

Department of Economics Newsletter

Inside This Issue:

- 2 2014 Executive Roundtable
- 2 2014 Board of Visitors Meeting
- 3 Board Chair Steps Down
- 3 Don Goldstein Recognized
- 4 VITA Volunteers Commended
- 4 History of Tax Assistance at Allegheny
- 5 Gator Innovation Challenge
- 6 Faculty Spotlight
- 6 Alumna Spotlight
- 7 Student Spotlight
- 7 Will Bitcoin Survive?
- 8 Earl Adams, Jr. Represents Dept.
- 8 Simon Biló Presentation
- 9 Spring Lunchtime Learning Series
- 10 Tim Hodge Papers Accepted
- 11 Econ Majors Present Senior Research
- 11 Keeping in Touch



"I'll miss teaching and working with students, but I look forward to more open-ended days to focus on research, improvements to my house, and exercise for my body. My summers will no longer artificially end when school starts in late August. In fact, every day is a summer day from now on."

Professor Stephen Casler

Two Professors of Economics Retire After Extensive and Distinguished Careers

In May, Professor Stephen Casler and Associate Professor Antoni Moskwa retired from Allegheny after serving as faculty members since the early 1980s.

"Steve and Tony have been major contributors to the visibility, personality, and reputation of the Department of Economics for many years. We all – faculty, students, alumni, and staff – thank them for their service and wish them all the best. We will miss them!"

*Don Goldstein, Ph.D.
Acting Chair*

Professor of Economics

Professor Casler

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Dr. Casler earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and joined Allegheny in 1981. While at Allegheny, he received the Julian Ross Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Greek Award for Professor of the Year. He also served as chair of the department from 2003 to 2011. Dr. Casler's main teaching interests included intermediate macroeconomics, statistics, and mathematical economics. He also taught classes in labor and energy economics.

Dr. Casler has published 26 articles, including five with students as co-authors. In addition, he has written a number of research reports for groups such as the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment. In 2013 he received the Sir Richard Stone Prize from the International Input-Output Association for the best paper appearing in *Economics Systems Research* in the previous two years. He also has written two textbooks titled *Introduction to Economics* and *Macroeconomics: Model Building, Applications, and Policy*.

Associate Professor Moskwa

Dr. Moskwa earned his Ph.D. from Warsaw University and joined Allegheny in 1982. With a unique global perspective, he taught courses including international economics, economics of globalization, and comparative economic systems.

In addition, he was a key participant and contributor to the International Studies program, serving on its steering committee for many years.

Dr. Moskwa also was well known for bringing numerous speakers to Allegheny from his native Poland, greatly enhancing the Department of Economics curriculum.



Board of Visitors members attending the student luncheon were:

Chris Allison '83
 Gregory Antoun '73
 Barrie Christman '74
 Jennifer Daurora '99
 Mark Hanson '83
 Natalie Taaffe Hoffman '68
 Linda Krzykowski '81, Chair
 Paul Marcela '78
 Sean Mathis '65
 Sam Moss
 Jerome Nelson '83

Students attending the luncheon were:

Islam Ahmed '14
 Cookie Barbour '14
 Dominique Billingslea '15
 Cara Brosius '16
 Sarah Vorder Bruegge '14
 Phoenix Cooke '15
 Janos Cseh '15
 Tyler Daun '14
 Kelli Decker '14
 Victoria Delzer '15
 Emily Farr '14
 Steven Fey '15
 Isaac Gittens '14
 Hanna Hebert '15
 Brooke Hooks '16
 Leslie-Paul Jamerson '15
 Stephen Kukunas '15
 Lauren Laurune '15
 Michael LeChard '15
 Devin Malone '16
 Romulus Marino '15
 Alexandra Meyer '14
 Patrick Miley '15
 Daniel Miller '14
 Amanda Mitchell '16
 Clayton Morris '15
 Katie Moses '14
 Colin Muldoon '14
 Akosua Nyantakyi '15
 Jamie Parke '15
 Abishai Persaud '15
 Hannah Russell '15
 Sam Talerico '16
 Gregory Vallano '15
 Rachel Verno '14
 Stefano Wach '15
 Daniel Weiss '14
 Oliver White '14

