CSWEP: People to Contact

General Policy Matters and Items for Newsletter
Robin Bartlett, Department of Economics
Denison University
Granville, OH 43023
barlett@denison.edu

Dues, Change of Address, Roster
Joan Haworth, Membership Secretary
Economic Research Services, Inc.
4001 Tower Court
Tallahassee, FL 32303
jhaworth@ersnet.com

CSWEP East
Daphne Kenyon, Department of Economics
Simmons College
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115
dkenyon403@aol.com

CSWEP Mid-West
Susan Pozo, Department of Economics
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
susan.pozo@wmich.edu

CSWEP South
Catherine Eckel, Department of Economics
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0316
eckelc@vt.edu

CSWEP West
Helen Popper, Department of Economics
Santa Clara University
Santa Clara, CA 95051
hpopper@mail.scu.edu

American Economic Association
CSWEP
c/o Robin Bartlett
Department of Economics
Denison University
Granville, OH 43023

In this issue:

- An Interview with Alice Rivlin
- Women's Contributions to Environmental Economics
- The Royal Economic Society Women's Committee
- Opportunities from the National Science Foundation
- Reflections from 1998 CCOFFE Facilitators
An Interview with Alice Rivlin

Hali J. Edson, Board of Governors - Federal Reserve System

FEDERAL RESERVE VICE CHAIR Alice Rivlin speaks with Hali Edson about her experiences as an economist and a policymaker. She offers encouragement to those starting out: "Do something you enjoy and do it well, and then don't worry!"

Vice Chair Rivlin (Ph.D., Radcliffe College, 1981) has held a number of high-level posts in the federal government. Before becoming a member of the Federal Reserve Board, Dr. Rivlin served as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. Before that, she was the founding Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Director of Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, and Associate Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In addition, Dr. Rivlin is the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship and was awarded the President of the American Economics Association.

Q. Why did you decide to go into economics? Did your professors or friends encourage you in this endeavor or did they try to direct you to a smoother field? How to Become an Associate

A. I started at Bryn Mawr College intending to major in history, which I found fascinating — still do. Then, rather accidentally, I took first year economics in summer school at Indiana University, just because economics sounded like something one ought to know about. I lucked into a class with a superb young instructor, who got the whole class excited about economic ideas. (This was the late Reuben Zablow, who subsequently had a long career of distinguished teaching and research at the University of Colorado.) I decided that economics might be more useful than history, so I went back to Bryn Mawr and switched my major to economics. Economics was a small major women's college in those days, so we got a lot of individual attention from the faculty. I wrote my undergraduate honors thesis on the economic integration of Western Europe, which was a pretty prescient topic choice in 1952. I even had a discussion of European monetary unions. By then I was sufficiently hooked to be thinking about graduate school, but I went to Europe for a year first, where I had a junior job in Paris working on the Marshall Plan.

Q. What was it like to be a woman graduate student in economics at Harvard University in the 1950s? (In particular, were women treated differently?)

A. Harvard was adjusting to the idea of women in the academy. Indeed, since I was already focused on a policy, I applied for a fellowship at Harvard's graduate school of public administration (now The Kennedy School), which rejected my application on the explicit grounds that a woman of marriageable age was "a poor risk." I then applied to the economics department, which had about five percent females in the doctoral program. They were just working up their courage to allow women to be teaching fellows and tutors in economics. I taught mixed classes, but initially was assigned only women tutees. One of my tutees wanted to write an honors thesis on the labor movement in Latin America — a subject on which one of my male colleagues had considerable expertise. He was willing to supervise my young woman if I would take one of his young men. However, the boy's senior tutor objected to the switch on the grounds that being tutored by a woman would make a male student feel like a second-class citizen. People actually said things like that in those days!

The second year that I taught a section of the introductory economics course, I was expecting a baby in March and did not teach the spring semester. The man who took over my class announced to the class that, since no woman could teach economics adequately, he would start over and the first semester grades would not count. It was an exceptionally bright class and I had given quite a few "As," so the students were upset. The department chair had to intervene.

In retrospect, the amazing thing was that the women were not more outraged. I think we thought we were lucky to be there at all. Outwriting the system was kind of a game. One of the university libraries was closed to women, and its books could not even be borrowed for a female on inter-library loan. I don't remember being upset. If I needed a book, I just got a male friend to check it out for me.

Q. What prompted you to go into policy work rather than pursue an academic career?

A. I was always interested in policy. In fact, one of Harvard's instructors interested me in economics. It was important in improving people's lives. So policy research was a natural for me. Consequently, I was offered a research fellowship at the Brookings Institution, which enabled me to fund my dissertation. I spent most of my career alternating between Brookings and various policy jobs in the federal government.

Realistically, moreover, academic opportunities were limited for my generation of women graduate students. Most major universities did not hire women in tenure track positions. Early in my career (about 1962), the University of Maryland was looking for an assistant professor in my area. I was invited by a friend on the faculty to give a seminar and then had an interview with the department chair. He was effective in his praise of my work and said how sorry he was that they could not consider me for the position. I asked why not, and he said that the dean had expressly forbidden their considering any women. That wasn't illegal at the time, so we both expressed our regrets, and I left with no hard feelings.

Q. Can you identify a particular person as your mentor? How did he/she influence your career?

A. Guy Occult (who was then at Harvard and later at Wisconsin and Yale) was my thesis adviser and played a very important role in encouraging me at an early stage. Later, Joe Pechman at Brookings took me under his wing and helped me learn the policy research business. Joe spent a lot of his time mentoring young scholars. He was very good at it and considered it an important and satisfying part of his job. There were both men and women, but I thought the fact that he had two daughters made him especially responsive to the needs of young women scholars. Alicia Munnell was another of his protégés.

