Department: __Economics________

The Life of the Mind

➢ Faculty and departmental teaching awards (incl. college, university and national awards):
  o Dominiak: 2011-2012 Undergraduate Teacher of the Year
  o Trost: 2011-2012 Principles Teacher of the Year

➢ Undergraduate student achievements and awards (e.g., Goldwater Scholars, Man/Woman of the Year):

➢ Graduate student achievements and awards (incl. college, university and national awards):

➢ Grants in undergraduate teaching and learning (e.g., PhysTec):

➢ Grants in graduate education (e.g., IGERTS):

➢ One to two notable events or programs related to undergraduate education (e.g., first year of a signature course or FYE):
  o Ball: ECON 4994 – Undergraduate Research: This class is different each time it is taught. During Spring 2013, students designed their own research project to answer questions about firm location choices as a function of consumer density and local government policy. At the end of the semester, they produced a grant proposal to study their research topic. They also helped collect data for a new project on anxiety. This allowed them to get some hands-on experience with experimental data collection.
  o Ge: ECON 4074 – Labor Economics: In a continued effort to improve this course, a few new changes were made. This year a few research topics were selected for students to work on, including issues related to the minimum wage legislation, immigration, and wage inequality in the U.S. Students showed great interest in these topics and participated actively in the class presentations. Most of them submitted interesting albeit short research papers.

➢ One to two notable events or programs related to graduate recruitment and/or education:
  o Ball: ECON 5964 – Graduate Experimental Economics: The first half of the class is a standard where students learn methodology and see the development of one research idea through theory and experiments. The second half of the class is completely revised EVERY time it is taught, based on a student interest survey that is distributed during the first week of class. At least one week during the semester during the second half of the class is devoted to at least one topic
mentioned on every student’s interest survey. This means that the preparation and planning for the class requires that a substantial amount of time is spent on reading in new fields (both within and outside of economics) and picking a combination of classic and recent papers to help students prepare for their dissertation work. During Spring 2012, two researcher from VTCRI were invited to present their work so that students would gain some exposure to research in neuroeconomics.

- **Spanos**: ECON 6024 – Advanced Topics in Econometrics: This course is primarily on Time Series modeling, but having 4 students from the Finance department taking this course this year, facilitated a complete revision in order to focus a lot more on Financial Econometrics. Extensive lecture notes; 320 pages, were created for this new focus.

- **Examples of research experiences and experiential learning opportunities for undergraduates:**
  - **Tsang**: Since Fall 2012, advised an undergraduate student for 1 to 2 credits per semester to study whether information from the internet (Google search, Facebook “likes”, Tweets) is useful for explaining the stock market. This project makes use of the student’s programming skills.

- **Examples of international experiences for undergraduate students:**

- **Examples of international experiences for graduate students:**

- **Any additional examples that address goals in Virginia Tech’s “Plan for a New Horizon”:**
  - Ways in which computational science and skills for managing and analyzing complex data sets are integrated across a wide range of disciplines
  - Use of technology in classrooms and examples of distance-learning opportunities
    - **Gebremariam**: Attended 2 conferences focusing on teaching large principles classes and the use of technology
      - Attended the 8th Annual Economics Teaching Conference Sponsored by South-Western (CENGAGE Learning) and National Economics Teaching Association (NETA), November 8-9, 2012, Orlando, Florida.
    - **Simundza**: Frequently used the discussion forums tool on the Scholar websites to continue to facilitate further class participation.
    - **Trost**: Continuing to expand use of tumblr and twitter as outside resources for students
  - Incentives for teaching and learning through distance education
  - Creation of flexible classroom spaces that fully support e-learning components
  - Quality and availability of academic advising from orientation through graduation
Examples of STEM-related activities fostering entrepreneurship, science and technology policy, and ethics

Research and Innovation

- Faculty awards/honors (e.g., Humboldt Fellowships, NSF CAREER awards, etc.):
  - Gebremariam: Awarded the Excellence in Access and Inclusion Award
  - Trost: Chosen by students as a “Favorite Faculty” through The Office of Residential Life, 2012.
    - Recognized as an “Outstanding Teacher” by the Panhellenic Community at Virginia Tech, 2012.
  - Tsang: Best paper award (3rd Prize) at the 4th Annual Conference of the Global Chinese Real Estate Congress (GCREC) (Macau, China, July 3-5, 2012)

- Notable new research awards in 2012-13 (incl. PIs, Amount, Title and Funding Agency)
  - Ge:
  - Salehi:
    - (Continuing) Inequality of Opportunity in education achievement in Middle East and North Africa,

