From the Editor

To our current students, welcome back! My faculty colleagues and I hope you had restful and renewing summers. Please check out the announcements in this newsletter and use it as an opportunity to get to know your department faculty and fellow students better.

To our alumni, welcome to the newsletter email list! Our department has written a newsletter like this many times over the years, but in the past it was not distributed to alumni. Our hope is that the newsletter can serve as a connecting point for you to stay in touch with what’s going on at your alma mater.

In this newsletter, we highlight our department’s upcoming events and offer a recap of some of our exciting recent activities. We also feature a few students who have completed internships recently, and some updates from our alumni. If you have updates to contribute to a future newsletter, we’d love to hear from you. Please email them to me.

Two notes for our current students:

**Excel training resources**
Proficiency in Excel is expected in the business world. Did you know that Gordon subscribes to Atomic Learning, which offers a variety of training programs for free to our students? If you think you may be a few steps away from proficiency, check out the training videos. If you are interested in learning more advanced skills in Excel modeling and problem-solving, you should consider our 2-credit, completely online Summer Term course, ECB121 Excel: Business Applications, which is taught by Prof. Andrew Stuart.

**Department chair update**
Prof. Kent Seibert is on sabbatical this fall term. Prof. Andy Moore will be serving as department chair in his absence.

To all, thank you for reading this and taking the time to see what’s going on in our department. There is much good work being done, and we appreciate your prayers for our ongoing service.

With warm regards, Prof. Kristen Cooper
The Inaugural John Mason Lecture
Co-sponsored by the Center for Faith and Inquiry and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

Monday, October 13, 2014
4:30 P.M., MacDonald Auditorium
Dr. J. David Richardson will be speaking on “Social Entrepreneurship for the Sake of the Kingdom: Why Microeconomics Matters.” J. David Richardson is Emeritus Professor of Economics and International Relations at Syracuse University, former President of the Association of Christian Economists and a Senior Fellow (emeritus) at the Peterson Institute of International Economics in Washington, D.C. The annual John Mason Lecture will honor the life and legacy of Professor Mason, who taught at Gordon College from 1968 until his retirement in 2007. Alumni welcome!

China Seminar
For the fifth time in a decade, the ECB Department anticipates offering a 4-credit study-travel trip in China and Hong Kong in the early summer of 2015. The course combines on-campus coursework in the spring of 2015 with a 19-day tour of China (May 22–June 19); the itinerary includes Shanghai, Beijing, Xi’an, Guilin, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. Led by Prof. Stephen Smith, the course introduces students to modern China’s unique cultural, economic and strategic situation through visits to firms, churches, universities and important cultural/historic places, and meetings with Chinese students. In addition to being useful on its own, the program is also great preparation for either a Gordon global internship in China or participation in the 2015 Hong Kong Summer Finance Program at Hang Seng Management College. Details about China Seminar 2015 are found here. For current students.

Economics of Global Poverty Conference
January 3–5, 2015, will see Gordon College and the ECB Department host an international conference on the Economics of Global Poverty. Co-organized by Prof. Stephen Smith and Prof. Christopher Barrett (Cornell University), and co-sponsored by the Association of Christian Economists and Calvin Summer Seminars, the program features keynote addresses by David Beckman (President, Bread for the World) and Prof. Bruce Wydick (prominent development scholar at the University of San Francisco, and Christianity Today contributor), and 15–20 scholarly presentations. Check for registration and program detail updates here. Open to current students and alumni.

Economics and Business Organization Meetings
The Economics and Business Organization (EBO), a GCSA-sponsored student group, resumed meeting this semester on September 10. Students from all majors are welcome to participate. Meetings will continue on September 24 and every other Wednesday at 7 P.M. in KOSC 109, featuring guest speakers on topics of interest to students. The EBO will organize its annual networking trips again this year, heading to Boston in November and New York City in the spring. From John Buckley, the organization’s VP: “We’re really looking forward to meeting with several Gordon alums from across disciplines in the business world on these trips, and alumni should be hearing more info about each trip throughout the year.” Working with other on-campus groups such as CEL (Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership) and Launch, the EBO is focused on helping students learn skills such as networking, creating a resume and other aspects of professionalism to prepare for the professional world. For more information, contact EBO president Josh Savides and EBO Vice President John Buckley. Current students are invited, and alumni input is welcome.
HAPPENINGS: Recap

American Enterprise Institute Summer Conference

Five ECB students—Libby Gronbach, Dan Hurley, Juliann Booth, Hannah Scaer and Austin Drukker—traveled to Washington, D.C. in early June for the American Enterprise Institute’s Summer Conference. There were 91 college students and more than 30 faculty participating, all of whom heard from and engaged with distinguished AEI researchers on current U.S. policy issues ranging from unemployment to immigration. There were also helpful panel discussions on employment and internship opportunities in Washington, D.C.

