

Interview with Jarod Bona

Benjamin Burry

Jarod Bona is an alumnus from the class in 1998. In the short time since he left IWU, Jarod has cultivated an exciting career in antitrust law. Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Jarod earned his Illinois Wesleyan degree in Political Science with a minor in Economics. Upon graduation, Jarod enrolled in Harvard Law School. During his second year at Harvard he received a John M. Olin Fellowship in law and economics allowing him to participate in a series of seminars in which academics presented working papers on law and economics.

After graduating from law school in 2001, Jarod clerked for Judge James B. Loken of the Eighth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, where he met his wife Mary. After his one-year clerkship ended, he worked briefly in Washington, DC focusing primarily on appellate and complex commercial cases, including antitrust. Shortly thereafter Mr. and Mrs. Bona moved to San Diego where he began working with his current firm, DLA Piper, now one of the biggest law firms in the world. Currently he is an Associate Attorney in DLA's Minneapolis office, though he also has an office in San Diego.

Recently, I had the pleasure of asking Jarod a few questions for the Park Place Economist.

More specifically, what do you do for DLA Piper?

I am an attorney focusing on antitrust, complex litigation, and appellate litigation. Much of my work involves researching case law, writing legal briefs, and occasionally appearing in court. I am also involved in the many other aspects of developing a case, including meeting with clients, analyzing factual documents, and working with experts. For example, I am

currently working on a major antitrust case involving the entire insurance industry, and we are working with economists and insurance industry experts that could appear as expert witnesses.

What is antitrust law and how does it relate to economics?

Antitrust law is the multi-layered regulation of business organization. The laws limit the ability of firms to coordinate their business practices and prices. The goal of antitrust is to protect and improve competition by prohibiting certain actions like price-fixing. Economics is intimately involved in an antitrust practice because the issue in a case often comes down to whether the challenged behavior is pro-competitive or anti-competitive. In addition, economic analysis is often required to determine, for example, whether firms in a particular industry are conspiring together. Economists are generally hired as experts in antitrust cases, and the ultimate result may depend upon which economic model is accepted by the court or jury.

Do you agree with critics like Milton Friedman who contend that antitrust laws do more harm than good? For example, can anti-competitive practices like predatory pricing be most effectively combated by simply maintaining a true free-market?

I am not sure when Milton Friedman said that, but in the last decade or so, antitrust law has become more economically sound. Courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, are more conscious about not deterring competitive behavior. But there is definitely a great danger

of that with the antitrust laws. The restrictions on so-called predatory pricing have improved. For example, I think it is well-established that there should not be liability for pricing above cost. Since reducing prices is generally good for competition (and the consumer) courts are reluctant to find a predatory pricing violation. I think that generally courts are a lot “smarter” about the antitrust laws now than they were even twenty years ago. But that tension between improving competition and deterring competitive and efficient conduct will always be there.

What aspect of your IWU education has helped you most in your subsequent educational or professional career?

I found that my IWU education prepared me well for both law school and my subsequent career. My economics training at IWU was invaluable in law school since law and economics is such an important part of the legal academic world. It also helps me in my practice, since antitrust law is almost entirely focused on economics. But even outside of antitrust law, the economic mode of thinking is important because one of the primary purposes of legal rules is to develop incentives. If I am arguing for or against a particular application of a legal rule, I will explain how that application will affect future behavior in a positive or negative way. I have found that this “economic” approach can be very effective.

My involvement in the political science department was helpful in developing my analytical skills and preparing me for Washington, DC. I had a good mix of classes focused on both theory and empirical analysis, and learned a lot from my professors, particularly Dr. Renner and Dr. Simeone.

My experience as a member of Theta Chi developed my life and business skills. Life in a fraternity—in addition to many other benefits—is

a concentrated lesson in small-group dynamics and leadership. It is an excellent way to learn how to successfully interact with a wide-variety of different personalities under sometimes stressful conditions.

What do you miss most about IWU?

I miss the opportunity to read and learn about the wide variety of subjects that a liberal arts education provides. That is something that most students don’t appreciate until after they graduate and are into their career.

Is there any advice you would offer to IWU economics majors pursuing a law school education after graduation?

