

# Economics Department Newsletter

February 18, 2014

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## Seminars and events

### 1. Heat Waves at Conception and Later Life Outcomes

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On Friday, February 21 from 4:00pm-5:30pm in the CDE classroom [Joshua Wilde](#) of the University of South Florida will present a seminar on his paper "Heat Waves at Conception and Later Life Outcomes." From the abstract: "We ask whether children conceived during heat waves have better health and educational outcomes later in life. Using Census data from 22 countries, we show that children conceived during heat waves have higher literacy rates, attain more years of schooling, and lower rates of disability than children conceived during periods of normal temperatures. We then explore several channels through which this effect may occur using a combined AIS, DHS, and MIS data set from sub-Saharan Africa. We find evidence more educated and wealthier women are more likely to conceive a child during a heat wave, implying that part of the effect is explained by selection into conception by different types of parents. We also show that differential reductions in sexual activity during heat waves among higher educated parents could be driving this effect. We also find higher rates of fetal loss for children conceived during heat waves, implying that part of the result may be explained by natural selection."

## **Employment opportunities and internships**

### **2. International Monetary Fund seeks graduating seniors to work as research assistants**

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The International Monetary Fund's Institute for Capacity Development is seeking graduating seniors to work as research assistants. The positions are typically two-year stints and involve doing background research for courses taught by the Institute, as well as collaborating on research projects with economists in the division. The Institute has hired Williams graduates for this position in recent years (e.g., Jay Koima '12), and is keen to hire more. If you are interested in applying for such a position, please contact Professor Peter Montiel <[Peter.J.Montiel@williams.edu](mailto:Peter.J.Montiel@williams.edu)>.

### **3. Wharton Real Estate Department seeks graduating seniors to work as research assistants**

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Gilles Duranton, an urban economist at Wharton, writes: "We (i.e., the Wharton Real Estate Department) are on the lookout for full time RAs. The deal is usually the following. These are people who strongly think about grad school but who either missed some advanced math class or who are unsure and want to know more about academic life. They usually stay with us for two years and we help them go into grad school. Their work is usually shared by two faculty members and they can follow one class every term while at Penn on top of their normal job. The pay is decent (but investment banking and consulting will pay more). For any strong undergrad who might be interested, more details can be found at:" <https://jobs.hr.upenn.edu/postings/1078>

### **4. Linking Applied Knowledge in Environmental Sustainability program seeks applicants for summer internships**

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Linking Applied Knowledge in Environmental Sustainability (LAKES) is a National Science Foundation funded program that offers a "Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) [which] aims to better understand the root causes of phosphorus pollution and solutions while offering undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in cutting edge research... Students who participate in LAKES will spend two months in beautiful Menomonie, Wisconsin, training under research mentors in biology, sociology, economics, anthropology, mathematics, geology, or communications." For more information, see: <http://www.uwstout.edu/lakes/>

## **Funding for graduate education**

### **5. Civil Society Leadership Award**

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“The Civil Society Leadership Awards (CSLA) provides fully funded master’s level scholarships at a network of universities across Asia, Europe, and North America.” For more information, see: <http://www.edu-active.com/master/2014/jan/31/civil-society-leadership-awards-fully-funded-schol.html>

## **Opportunities to publish undergraduate research**

### **6. Cornell University’s undergraduate economics journal, *The Visible Hand***

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Cornell University’s undergraduate economics journal, *The Visible Hand*, seeks submissions. For more information, see: <http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/NewsletterAnnouncements/2014023/VisibleHand.pdf>

## **About the newsletter**

### **7. How to get items into the newsletter and how to unsubscribe**

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Please contact [Jon Bakija](#) with any news, events, or other information that you would like to send around to Economics and Political Economy faculty and majors, as well as anyone who has manifested an interest in the field by taking a class in either department this semester, or if you would prefer not to receive the newsletter and want to unsubscribe.