Q. You have held many senior positions in government. What was it
Women's Contributions to Environmental Economics

Maureen L. Cropper - University of Maryland, World Bank and Resources for the Future

Environmental Economics addresses pollution externalities—externality costs that consumers and producers do not pay in their own pocketbook. One branch of environmental economics deals with the instruments—taxes, permits, standards—that are used to control pollution. The introduction of pollution-banning contributions in the regulatory arena has been to identify methods of achieving desired levels of pollution at the lowest cost. A second branch of the field addresses the issue of how environmental standards should optimally be set. Here economists have developed tools, including methods for measuring non-market benefits, that are used in benefit-cost analyses of pollution standards. In the past few years we have come to recognize the importance of both branches of environmental economics.

The Theory of Pollution Regulation

According to neoclassical theory, pollution externalities can be internalized by placing a tax on pollution. Efficient fees, however, are seldom used in practice. This is due in part to the unwillingness of firms and consumers to pay taxes, and in part to difficulties in monitoring pollution. Run-off from farms, for example, is an important source of water pollution that cannot easily be metered. Kathy Segerson (JEEM 1989) has used the insights of principal-agent theory to suggest methods of controlling pollution when monitoring efficiencies are either impossible or very costly. She has shown that imposing a tax on farms when ambient pollution exceeds some threshold and pollution falls below the threshold will achieve the first-best outcome.

Segerson has also studied the incentive properties of various liability schemes to control pollution (JEEM 1989, 1990). For pollution taxes to occur efficiently, for example, toxic eisons, Segerson has demonstrated that strict liability can be an efficient mechanism for inducing pollution abatement. It can also be successfully combined with other incentives to induce efficient behavior.

In addition, we have seen that pollution occurs regu- larly and can be monitored, the most commonly used instrument for regulating pollution is a performance standard—a regulation that limits the amount of pollution emitted per unit of input or output. Economists have traditionally labeled uniform standards the "command-and-control" approach to regulation and have criticized them because they do not, in general, achieve reduc-

tions in pollution at least cost. Gloria Helfand (AER 1991), however, has pointed out that specific types of stan- dards, such as 'economics-of-scale' standards, can improve environmental outcomes. Pollution-per-unit-of-input standards will, in general, have greater incentive effects than pollution-per-unit-of-output standards, which may actually result in increased pollution levels. It is nonetheless true that there will usually be less economic inefficiency in setting pollution quotas implied by a system of standards can be traded among firms. Cathy Klepp and Jonathan Rubin (J. Pub. Econ. 1997) have studied the efficacy of these schemes that can be realized when firms are allowed to bank permits for future use. They identify con- ditions under which firms will suboptimally bank too many permits in the early years of a trading program and suggest modifications to the permit mar- ket to correct this problem.

According to theory, permits should achieve a given level of emissions at least cost by equalizing the marginal cost of abatement among firms. The result is independent of how permits are initially distributed among firms, as long as the mar- ket is competitive. Graciela Chichilnisky and Geoffrey Heal (Econ. Letters 1994) show, however, that when nations produce a public good such as car- bon dioxide, the efficiency of marketable permits is tied to their initial distribution. In order to equalize the marginal cost of abatement measured in terms of marginal utility, permits must be given only to those countries with a high marginal utility of consumption (lower standard of living).

Evaluation of Programs to Regulate Solid/Hazardous Waste

In addition to advancing the theory of regulation, we now have a host of tools that have helped to improve the efficiency of envi- ronmental policy by evaluating specific regulatory programs. Hilary Sigman (JEEM 1990) has examined the impact of the hazardous waste taxes on the volume of waste generated, and has also investigated the determinants of illegal disposal of hazardous waste (R. J. 1998). She finds that increasing opportunities for recycling of wastes, along with stricter enforcement of waste management regula-
tions can effectively reduce illegal dumping.

Taxes can also be used to reduce the amount municipal solid waste generated. In The Economics of Solid Waste Re- duction: The Impact of User Fees (as discussed by Edward Elgar Publishing Limited (1993) Robin Jenkins examined house- holds' response to price changes in trash collec-
tionrage. Terry Dilman (JEEM 1993) has demonstrated that a combined disposal tax imposed on producers of the recycling market will improve recycling rates. Since man- ufacturers of the recycled material is theori-
etically equivalent to unit charges for house-
hold waste reduction.

Recycling is another tool that can be used to reduce the amount of hazard-
ous or solid waste generated; however, it is important to consider the efficiency of different schemes to encourage recycling. Karen Palmer, Hilary Sigman and Mar-
garet Wallis (JEEM 1997) compare the efficiency of various disposal fees, recy-
cling subsidies and deposit refunds for the recycling of municipal solid waste. They find that a deposit-refund scheme is the most efficient method of enforcing tillage em-
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are likely to be small. Allowing emissions trading among vehicles is only 8-12% cheaper than current vehicle standards, which are effective in 2012, for small cars, which can achieve them more cheaply.

The most celebrated examples of permit markets date to the market for permits to emit SO2 by electric utilities and the market for lead additives in gasoline. C. Steven Barr, Maureen Cooper and Karen Palmer (RFP 1998) have evaluated the potential trading gains from the SO2 allowance market, as well as the performance of the market in its first two years of operation. They conclude that the market could possibly reduce abatement cost by 40% compared to a uniform performance standard, but present evidence that the market did not achieve the stated cost saving during its first two years of operation. Stuart Kerr and David Meltz’s (U. Md. 1996) study of the permit market for lead in gasoline finds evidence that transactions costs affected the cost reductions. The cost savings from transactions costs are, however, estimated to be low.

Benefit-Cost Analyses of Environmental Standards

If environmental standards are to be set efficiently, it is important to be able to measure the benefits as well as the costs of various standards. Many of the evaluations of regulatory programs cited above provided benefit-cost ratios of the effects of pollution control. Estimating the benefits of pollution control—the resulting improvement in human health, visibility, recreation services and ecosystems—has generally proven much harder.

Contributions to the Methodology of Benefit Estimation

Methods for measuring environmental benefits generally fall into two categories—methods that attempt to measure values from observed behavior, and direct questioning approaches, which ask people to value environmental improvement (or related outcomes) directly. Women have made contributions to the methodology of both indirect and direct valuation methods.