2014 Hong Kong Summer Finance Program at Hang Seng Management College

Nine Gordon students ranging from rising sophomores to rising seniors recently finished their 8-week internship/study program housed in the Hang Seng Management College (HSMC) in Shatin, Hong Kong. Gordon students interned at several major firms in Hong Kong while earning 4 credits by taking finance classes with HSMC students taught by Prof. Alice Tsang. This intensive program provided students a rigorous intellectual and physical workout as they had to work full time each day and attend a 2.5-hour class three evenings a week, finishing a regular Gordon course in six weeks!

During their stay in Asia’s World City, students have learned much about the unique culture of Hong Kong, their firms’ businesses and their abilities to adapt to different working/learning environments. Representing Gordon well with their work ethic and smarts, the students have also built valuable connections with their supervisors and colleagues. They have become quite savvy in navigating Hong Kong’s public transportation network and found their favorite fast-food stores near campus. Weekends provided precious time for sports and excursions, including those around the various food stations at some of Hong Kong’s famous buffets.

More details about this year’s program can be found here. We anticipate offering this unique program again in Summer 2015, so look for more information coming soon.

Temple at Tien Long Shan, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province
Faculty News

Kristen Cooper

In July, Prof. Kristen Cooper presented a working paper, “Innovation and Welfare in Fashion Markets,” at the 15th International Joseph Alois Schumpeter Society (ISS) Conference in Jena, Germany. In this project, she is applying an economic lens to the popular sentiment that there is “too much new stuff.” This semester she is continuing her research on the economics of conspicuous consumption and its relationship with income inequality.

Stephen Smith

In June, Prof. Stephen Smith taught a four-day course called “Statism in Poor Countries: A Field Guide” at Acton University, a summer program run by the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The sub-title of his topic: “Why Does the Government of Thailand Own an International Airline?” In August, Prof. Smith spent two days at the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) in Washington D.C., working on an ongoing project studying Indian firms in global trade. The project is a collaboration with Michael Anderson (Washington and Lee University) and Jose Signoret (USITC).

Bruce Webb

Even as he continues to fight cancer, Professor Emeritus Bruce Webb has recently contributed to the life of the College in several ways. In spring 2014 he led a large portion of Jerusalem and Athens Forum class meetings during History Professor Tal Howard’s sabbatical. He also won a grant from the Acton Institute, along with Prof. Howard, to write a study on the general question of how Protestants can (and should) use Catholic social teaching. He welcomes our continued prayers for his health.

Homecoming is October 3-4!

Meet up with us October 4 from 1:30-2:30 P.M. on the Quad! Look for our department banner and come say hi! Check out Gordon’s Homecoming page for more information.
Internship Corner

Congratulations to these four students who completed an internship for credit during this past summer!

Zach Hall: Zach interned with Hope Africa Collective in the township of Philippi in the cape flats of South Africa working with the Xhosa people. As part of the internship, Zach created and taught a financial literacy curriculum tailored to the local culture and based on Biblical principles. The curriculum was adopted by Hope Africa as part of their program designed to empower individuals to reach their highest potential. He was able to draw on several courses he took in previous semesters, especially the personal finance course, while preparing the curriculum. In his own words Zach talks about his experience:

“This trip has been an eye opener about a culture I had never even heard of before. The Xhosa people live in utter poverty due to apartheid. Through this internship I was able to see what they have gone through and take a small step toward helping them overcome their struggles. Although I came to help the Xhosa people they have also taught me a great deal about what is important in life. A scripture that I revisited many times during the course of my stay was Matthew 10:19-20 ‘… Do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.’ This verse gave me both comfort and confidence to what the Lord had prepared for me.”