The most important skill for a lawyer—at least a litigator—is to be able to write well. Take classes that will improve your writing skills. It can be in any subject, so long as the class gives you an opportunity to practice writing. I found political science, economic, and philosophy classes helpful because they would also develop analytical thinking skills.

You attended IWU here in the Midwest, law school on the East coast, and then worked on the West coast. From your experience what, if any, are the most striking differences between these parts of our country?

The weather, of course, is the biggest difference between San Diego and the other places I’ve lived. San Diego is paradise in that respect. The East coast tends to be the most “career-focused.” There is a definite strong work ethic in the Midwest that is not limited to career and seems to be inherent in the culture here. The West coast, of course, is the most laid-back.

What is the most important economic issue facing the world today?

Whether we will continue to move in the direction of economic freedom, or whether global development will create a backlash that will push us back a step or two. Economic freedom, and its sibling, political freedom, are hard to contain when they are unleashed, so I am optimistic. Domestically, I am concerned that the newly Democratic Congress will succeed in passing legislation that hurts our economy, but I am optimistic that gridlock will prevail.

Alumni Notes

Lane Coonrod

Y. Serhan Arcan, '97, worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers in the Corporate Finance and Recovery Services group as an Assistant Manager specializing in valuation advisory and M&A deals. He has completed his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) qualification. Serhan is currently continuing his work at PwC as an Associate Director in Corporate Finance in Dublin, Ireland.

Lisa Birr, '01, worked as a pricing analyst for Caterpillar in Peoria, Illinois. In 2006 she started work for the Global Mining Division as a Commercial Consultant where she administers the company's largest rebate program directed towards the world's largest mining companies. She and her husband, Andy Rader ('01), expect their first child in November, 2006.

Kory Blumer, '03, is working in Transaction Advisory Services for Ernst & Young in Chicago.

Susan Brown Lanter, '96, worked for Philip Environmental, Inc. after graduation, and earned an MBA from Southern Illinois University--Edwardsville. She is now a senior analyst with Ameren Services. She leads web development projects, oversees work of junior developers, and designs, codes, and tests web-based applications. She and her husband, Matt, have two daughters,

Abby, born in May 2002 and Molly, born in July 2006.

Faizal Chaudhury, '96, manages the Internal Audit Department at Stepan Company, a global specialty chemicals maker based in Northfield, Illinois. He is also responsible for leading the Company's ongoing Sarbanes-Oxley compliance efforts. Mr. Faizal and his wife have a son, born in September 2005.

Jamie Davenport, '03, worked as a loan specialist with the Rural Utilities Service at the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. She currently works as an analyst for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at the U.S. Treasury Department.

Paul Davies, '92, works at the Social Security Administration in Washington, DC. He is the Director of the Division of Policy Evaluation in the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics. His division is responsible for conducting research and policy evaluation on the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs. Much of the research focuses on program eligibility, program participation, economic well-being, and the distributional effects of Social Security programs and policies.

Paul earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Colorado in 1996.

Justin Etnyre, '99, works for Discover Financial Services as a Project Manager for the Recovery Department of Cardmember Assistance. He has been with Discover since March 2004 doing analytics and modeling. Justin completed his MBA from Roosevelt University with a concentration in MIS in the Summer of 2003. Prior to Discover, Justin held positions at Household International (now HSBC) and Krumm and Associates (now Analytic Innovations).

Adam Gray, '06, is a Service and J2EE Analyst at the Data and Information Strategies Area at State Farm, Bloomington. He married Laura Kelly ('06) in the fall of 2006.

Jaclyn Hood, '99, worked as a business analyst for Hewitt Associates for a number of years before leaving to join Milliman, an actuarial consulting firm, as an Implementation Analyst in the Employment Benefits practice. She is currently a Project Manager for Fidelity Investments in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Keith Ihlanfeldt, '72, earned his Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis in 1978. Keith has published widely on urban and regional issues, and he has served on the editorial boards of several economic and public policy journals. After many years on the faculty at Georgia State, he moved in 2000 to Florida State University, where he is the DeVoe Moore Professor of Economics. Keith came back to IWU in spring 2000 to give our Omicron Delta Epsilon address. He is currently DeVoe Moore Eminent Scholar and Director of the DeVoe Moore Center at Florida State University.