Nancy Bockstel and Ted McConnell have derived conditions under which environmental quality can be valued in the context of the household production model, both when the environmental good is a quality characteristic of the house and when it is a privately consumed good (Econom. J. 1993) and when there exists an essential input into the production of a commodity that is complementary to the environmental good (AER 1983). Nancy Bockstel, Ivar Strand, and Michael Hansman (AER 1987) have developed methods based on the results that measured the value of a private good (strawberries) was close to actual demand, when contingent valuation data were compared to actual purchasing behavior. By developing labor market models and using data from actual demand for various goods, Bockstel has shown that the former estimates are too low, an estimate that is consistent with the earlier studies of the environmental impacts of air pollution. Bockstel and co-authors (Science 1989) in their study of the benefits of ozone control in the Los Angeles basin found larger benefits from meeting federal ozone standards than other studies due to their careful method of measuring ozone exposure.

Valuing Environmental Amenities

Cleaner air has aesthetic as well as health benefits. Lauraine Chestnut and Robert Rowe (NAPTR 1989) have provided a method for valuing the aesthetic benefits of environment improvements using contingent valuation methods. The value of improved air quality is obtained in a choice experiment using a bid deal to induce respondents to choose between a hypothetical scenario in which air quality is set, has usually been estimated using hedonic property value studies for single metropolitan area (Maureen Cooper, Eric Fish, and K. E. McConnell, RES 1988), or hedonic wage and property value studies using national data. In a world of mobile householders, the environmental improvement benefit should be captured in labor and housing markets, as demonstrated by Jennifer Rohack (J. Urban Econ. 1982). Women have also contributed to the literature on methods for analyzing responses to CV data. Thida Cameron and Michelle Janes (RES 1987) suggested that responses to dichotomous choice questions could be analyzed using a simple model with 0-1 outcomes and with linear or subsequent work. Cameron has explored methods for analyzing payment card data (Cameron and Daniel Hooper, JEBM 1989) and dichotomous choice data with follow-up responses (Cameron and John Quiggin, JER 1994).

Because of the hypothetical nature of contingent valuation, the model has generated considerable controversy among economists. In particular, it has been alleged that people's stated WTP in contingent valuation surveys may not represent their actual WTP for the commodity in question. Mark Dickie, Ann Fisher and Shelley Griliches (JASA 1987) concluded that concluded that stated demand for a priv ate good (strawberries) was close to actual demand, when contingent valuation data were compared to actual purchasing behavior. By developing labor market models and using data from actual demand for various goods, Bockstel has shown that the former estimates are too low, an estimate that is consistent with the earlier studies of the environmental impacts of air pollution. Bockstel and co-authors (Science 1989) in their study of the benefits of ozone control in the Los Angeles basin found larger benefits from meeting federal ozone standards than other studies due to their careful method of measuring ozone exposure.

Estimating Health Benefits

Perhaps the most important category of benefits to humans from pollution control is reductions in illness and premature mortality. Maureen Cooper and Bob Page (Econom. J. 1988) estimated changes in the probability of dying in the next five years in a conditional probability of dying in the next five years in a conditional survival data and found that women have made contributions to the literature on methods for analyzing responses to CV data. Thida Cameron and Michelle Janes (RES 1987) suggested that responses to dichotomous choice questions could be analyzed using a simple model with 0-1 outcomes and with linear or subsequent work. Cameron has explored methods for analyzing payment card data (Cameron and Daniel Hooper, JEBM 1989) and dichotomous choice data with follow-up responses (Cameron and John Quiggin, JER 1994).

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Utilizing similar discount rates for the impact of hazardous waste sites on housing prices. Valuing Outdoor Recreation

Valuing improved water quality often come in the form of improved recreation benefits: increased beach use, larger fish populations, improved recreational fishing. Nancy Bockstel and Ted McConnell (JEBM 1988, Econ. J. 1993) are pioneers in the development of methods for valuing the impacts of water quality improvements in a recreation framework. These models often rely on the cost of traveling to a recreation site to measure the price of recreation. Several practical problems arise in this framework, including varying length trips, a topic treated in a recent paper by Elizabeth Willman (AER 1987). Another problem arising in the travel cost framework is that costs will naturally vary across persons living different distances from the site, but environmental quality at the site will not. This has lead to the use of discrete choice models for estimating the value of environmental quality across sites is used to explain the choice of which sites people visit. Cathy Valentine (Econom. J. 1988) has compared the performance of discrete choice versus traditional recreation demand models using simulated data to show which perform better in estimating the welfare effects of changes in a hypothetical site. Trudy Cameron (Land Econ. 1992) has examined the benefit of the form where the site is valued with contingent valuation data to solve this same problem of lack of variation in site quality.

Valuing Ecological and Non-Use Benefits

Perhaps the most difficult category of benefits to value in the context of environmental programs are ecological benefits — reduced damages to natural resources that are not provided as direct human services. Valuing such damages is especially important in cases such as the sterile Valley oil spill where public damages can be used for damages. Carol Jones and Katherine Pease (Cost Resp. Policy 1997) have attempted to bring economic models that suggested the use of in-kind compensation ("compensatory restoration") as an alternative to the direct measurement of the lost value in natural resource damage cases. Further Contributions

Environmental Economics encompasses far more than pollution regulation and benefit-cost analysis. It includes work on environmentally sustainable development (Giacelia Chichilnisky, Geoffrey Heal and Andrea Betrutschi, Econ. Letters 1995) and studies of the political economy of environmental regulation (Maureen Cooper, Maria Ducas Scours and co-authors, JRE 1992; Amy Anda, JEP 1997, 1998). Women have examined firms’ responses to environmental regulation (Seema Arora and Tim Cason, JER 1995; Virginia McConnell and Robert Schmalz, Land Econ. 1990) and have studied the impact of community pressure on environmental quality (Shodh Pagal and David Wheeler, JRE 1996). Finally, women have made significant contributions to the related fields of Energy Economics and the Economics of Natural Resources. As the previous discussion implies, much of the work done by women in Environmental Economics has been em emhld in notes and has been directed at improving environmental policy. Women have made progress in this regard, especially women in federal and state government agencies who deal with regulatory issues on a daily basis. (Elizabeth David of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources especially deserves to be mentioned.) The task of researh described on these pages and has inspired it by drawing our attention to environmental issues worthy of study.
ECONOMICS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: A Male-dominated Profession. Although it has long been informally recognised that most professional academic economists are men, there was no organisational means by which to redress the balance by promoting the role of women. Around 1995, however, things began to change. At that time there was no reliable data about the gender balance of the UK profession - there was, however, a general consensus among economists that the Royal Economic Society that women were not being attracted to the profession. A working party was set up to consider the situation and to make recommendations. Out of this came the Royal Economic Society Women’s Committee, established in late 1996 and now a standing committee of the Royal Economic Society. In many ways, the RES Women's Committee has been inspired by CSWEP.

