

# The \$hort Run

Student News & Views from the Humboldt State Economics Department

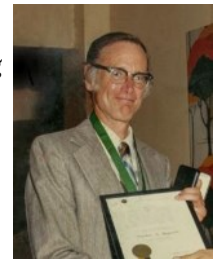
## Newly Endowed Research Internship Award Honors Dr. Ted Ruprecht



Don Lewis ('66, Economics)

When Don Lewis ('66, Economics) headed to college, he never imagined a life-long career in Economics—until a special professor changed the course of his life. Arriving at Humboldt State with the intention of majoring in Physical Education, Don took an Economics class from Dr. Ted Ruprecht. Ted saw a budding Economist and encouraged Don to re-think his major. “Dr. Ruprecht changed my whole life. I fell in love with economics as a discipline and went on to have a very enjoyable academic career as an Economist,” Don says.

Through a new charitable gift arrangement with the Humboldt State University Advancement Foundation, Don is now changing lives himself. Don recently established the Dr. Ted Ruprecht Research Assistantship in Economics initiative with a \$25,000 gift commitment. The initiative will engage students in Economics research projects with faculty while providing a stipend to help with college costs. “Research assistantships give students hands-on applications and the opportunity to work closely with faculty,” says Professor Steve Hackett, Chair of HSU’s Department of Economics. “Assistantships help students synthesize what they learn in class.”



Professor Ted Ruprecht

Don’s contribution provides funding for approximately 2-3 Ruprecht Research Assistantships per year over the next few years. Don chose to create student assistantships for several reasons. “While an undergrad at Humboldt, I didn’t get the chance to be involved in a research project, and I think it would be a useful addition to a student’s education,” Don shares. Also, the assistantships “will provide the students with a little extra income.” Don’s belief that the HSU Department of Economics is already doing excellent research helped inspire him as well. “This initiative also enables members of the Economics Department to expand their research by having some extra help,” says Don.

Reflecting upon his time at Humboldt, Don shared that he “had a marvelous experience at Humboldt State learning from really wonderful economists like Dr. Homer Balabanis, Dr. Bob Kittleson, Dr. Bob Dickerson, and Dr. Frank Jewett.” After graduate school, Don went on to teach at Chico State University, Russell Sage College, in New York, and since 1976 has been a professor at University of

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### TSR Staff

Editor – Rattnak Sokhom

Faculty Advisor – Steven Hackett

## Interview With New Lecturer, Schuyler (Sky) Kirsch



Schuyler Kirsch, an alumnus of Humboldt State, actually grew up in Humboldt County. Both his parents were HSU students, and while they were in class he was enrolled in the campus daycare program. One of his favorite spots on the North Coast is the Arcata Community Forest where the HSU daycare staff often took him as a child.

Kirsch majored in Economics at Humboldt and became very interested in finance. He says that economics is a great way to study finance. As a student, Sky worked on the Economic Index, a monthly web publication maintained by Econ majors under the supervision of Erick Eschker, Economics professor and Director of the Index. He continued his education at CSU Fullerton where he earned a Master's Degree in Economics with a pathway in Finance. His graduate thesis project was about the financial literacy of children—what do they know about money; and what are their preferences about money, such as delayed gratification? He also developed a curriculum to teach about money matters to primarily 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and implemented the program at a local elementary school.

This experience made him realize how much he wanted to teach and share the basic tenet that economics provides usable knowledge to everyone. Along with teaching ECON 104 (Contemporary Topics in Economics) and ECON 210 (Principles of Economics) here at HSU he is also teaching ECON 1 (Macroeconomics) at the College of the Redwoods extension in Hoopa. When Sky is not teaching he enjoys playing guitar and *original* PlayStation games, spending time with his family (i.e. his partner Lauren and "daughter" Sadie—their Siamese cat), and listening to music that "upset the parents of the 1990's."

When asked "why Humboldt?" he says that no matter where he goes, he always winds up back in Humboldt because of this area's nature and culture.

### Current Student: Jenna Casey

**Hometown:** *Half Moon Bay, California*

**Graduation Date:** *Spring 2015*

**Professional Aspiration:** *To work in Public Policy*

**Why Economics?** *It's applicable to so many different fields*

**Interests:** *Cooking and reading*

**After graduation:** *Going back home and finding a job*



Two economists are walking down the street. One sees a dollar lying on the sidewalk, and says so. "Obviously not," says the other. "If it were there, someone would have picked it up!"