- Number of manuscripts, number of books and book chapters (CY 2012); list high impact papers:
  - Ashley:
    - Textbook: Fundamentals of Applied Econometrics was accepted and published by Wiley
    - 2 published papers
  - Bahel: 2 published papers
  - Ball: 1 abstract published
  - Dominiak: 2 published papers
  - Ge: 2 published papers
  - Gebremariam: 2 published papers
  - Haller: 4 published papers
  - Salehi:
  - Spanos: 7 published papers
- **Tideman**: 2 published papers
- **Trost**: 1 published paper
- **Tsang**:
  - Book: A collection of newspaper articles (in Chinese) is scheduled to be published by Enrich Publishing (Hong Kong) in September 2013, together with collaborators Kevin K. Tsui (Clemson) and T.C. Leung (CUHK)
  - 2 published papers

- **Number of presentations (CY 2012); notable invited lectures**:
  - **Bahel**:
  - **Ball**:
    - **Invited Lecture**: “Anxiety and the Growth of Interpersonal Trust”, Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Salem VA Medical Center, October 25, 2012. Participants in this lecture received “Continuing Education Units” for attending this event.
    - **Presentations**:
  - **Dominiak**:
    - **Presentations**:
      - Workshop on New Development of Decision Theory under Uncertainty, Cergy-Pontoise University (Paris), title of the presentation: ““Agreeing to Disagree” Type Results under Ambiguity”.
      - XVth FUR-Conference (Foundations and Applications of Utility, Risk and Decision Theory), Georgia State University, title of the presentation: ““Agreeing to Disagree” Type Results under Ambiguity”.
      - 23rd International Summer Festival of Game Theory, Stony Brook University, title of the presentation: ““Agreeing to Disagree” Type Results under Ambiguity”.
  - **Ge**
Presentations:


  Gebremariam:
  Invited Lectures:
  
  
  
  https://dl.dropbox.com/u/66966577/EPDP_Leading%20Change1.mov
  https://dl.dropbox.com/u/66966577/EPDP_Leading%20Change2.mov
  https://dl.dropbox.com/u/66966577/EPDP_Leading%20Change3.mov

  https://dl.dropbox.com/u/66966577/EPDP-Leading%20Change_The%20role%20of%20Institutional%20Leadership1.m4v
  https://dl.dropbox.com/u/66966577/EPDP-Leading%20Change_The%20Role%20of%20Institutional%20Leadership2.m4v
  https://dl.dropbox.com/u/66966577/EPDP-Leading%20Change_The%20Role%20of%20Institutional%20Leadership%201.m4v


  Haller:
  Invited Seminars:
  • Universities of Konstanz, Heidelberg, Basel, Besançon (Franche-Comté), Free University Berlin

  Presentations:
  • Coalition Theory and Networks (CTN), Paris
  • European Workshop on General Equilibrium Theory, Exeter
  • NSF/NBER General Equilibrium and Mathematical Economics Conference, Bloomington, IN
  • Midwest Economic Theory Meetings, Washington University, St. Louis

  Salehi:
  Invited Lectures:

  Invited Seminars:
  • University of Cambridge, department of economics, “Pills and Pens: Fertility decline and the education of women in rural Iran,” March 8, 2012
  • Middle East and North Africa Chief Economist Office Seminar Series: "The Impact of Subsidy Reform in Iran: Evidence from Survey Data"

  Presentations:
  • “Pills and Pens,” Gender and Economic Research for Policy Analysis conference Washington DC on June 24-25
  • UNDP/ILO Workshop on “Rethinking Economic Growth: Toward Productive and Inclusive Arab Societies, Beirut 20-21 February 2012 (Discussant).

  Spanos:
  • Invited Seminars:
  • February 23: Presented a seminar at the Economics Department of North Carolina State University, entitled: “Revisiting the Statistical Foundations of Panel Data Modeling”
  • March 15: Presented at the Department of Finance and Banking at the University of Piraeus, Greece, a seminar entitled: “On Theory Testing In Finance: Revisiting the CAPM”
  • May 6: Presented a seminar at the department of Economics, University of Cyprus, entitled: “Panel Data Modeling from the Probabilistic Reduction Perspective
  • September 24-26: STATISTICS NORWAY, Unit for macroeconomics, Research Department, Oslo Norway
    • September 24: Presented a seminar entitled:
      ▪ 9:30-12:00 Problems and challenges in current empirical modeling in economics
      ▪ 13:00-16:00: Participated in a workshop on Macroeconometric modeling, commenting on several presentations
    • September 25: Presented a seminar entitled:
      ▪ 9:30-12:00 Revisiting DSGE modeling: what can we learn from confronting theory with data?
      ▪ 13:00-16:00: Participated in a workshop on Macroeconometric modeling, commenting on several presentations and a round table discussion
• December 17: Presented a seminar at the Central Bank of Cyprus entitled: "Why current DSGE models provide a poor basis for forecasting and policy analysis"

