

News - 2009

Congratulations to Serena Huang on winning the Best Student Paper award at the 2009 Missouri Valley Economic Association Conference. Her paper "The Impact of High-Skilled Immigration on the Wages of U.S. Natives," won the award. She received the award honorarium of \$250. Professor William Barnett and KU Econ Department Ranked High In Latest Published Ranking In their recent article, "[Blogometrics](#)," in the Eastern Economic Journal (vol 28, 2010, pp. 1 - 10), Franklin Mixon, Jr. and Kamal Upadhyaya rank economics blogs, bloggers, and academic institutions that host blogs. Instead of going to the complete article, you can go directly to [Table 1](#) , [Table 2](#) and [Table 3](#). The University of Kansas and MIT are ranked as tied for sixth. The results of that study also have been summarized in the [TaxProf blog](#). For Professor Barnett's blog "Inside the Economists' Mind," link to: <http://economistmind.blogspot.com/> In particular, see Professor Barnett's blog post dated January 8, 2010, regarding the new rankings.

Professor William Barnett is Guest Columnist in Kansas City Star, December 15. His commentary "This is no way to fix the Fed" also appears online. Link to: KansasCity.com

Professor Donna Ginther Earns Grant to Study Factors That Lead Women to Leave the Sciences.



Donna has received a \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to research the influences on women in biomedical sciences. This is part of an estimated \$16.8 million grant program by the NIH to fund research projects from across the country to address such science and engineering. She will collaborate with Shulamit University for the project. [Additional information](#).

The Department of Economics mourns the loss of Professor Harry

Shaffer

Professor Harry Shaffer and wife Betty

The Department of Economics
Professor Harry Shaffer, November
had taught at KU since 1956. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin. Professor Joe Siciliano spoke to his family, friends, colleagues at the statement: "Harry's love of teaching students was displayed consistent throughout his KU career of more than 50 years."

Dustin Santos, MA student in Economics, and **Hispano Duran, PhD student in Cinematography**, have been invited to speak at the forum, "Political Conflict in Honduras And Its Implications for the Americas" - Wednesday, October 28, 7 p.m., Lawrence Public Library. Dr. Brent Metz, KU Anthropologist will moderate. The forum was organized by Shannon Gorres, Department of International Studies.

Professor Elizabeth Asiedu will be guest speaker at the Missouri Valley Economics Association Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Friday, October 23. The topic of her presentation will be "The HIV/AIDS Epidemic: A Challenge for Sub-Saharan Africa ." additional information:
<http://www.mvea.net/>

Professor William Barnett's article "Who's Looking at the Fed's Books?", is published in the New York Times Opinion Section, October 22, 2009. [Click here for link to article online](#). You will also find a link to the article on the front page of the NYT online. The in-print version is on p. A35 of the October 22, 2009 issue.

Michael Parkin, author of Economics text, will pay an informal visit to the Economics Department on Thursday, October 22. There will be a discussion of the current economic situation and outlook. [Additional Information](#).

Professor Bill Barnett will speak at Kansas International Breakfast. The topic of his presentation: "The End of the Great Moderation? How Better Monetary Statistics Could Have Signaled the Systemic Risk Precipitating the Financial Crisis" Friday, October 23, 7:30 a.m., Alvamar Country Club. Reservations can be made to Adam Handshy at ahandshy@lawrencechamber.com or 785-865-4427 at a cost of \$10 for students and \$15 for adults or go to: [Additional Information & Reservations](#).



Professor Elizabeth Asiedu

Named Associate Editor of [The Journal of African Economies](#) The Journal of African Economies is a vehicle to carry rigorous economic analysis, focused entirely on Africa, for Africans and anyone interested in the continent - be they consultants, policymakers, academics, traders, financiers, development agents or aid workers. The journal is published on behalf of **[The Centre for the Study of African Economies](#)**, Department of Economics, Oxford University.



Nathan Berg - PhD in Economics (KU 2001) - Returns to Lawrence to Make Music Video "[RIGHT NOW](#)" Nathan returned to Lawrence in the Spring to make a music video with a topic of profound interest to KU students - **The Job Market!** Two professors from the Econ Department are featured in the video - Purse-Toting, Guitar-Playing Economist (Within Person Gains - From - Trade Theorem Proof) Elizabeth Asiedu, and Economist in Debt: Gautam Battacharyya. Nathan's father, Professor Chuck Berg- KU Film Department, also appears in the video. Nathan, always active in economics and music, is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Texas - Dallas, and currently a Visiting Scholar in Osaka, Japan. See **[Nathan Berg - "RIGHT NOW"](#)**

Congratulations Michelle Lowrance! Employee of the Month - July 2009



VIDEO!