Richard Koenig, '89, earned a Master of Urban Planning in 1991 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is currently working on

a PhD in Community Economic Development at Southern New Hampshire University and is Executive Director of Housing Opportunity Development Corporation, a non-profit organization promoting affordable housing in Chicago's northern suburbs.

Justin Leverton, '02 is a lawyer in Indianapolis with the law firm Stewart & Irwin, P.C. Mr. Leverton's main practice areas are Merger & Acquisitions and general commercial litigation. He graduated from Indiana University School of Law summa cum laude in May 2005. He is also the Chief Financial Officer of his investment company, RJR Capital Management LLC.

Bryan McCannon, '98, finished his Ph.D. in Economics at Pennsylvania State University where he has specialized in industrial organization and game theory. In Fall 2003 he became an Assistant Professor of Economics at Elmira College. He does research on product quality, trade embargoes, voting theory, and plant physiology. In 2006 he was voted Faculty Member of the Year by students at the college.

Matthew Melick, '03, worked as a substitute teacher after graduation. He planned to travel to Costa Rica for a month in February and to Europe for another two months beginning in June. Matt is in his third year of law school at Indiana University, set to graduate in May 2007.

Amber Munday, '01, has worked as an Office Manager at Microsoft Corporation since graduation. She is currently attending law school at the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law.

Rahim Quazi, '92, pursued graduate studies in Economics at Southern Illinois University until 1993, when he transferred to the Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He also spent one year as a visiting lecturer for North South University in

Bangladesh during the course of his graduate work. He completed his Ph.D. in 1999. Rahim was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Knox College (1999-2000) and the University of Georgia (2000-2002). He has been Assistant Professor of Economics at Prairie View A&M University of Texas since 2002. In 2006 he received tenure at PVAMUT where he also serves as the Director for the Center of International Business Education.

Pat Spangler, '03, graduated with high honors from Chicago-Kent College of Law in May 2005. He works as an Associate for Vedder, Price, Kaufman, and Kammholz in Chicago. Pat specializes in the areas of employment litigation and employee benefits.

Jennifer Van Dyke, '99, is a manager with BearingPoint where she specializes in healthcare revenue management consulting. In 2005 she

obtained her Masters in Economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She currently lives in Chicago.

Yuet Wei Wan, '93, worked for Goldman Sachs for a number of years. She then took a position as a Vice President at Oaktree Capital Management in New York. Her position involved the emerging markets hedge, and she was responsible for the metals and mining, paper and steel sectors. Yuet is currently a Portfolio Manager with Caxton Associates. She manages a global, emerging markets focused, long short equities portfolio.

James Yonker, '02, is a financial advisor for Waddell and Reed in Oak Brook, IL. James has his Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS) certificate and is working towards his Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certificate. He and his wife Lindsay have two sons, Jakob and Lucas.

The Class of 2007

Brandin Heidbreder

Angela Agati

Angela is from Chicago, IL and is double majoring in Economics and Business with a concentration in Marketing. She spent some of her time outside the classroom as a member of Sigma Kappa and working for the Career Center, where she is now the Internship Peer. Her favorite class taken here at IWU was Ceramics, followed closely by Race, Gender, and Discrimination taught by Professor Seeborg. After graduation she will be working for Protivi as a Business Risk Consultant in Chicago. In the future, she plans to get her MBA and eventually take over her father's furniture design company with her brother.

Ben Burry

Ben, from Trumbull, CT, is an Economics major who will be attending the University of Chicago Law School next year. Naturally, his favorite class on campus was Business 340: The Trial Class. He also enjoyed Senior Project with Professor Seeborg and working on his honors research project with Professor Chapman. Ben is a member of the Theta Chi Fraternity, the Park Place Economist staff, Titan Law Club, Omicron Delta Epsilon, and Phi Alpha Theta. Down the road, he would like to "own a large jungle cat" and live in San Diego, CA.

Ian Cohen

Ian is from Lake Zurich, IL and is majoring in Economics with a minor in Political Science.

