one of several Sustainability Leadership Awards granted to coincide with KU’s Earth Month festivities.

The Center for Sustainability said that Dr. Earnhart’s leadership as Director of the Center for Environmental Policy at the Institute for Policy & Social Research contributes to KU’s national reputation for environmental and sustainability research; and that “through his teaching and mentorship, Dietrich is inspiring the next generation of sustainability scholars.”

The Sustainability Leadership Awards recognize outstanding leadership and creativity in addressing issues of environmental, economic and social responsibility on the KU campus and in the broader community. Recipients are nominated by their peers and selected by a special committee that includes past award winners.

**KU Houses World-Renowned Economic History Collection**

KU’s Spencer Research Library houses the Howey Economic History Collection, established in 1978 in honor of longtime Economics Department faculty member Richard S. Howey, whose private collection amassed over five decades formed the backbone of this one-of-a-kind archival resource. The economic history holdings now include over 15,000 items.

The Howey Collection, which primarily contains books, pamphlets and journals from the early 1700s through 1850, includes exceedingly rare publications from most major European countries, as well as their overseas possessions and territories. Some indication of the remarkable strength and diversity of this collection can be gained by measuring it against the benchmark collection in this field, Harvard University’s Kress Library of Business and Economics. Approximately 40% of the Howey holdings are not available in the Kress collection of economic history.

Major works of the time are also well-represented, as Adam Smith’s *The Wealth of Nations* is available in 53 editions and translations.
Oswald Hall Opens in August, Securing Legacy for Economics Department Benefactor

Securing his legacy in a visible and ongoing way, KU was pleased to open Charles W. Oswald Hall to students on August 20, attaching the name of the Department’s longtime benefactor to an impressive new facility. Charles passed away late in 2014, and the Kansas Board of Regents in February approved a special request from KU that one of the two new residence halls on Daisy Hill being constructed for the 2015-16 school year be named after him in recognition of his many years of support and service (see Spring 2015 issue of the KU Economist).

A native of Hutchinson, Kansas, Charley entered the US Marine Corps in 1946 after graduating high school. He received his bachelor’s degree in economics from KU in 1951 and moved on to Harvard Business School for his MBA in 1953. From 1953 to 1970, he rose through Jostens Corporation and became president before leaving to become chairman and CEO at National Computer Systems from 1970 until his retirement in 1994. A trustee emeritus of the KU Endowment Association, Charley made multiple generous contributions to the Economics Department at KU. The department’s undergraduate program has been designated as the Charles W. Oswald Program in Economics in acknowledgment of his many years of support and generosity. He was a 2006 recipient of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed by the College.

Oswald Hall joins its mirror image, Self Hall (named after Al and Lila Self, also longtime KU benefactors), as the first new residence halls constructed at KU since 1966. Each of the new buildings, which is housing 350 first-year students, stands five stories tall with ten community wings. Each of the ten-wing communities consists of three four-person double occupancy suites, nine two-person double occupancy semi-suites, two two-person single occupancy semi-suites, and one resident assistant semi-suite. An academic service center and community kitchen is located in Daisy Hill Commons, a special area connecting the two halls and providing gathering spaces for all Daisy Hill residence hall students to study and socialize.

The road that previously ran in front of Lewis and Hashinger has been re-routed and now runs on the west side of Daisy Hill. Grass, patios and sitting walls have replaced the old road, creating more communal gathering spots.

“I think we’re going to see a lot more interaction,” Oswald Hall resident assistant Aaron Gunkel told the Lawrence Journal-World. “This is going to bring all the halls together.”
Asiedu Delivers Global Food for Thought Lecture on Impact of HIV/AIDS on Foreign Direct Investment in Sub-Saharan Africa

Since foreign direct investment (FDI) has been shown to promote growth and reduce poverty in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, anything that has a negative effect on FDI should be of concern to policymakers. The findings ("The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Foreign Direct Investment: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa") laid out by the Economics Department’s own Dr. Elizabeth Asiedu during a special April 22 lecture on campus should provide further guidance, especially in the wake of recent global recommendations released last December.

Appearing at a special Global Food for Thought Lecture Series at Bailey Hall, Dr. Asiedu reviewed her research regarding the analysis of panel data from 41 SSA countries that indicated that HIV/AIDS has a negative but diminishing effect on FDI. This adverse effect occurs even when the HIV prevalence rate is as low as 0.1 percent.

Relative to policy implications, she noted that the research findings dovetailed in a timely fashion with recent World AIDS Day (December 2014) recommendations, which specify the five most efficient ways to reduce the epidemic—encourage HIV testing; reduce discrimination; promote HIV/AIDS education; encourage proper health care; and affirm support for people living with HIV/AIDS. She emphasized that access to good health, especially access to antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, boosts the immune system of HIV patients. Moreover, there is evidence that ARV drugs help increase labor supply, raise productivity and reduce absenteeism in the workplace. So she concluded that making ARV drugs available to infected workers would also likely mitigate the adverse effect of HIV/AIDS on FDI.

Her paper on the subject (with Yi Jin and Isaac Kanyama) was published most recently (July 2015) in the Journal of African Trade.