The working party set out, first, to establish the evidence. Maybe it is no coincidence that it was chaired by an econometrician! The data on the academic sphere was elicited by sending a questionnaire to Heads of Economics Departments in December 1996. The response rate was good (92 percent). Other groups of economists were identified and included in the survey. We found that there were 2346 people working as economists in academic appointments in the UK. Most of these (65 percent) were in standard academic appointments (i.e., mixed teaching and research jobs as opposed to research-only appointments). Women made up 13 percent of this male-dominated workforce, although their representation across seniority levels is far from even: approximately 30 percent of the research Ph.D. students, 15 percent of the lecturers, 10 percent of the readers/senior lecturers and 5 percent of the professors. (For broad comparative purposes, a lecturer in the UK corresponds to an assistant professor in the US, a senior lecturer to associate professor and a UK professor to full professor in the US.) We also found these ratios to be strikingly similar in new universities, old universities, departments with a higher than average research ranking, and those ranked below average.

We also asked about new hires in the previous 12 months. Although we suspected that this flow data is less reliable than the information on the stock, it does give some indication of the dynamics of the process. There were 49 new permanent lecture hires, 13 of whom were female. The 13 new hires increased the relative stock of permanent female lecturers by 0.7 percent. Perhaps even more worrying is the fact that this did not increase the relative stock of permanent female lecturers to the proportion in the inflows of 26.5 percent. At the more senior academic levels the majority of inflows are probably due to promotion of which there are no data available yet. Nevertheless, new hires into these grades over the last 12 months did little to change the relative employment position of women amongst the senior grades.

A comparison of the economics data with official published data for other disciplines reveals that the broad pattern in economics is very similar to that in the UK - and quite distinct from that of the social sciences in general. For example, around 5 percent of professors and 20 percent of lecturers in science are women, whereas the corresponding percentages for social science are 10 and 35, respectively. We are not sure whether this is also the case in other countries.

Alongside this, the working party also looked at the gender balance within the Government Economic Service. The overall pattern there is strikingly similar to that for academic economics, although women constitute a substantially higher proportion of entry level professional economists in government (nearly 30 percent) than in academic economics. Furthermore, historical data indicate that the representation of women in the Government Economic Service has increased over the last ten years, especially in the more senior grades where the average promotion rates are now similar for both genders.

Collecting this data has raised at least as many questions as it has answered. Why is the representation of women at the entry level of professional government in economics nearly double that in academic posts? Do women researchers students perceive that there are barriers to their progression in academia? Is the lack of role models an issue? The RES Women’s Committee is beginning to address these and other questions.

To contact the authors
Karen Mumford
Address: Dr. Karen A. Mumford Department of Economics and Political Studies University of York Heslington York YO1 5DD
E-mail: karen@york.uk
Phone: 44 (0)1904 433756
Fax: 44 (0)1904 433759

Dan Newton - National Science Foundation

The following are two funding opportunities that have recently been announced. A "hinds up" about two forthcoming major initiatives and a request for your ideas on infrastructure developments that would benefit economics for a "wish list" we are assembling for future funding requests.

ALERT 1: Urban Research Initiative
NSF expects to make 10 to 20 awards totaling $6 million on the dynamics of change in urban environments. DEADLINE: July 22, 1998
MORE INFORMATION: www.nsf.gov under crosscutting programs - Urban Research Initiative (URI)

ALERT 2: Career Awards
NSF will spend at least $2.5 million next year in the social and behavioral sciences to search for ideas that promote the training and background of researchers and their students assists; providing technical and archival assistance; and producing new analytical and measurement methods. AREAS OF FOCUS: Integrated projects that address major problems in social sciences, including educational environments, economic development, and transportation. DEADLINE: July 22, 1998
MORE INFORMATION: www.nsf.gov under crosscutting programs - Career Awards

HEADS-UP: Educating for the Future
NSF last requested for next year $9 million for social and behavioral research on LEARNING AND CHILDREN and much more for EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE. If you have an NSF grant and would like to organize or participate in workshops that will help define the solicitation for EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE, look for an announcement at www.nsf.gov or send me an e-mail at devotion@nist.gov. Check the NIST announcements in these areas next fall.

REQUEST FOR IDEAS
We are trying to assemble a "wish list" of infrastructure ideas that would benefit economists. Some of these ideas might eventually become the basis of new partnerships between NSF and other agencies, e.g., the CensusNSF data access centers. Others might generate proposals that could compete for funding from one of NSF's new budgetary initiatives or become the basis of an initiative proposal. Please send your ideas by e-mail to devon@nist.gov as soon as possible. At this point all papers are welcome. A summary will be published below in an outline of ideas discussed at the April Economics Advisory Panel meeting and soliciting further ideas from other suggestions to illustrate what we're looking for.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT IN ECONOMICS
Infrastucture projects strengthen research resources by providing better instrumentation, creating new software generating tools, developing computer centers, workshops, conferences and institutes that facilitate interaction among researchers improving the training and background of researchers and their students assists; providing technical and archival assistance; and producing new analytical and measurement methods. AREAS OF FOCUS: Integrated projects that address major problems in social sciences, including educational environments, economic development, and transportation. DEADLINE: July 22, 1998
MORE INFORMATION: www.nsf.gov under crosscutting programs - Career Awards

International
- Institute or team that strengthens the scientific capability of economic development
- Access to detailed data on import/export flows and costs for US and other countries, etc.
- Better measures of purchasing power parity and other adjustments in international data to permit more accurate international comparisons, etc.