His interest in Political Science was sparked by American National Government with Professor Shaw. Ian also enjoyed Intermediate Macroeconomics with Professor Mendez-Carbajo since he brought humor to economic theory in a way that Ian had not seen up to that time as an economics major at IWU. Ian is a member of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) Leadership and Service Fraternity, Sierra Student Coalition (SSC), IWU University Choir, Varsity Swim Team, intramural softball and volleyball, and Park Place Economist staff, and he studied abroad through IES in London. He is currently applying for a full-time staff position as a financial/investment analyst with different companies in the Chicagoland area and hopes to obtain his MBA in the future.

Harley Culbertson

Harley is an Economics and Political Science double major from Hinsdale, IL. She was a captain of the IWU Women's tennis team this year and the Risk Management Chair and President for Kappa Kappa Gamma. A large part of her research focuses on women's issues, and this interest was sparked while taking the Women in Politics class offered at IWU. Harley is going to be working at LaSalle Bank in downtown Chicago next fall and studying for the LSAT this summer. She hopes to attend law school in the next two years and become a lawyer in the future. Harley has really appreciated all the professors and people she has met while being an Economics major at IWU.

Stephen Donham

Stephen, from Naperville, IL, majored in Economics with a minor in Hispanic Studies. He plans to attend law school with a focus in either finance law or environmental law. Stephen enjoyed Intermediate Macroeconomics and was a member of the Titan Law Club and GLACURH, and was a Titan Orientation Leader while on campus at IWU. Senior Project with Professor Seeborg was one of his favorite classes, and he also enjoyed the May Term trips he took that

helped him understand the field of Economics in a way that no text book could. His favorite quote by a professor was "Who yachts? I mean honestly, who here yachts?" by Professor Tennerelli since, as Stephen put it, "let's be frank, yachting is not a very common pastime".

Nick Galasso

Nick is from Naperville, IL and is majoring in both Economics and Accounting here at IWU. Nick is also a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, Titan Law Club, and Accounting Society. His favorite class was Money and Banking with Professor Chapman, but he also really enjoyed his Senior Seminar class, despite all its peaks and valleys, since it was very rewarding in the end. As for the professors in the Economics Department, he "highly doubts there is anyone who can replace such a fine caliber of professors when our current professors' respective times arrive to retire or move on". After graduation Nick plans on getting his CPA, going to law school, and finishing up with an LL.M. in tax in hopes of being employed and making money. In the future he wants to have a wonderful family and be able to look himself in the mirror when all is said and done and say he lived a good life. He also hopes someday to see the Cubs win the World Series.

Matthew Goergen

Matthew is an Economics major from Woodridge, IL. He is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, a WESN Radio DJ, and participated in various intramural sports. His favorite class was Creative Writing. He also enjoyed the fact that "no matter how clueless you are on an economic topic, 'supply and demand' always passes as an acceptable answer". After graduation he plans to attend dental school to pursue a career in oral surgery. He intends to use his degree in Economics to understand his future endeavors since as Nicholas Chamfort said, "an economist is a surgeon with an excellent scalpel and a rough-edged lancet, who operates

beautifully on the dead and tortures the living”.

Steven Groetsema

Steven, from La Grange Park, IL, is majoring in Economics with a minor in Spanish. This past year he was a captain of the IWU football team and a member of Phi Gamma Delta. His favorite class was US History Since 1877. Steven’s most memorable moment was turning in his Senior Project in Economics. Upon graduation he plans to work in commercial real estate in Chicago. He hopes that his career will allow him to be happy, be comfortable, and make enough money to buy a lakehouse and a boat.

Brandin Heidbreder

Brandin is an Economics and Risk Management double major from Lincoln, IL. He was also a member of the Economic Society, Omicron Delta Epsilon, the Park Place Economist staff, Vice-President of the Risk Management Society, a Student Athletic Trainer, and a four-year member of the IWU football team. His favorite class was Sports Economics with Professor Tennerelli during which a class representative had to be chosen for the “Student-Professor Sports Challenge”. His favorite memory of the Sports Challenge was an impromptu footrace with Professor Tennerelli in front of Shaw Hall during class. Brandin won the challenge and earned the entire class extra credit. After graduation he plans to get his MBA, get a job in the financial services industry, and live a full and happy life.