Faculty from the Department of Economics attending the luncheon were:

Earl Adams, Professor Emeritus
 Chris Allison '83
 Simon Bilo
 John Golden
 Don Goldstein, Acting Chair
 Tim Hodge
 Tom Nonnenmacher '90
 Steve Onyeiwu
 Russ Ormiston
 Janine Sickafuse
 Jialu Streeter

Representatives from the Development and Alumni Affairs Division were:

Ann Areson '67
 Meghan Cressman
 Jennifer Wardwell



2014 Executive Roundtable



On March 31, the Department of Economics hosted its 13th Executive Roundtable: "The State of Work: The Future of Good Jobs in Western Pennsylvania."

Held in Ford Chapel on Allegheny's campus, panelists included:

- Bill Adams '89, Senior Counsel, Labor and Employment, PPG Industries, Pittsburgh
- Steve Herzenberg, Economist, Executive Director of the Keystone Research Center, Harrisburg
- Silas Russell '07, Government Affairs and Legislative Director at SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh
- Joy Sherry '78, Director of Human Resources, Ainsworth Pet Nutrition, Meadville
- Russ Ormiston (moderator), Assistant Professor of Economics at Allegheny

The roundtable focused on a number of key questions including what can be done to return the region to a manufacturing powerhouse, how can we train and develop the area's workforce to meet the needs of local employers, and what is the potential wage and employment impact of the natural gas reserves in the Marcellus Shale.

The Executive Roundtable is supported by the Earl W. Adams, Jr. Endowment, established by Trustee William H. Brown, Jr. '80, in honor of Professor Earl William Adams, Jr. - teacher, mentor, and friend.

2014 Board of Visitors Meeting

On March 30-31, the Department of Economics hosted the Managerial Economics Board of Visitors. In addition to hosting mentoring meetings in its role as the advisory body for the Managerial Economics program, the Board of Visitors participated in four breakout sessions and a student luncheon.

The breakout sessions were:

- Navigating Careers/Internships in Economics and Graduate School: What Skills Do Students Need to Succeed?
- The Role of Social Entrepreneurship and Non-Profit Organizations in Today's Society
- The State of U.S. Financial and Capital Markets
- Technology, Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship in America: Opportunities and Challenges



Breakout session led by Board of Visitors members Gregory Antoun '73 and Natalie Taaffe Hoffman '68.

Linda Krzykowski '81 Steps Down as Board Chair



Dr. Linda Krzykowski '81

Linda Krzykowski '81 stepped down as Chair of the Department of Economics Managerial Track Board of Visitors following its March meeting. Dr. Krzykowski served as Chair from 2011 to 2014 and will remain a member of the Board of Visitors. The Board of Visitors is an advisory body for the faculty and staff who lead the Managerial Economics program. Members offer advice and assistance with respect to the academic, experiential, and development aspects of the program.

Dr. Krzykowski was with Xerox Corp. for more than 10 years, beginning in sales and marketing and advancing through several management positions into management development and training. Since 1993, Dr. Krzykowski has been with the University at Albany, where she serves as assistant vice provost for student engagement, special adviser to the provost for professional, adult, and continuing education initiatives, and vice dean, school of business. She was named to the Women's Business Council's Capital Region Women of Excellence in 2006 and received the President's Award for Excellence for the University at Albany in 2008.

"Linda has been a terrific asset to the Managerial program at Allegheny almost since its inception. As a member of the Board of Visitors, she has always provided great ideas, searching questions, good judgment, and strong encouragement.

Her years as Board of Visitors Chair were a time of growth and maturation for the program, not least due to her energy and leadership."