Neal Olson: Neal spent the summer working for Jooall, a small advertising agency startup in Boston, after finding the internship opportunity on Internmatch.com. He spent long days seeking out small businesses in the Boston area in order to sell Jooall’s advertising services. Neal identified reliability and a strong work ethic as two attributes that helped set him apart from the other interns. If you want to hear some interesting stories about the responses one receives doing cold call sales, talk to Neal about some of his most memorable experiences.

Brian Gehr: Brian is a great example of a student who feels called to ministry and understands the benefits of pairing his Biblical Studies major with a Business Administration major. He interned at the JC Club, a church-owned organization that works as an at-risk children’s feeding center in Albany, NY. Brian worked with the CFO and business manager to understand how the ministry is run from a financial perspective, which is essential to the long-term viability of the organization. One of his great accomplishments during the summer was creating a new inventory system that maintained the needed levels of food items with greater efficiency. Ensuring adequate levels of inventory can mean the difference between children having or not having lunch during their summer break. Brian was energized by his internship and thankful for the opportunity to learn more about how ministry and business intersect.

Matthew Dantona: Matthew interned at Dantona Industries, battery distributors, based in Wantagh, NY. One of the highlights of Matthew’s internship was being able to sit in on meetings related to a potential purchase of another company by Dantona Industries. He was able to observe the thought process and consideration a company goes through when considering strategic opportunities of this nature, including visiting the other company and learning its business model. In one of the writing assignments for the course, Matthew was able to use this situation to reflect on the ethical considerations of merging another company’s employees into an existing business culture.

Interested in a for-credit internship?

Students interested in earning credits through internships are encouraged to talk with Professor Stuart about the requirements. You are encouraged to seek out your own internship placements in organizations that fit your interests. If you aren’t sure how your interests translate to professional opportunities, please talk with your advisor. We would love to explore the possibilities with you!
Alumni Highlights

Dylan Ross 2006

After finishing my M.B.A. this past May at NYU Stern, I’ve had some free time before starting my next career move to management consulting with Deloitte Consulting. Earlier this summer, my roots led me back to microfinance, the field in which I worked for five years before Stern. For a couple of months, I worked on a strategy project with a microfinance institution in Guatemala. I also had the chance to visit a handful of Gordon friends (and their hubbies and babies) in Colorado and California. After starting back up with Deloitte I’ll be traveling most days since we typically work on the client site Monday through Thursday. Until then, I’m spending the rest of my post-grad “summer vacation” traveling with my girlfriend, Ashley, catching up with old and new friends, and brushing up on my SQL skills.

Lee Giobbie 2006

I am currently working as a lead financial advisor with Janney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia, PA. My focus and expertise is in biblically based financial and estate planning. I believe that the key to financial success lies in long-term planning, but that financial contentment is attainable regardless of salary or net worth. My passion is to help people simplify their finances, and to build legacies for the ones they love and the causes they care about.

Since graduating I have achieved several designations (including as a Retirement Income Specialist through Wharton); the most recent was from CFA Institute in September 2014. My services as an advisor can be found on my website, and include portfolio management, charitable giving, and multi-generational wealth transfer strategies.

My wife Courteney and I have been blessed with two wonderful children, both under the age of two. We are currently living in Evesham, NJ, which is very close to where we both grew up. I officiate college ice hockey and serve on two local boards in my community. I am also a coordinator for Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University. In the coming months my family and I will be part of a core team planting a multi-ethnic church in Trenton, NJ. I would love to reconnect with any Gordon alumni in the area, or friends from my time up in Wenham.

Sherri Lane 2007

After finishing my M.B.A. this past May at NYU Stern, I’ve had some free time before starting my next career move to management consulting with Deloitte Consulting. Earlier this summer, my roots led me back to microfinance, the field in which I worked for five years before Stern. For a couple of months, I worked on a strategy project with a microfinance institution in Guatemala. I also had the chance to visit a handful of Gordon friends (and their hubbies and babies) in Colorado and California. After starting back up with Deloitte I’ll be traveling most days since we typically work on the client site Monday through Thursday. Until then, I’m spending the rest of my post-grad “summer vacation” traveling with my girlfriend, Ashley, catching up with old and new friends, and brushing up on my SQL skills.