



# Economics Newsletter

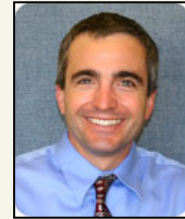
Orfalea College of Business  
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA

## Letter from the Chair

Greetings from the Cal Poly Economics Department!

Welcome to the 2009 edition of the Economics Alumni Newsletter. We hope this communication will keep you connected to the Department, the College, and each other. In this issue, you can learn about recent student activities, faculty research, departmental events, and more.

We eagerly await your feedback on this year's e-newsletter and would enjoy hearing about your accomplishments to share in future newsletters. Please e-mail Sheila Smith at [smsmith@calpoly.edu](mailto:smsmith@calpoly.edu). We hope to hear from you soon, and often.



**Steve Hamilton**  
Professor and Chair



### Cal Poly Economics Class of 2009

Photo generously  
provided by  
Douglass Peck  
Photography.

## Faculty Highlights

This past year our faculty members have been busy with beyond-the-classroom activities. Here is a sample of what they have accomplished:

**Eric Fisher** was named a Fellow to CESifo Research Network, one of the preeminent academic groups in Europe. Fisher served as a visiting professor at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok over the summer. He continues to do editing work for economics publications as well as having five articles of his own published. **Steve Hamilton** had five journal articles published in addition to serving on the editorial council of the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, the top-ranked journal in the field of environmental and resource economics. **Sanjiv Jaggia** co-authored two publications and presented three papers at various economics conferences. **Jason Lepore** has a publication forthcoming in the *B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*. **Michael Marlow** received an "Excellence in Teaching" award from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics for 2009; plus, he submitted three refereed articles and presented two papers. **Aric Shafran** was selected as a Fellow for the National Science Foundation, won a State Faculty Support Grant, published an article, and presented one paper. For more information about our faculty publications, please go to our [website](#).

## ECON Club Returns to OCOB

The Cal Poly Economics Society (CPES) was started by Jennifer Kent (ECON '09) as a website project. The website, [www.thecongeek.com](http://www.thecongeek.com), provided economics students and faculty with a resource with which they could interact and share information about the major. With the help of Eric Fisher, who would eventually become the faculty advisor for CPES, Jennifer had the idea of reviving the defunct Economics Club which had dissolved in 1998. The response within the Orfalea College of Business was great. Many students contacted Jennifer through the website wanting to be part of the club. Jordan McDonald was elected president, and Ana Portalupi was elected vice president. The first meeting was held towards the end of winter quarter 2009, and about 50 students attended.

Besides having a place where students and faculty could share thoughts regarding economic issues and careers, they wanted a place where they could sharpen their knowledge of economics, and not just bring in corporate recruiters to speak. The members are working to improve the utility of the club every day, and they have ensured its stability by electing a new group of officers for the 2009-10 academic year.

## ODE Resurrected

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) is the International Economics Honor Society and is one of the world's largest academic honor societies. The objectives of ODE are the recognition of scholastic achievement and the acknowledgement of outstanding accomplishments within economics, as well as the establishment of closer ties between students and faculty in economics within and among colleges and universities. ODE is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies in the United States and is fully recognized and accredited.

Omicron Delta Epsilon was founded at Cal Poly in 1989 and was active under the leadership of economics professor Michael Marlow until 1997. During the past few quarters, it was reinstated through the diligence of its president, Steve Lynds, and faculty advisor, Jason Lepore. The club has been growing and initiating more members into the national chapter and has short-term goals of increasing awareness of the club, promoting and upholding the professional reputation of the society, and having more faculty and guest lecturers speak on relevant and current economic issues.

*When giving to Cal Poly, please consider designating your gift to the Economics Department of the Orfalea College of Business.*

## E c o n o m i c s   O f f i c e   &   F a c u l t y

The Economics Department Office is located in the Orfalea College of Business - building 003 in room 407.

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805.756.2783

### Department Chair:

Steve Hamilton

### Faculty:

Eric Fisher, Sanjiv Jaggia,  
Jason Lepore, Michael  
Marlow, Kathryn  
Marshall, Aric Shafran,  
Dan Villegas, and  
Eduardo Zambrano

### Lecturers:

Clare Battista, Susan  
Jones, and Solina Lindahl



### **C a l e n d a r**

**Sept. 15** - Orfalea College of Business College Connection Day

**Sept. 15-19** - Week of Welcome (WOW)

**Oct. 17** - Homecoming Football Game, Spanos Stadium, 6:05 P.M. vs. Southern Utah

**Dec. 12** - Mid-Year Commencement - End of fall term