Brian Jbara

Brian is from Kalamazoo, MI and is a double major in Economics and English Literature. He has also been involved with the Economics Society, English Honor Society, Circle K, and Lacrosse. His favorite classes at IWU were Industrial Organization, Econometrics, and American Drama. He also has some good memories from the Economics Society movie and dinner nights at Dr. Seeborg’s house. After graduation, Brian is joining Teach for America

and will be teaching high school English in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Todd Kumler

Todd is an Economics and Mathematics double major with a minor in Political Science from Elgin, IL. It should be no surprise that his favorite class at IWU was Mathematical Economics. Todd was also involved with Student Senate, the Economics Society, College Democrats, and an Economics Department Student Worker. After graduation Todd plans to get a Ph.D. in Economics with a concentration in Development Economics at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities or Columbia University. After that, he plans to become an academic economist or an economist with a development-orientated international organization.

Biniv Maskay

Biniv is from Kathmandu, Nepal and majors in Economics with a minor in Business Administration. His favorite classes were Senior Seminar and Business Law. Biniv found Professor Seeborg’s laugh to be contagious and enjoyed visiting the ethnic enclaves with one of his classes. Biniv is very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the IWU community and thanks everyone for the wonderful experience it provided. He hopes this experience will help him enter the financial services industry in the future.

Michael Trainor

Michael, from Melrose Park, IL, majors in Economics and minors in History. He was also a member of the Acacia Fraternity and the IWU Karate Club. His favorite class was Public Finance with Professor Leekley. He was really glad to have received a good grade on his senior seminar paper since he was worried the entire semester that he was going to “fail”. Upon graduation he plans to move on to graduate school, marry his girlfriend, and find a job where he can make a lot of money.

Global Economics 101

*Minh Nguyen, Kunaey Garg, Lane Coonrod,
Babawande Afolabi, and Bukola Olaosebikan*

Five Illinois Wesleyan University students reveal their personal perspective on the global economy in this “primer” on the economies of four countries across the world. Minh Nguyen, Kunaey Garg, Babawande Afolabi, and Bukola Olaosebikan, international students currently enrolled at IWU, as well as Lane Coonrod, a U.S. student who studied abroad, provide a unique glimpse of the economic environments of Vietnam, India, Nigeria, and Chile. While their accounts are not intended to describe the full range of conditions in these foreign economies, the articles do reveal just how much economics impacts the lives of individuals across the globe - no matter the country or continent.

A New Player on the World Stage **Minh Nguyen**

Growing up during the post-reconstruction period, I never experienced the hardships that people went through when the Vietnamese economy collapsed after the Vietnam War. When I was born, the country was already in its expansion era, and since then the economy has improved a lot over the past twenty years.

After losing financial support from the old Soviet blocs, the economy initially grew at a very slow rate before the pace of economic growth picked back up. As a very small economy, the Asian financial crisis in 1997 did not cause much damage to the Vietnamese economy. Compared to other countries in Southeast Asia, Vietnam’s economic growth has improved significantly, and its GDP growth rate is currently about 6.8 percent.

With this increased economic growth, Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam and the city where I was born and raised, has experienced dramatic

changes. The streets are now crowded with motorcycles, rather than the bikes that people used to ride in the old days. For many people, the standard of living continues to improve; however, a large proportion of the population still lives in absolute poverty.

In my lifetime, Vietnam has also joined the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and signed the US-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement. These changes have moved Vietnam from being a closed economy to an open economy. Trade with other countries has strengthened Vietnam’s economy, and the country’s positive trade balance has helped increase national income. A more open economy also means that more goods and services are available to Vietnamese consumers. This openness has dramatically increased the personal consumption of Vietnamese citizens, further improving their living standards. Cars are now much more commonly used for transportation in Vietnam, yet they are still considered a luxury good because of the taxes and tariffs associated with the purchase of cars.

Earlier this school-year, Vietnam joined the World Trade Organization. This has opened up more opportunities to foreigners to invest in Vietnam, and reduction of tariffs and quotas has further improved the country’s trade balances. Joining the WTO will surely bring about more significant changes in the economy. Vietnam has long awaited membership in the WTO, and even though the country has just joined, I expect Vietnam’s GDP growth rate to continue to increase, sparking improvements in the economy as a whole.