27 KU Students Receive Awards and Scholarships from the Department of Economics The Department of Economics honored 27 outstanding students with about \$30,000. in awards and scholarships. Faculty members from the department selected students based on academic achievement. Information about the awards is available at <http://www.news.ku.edu/2009/june/26/econawards.shtml>

Serena Huang, Graduate Student in Economics, and Her Advisor, Donna Ginther, Associate Professor, Receive Research Grant Serena H. Huang, a fourth year graduate student in Economics, and her advisor, Donna Ginther, Associate Professor, have received a research grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, funding Huang's dissertation research, "What is the impact of Science and Engineering Immigration on the U.S. Economy?" Her dissertation research received one of six grants awarded nationwide. The competitive grant program is meant to support creative research on the U.S. workforce and labor markets in Science and Engineering. Information about the award is available at <http://www.sloan.org/>

Economics Senior Recipient of Award for Honors Thesis. The Twelfth Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium was held on April 25, 2009 at the Kansas Union. Akwasi Nti-Addae, an Economics Senior, presented his Honors thesis "Discrimination Against Minority-Owned Firms and Black-Owned Firms in the Small Business Credit Market," and was one of the recipients of the award for Best Presenter. More information about the

Symposium is available
at: <http://www.honors.ku.edu/research/symposium.shtml>

Professor Harry Shaffer's Retirement Party Photos Professor Shaffer has been teaching economics at the University of Kansas for more than 50 years. He will retire from teaching this Spring at the age of 89.

Congratulations to Professor Donna Ginther and Professor Dietrich Earnhart! Chancellor Hemenway has approved the promotion of Professors Ginther and Earnhart to the rank of Full Professor. March 10, 2009



February 27, 2009 -- We mourn the loss of Distinguished Professor Aliprantis, colleague and friend. He was Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Purdue University. The Conference on Economic Economics, University of Kansas, was organized in his honor - in honor of Professor Bernard Cornet. <http://www.economics.ku.edu/conference07.shtml> Roko will be buried on the island of Cephalonia, Greece. [Celebrating the life of Charalambos D. "Roko" Aliprantis](#)

Update: Julia Groeblacher and Margaret Tan in final competition for Truman Scholarships

Four Economics Majors nominated for Truman Scholarships

Five University of Kansas students have been nominated to compete for Harry S. Truman Scholarships. The national awards provide up to \$30,000 for college students preparing for leadership in public service. Four of the students are economics majors.

Cooper Thomas Allton, a senior in economics and political science, is preparing for an international affairs career in conflict prevention and recovery. His policy proposal urges U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, chair of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, to support the Extractive Industries Disclosure Act. The legislation addresses the need for transparency in management of oil, gas and other mined resources. At KU, Allton has a Summerfield Scholarship, one of KU's most prestigious scholarships for Kansas high school graduates with outstanding academic records who have demonstrated community service and leadership.

Julia Michaela Johanna Groeblacher, a senior majoring in economics and political science, is interested in a career in international affairs, serving in the Middle East and in North Africa. Her long-range goals include working as an agent for change in economic development and in

the promotion of democracy. She entered KU as a National Merit Scholar. In 2008, Julia was one of 20 students selected nationally to receive a Pickering Undergraduate Foreign Affairs scholarship offered through the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

Margaret A. Tran is a junior majoring in environmental studies and economics to prepare for a public service career promoting environmental sustainability. In Kansas, Margaret has worked to promote awareness of the impact of coal-powered energy on Kansans and to promote the economic and environmental advantages of clean energy options. Margaret is a National Merit Scholar. She is program coordinator for Environmental Action to Revitalize the Heartland, EARTH, a program in KU's Center for Community Outreach.

Alison Rose Spencer Zeigler, a senior in economics and international studies, is planning a career to serve developing countries as a policy analyst. She is particularly interested in the impact rural conditions and policies have on poverty in a nation's urban centers. "Rural poverty and poor urban conditions are two sides of the same coin. I believe one cannot be fully understood without considering the other." At KU, Alison has earned distinction as a co-director who has revitalized and increased student and community participation in the Center for Community Outreach, a student operated and funded agency providing student volunteers for community groups.

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2009/february/12/trumans.shtml>

Spring '09 Grad Fair - KU Bookstores on the Lawrence campus will hold a Spring '09 Grad Fair Tuesday, Feb. 17-Thursday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the ballroom on level five of the Kansas Union. Graduating students can rent a cap and gown and order announcements at this time.

Professor Harry Shaffer is featured in the recent issue of Journal

Professor Shaffer has been teaching economics at the University of Kansas for 40 years. He will retire from teaching this year at the age of 89.