*Don Goldstein, Ph.D.
Acting Chair
Department of Economics*

Don Goldstein Recognized as Founder, Managerial Economics Track

At the Board of Visitors Student Luncheon on March 31, Professor Don Goldstein was recognized as the founder of the Department of Economics Managerial Track. Board Chair Dr. Linda Krzykowski '81 presented him with a recognition award.

"Don's creative thinking, vision, and passion for integrative learning led to the founding of the Managerial Economics program in 2001. His unparalleled energy and effective leadership have enabled the program to flourish, resulting in robust student enrollments and several ancillary activities within the Managerial Track.

Don's compassionate and inclusive management style has resulted in the emergence of a team of faculty and staff dedicated to the promotion of management education at Allegheny, within the context of a strong liberal-arts tradition. The Managerial program has become a focus of attention across campus, thanks mainly to Don's tireless efforts."

Stephen Onyeiwu, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Economics



Professor Don Goldstein

Professor Goldstein is Allegheny's AW Robertson Professor of Economics.

His research and teaching address processes and social impacts of corporate change: corporate greening and environmental management, restructuring and downsizing, total quality and the high performance workplace.

His current project is NEW (New Economy for a Warming) Region, creating climate adaptation scenarios for northwest Pennsylvania.

In addition to the program in Managerial Economics, Professor Goldstein is active in the College's International Studies and Community Justice Studies majors. He has been a Fulbright Scholar in Ireland and Costa Rica, with both experiences being important to his subsequent teaching and research.



**Associate Professor
Stephanie Martin**



"Working with VITA and Professor Martin allowed not only me, but all volunteers, to make a significant impact on the lives of citizens in Crawford County. The United States Tax Code is ever changing, and VITA has aided me in understanding taxes not only for individuals, but for the financial services industry where I have started my career."

*Casey McGrath '14
Financial Representative
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network*



"While participating in the VITA program, Professor Martin instilled the importance of community, confidentiality, integrity, and compassion when working not only with sensitive information, but also the general public. Professor Martin and the VITA program helped me gain the confidence and skills I needed to embark on my journey as a human resource manager."

*Alexandra Meyer '14
Executive Team Lead
Human Resources
Target Corporation*



"Working with VITA under Professor Martin this past semester gave me the opportunity to experience the community Allegheny is surrounded by and to gain a unique skill. I would highly encourage others to work with this program."

Alexa Guzzu '17

2014 VITA Volunteers Commended

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a nationwide IRS program designed to help low- and moderate-income taxpayers complete annual tax returns at no cost. Locally, VITA operates under the guidance of Allegheny Associate Professor Stephanie Martin, funded through the IRS VITA Grant Program. The \$10,800 IRS grant funds 23 percent of the cost of the \$46,380 program. In 2014, in addition to Dr. Martin, a VITA site manager, two management interns, and 33 student volunteers prepared 791 federal income tax returns. This represents an 85 percent increase from 2013 and a refund total of \$684,650 for local Meadville and Crawford County clients. We thank Dr. Martin; VITA Site Manager Wayne Howard; interns Trevor Colvin '14 and Olivia Newman '15; and the following 33 dedicated students for their outstanding service to our local community:

Sumner Beal '14	Morgan Flaherty '14	Garrett Morosky '14
Thomas Bober '15	Isaac Gittens '14	Colin Muldoon '14
Brad Burkley '14	Alexa Guzzu '17	Xuwei Ni '16
Amber Chaudhry '14	Anthony Lonzo '14	Johnathon Opet '16
Tyler Chilcott '14	Jaesson Lujan '15	Marlana Pawlak '14
Sarah Cooper '15	Romulus Marino '15	Patrick Petit '14
Benjamin Davis '16	Wendy Martinez '15	Ty Pryor '14
Cameron Day '14	Keith Maxwell '14	Miranda Santucci '14
Jordan Ali H. El-Sabeh '14	Casey McGrath '14	Jacob Szoszorek '14
Jordan Encarnacion '14	Alexandra Meyer '14	Joshua Taylor '14
Neil Fajardo '15	Carly Minsterman '14	Jared Wyda '14

All student volunteers completed 25 hours of online tax training and passed the required IRS exam. Allegheny students who wish to become 2015 VITA volunteers may contact Dr. Martin at smartin@allegheny.edu.