### Alumni Speaker Series—Sarah Rossig '13



On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sarah Rossig came back to Humboldt to share her experiences as a student at HSU and as a graduate out in the job market.

Sarah transferred to HSU in 2011 and graduated in 2013 with a bachelors degree in Economics with a minor in Business Administration. While she was here she took advantage of every opportunity to gain as much experience and knowledge as she could. She worked with her peers as a tutor in the Learning Center and as a student instructor for the ECON 310 supplemental instruction course. She also worked with faculty as often as she could and was able to co-author a paper with Beth Wilson and present the findings at a national conference for Economics Education.

Starting to look for jobs even before graduating, she was already thinking about what she wanted to do and where she wanted to live. Two months after graduation, Sarah was hired as a data analyst for a company in Austin, Texas.

One of her useful job search tips is to research the company before turning in a resume. Some sites to explore are Glassdoor, Indeed, and Monster. Because companies today are so consumer driven, websites like Yelp are also a good way to figure out if the company that you are applying to is the right fit for you.

The Economics Department Alumni Speaker Series attempts to bring a speaker to campus each semester; if you think you might be interested in being a speaker please contact Steve Hackett, Department Chair, for more information.

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Wollongong in Australia. His research focuses on applied micro economics, an interest that began in Ted Ruprecht's class at Humboldt State. Currently his research is exploring why women earn less than men. He has also studied the economics of crime and of health care. He is now a Professor Emeritus of the university.

Donor established student assistantships or paid internship programs have unique benefits for students. As Steve Hackett explains: "many students work one or more jobs to support themselves. They often have to choose between jobs or academics. Don's gift of student assistantships allows students to prioritize academics but still pay rent and buy groceries. I share Don's hope that others will donate to the Ruprecht Research Assistantship or create their own fund." For more information about the Dr. Ted Ruprecht Research Assistantship in Economics initiative, or about setting up your own fund to help students at Humboldt State University, please contact the Office of Philanthropy at (707) 826-5101.

*"We would all be the life of the party if we understood macroeconomics"*

*Professor Erick Esckher*

## About This Year's TSR Editor, Rattnak Sokhom



I was born in Minnesota, then lived in Taiwan and Cambodia until I was about 5 years old. My family finally settled in Monterey Park, California. I always wanted to be an economics major but I chose Humboldt State University because the program had environmental and sustainability aspects built into the curriculum as well as classes on developing countries and international economics. In studying economics I have become very interested in how economics can be used to help the environment, whether through data analysis for companies or assessing the impact of projects and helping to write legislation for stricture regulations. My dream job is being able to do analysis for companies that are operating around the world especially in Asia and Europe.

I have been able to share my experiences at HSU with others by working for the Humboldt Orientation Program as a Peer Counselor, the Admissions Office as a Tour Guide, and the Learning Center as a Tutor. I also play Rugby for the club team, swim at the pool and take advantage of the great Rec Center we have here on campus. This year I have been busy working on my Economics major capstone projects, and completing a field research paper for my Chinese Studies minor.

## Would You Like To Be An Alumni Mentor For One Or Two Of Our Seniors in Spring 2016?

We are interested in identifying Economics alums who would like to serve as a mentor for a current HSU Economics senior. This could be as simple as a phone call or skype to offer suggestions and advise for the transition from student to professional, or you could arrange to meet the student. Professor Hackett is interested in lining up alums who would be interested in serving as mentors for students in the spring semester 2016 senior capstone course (Econ 490). Our new alumni mentor program is linked to a broader effort at HSU, which you can read about at <http://forever.humboldt.edu/volunteer/mentors>.

If you are interested, then please email Professor Hackett ([hackett@humboldt.edu](mailto:hackett@humboldt.edu))



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HSU Econ alums, Stay connected! Join current students, faculty, and other econ alums by clicking "like" on [Facebook](#) or "connect" through [LinkedIn](#).

A physicist, a chemist, and an economist are stranded on an deserted island with nothing to eat but an unopened can of soup. The physicist says "let's smash the can open with a rock!" The chemist says "let's build a fire and heat the can until it cracks open!" The economist says "let's assume we have a can opener...."