Minh Nguyen is a sophomore economics and business administration double major from Hanoi, Vietnam. He has also lived in Washington,

DC and Fort Worth, Texas.

The Indian Economy: Of Tigers on Fire **Kunaey Garg**

As I set foot out of the airport, one thing hits me about my country - the number of cars on the road. Just four months ago, the roads in my city, Kolkata, were relatively manageable; now, they are bustling with activity from all corners. Traffic is horrible and the air around me is anything but clean; prices are high and the food is still as spicy as ever. As I considered all the changes occurring in my town, I thought of the recent economic changes occurring in my country.

The Indian economy is currently booming. Its growth rate touched 9.2 percent last quarter, a close second behind China's 10.4 percent growth rate. If one considers purchasing power parity, India's economy is the third largest in the world, after China and America. However, it seems unlikely that India will be able to sustain this economic growth in the long-run.

The problem in India is that the government cannot keep up with the rate of economic growth. Fast growth pulls millions of people out of poverty, but these high growth rates, combined with an underdeveloped infrastructure, a high rate of inflation (6-7 percent), a widening current account deficit, and various other signs of overheating could very well tame the Indian tiger. In fact, 99 percent of Indian companies now report that they are running at or above their optimal capacity. The Reserve Bank of India has been too timid with its monetary policy, with increases in interest rates not even keeping up with consumer price inflation.

With all these classic signs of overheating, India seems to be headed for a rough landing if the government does not act quickly and enact policies to increase supply and sustain the country's high rate of growth. In the next few years, it is predicted that India's growth rate may even surpass China's growth rate, even if

for just one quarter. The Indian tiger is eating its share, but it may be eating too fast. The Indian government needs to realize that the economy is overheating and implement policies that will allow the tiger to be happy and full at the same time.

Kunaey Garg is a sophomore economics and business administration (finance concentration) double major with a minor in philosophy. He is from Kolkata, India.

A Market for Everything: Lessons from Don **Bernardo** **Lane Coonrod**

Three men sit by a street under a tree. They are perched on buckets, talking about politics, soccer, and the days of old. They get up with each passing car, their pants jingling as they move towards the street. It's a crowded street, not busy yet active with pedestrians since there are houses, apartment buildings, and businesses all close by. With all this activity, there is great demand for parking, a demand that when coupled with limited supply creates a market for parking solutions—and this is exactly why these three men wait.

Their goal is to fit as many cars as possible in the limited space that exists on the three long blocks they patrol. Their source of revenue is each car that gets in and out of a parking spot, (cars typically give loose change of up to \$0.25 to the parkers). With each added car, added revenue. If that wasn't enough, somewhere along the line they figured out that cars would pay for windshield and/or full car washings, hence the buckets they sit on. The parkers have even begun to offer a variety of other services that include valet parking, gas fill-up while you're at the office, and empanada and coke runs for those busy days when you don't want to stop anywhere during rush hour. If people are willing to pay for it, they are willing to supply it.

On the surface it seems like just the human equivalent of parking meters with a little added fluff, but the task of the parker, as it turns out, is about selling information more than anything else. The parkers are there everyday, they know all the regulars, their schedules, and how to maximize profits with this knowledge. I was shocked one day while conversing with Don Bernardo, the leader of the three and caretaker of both blocks of Alberto Magno street, when he was able to tell me at exactly what time each car would be leaving its spot, at what time each car arrives at its spot, and where each car owner went after parking the car. What good is it to know at what time a car owner might return to his car? The extra three or four feet that can be salvaged by backing a car in even closer to the one behind it that won't be leaving any time soon. The exchange of information and space maximization strategies complement well the precision parallel parking abilities of these three parkers.

In a labor force of over 6 million, these three Chileans and the many like them throughout the booming metropolis of Santiago, Chile may seem insignificant in the grand scheme of things. However, they do demonstrate an entrepreneurial spirit and creative use of information that allows them to continue supporting themselves and their families. Although it may seem like something out of an episode of Seinfeld, it's real and it shows there truly is a market for everything that has potential to turn a profit.