Associate Professor Janine Sickafuse, Founder of Tax Assistance at Allegheny

Associate Professor Janine Sickafuse was instrumental in founding Allegheny's VITA program more than 25 years ago. She created tax preparation internships in conjunction with the Active Aging program at the Meadville Senior Community Center to provide free tax assistance to the elderly of Crawford County.

The program's visibility, as well as the number of student interns, has continued to grow each year.



**Associate Professor
Janine Sickafuse**

Student Entrepreneurs Pitch Business Ideas at Eighth Annual Gator Innovation Challenge

Forty-five Allegheny and Grove City College student entrepreneurs participated in a high-energy competition on Saturday, April 26, by pitching their business ideas to a panel of judges during Allegheny's eighth annual Gator Innovation Challenge. The all-day event, hosted by Entrepreneur in Residence Chris Allison '83, was held in Quigley Auditorium on the Allegheny campus.

Allegheny's Gator Innovation Challenge, a part of the Managerial Track programming in the College's Department of Economics, is designed to provide students the opportunity to present ideas to highly successful professionals in their fields. It also offers them the opportunity to network and gain valuable presentation experience.

First place and \$1,000 in prize money at this year's competition were awarded to the Light It Up Dance Studio team from Grove City College: Zoe Simek, Elisabeth Trease, Whitney Blankenship, and Tyler Vielguth.

Second place and \$750 in prize money were awarded to the DJTweeMe team from Allegheny: Connor Bratten '14, Matthew Hajduk '14, and Dibyo Mukherjee '14.

Each of the following teams was awarded \$500 in prize money in a three-way tie for third place. Allegheny's Visceral Promotions team members were Keith Maxwell '14 and James Broderick '14. Grove City College's Arch Accessories team members were Noah Walker, Luke Swadener, and Chadwyck Cobb. Grove City College's Health Quest team members were Rebecca Torre and Chloe Smiley.



Second Place: DJTweeMe



Third Place: Visceral Promotions



Honorable Mention: Shark Bite Kite

A two-way tie was announced for honorable mention, with each receiving \$250 in prize money. Allegheny's Shark Bite Kite was presented by Clayton Morris '15. Grove City College's Art Felt team members were Sarah Klein, Mia McMahon, Megan Smith, and Chadwyck Cobb.

Judges were John Golden, associate professor of economics at Allegheny; Rick Harris '66, angel investor, executive coach, and strategy consultant, Lauchpad Venture Group LLC, Boston; Jo Ann Pacinelli '82, president of E Capital Exchange LLC, Pittsburgh; Daniel Reininga '80, president and chief executive officer, Lake Shore Savings Bank, Fredonia, N.Y.; and Lance Zingale '77, executive vice president and general manager, major markets, Sykes Enterprises, Inc., Tampa/St. Petersburg, Fla.



Entrepreneur in Residence Chris Allison '83 co-founded Tollgrade Communications, a leading provider of hardware and software network assurance testing solutions for the telecommunications and cable broadband industries. He served as chairman and CEO for nine years until his retirement in 2005, earning more than 20 business and writing awards, including Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year and the Pittsburgh Venture Capital Association Entrepreneur of the Year.

Allegheny students learn about business pitches in ECON 280 with Associate Professor John Golden and ECON 380 with Entrepreneur in Residence Chris Allison.



First Place Winners Light It Up Dance Studio in front with Gator Innovation Judges (left to right) Rick Harris '66, Lance Zingale '77, Jo Ann Pacinelli '82, John Golden, and Daniel Reininga '80.