Financial data tracking representative sample of significant transactions in international financial markets, organized in a way that facilitates the study of financial panics, monetary unions, etc.
- International data archives such as the Luxembourg Income Study that permit rigorous international economic comparisons;
- Post-bean open and collaborative research for U.S. economists at foreign institutions;
- Global perspective in macro, finance, including organization, labor, public finance, etc.;
- Comparable international data on human capital investments; and
- Better data on immigration both on socioeconomic environment before and after immigration.

**Finance**
- Daily transaction data necessary to study market microstructure;
- Better time series estimation methods for analyzing exceptionally large volumes of financial data;
- Laboratories with sufficient resources to test financial theories and simulate the effects of different financial institutions on market performance;
- Exchange data on behavior of individual investors; and
- Access to longitudinal data on banks and other financial institutions.

**Industrial Organization**
- Organizational database on different types of jobs, job hierarchies, wages, benefits, etc., motivating the new theories of the firm with their emphasis on internal organization;
- Data collection, experiments and theoretical research on decision making;
- Science and Technology data - R&D, patents, scientists, engineers, other measures discovered, bibliographic measures, international SST indicators; and
- Private sector initiative for economists (partial funding from business for NSF computer science access);

Access to longitudinal data files especially on the creation and loss of jobs by businesses of all sizes, and
- Linkage of longitudinal business establishment data files to demographic, environmental, geographic, and other data.

**Resource**
- Institutes like the MIT Energy Lab that draw together the physical, biological and social sciences for environmental work;
- Improved integrated models for forecasting and studying resource depletion, energy costs and environmental and resource issues;
- Experiments with contingent valuation and other methods of pricing environment mental assets;
- "Green" national income accounts;
- Collaborative research across political economy, industrial organization and resource economics.

**Labor**
- Consistent longitudinal time use data for a nationally representative sample of US families;
- New Panel Study of Income Dynamics or "Refined" added to the PSID to better track mid- to long-term socioeconomic trends for US families;
- Nationally representative longitudinal data on racial, ethnic, immigrant, and other groups;
- Links of longitudinal family data of parents and children to children in school; schooling, health, employment, and other data;
- Institute or teams on interdisciplinary research on child development, education, and health;
- Organizational databases on Universities, schools, and other educational institutions; and
- Better data on income distribution.

**Political Economy**
- Better tax and expenditure data (IRS data linked through SSN to IRS data);
- Organizational database for political organizations and other nonprofits, e.g., the Alan J. Auerbach study of the JPFA;
- Interdisciplinary studies of interest group behavior motivated by theoretical research on next seeking;
- Economic modeling for the National Election Studies motivated by public choice and other economic theories; and
- Better indices of intentional political instability.

**Economic History**
- External time series used in other areas of economics with historical data;
- Seraphin of anthropological and biological data into historical time series, e.g., Robert Fogel's work with height;
- Better documentation of historical data;
- Programs for facilitating linkages among historical data.

**Infrastructure Suggestions**
- The following are some examples of infrastructure suggestions that we have already received that illustrate what we hope to get from our request:

  * Improvement of microdata bases.
  * Cost of living indices.
  * Improved collection of prices on products, in particular when new products are introduced.
  * Measurement of prices, output, and quality in services.
  * Classification of services.
  * Measurement of prices of both goods and services by the flow of services provided.
  * Measurement of technological change.
  * Measurement of the degree of business globalization and its effects.
  * Measurement of assets and other wealth.
  * Measurement of contributions of births and deaths of firms to the economy.
  * Measurement of outsourcing as it affects the measurement of investment and purchases of services.
  * Improvement of the national accounts: measurement of intangibles and of non-market activities as well as trade in products and manufactured goods.

Because of the periodic multifactor trade negotiations held since the late 1940s, tariffs on industrial products in the major industrialized countries have been reduced to relatively low levels. But nontariff barriers of many kinds still exist for a variety of traded manufactured products.

**Education in Measurement Issues**
- Development of teaching modules on conceptual and methodological measurement issues that can be integrated into undergraduate course work and cooperative efforts with AEA, CRIS, and other entities to introduce these modules into courses.
- Development of mini-courses on measurement that can be offered in concert with other professional conventions such as the ASSA, ASA, and NABE conventions.
- Development and dissemination of user-friendly materials on measurement targeted toward different audiences: Professional economists, businesspeople, journalists, undergraduates and graduate students.
From the Chair ...

CSWEP Chair, Robin L. Bartlett - Denison University

* Another CSWEP workshop has been completed. Susan Westerhoudt with the help of Marlene Perota (professor emerita, University of Illinois), Beth Allen (Curtis Carlson Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota), and Jean Kimmel (professor emerita, U. of Iowa) organized a very successful workshop this summer at the Midwest meetings, March 21-22, in Chicago. The Eastern, Western and Southern CSWEP workshops are being planned. Contact your regional representative for further details.

On the next page, we have printed a few reflections from 1998 CSWEP Workshop facilitators. These women were chosen to the facilitation of each of the CSWEP groups. They assisted the junior women when necessary and made sure that each group stayed on task.

* Next issue we want to print any comments that participants from either the 1998 AeA or Midwest CSWEP workshops may have. There will be a reunion of CSWEP participants at the upcoming AeA meetings from 3 pm to 5 pm on January 2, 1999, in New York. So when you get your registration forms, come a day early to catch up with other workshop participants, team leaders and facilitators.

* We will also be awarding two prizes this year. The Elaine Hendeke Prize and the Carolyn Shaw Bell Research Award. If you would like to nominate someone for either prize, please do not hesitate to do so.

* We are also establishing a closed list for paid CSWEP associates. You will be the first to have information about job openings, grant opportunities and other timely announcements.

