

# Enrollments & Economics

## *A Special Report* on One Stretch of ECO's Road to the Present

The problem with student enrollments in the CoB's economics programs is a long-standing one that most faculty who have spent any time in USM's b-school know *something* about. Through recent news reports in *The Hattiesburg American* and elsewhere, we've learned that the three economics majors under the CoB umbrella can count only 21 majors at one time, and that they have graduated only 10 students (combined) over the past three years. Those figures come to 7 students per program, and 3 graduates per year combined. With 10-12 full-time faculty, several of which earn more than \$90,000 per 9-month academic year, there is no escaping the conclusion that something has to change.

### WHY ECON IS (CAN BE) KEWL !!

Sign up today for the economics class nearest you!

• **All the different things to study!** "Queen of the Social Sciences" and "King of the Business School" (hmmm....an identity crisis?)

(Take this light-heartedly, we like students and colleagues in other departments.)

To support this claim we can point to people with economic backgrounds who are "successful" in a variety of fields. For example, Alan Greenspan (Chair of the Central Bank), Mic Jagger, Alice Rivlin (former Vice-Chair of the Central Bank), Karl Marx, Rosa Luxembourg, Ben Stein (of Comedy Channel fame), Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Lionel Richie, George Schultz (former Secretary of State), and Joan Robinson. The Deans of the USM College of Business have all been economists.

One of the oldest subjects and yet it is still spinning off new fields. The reason for this longevity and germination is that economics mixes the rigor of mathematics with the insights from philosophy, political science, history, etc. The scope is at times; very broad, very mathematical, very practical, very specific, and very unmathematical.

• **Flexibility in the Major!** You can get either a B.S.B.A. in economics in the College of Business or you can get a B.A. degree from the Liberal Arts College. The B.A. gives you the most flexibility. This degree gives you excellent preparation for law school (econ with political science), economics grad school, or for the Masters in Business (econ students could be the best trained for the rigors of grad school in business). Minors are possible as

well! Mix some Biology courses and econ and get a JOB at the Environmental Protection Agency! At 34,669\$, the average starting salary for Econ beats accounting, business, marketing, and many others. The broad expertise of the faculty here at USM can help you find an area that fits your needs. Faculty here have expertise in Environmental Economics, International Business, Political Economy, and Regional Development (just a small listing here of all the areas).

• Plus we give all "A's" (NOT) !

Come by the College of Business and say hi and join us (Room 309). Also you can talk to Prof. William Taylor in Liberal Arts about the B.A. in Economics.

One [problem](#) for the CoB's ECO faculty is that for years it [relied](#) on the [habitually](#) *unproductive* Mark Klinedinst, now a professor of economics, to address the [problem](#) of corralling new majors to the three programs. Sources say that Klinedinst not only volunteered for this task for a number of years, he [acted](#) almost as if it were his [turf](#) to protect. What was it Klinedinst did while [acting](#) as the ECO enrollment czar? For one, he developed the now *infamous* **ECON IS KEWL** flier that was, for a time, widely distributed to prospective economics majors. Like so many artifacts from the CoB's [history](#), a copy of that flier is housed in USMNEWS.net's vast library, a copy of which is inserted above. As one can see, the flier is packed full of text, much of which is a [lame](#) attempt at wit. Klinedinst mentions that all of the b-schools deans had by then been economists, a fact that should have had ECO in much better stead throughout all the lean years. Finally, when the [time](#) comes to solicit visitation from prospective majors (at the end of the document), Klinedinst gives more coverage to the *CoAL's* economics program, which was administered by William Taylor, rather than the one housed in the b-school.

Of course, this is not the sole reason ECO finds itself in its current predicament. But it is one element in the story, which is important given that Klinedinst will be one of the more vocal critics of USM over the coming weeks and months. For readers who are interested in digging a little deeper, the 10 links above detail just some of the issues associated with Klinedinst. The USMNEWS.net Archives offer even more.