"Professor Nonnenmacher's presentation about how institutions interact with other institutions and individuals helped bridge the gap between political science and economics. This was seen in the lively discussion afterwards between the professors and students of both the respective departments.

This discussion prompted such questions as, "what came first, the law (an institution) or societal norms," and "which is more important for a well-functioning economy?" While the debate between institutions and norms is still undecided, I believe both departments were able to find common ground and learn from each other."

Patrick Payne '14



"While the coursework pertaining to my economics degree reinforced the skills that attract the interest of employers, the professors and their leadership are what primed me for exponential growth in my current role.

Aside from quantifiable, hard skills the economics professors teach, I feel most fortunate for developing the discipline to see a learning curve through to completion."

Taylor Wendaur '11

Faculty Spotlight: Professor Tom Nonnenmacher

On March 27, Professor Tom Nonnenmacher '90 delivered a presentation titled *Institutions and Economic Behavior*, based on a preliminary chapter of a book he is co-authoring with Lee Alston (University of Colorado) and Bernardo Mueller (University of Brasilia).

The book, titled *The New Institutional Economics: Concepts and Applications*, is an overview of research that explains the emergence of institutions and how they affect economic performance. The book is intended to be used as a text in an upper-level economics or political science undergraduate classroom.



Professor Tom
Nonnenmacher '90

Alumna Spotlight: Taylor Wendaur '11

A business consultant with software development firm BST Global, Taylor Wendaur '11 is the lead consultant on enterprise software implementations. In this role, she combines business practice analysis with technical proficiency to consult on process improvement and convert client data. Ms. Wendaur described what she found helpful outside the classroom at Allegheny that assisted her in increasing her impact in the workplace.

"First, by participating in the challenges and competitions hosted by the Economics Department, Allegheny graduates are ahead of others in terms of ability to present to senior audiences, develop strategic scenarios and presentations, and overall polish. Second, finding and connecting with Allegheny alumni helped to navigate the corporate landscape in my city and provide insight into career goals."

Ms. Wendaur cited the most rewarding moment in her career thus far as when she was asked to speak at her company's annual user conference. She presented business intelligence strategies for compelling reporting and ad hoc analytics specific to clients' objectives. The professionals in attendance earned National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) Continuing Professional Education credit.

Student Spotlight: John O'Donnell '14

During the spring semester, economics major John O'Donnell '14 completed a credit-bearing internship at Palmiero Toyota Scion in Meadville, Pa. While at Palmiero Toyota Scion, John aided customers in loan approval while securing the best possible interest rates, organized paperwork to finalize purchases, and updated inventory utilizing dealership software.



**Allison Palmiero
Brady '92**

Located on the Conneaut Lake Road in Meadville, Palmiero Toyota Scion has been in operation since 1981. Under the leadership of Allison Palmiero Brady '92 (an economics major), the dealership has continued an annual tradition of winning Toyota's most prestigious President's Award for Service Excellence every year since the award's inception.

In addition to supporting Allegheny by guiding students through valuable internship experiences, Ms. Brady, president and general manager, is engaged in the community by supporting local charities like Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and a local soup kitchen through the dealership's "Give Back Program." The dealership also was well recognized in the media recently for supporting numerous local businesses during the building of its new facility that includes a larger showroom, 23 service bays, a customer lounge with coffee bar and fireplace, and a children's play area.



"As a finance intern at Palmiero, the dealership allowed me to gain hands-on experience within the finance industry, a field I had not known much about. I enjoyed the internship because it was something I was unfamiliar with, and by being given this opportunity, it allowed me to branch out into something new and gain knowledge I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

John O'Donnell '14

Will Bitcoin Survive? Lecture by William Luther

On April 29, Assistant Professor of Economics Dr. William Luther of Kenyon College gave a public lecture titled *Will Bitcoin Survive?* The lecture was organized as a free lunch speaker event by Assistant Professor Simon Bilo and took place in Quigley Auditorium to a capacity crowd.