Lane Coonrod is a junior economics major and mathematics and hispanic studies double minor from Quincy, Illinois. He studied in Santiago, Chile through IES during the spring semester of 2006.

Giant Strides in the Nigerian Banking Sector Babawande Afolabi and Bukola Olaosebikan

Until about two years ago, the banking

system in Nigeria was a joke. In fact, I remember the first class I had on the banking system; the whole class could not help but laugh when a classmate defined a bank as a casino where the most ardent gambler will decline to play because winning was not an option. Obviously, my classmate exaggerated the reality of the banking situation; however, the core of the hyperbole was certainly valid. Each passing day saw numerous "valued customers" and investors losing their resources without much ado.

Due to the lax regulations governing banks' minimum capital base, it wasn't unusual for a bank to go bankrupt overnight leaving customers and investors gasping for breath. Since the banks could not initiate or support even the most meager capital investment, they sought solace in cracks in the accounting standards—sometimes exaggerating profits to lure the unwary public. The result was having many banks in the system that could not perform the colossal roles of financial intermediation process, mobilization of funds for investments, and wealth creation.

However, a new leaf turned over two years ago with the advent of a new Central Bank governor, who raised the capital base requirements for banks. This was a major step that set the motion for a vibrant banking system that will inspire and support an evolving economy. Banks merged, creating a strong pool of wealth for capital investments. Now there are twenty-five major banks, some with as many as four hundred branches. Amongst many other things, the banking sector restructuring has motivated more people to invest and save their money within the country. Banks are now more aware of competition, so customer services are greatly improved. The formerly tepid Central Bank has become much more effective in its supervisory role, and many mission statements have been developed by respective emerging banks that forecast a good future for the Nigerian economy.

Babawande Ipoola Afolabi is a first-year student

who is double majoring in economics and business administration (finance concentration). He is from Ile-Ife, Nigeria and has also lived in Ibadan, Nigeria and Lagos, Nigeria. Bukola Olaosebikan is a sophomore business administration (finance concentration) and computer science double major from Lagos,

Nigeria. She has also lived in Kwara, Nigeria.

Remembering Two Economic Giants

Quentin Brummet

The past year saw the passing of two of the most distinguished individuals within the field of economics. In April, John Kenneth Galbraith passed away at the age of 97, while in November, Milton Friedman passed away at the age of 94. Although the two economists held greatly divergent economic ideas, their contributions to economics immensely impacted our current understanding of the field.

Galbraith was born on October 15, 1908 in Ontario and raised in Canada. He attended Ontario Agricultural College (now the University of Guelph) for his undergraduate degree and received a masters and doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley. Economically speaking, Galbraith was a devoted Keynesian and liberal, and he became known as the “Last American Institutional.” For example, his book *The Affluent Society* suggested that the United States should make large investments in highways and education after World War II.

Galbraith was not just an “ivory tower” intellectual, however. In addition to working as an advisor under the Roosevelt Administration, he also served as “price czar” during World War II, and he later became ambassador to India under the Kennedy Administration. In 1972, he served as president of the American Economic Association, and in 2000, he was awarded his second U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Despite his numerous publications and accolades, Galbraith is considered by many to be

slightly outside of mainstream economic thought, as Keynesian ideas have not been in accordance with mainstream economics since the late sixties. However, his ability to combine public servitude with scholarly aptitude made him a giant within the economic field.

Milton Friedman was born on July 31, 1912 in Brooklyn, New York. His family then moved to New Jersey, where he grew up before attending Rutgers for his undergraduate work, double-majoring in mathematics and economics. He then went on to the University of Chicago for his masters before receiving a doctorate from Columbia University.

Friedman’s economic ideas were much different than Galbraith’s. His rise in the field of economics came at a time when Keynesian ideas were very much the mainstream. His classical ideas were in opposition to the contemporary economic models and notions, and in many ways, his concepts and theories changed the tide of economic thinking. Friedman’s idea of monetarism was revolutionary, leading to a much different perspective on the role of government in stabilizing the economy. He also strongly advocated a floating exchange rate, an idea which was criticized at the time but was eventually implemented. Furthermore, Friedman’s views on school choice and voucher systems were extremely rare when he first wrote about them, but nowadays—in large part due to his involvement—many voucher experiments have been performed all around the United States.