* The Southern NSF/CSWEP COCOE Workshop is tentatively scheduled for November 6 and 7 at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. If you are interested in more information, please contact: KimMarie McGoldrick Department of Economics University of Richmond Richmond, VA 23173 (804) 289-6575 kmgold@richmond.edu

or Andrea L. Ziegert Department of Economics, Denison University Granville, OH 43022 (740) 587-6575 ziegert@denison.edu

or An NSF/CSWEP Workshop will be held in Boston during the Eastern Economic Association Meetings, March 12-14, 1999. The purpose of the workshop is to bring senior women economists together with junior female economics to form teams to improve their grants, research paper writing and other professional skills. The workshop will have informational and work sessions. In these sessions, participants will have time to work on a grant/research paper project with the help and guidance of a senior woman economist and the other members of their team. There will also be sessions devoted to networking, life-balancing and reaching issues.

The exact dates and times of the workshop are yet to be determined, but it will probably run for a day and a half at the end of the EEA meetings. Participants should ideally be advanced professors with tenure-track appointments. If you are interested in this workshop or know of an advanced female professor who could benefit from this mentoring workshop, please contact either: Daphne A. Kenyon Department of Economics Simmons College 300 The Fenway Boston, MA 02115 (617) 521-2587 dkenyon@simmons.smu.edu

or Barbara Fraumeni Department of Economics 301 Lake Hall Northeastern University 360 Huntington Ave. Boston, MA 02116 (617) 373-2525 bfraumeni@lyrcom.neu.edu

The COCOE meeting was balanced between smaller team meetings and larger topic-oriented sessions when two teams would join together. Both types of events served useful purposes. In our team meetings, people were able to focus on their individual career plans, while the larger sessions provided perspective. In our first team meeting, we had each person name one issue to be dealt with during COCOE. One mentioned choosing viable research topics, one mentioned marketing herself (in the context of reentering the job market and getting grants), one mentioned the whole research process, and one mentioned getting research out the door. This led to a useful discussion of sending one's work around and in general keeping on people's radar screen. We returned to these themes throughout our subsequent team meetings and elicited specifics regarding each person's career path. We ended our first meeting with each person stating what they wanted to accomplish by the end of 1998. We returned to this idea in our fourth team meeting, when we committed our short-run and long-run plans to paper. The larger group meetings on research, grant-getting, networking, and life-balancing, each led by a team leader and one other senior woman, were all very interesting. In the life-balancing session, one topic arose that probably doesn't come up very often for the general public: the pros and cons of marrying another economist. The conference went unscolded for the most part, my only disappointment being that I didn't get a chance to meet and talk with every one of the attendees. The band of relevant materials, especially the short biographies on each attendee, proved very instructional. I found the whole meeting very inspiring and enjoyable. How often do you get 60 women economists together to talk about career-building strategies? This was the first time it has happened, but hopefully not will be the last.

Joyce Jacobson

Barbara Fraumeni, Susan Paz, Joyce Jacobsen and Daphne Kenyon

BETSY HOFFMANN WAS THE Senior Economist for the Experimantal COCOE Workshop. There were five junior women in the group from a variety of schools and not all from departments of economics. As such, both observer and half participant, I spent a substantial amount of time watching how the sessions unfolded. Betsy Hoffmann was a wise and knowledgeable mentor, who quickly established a rapport with the junior women. One of the most valuable aspects of COCOE were the relationships and peer mentoring between the junior women themselves. To the extent that I could understand the specific discussions of the conversations not being an experimentalist, the research peer-mentoring sessions seemed to be the liveliest and the most productive. One can only imagine the extent that it would be like if all departments where economists were housed had a critical mass of women! As the COCOE K确切 sessions combined two groups with varying pairing, the junior women did have an opportunity to meet and hear the majority of the other senior and junior women. COCOE participants rated the research, grant-writing and networking sessions the highest, with the "How to Work with Grant Grant" talk by Dan Newlon of NSF far and away the highest ranked. One can only hope that the junior women are successfully funded over the next several years! Life balancing issues and experiences varied widely both among the junior women and the senior economists, with the interesting result that the facilitators clearly ranked the life balancing session higher than either the junior or senior women. The academic success of the senior women, compared to the facilitators and the relative incompetence of the junior women may explain this difference. I am looking forward to running the Eastern Economic Association regional version of COCOE with Daphne Kenyon in March 1999 in Boston.

Barbara Fraumeni

COCOE WAS A REFRESHING and invigorating experience. It was surrounded by dozens of very bright women economists, all challenging themselves and discovering new angles in their life. Even as a facilitator I reflected on my own history and early career expectations and subsequent accomplishments. At the conclusion of the three days I left that I had made new friends, had set new goals and had gotten great tips on all aspects of life and work. Perhaps most importantly, I left with a decidedly more positive attitude about my work.

Susan Paz

THE PARTS OF THE COCOE workshop that I thought were the most successful were the work sessions during which the junior women discussed each other's research projects. I was impressed by the conscientious preparation of the discussants and the useful ideas they generated. We really have some gifted junior women coming up the ranks in the economics profession! I also thought that the senior women had a lot of wise life advice and helpful "nuts and bolts" tidbits of information on networking, grant-writing, and publishing. I found myself wishing that I had been a member of the COCOE workshop 17 years ago when I was starting out as an assistant professor in a department of 24 economists who had only one woman other than myself.

Daphne Kenyon

Participants in a COCOE workshop group at the 1998 AeA Meetings in Chicago. Pictured, from left to right, are: Sara Jabriek, Lisa Vesterhoud, Laura Razzano, Elizabeth Hoffman (senior woman economist), Yan Chen, Barbara Fraumeni (facilitator) and Rachel Crouse.
Regional Meetings

CSWEP-Sponsored Sessions at the Western Economic Association
June 28-July 2, 1998
Lake Tahoe, Nev.