Bitcoin is a crypto currency and a payment system. It operates on a decentralized computer network that is independent of monetary policies of national governments. While this financial and technological innovation started as a mere curiosity, bitcoin is becoming increasingly important. Dr. Luther explained how bitcoin works and discussed the sources behind the steep increase in its market price. While he expressed some skepticism about the future of bitcoin itself, Dr. Luther highlighted the future potential of the technological innovations that enabled bitcoin.



Dr. William Luther



**Professor Emeritus
Earl Adams, Jr.**

Professor Emeritus Earl Adams, Jr. Represents the Department of Economics

Professor Emeritus of Economics Earl Adams, Jr. represented the Department of Economics at the 34th Iroquois Club economics seminar on April 16 in Conneaut Lake, Pa.

At this seminar, Mark Sniderman, executive vice president and chief policy officer of the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank, spoke of staff changes within the Federal Reserve System.

Wayne Nordberg, chairman and chief investment officer and partner of Hollow Brook Associates in New York City, offered an assessment of U.S. investment opportunities.

David Shribman, executive editor for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, gave a presentation on understanding politics.

This presentation was based on a research paper Assistant Professor Bilo wrote and is part of his broader research agenda pertaining to monetary policy and business cycles.



The Seminar Luncheon series is organized each semester by Associate Professor John Golden.

Will Hayek's Business Cycle Theory Remain Obscure? Presentation by Assistant Professor Simon Bilo

On March 11, Assistant Professor Simon Bilo gave a paper presentation titled *Hayek's Business Cycle Theory: Theory That Will Remain Obscure*. The presentation was organized by Associate Professor John Golden as part of the seminar luncheon series held by the Department of Economics. In the presentation, Dr. Bilo discussed the business cycle theory of Austrian economist Friedrich Hayek.

While in the past, the theory was widely debated among economists and eventually led to Hayek's 1974 Nobel Prize, it has faced professional disinterest for years. Although the theory is popular among laypeople, Dr. Bilo pointed out that the professional disinterest can be explained by the assumptions that Hayek's theory holds about expectations. As the assumptions are not consistent with the current style of theorizing in economics, the theory remains professionally unsuccessful. Dr. Bilo believes this result will remain unchanged unless the theory can be reformulated with a different set of assumptions or unless the economics profession changes its style of theorizing.



**Assistant Professor
Simon Bilo**

Spring Lunchtime Learning Series

During the spring semester, Entrepreneur in Residence Chris Allison '83 continued to provide students from across the Allegheny campus opportunities to gain valuable information on topics and industries related to internships and careers. On Jan. 28, Mr. Allison began the five-part series by leading a session titled *The Fire Inside: Setting Goals*. Students learned how to be self-motivated to set and clarify financial and lifestyle goals.



On Feb. 6, Mr. Allison hosted an informal Q&A session with Joseph Cephas, vice president of public affairs, Independent Electrical Contractors National Office, Alexandria, Va. The youngest vice president in the organization's 57-year history after serving just three years with the company, Mr. Cephas shared what led him to accomplish early success in the job market and how Allegheny students can achieve similar results.

Senior human resources executive Rosalie Barsotti was the guest speaker on Feb. 27. Her career history includes Westinghouse Electric Co., Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (now UPMC), USX Engineers and Consultants, and Mellon Bank Corp. (now BNY Mellon). Ms. Barsotti spoke of her experiences and what hiring managers want to see in job applicants.



Stephanie Mancine '13 and Anthony DeStefano '13 returned to campus on March 11 to share their experiences in the workforce since graduation. Ms. Mancine is a business analyst with The Hill Group, Inc. Mr. DeStefano is GetGo senior team leader with Giant Eagle Corp. Student questions ranged from what role networking played in job offers to what surprised them the most after entering the workforce.