• **Presentations:**
  - **May 2-3:** Participated in the Birmingham Econometrics and Macroeconomics Conference and presented a paper entitled: “On Theory Testing In Economics: Revisiting DSGE Modelling”
  - **June 14-16:** Participated in a conference in Helsinki on “Models and Simulations 5”, chaired a session and presented a paper entitled: “Realisticness of Models vs. the Reliability of Inference: Revisiting DSGE modeling in Economics”
  - **July 5-6:** Participated in the “18th International Panel Data Conference”, Banque de France, Paris and presented a paper entitled: “Revisiting the Statistical Foundations of Panel Data Modeling”

  o **Tideman:**
    - **Invited Seminars:**
      - Lazarski University, Warsaw, Poland, May 14. Presented a paper on monetary and banking reform.
    - **Presentations:**
      - Public Choice Society, March 8-11, Miami. Presented the paper, “Which Voting Rule is Most Likely to Choose the Best Option?”
      - Economic Reform Conference, Krakow University, May 23-25, Krakow, Poland. Spoke on monetary and banking reform.
      - Biennial meeting of the American Section of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy, October 25-27, Baltimore, Maryland. Presented a paper on the quasi-empirical evaluation of voting rules.

  o **Tsang**
    - **Invited Seminars:**
      - American University, March 2012
      - University of Alabama, February 2012
Links and support from university’s research investment institutes (ICTAS, VTCRI, VBI, Fralin, VTTI, ISCE, ICAM, ICAT):

- Ball:
  - Many benefits have evolved as a result of the networking opportunities of being part of the VTCRI faculty. Dr. Ball is part of a funded ISCE Summer Scholars in Residence (SS-R) project entitled "Neuroeconomics of Social Decision Making in Autism Spectrum Disorders" (other participants are John Richey, Angela Scarpa-Friedman and Denis Gracanin.)
  - In addition, Dr. Ball is currently working on an NIH R21 proposal (with John Richey, Dennis Gracanin and Martha Ann Bell). This work is exploring some new hardware/software applications that will allow 2 or more humans to exchange information with each other about cognitive states, for the purposes of facilitating a simple interaction. Once successful, this could be developed into a useful diagnostic and training tool for persons with autism.
  - Composed a successful ISCE faculty fellowship application for Fall 2013. Instead of teaching in the Fall, Dr. Ball will attend two Ph.D. courses in neuroscience (Biology and Psychology) as well as workshops in London and San Diego. The goal is to improve knowledge and technical skills for conducting neuroscience research in order to successfully as PI on a wider range of grant proposals.

Number of post-doctoral positions in STEM-H research areas:

Examples of links with NCR for research into issues of security and resiliency:

Examples of partnerships with external collaborators which have enabled VT to compete more effectively for external funding:

The Virginia Tech Experience

Faculty service (Editorships, NSF/NIH program managers or panel members, leadership positions in professional societies):

- Ball:
  - Served as a panelist on the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Panel January, 2012.
  - Served as a panelist on the NSF EARS (Enhancing Access to the Radio Spectrum) panel, July 2012.

- Haller:
  - Associate Editor for:
- Journal of Economics, 2005-
- International Game Theory Review, 2002-
- The Manchester School of Economics, 1997-

- **Salehi:**
  - Associate Editor for Middle East Development
  - Editorial Board for International Journal of Energy Studies

- **Tideman:**
  - Editor for *Voting Matters*

- **Examples of economic development (e.g., industrial partnerships, patents):**
- **Study Abroad programs:**
- **PK-12 STEM programs:**

- **Examples of Community and Student Engagement:**
  - **Ashley**
    - Served on 11 Ph.D. Committees and Co-Chaired 2
    - Director of Graduate Studies (and also chaired the Graduate Policies Committee)
    - Interim Associate Department Head (Fall 2012)
    - Department Faculty Annual Report Committee
    - College Honorifics Committee
    - Served on Economics Department Head Search Committee
    - Peer-reviewed teaching of Kwok Ping Tsang
    - Department Network Liaison
    - Co-mentored Kwok Ping Tsang (with Professor Cothren)
    - Mentored Guo Li
  