Friedman's numerous contributions to economics earned him many accolades. He was a professor at the University of Chicago from 1946-1982. After 1982, he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, where he performed research on a variety of different topics. In 1996, Friedman and his wife started the Rose and Milton Friedman Foundation, aimed at

encouraging the implementation of universal school vouchers.

While these two men stood on two distinctly different sides of the economic spectrum, they were both respected and admired. Their aptitude and dedication to their field has created new economic ideas which will undoubtedly continue to shape the discipline of economics for years to come.

Work-Life Balance: Flexibility or Friction?

Ian Cohen

In labor economic theory, a person's allocation of time between work and leisure is an important area of study. Often times, these decisions are highly influenced by modern-day employment practices and working culture. If society does not protect the ability to take time off work and places extensive cost burdens upon its population, friction can develop in the work-leisure relationship. Dr. Peter Berg, Associate Professor of Economics at Michigan State University, studied the flexibility of this relationship in his research entitled, "Work-Life Balance Tensions in the United States and Australia." In these countries, work life is similar but the techniques used to gauge work-life tensions are vastly different. Berg, also a 1983 IWU alum, presented his work to Illinois Wesleyan students and faculty on March 7, 2007 as the annual Omicron Delta Epsilon speaker.

Berg began his discussion by describing the outside forces that have contributed to work-life balance tensions. He emphasizes the fact that employment experience is changing due to the rise of global competition and various other national demands at the workplace. With these developments, workers face increased competition from overseas workers and need higher skill requirements in a business environment that blurs the line between work and

home life. In this new global marketplace, the search for lower costs has led to decreased wages and higher income insecurity for the individual worker. This, along with ageing populations, has resulted in the individual having to work longer hours, thus forgoing personal leisure time, to meet the growing needs of work and life.

According to Berg, these broad external factors are only part of the reason for an increase in work-life balance tension. In the United States, citizens have no right to healthcare. Statistically, Berg notes that 15.7 percent of a population of 46 million have no healthcare. Most healthcare is covered by employers and expenditures on it have increased by 40 percent. Similarly, child-rearing costs are high with the increased expectations placed upon parents. Because society views it as a private matter, there is a lack of federal assistance for child-rearing and it is very expensive to obtain.

Moreover, Berg explained that there has been an increase in dual-earner couples in the United States. In fact, from 1997 to 2002, this trend elevated time at work by 10 hours per week and reduced personal time to an hour or less for men and women respectively. Additionally, increased technology is blurring the lines between work and home. Indeed, advanced technology allows individuals to work anywhere

at anytime. As Berg points out, we now witness higher levels of intensity at the workplace, which has led to a steadily rising workday and less time off for the individual worker. Like-wise, Berg mentions that only 20 percent of employees have flexible schedules, while there is no legal right to sick days or vacations in the United States. For Berg, all of these forces influence how a person approaches work and creates tension in the work-life balance.

In contrast, Berg observed different approaches to work-life balance in Australia. Unlike the United States, healthcare is a public good. It is easier to attain and not as expensive for Australian citizens. Moreover, Australian society is more community-oriented than the United States. As such, less of a burden is placed upon the individual to meet child-rearing demands. In Australia, more part-time work is available so as to hallow out the work-week and provide workers with flexibility in their work schedules. This allows individuals to know when they can expect time-off and the standard hours they work per week. With a comprehensive public service system and employment standards in place, Berg finds that work-life balance can be less tense in Australia than in the United States.

From these findings, Berg concludes that there is a tension between work and non-work roles. Within the United States, policies and practices are inadequate to ease this work-life friction. Such federal laws as the Fair Labor Standards Act and Family Medical Leave Act, as well as many State legislative initiatives, have attempted to afford work-life flexibility to individual employees. Yet, flexibility still remains unequally distributed and primarily dependent on the employers' terms. Until broad changes are made to employment policies and work life-style, Berg contends that work-life balance tension will continue to be an issue within the United States.