* Economic Policy Issues Related to Gender in Domestic and Foreign Contexts
  Chair: Joyce Jacobsen (Wesleyan University) and Jennifer Oulton (Univ. of Calif.-Riverside)

  Papers:
  "What Would a Feminist Fertility Policy for Palestine Look Like?" by Jennifer Oulton (Univ. of Calif.-Riverside);
  "Social Norms and the Time Allocation of Women's Labor in Burkina Faso" by Michael Keverne (Santa Clara University) and Bruce Wyckoff (Univ. of San Francisco);
  "Health Outcomes by Sex for HMO versus Fee-for-Service Health Insurance" by Joyce Jacobsen (Wesleyan University) and Stacy Smeerting (Brookings Institution);
  "Looking at the Glass Ceiling: Do Returns to Tenure Vary with Education?" by Jennifer Oulton (Univ. of Calif.-Riverside) and Laurence Levin.

  Discussants: Constance Newman (World Bank), Joanne V. Scudiero (Public Policy Institute of California), Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman (San Diego State University).

* Central Banking in a Constitutional Democracy
  Chair: Helen A. Popper (Santa Clara University)

  Papers:
  "The World's Central Bank: Time to Terminate the ESF and IMF" by Anna J. Schwartz (National Bureau of Economic Research); "The International Lender of Last Resort" by Catherine L. Mann (Institute for International Economics); "Did the Fed's Attempt to Improve the Efficiency of the United States Payments System?" by R. Alton Gilbert (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Mo.);
  Discussion: Anna Gray (University of Oregon); Margaret "GRETCHEN" Greene (Yao Sun); Helen A. Popper (Santa Clara University); Uma Hancoc Jentz (Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System).

For more information on the Western meetings, check their Web site at:
http://www.wneainternational.org/

CSWEP-Sponsored Sessions at the Southern Economic Association
November 8-10, 1998
Baltimore, Md.

* Gender Differences: Theory and Laboratory Experiments
  Chair: Catherine Echke (NSF and Virginia Tech)

  Papers:
  "The Effects of Risk Aversion on Job Matching: Can Differences in Risk Aversion Explain the Wage Gap?" by Lisa Vesterland (Iowa State University);
  "Attitudes Toward Risk Mitigation Investment: Using Hypothetical and Real Rewards to Gender Differences" by Jamie Brown Krue (Texas Tech University);
  "Strategies Similarity and Emergent Conventions" by John Vanniyakul (Texas A&M University); Discussants: Catherine Echke (NSF and Virginia Tech).

* Women's Health and the Labor Market
  Chair: Leslie Stratton (Virginia Commonwealth University)

  Papers:
  "Recent Trends in Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance: Are Bad Jobs Getting Worse?" by Helen Levy (Princeton University); "The Effects of Clinical Depression on Wages and Returns to Schooling" by Christina Cunha Parson (Fairfield University); "The Relationship Between Employment, Private Health Insurance, and Medicare: Evidence from the SIPP" by Lara Shore-Sheppard (University of Pittsburgh); "The Effects of Increasingly Comprehensive Coverage on the Demand for Medical Services" by Melissa A. Thomson (Miami University); Discussants: Pamela Peele (University of Pittsburgh); Leslie Stratton (Virginia Commonwealth University).

For more information on the Southern meetings, check their Web site at:
http://www.okstate.edu/economics/journal/hoth1.html

CSWEP-Sponsored Sessions at the Midwest Economic Association
March 19-21, 1998
Chicago, Ill.

CSWEP held two sessions at the Midwest Economic Association Annual Meetings.

* Gender Related Session
  Chair: Kristie Keith (University of Toledo)

  The first paper, "Gender Ratio and Dowry Inflation in India: 1981-1981," by Sonja Dalmia (University of Iowa) examined the cause of dowry inflation in India over the last 40 years, where dowry inflation is an increase in the real value of the transfer from the bride's family to the groom. Sonja's model of dowry inflation includes a matching process (more educated men are preferred), and the observation that population growth has resulted in larger younger cohorts. For Sonja, the primary difference in India is for men to marry younger women, a relative increase in the size of younger cohorts who can create a surplus of marriageable women. This surplus, combined with gender preference for early, universal and monogamous marriages, has played a substantial role in the rise of dowry systems in India.

The second paper, "Fertility Timing and Transitions Into and Out of Poverty," by Annie Georges (Pennsylvania State University) examined the relationship between early childbearing on the transition into and out of poverty. Drawing samples of young women from the 1979 to 1993 data files of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Annie focused on the effects of teen parenthood, labor market forces, and educational attainment on the probability of a woman being poor. Using a hazard model, her results indicate, with the exception of Hispanic women, being a teen mother does not significantly increase the probability of being in poverty. However, the factors that impact poverty vary across racial lines.

The third paper, "Revisiting Occupational Segregation," by Emily Hoffman (Western Michigan University) examined trends in occupational segregation. Occupational segregation exists when members of a group (e.g., males and females) are concentrated in different occupations. Emily reviewed the concept of occupational segregation, and the literature on the measurement of occupational segregation. She presented up-to-date descriptive data on the extent of occupational segregation by both gender and race. Of particular interest is that, among women, there is substantial occupational segregation by race when race is actually examined rather than just summary index numbers.

The last paper, "Gender Gaps in Demand and Supply of Contingent Workers," by Susan Khbaranda (Vanderbilt University) examined the contingent worker labor market. Since the mid-1970s the labor market has seen a growth in the employment of contingent workers. An important issue is whether this growth has been driven by supply-side considerations (e.g., voluntary choices made by individuals who have the economic resources to support them) or demand-side factors (e.g., an individual's inability to secure a full-time job). To answer these questions, Susan estimated a sectoral labor market model for male and female contingent workers across various occupation categories. She found that the primary motive for the use of contingent workers was employers' desire for increased flexibility and cost cutting. Proxies for employers' preferences did not significantly affect the model. However, better information on employers' preferences may yield different results.

The discussants were Caralina Amaudo-Corritore (Western Michigan University) and Kristie Keith (University of Toledo).