  - **Bahel**
    - Chaired 1 Ph.D. Committee and Co-Chaired 1 Ph.D. Committee
    - Served on Economics Department Head Search Committee
    - Referee for Journals:
      - Canadian Journal of Economics
      - Energy Policy
      - Games and Economic Behavior
      - International Journal of Game Theory
      - Journal of Public Economic Theory
      - International Game Theory Review
      - Mathematical Social Sciences
      - Scandinavian Journal of Economics
    - Member of the College of Science Diversity Committee

  - **Ball**
    - Served on 1 Economics Ph.D. Committee and 3 Ph.D. Committees in other majors
    - Serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies
    - Serve as primary advisor for all Honors Students in the department
- ECON representative to College of Science Promotion and Tenure Committee
- ECON representative to the College of Science Neuroscience Hiring Committee
- Member of the curriculum committee for the proposed Neuroscience undergraduate degree program.
- Member of the curriculum committee for the Translational Biology, Medicine and Health (VTCRI) which is currently under review by the university governance system.
- Member of Undergraduate Honor System (Panelist)
- Member of Graduate Honor System (Panelist)
- Facilitator for Graduate Honor System
- Member of Department Head Search Committee
- Mentor for Joe Yang and Adam Dominiak
- Referee for a number of journals including:
  - AER
  - Southern Economics Journal
  - Experimental Economics
  - The Journal of Economic Psychology
- National Science Foundation ad-hoc reviewer (3)
- Reviewed work of a faculty member as part of their promotion and tenure case
  - Cothren: Served as the chair for 1 Ph.D. Committee
  - Dominiak:
    - Served as the chair for 1 Ph.D. Committee
    - Served on the Graduate Program Qualifying Exam Committee
    - Invited and hosted 2 speakers for the departmental seminar series
    - Referee for:
      - Journal of Political Economy
      - Journal of Economic Theory and Public Choice
  - Ge:
    - Served on 5 Ph.D. Committee and Chaired 2 Ph.D. Committee
    - Served as President (Fall 2012) and Vice-President (Spring 2012) of the College of Science Faculty Association
    - Served on the Departmental Graduate Program Committee
    - Invited and hosted 1 speaker for the departmental seminar series
    - Referee for:
      - Southern Economic Journal
      - Journal of Labor Economics
      - China Economic Review
      - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grants
  - Gebremariam:
    - Wrote several letters of recommendation for students
    - Served as a Marshall with regalia for the Spring 2012 Graduate Commencement
- Served as an Usher for the Fall 2012 Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement
- Attended 7 Spring 2012 FDI Seminars for Professional Development

- **Haller:**
  - Served on 4 Economics Ph.D. Committees and 1 Ph.D. Committee in another area; Co-Chaired 1 Ph.D. Committee
  - Referee for:
    - Economic Theory

- **Li:**
  - Wrote several letter of recommendation for students
  - Assisted the College of Science in evaluating the granting of undergraduate scholarships in Spring 2012

- **Macieira:**
  - Served on 3 Ph.D. Committees
  - Wrote letters of recommendation for several undergraduate students
  - Member of Virginia Tech’s Committee for Outreach and International Affairs (COIA). Participated in meetings discussing and voting outreach initiatives.
  - Member of Recruiting Committee, Department of Economics. Examined applications from spousal candidates and prospective departmental heads.
  - Member of Virginia Tech’s Committee for Curricula (COSCUR). Participated in meetings discussing course curricula.
  - Referee for:
    - NSF
    - The International Game Theory Review
    - The Journal of Industrial Economics

- **Salehi:**
  - Served on 1 Ph.D. Committee, Chaired 2 Ph.D. Committees
  - Served on Departmental Graduate Program Committee
  - Reviewer for:
    - Feminist Economics
    - Iranian Studies
    - Economic Journal
  - Evaluation for promotion with tenure for a faculty at American University in Beirut

- **Simundza:**
  - Referee for the Journal of Public Economics

- **Spanos:**
  - Chaired 2 Ph.D. Committees
  - Served on Departmental Graduate Program Committee
  - Referee for:
    - Communications in Statistics: Theory and Methods
    - Econometric Theory
    - Philosophy of Science
    - Statistical Science
    - American Statistician
• Journal of Economic Methodology
• Synthese
• Econometric Reviews
• Journal of Statistical Theory and Practice

○ Tideman:
  ▪ Served on 2 Ph.D. Committees and Chaired 4 Ph.D. Committees
  ▪ Wrote recommendation letters for several undergraduate students
  ▪ Chaired the Economics Department Head Search Committee
  ▪ Advised the University’s Network Infrastructure and Services Division on telephone and broadband pricing.