David Pucalik '12 and his colleague Lauren Reid of The Willis Group were the final spring semester series speakers on April 8. A general presentation on the insurance industry and opportunities for new Allegheny graduates was followed by a Q&A session. Information was provided on 2014 summer internship opportunities specific to The Willis Group in the Pittsburgh region, with interviews immediately following this session.



"Professor Ormiston taught many concepts in Advanced Managerial Economics that are applicable and relevant to my position and the retail industry, such as economic competition and game theory. The knowledge gained from Allegheny has helped me become a strong and confident manager."

*Anthony DeStefano '13
Senior Team Leader
Market District
South Hills Village
Giant Eagle Corp.*

With emphasis on microeconomic theory and statistical techniques, Advanced Managerial Economics (ECON 440) is a quantitative course that introduces students to how economic analysis can be used to solve real-world problems.

Assistant Professor Tim Hodge Has Two Research Papers Accepted for Publication

Assistant Professor Tim Hodge recently had two papers accepted for publication.

The first, with his co-authors Dr. Mark Skidmore (Michigan State University), Dr. Gary Sands (Wayne State University), and Dr. Daniel McMillen (University of Illinois), was accepted for publication in *Public Finance Review* (forthcoming). Titled *Tax Base Erosion and Inequity from Michigan's Assessment Growth Limit: The Case of Detroit*, Dr. Hodge's paper examines the degree to which Michigan's assessment growth cap has created substantial differences in property tax payments among Detroit residents.

Results show the cap has created a wide range of tax payments among properties of similar value (horizontal inequity) and similar tax payments for properties of differing values (vertical inequity). Specifically, the limit has provided as much as a 52 percent reduction in property tax payments for full beneficiaries.

Another recent paper by Dr. Hodge, co-authored with Dr. James Alm (Tulane University), Dr. Gary Sands (Wayne State University), and Dr. Mark Skidmore (Michigan State University), has been accepted for publication in *Public Finance and Management* (forthcoming). The paper, titled *Detroit Property Tax Delinquency – Social Contract in Crisis*, develops a theoretical model of the individual decision to become delinquent on one's property tax payments and uses detailed parcel-level data to evaluate the factors affecting the probability that a property owner is tax delinquent and, conditional upon delinquency, the magnitude of the delinquency.

Results show properties that have lower values, longer police response times, higher statutory tax rates, higher assessed values relative to their estimated market value, are non-homestead (i.e. non-owner occupied), are owned by a financial institution or by a Detroit resident, are delinquent on water bills, and exhibit a lower probability of enforcement are more likely to be tax delinquent.

Dr. Hodge earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

These papers examine two of the many property tax-related problems Assistant Professor Hodge is reviewing in Detroit and is part of his broader research agenda that pertains to urban and real estate economics.

Economics Majors Present Senior Research

Economics majors Leanne Balster '14, Rachel Verno '14, and Patrick Payne '14 represented Allegheny at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College's signature undergraduate research event.

Accompanied by Associate Professor Stephanie Martin, students presented their senior research at the 23rd Annual Undergraduate Student Research and Creative Accomplishment Conference.



Leanne Balster '14

A total of 248 students and 136 faculty members from 13 colleges in western and central Pennsylvania participated in the conference.

Look for the following in our next newsletter ...

- New York City Experiential Learning Trip
- 2014 Executive in Residence
- Lunchtime Learning Series
- Fall Semester Gator Day
- Faculty Seminar Luncheons

Keeping in Touch . . .

Department Address:
Allegheny College
Department of Economics
520 North Main Street
Meadville, PA 16335

Professor Tom Nonnenmacher, Chair
213 Quigley Hall
Phone: (814) 332-3820
Email: tnonnenm@allegheny.edu

Department Home Page:
<http://sites.allegheny.edu/econ/>

Twitter:
<https://www.twitter.com/AlleghenyEcon/>

YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtrZ994J-es>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Allegheny-Econ/1377747159140882?ref=hl>