* Economics of Information
  Chair: Virginia Shingelton (Valparaiso University)

  Beth Allen (University of Minnesota) provided information on her participation at the NASCON conference concerning the flow of electronic data. Pri- macy in attendance was given to scientists who were interested in the flow of information. For the most part the scien- tists who discussed the social consequences concerning the flow of information, e.g., pricing of data or optimal investment in data. Renee Irwin (University of Nebraska-Omaha) addressed the issue of asymmetric information in the health care industry. She noted that the not-for-profit status of hospitals in care firms serves as a signal of quality for patients unable to fully evaluate the clinical quality of care. Using a data set of approximately 4000 patients undergoing kidney dialysis at 30 facilities nationwide in 1990-1992, the effects of asymmetric information in the renal dialysis industry is examined. Results imply that asymmetric information in the renal dialysis industry accounts for differing-quality of treatment provided to patients of differing knowledge levels. Lisa Dvorak (Iowa State University) examined the correlation between the theoretical prediction of private provisions to public goods and actual funding behavior. An announcement strategy (whereby fundraisers announce contributions and their pledged amounts) may be optimal because it reduces the charity's quality. Such a strategy also helps the fundraiser overcome the free-rider problem. Virginia Shingelton (Valparaiso University) and Carolyn Evans (Harvard University) served as discussants for this session.

The Eastern Web site is located at:
http://www.lnca.edu/admin/arts/sv_accel.ease.html

Call for Papers

At the Midwest Meetings: The Midwest meetings will be held March 26-28, 1999 in Nashville, Tenn. One of the sessions will focus on gender-related issues. Although we welcome papers concerning any and all aspects of gender studies, in particular we are interested especially in conference papers on the work, income and child-well being in developing counties.

The non-gender session will address the potential advantages and disadvantages of nonstandard employment for workers, with special emphasis on policies that would help to minimize the latter.

Please send proposals of no more than a page to Robert C. Jordan, CSWEP Midwest Representative Department of Economics Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Suanh Pera
CSWEP Midwest Representative
Department of Economics
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

At the Eastern Meetings: The Eastern Economic Association will be held March 12-14, 1999, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. There will be two or more CSWEP-sponsored sessions. For gender-related topics, we are particularly interested in receiving one page abstracts for research investigating women's unpaid work, including household production, child care and other nonmarket activities, but all gender-related research topics are welcome. For other topics, we are particularly interested in receiving one page abstracts for research having to do with transportation and housing, but other topics are welcome. Please include with the abstract your name, affiliation, institutional address, and phone and fax numbers.

Abstracts should be submitted by December 1, 1998 to:
Barbara M. Fraumeni
Department of Economics
Northeastern University
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
(617)373-2522
Bfraumeni@fye.nwu.edu

CSWEP 14 Newsletter

CSWEP 15 Newsletter
Alice Hanson Cook, 1904-1998

The following is a reprint from an obituary written by Darryl Geddes of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Alice Hanson Cook, a Professor emeritus at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, was the first female scholar to study the plight of working women, died February 7 in her home in Ithaca, N.Y. She died of complications from a stroke. She was 94.

Cook was one of the first scholars to write on and research issues related to working women, such as equal pay and comparable worth. Her academic studies in the early 1970s also touched on maternity leave and the various ways public policy could support working mothers.

In 1972 she proposed a Maternal Bill of Rights to compensate women for loss of employment opportunities and job development during their child-rearing years. In a monograph, published by the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cook wrote: "Raising mothers carry a double burden of home and child-care duties on the one hand and employment on the other. Immediate provision of child-care facilities and opportunities for part-time work would greatly ease these burdens, until society accommodates over the long run to new definitions of sex roles and equalization of parental responsibilities."

Cook's early career was as a social worker in Indianapolis and St. Louis. As an industrial secretary at the WMC in Chicago (1935-39) and then Philadelphia (1931-37), Cook saw the hardships endured by working women, especially those who had to support children at home. During this time, she also created and taught special summer schools for working women at Bryn Mawr, Penn., and at various locations in the South.

Cook's work as a union educator and leader increased her awareness of women's workplace issues and provided her a position in which to study and seek remedies for their plight. She served as education director of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee (1937-39) and then as assistant to the manage of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (1940-1943). Throughout the 1940s, Cook also taught labor education programs for the United Steelworkers, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workers and the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers.

After a brief stint (1950-1952) as chief of the adult education section of the U.S. Office of Civilian Affairs in Potsdam-on-the-Mura, Germany, Cook joined Cornell University as a project director for a field study on increasing labor participation in communist affairs. In 1954 she was named to the faculty.

Cook, who was also named to the National Academy of Education as a fellow in 1986, received a number of awards and honors, including the National Labor Relations Board's Distinguished Service Award, the United Mine Workers' National Labor College Distinguished Service Award, and the American Association of University Women's Margaret Treanor Award.

Cook was a member of the board of directors of the National Women's History Museum and the author of "The Life of Alice Cook," a biography of her life and work.

Cook was also the author of "The Life of Alice Cook," a biography of her life and work.

CSWEP

How to Become an Associate

CSWEP depends on all of its dues-paying associates to continue its activities. In addition to publishing the Newsletter, we maintain a Registry of women economists that is used by associations, employers, organizations establishing advisory groups, and the like. We also organize sessions at the meetings of the AEA and the regional economy associations and publish an annual report on the status of women in the profession.

If you have not paid your dues for the current member year (July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999), we urge you to do so. Questionnaires and dues reminders were mailed in September to associates.

If you have paid, please pass this newsletter page on to a student, friend, or colleague and tell them about our work. Thank you!

NOTICE: STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE TO PAY ASSOCIATE DUES!!! JUST SEND IN THIS APPLICATION WITH A NOTE FROM A FACULTY MEMBER VERIFYING YOUR STUDENT STATUS.

To become a dues-paying associate of CSWEP and receive our Newsletter and Roster, send this application, with a check for $20 payable to:

CSWEP

c/o Dr. Joan Haworth
4901 Tower Court
Tallahassee, FL 32303

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Check here if you wish a copy of the Special Reprint Issue ______

The Special Reprint Issue of the newsletter contains reprints of ten articles designed to help women economists advance in the profession. The cost for non-paying members is $8.00.

CSWEP 16 Newsletter

CSWEP 17 Newsletter