○ Trost:
  ▪ Served as Departmental Career Advisor
  ▪ Frequently communicate with students who are interested in majoring in economics
  ▪ Served as Principles of Economics coordinator
    ▪ oversee and observe the graduate student instructors and meeting with them to talk about their teaching and discuss what is going well and what may need improvement
    ▪ ensure consistency (in terms of course content and grading) across all instructors
    ▪ maintain a scholar site to make teaching resources more available to the instructors
  ▪ Served as coordinator for all first-year graduate teaching assistants – meet with them to have conversations about the first-year work load and the importance of balancing coursework and their duties as teaching assistants
  ▪ Served as a Senior Fellow for the residential college at West Ambler Johnston
  ▪ Review manuscripts for:
    ▪ Southern Economics Journal
    ▪ The Journal of Economics Education

○ Tsang:
  ▪ Served on 5 Ph.D. Committees, Co-Chaired 1 Ph.D. Committee and Chaired 2 Ph.D. Committees
  ▪ Wrote several letters of recommendation for undergraduate students
  ▪ Served on Departmental FAR committee
  ▪ Served on Departmental Qualifying Exam Committee
  ▪ Served on Departmental Graduate Program Committee
  ▪ Referee for:
    ▪ Intelligent Systems in Accounting
    ▪ Finance and Management
  ▪ Reviewer of intermediate macroeconomics textbooks for W.W. Norton and Pearson

○ Yang:
  ▪ Served on 6 Ph.D. Committees
  ▪ Wrote letters of recommendation for undergraduate students
  ▪ Served on the Pamplin College of Business commencement committee
- Served on Departmental Qualifying Exam Committee
- Served on Departmental seminar-organizing committee
- Wrote referee report for Mideast Economic Development Journal

International collaborations and programs (include description along with region and country):

- **Ball**: Starting a new project with Antoinette Baujard (University Jean Monnet, Saint Etienne, France) to look at value judgments economists make (and don’t think they are making) that impact the way that students learn social values from their economics courses. It builds on part of the experimental literature (for example, Frank, Gilovich and Regan’s paper on whether economics students, who tend to be less pro-social than other students are “born” or “made”) as well as on Antoinette’s work on the extent to which economics is a normative or positive science.

- **Dominiak**:
  - Served as a Visiting Professor at Paris-Dauphine University in France, June-July 2012.
  - Working with Juergen Eicheberger (University of Heidelberg) to write the paper titled by “Epistemic Foundations of Equilibrium Concepts under Ambiguity”. This project attempts to established epistemic conditions that are sufficient for the notion of equilibrium in games where players’ preferences are of the Choquet Expected Utility type of Schmeidler (1989), in the same fashion as Aumann and Brandenburger derived the epistemic conditions for the Nash-equilibrium concept. So far, we have succeeded to derive the epistemic conditions for games with two players. Extensions to games with finite numbers of ambiguity-averse players are in progress.

- **Haller**:
  - Guest Professor at ETH Zurich (January-July) while on Study-Research Leave

- **Spanos**:
  - Collaboration with James Reade, Oxford University, on a joint project on “Revisiting the textbook approach in dealing with Heteroskedasticity”
  - Participated in a committee of external academics from the USA and Europe, appointed by the Greek Ministry of Education, to evaluate the department of Finance and Banking at the University of Piraeus. The evaluation was completed during the week March 12-17, 2012.

- **Tsang**:
  - Visiting Assistant Professor at City University of Hong Kong, June – August 2012
  - September 2012 – joined *Hong Kong Economic Journal* as a regular columnist – this is a major newspaper in Hong Kong, targeting people in the financial sector and academia

Any additional examples that address goals in Virginia Tech’s “Plan for a New Horizon”:
Partnerships with businesses and government that “address critical and complex problems by co-locating researchers and practitioners in ‘living labs’ where users, in partnership with researchers, drive problem formulation and research design”

Examples leveraging the strengths of our business programs to provide a competitive advantage

Examples of strategic global investment, development of research programs on energy and critical technologies, informatics, infrastructure, policy and planning at VT’s international centers

**Diversity**

- **One to two notable activities by students, faculty and/or staff activities promoting diversity:**
  - Ashley: Mentored a female faculty member, Guo Li (Visiting Assistant Professor), at the department’s request
  - Bahel: Joined the College of Science Diversity Committee
  - Gebremariam: Awarded the Excellence in Access and Inclusion Award
  - Trost:
    - Certified as a Virginia Tech “Safe Space” by the LGBTU Office of Virginia Tech.
    - Currently investigating differences in how men and women learn in Principles of Economics courses. Women have traditionally been underrepresented in the economics field and understanding how women experience their first economics course may suggest ways to encourage more women to go into the field.

- **Diversity awards and honors (e.g., MAOP scholarships; McNair Scholars):**