As many of you are no doubt aware, Alice Bourneuf died in December 1980 after a long battle with cancer. We mourn her passing and celebrate her life. A Boston Globe feature story on her quoted Richard Caves: "The Boston College Economics department was her most outstanding accomplishment..."

We shall endeavor to be worthy inheritors.

In Memoriam

Alice E. Bourneuf

October 2, 1912 - December 7, 1980
I. FACULTY RESEARCH AND ACTIVITY

James E. Anderson


"Risk Aversion and Optimal Trade Restrictions," with Leslie Young, January 1981.

"Optimal Exchange Rate Regimes under Uncertainty," with Leslie Young, February 1981.


"A Note on Harkness Ohlinian Hypothesis," will appear in the September 1981 AER.

Christopher F. Baum


David Belsley

On Sabbatical leave this semester.


Upcoming lectures on Research in Regression Diagnostics include:

a. (The Sloan Seminars), April 1981.
c. The Biometrics Seminar of the Food and Drug Administration, May or June 1981.
David Belsley (Cont.)

Will be delivering a paper on "Diagnostic and Forecasting," at the meetings of the American Statistical Association in Detroit in August. This paper will be published in the Journal of Econometrics.

The paper read at the World Congress of the Econometric Society last August in AIX En Provence will be published in a forthcoming book, Model Reliability, edited by Edwin Kuh and Walter Van Daele.

Frank M. Gollop


Marvin Kraus


Marvin Kraus (Cont.)

"Indivisibilities, Economies of Scale, and the Subsidy Issue for Freeways," is scheduled for publication in the February 1981 issue of Land Economics.

"Quality of Service and the Demand for Air Travel," a joint paper with Jim Anderson, has been accepted by the Review of Economics and Statistics.

"Optimal Public Investment Under Uncertainty: The Case of a Highway Planner," was presented at the Econometric Society Meetings in Denver.

Mike Mann


Commentator on:


Comments to be published in conference volume.

Still trying to convince NSF in value of research on causal priority. Another application this Spring.

Finished with J.A. Henning a paper on Simultaneous Equation Modelling. Seeking an interested journal.

Joseph F. Quinn

On leave, 1980-81, as visiting associate professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley.

"Wage Rates and City Size" (with Karen McCormick), Industrial Relations, Spring 1981, forthcoming.


Joseph F. Quinn (Cont.)


Department of Labor, Labor Management Service Administration, to study the importance of Social Security and pension rights in the wealth portfolios of older Americans, 1980-81.

Department of Labor, Management Services Administration, to study the determinants of retirement plans, and why the plans do or do not come to fruition, 1981-82 (with Richard Burkhauser).

Donald Richter


Barbara Spencer


GRADUATE STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACTIVITY

Teresa Amott (Wellesley, 1979) is now on the Eastern Executive Board of the AEA's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economic Profession (CSWEP) and also active in organizing sessions at the Eastern meetings and in setting up an advanced econometrics workshop for women Ph.D.'s who need to upgrade their skills to be more competitive in the job market.

Ataman M. Aksoy (Middle East Tech, Turkey, 1973) has been awarded a Visiting Fulbright Grant for Research in industrial economics at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1980-81.


Edward Kienzle (Stonehill College, 1976) Publications:

James Meehan (Colby College, 1967) was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School during the Spring Semester of 1980.


GRADUATE STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACTIVITY (Cont.)


Brendan Walsh (University College, Dublin, Ireland, 1966) was appointed Professor of Applied Economics at the University College, Dublin, effective October 1, 1980. The position is one of the two major posts for economists in the Irish University system. Brendan's appointment reflects the Irish academic community's evaluation of him as the most accomplished economist in Ireland.

Note: Please keep us up-to-date on any activity you would like to be placed in our newsletter.
Addendum

Ronald L. Trosper


Wrote a paper, "Project Selection Criteria for an American Indian Development Finance Institution."

Organizer of the "Native American Policy Network Directory."
At all-male BC, a woman built a department

THEORY IN PRACTICE

A regular column about economists at work.

By David Warsh
Globe Staff

Back in the 1960s, it was different for women at Radcliffe: Widener Library was open until 10 p.m., but young ladies had to be out and home by 8 p.m. Women who took economics heard their lectures from the likes of Joseph Schumpeter and Edward Mason, but separately from the Harvard boys who had heard the same talk an hour before.

Paul Samuelson recalls how, President A. Lawrence Lowell once explained the segregation by asking rhetorically, "Would you want your sister to discuss Macbeth with men?" Only at the graduate level were women permitted to take their places in the seminar rooms with men.

For some, the wait was worth it. The group of students who assembled around Radcliffe and Harvard in the 1930s was one of those little knots in the tapestry of economic thought from which large patterns proceed. The constellation included, among others, Paul Samuelson, Paul Sweezy, John Kenneth Galbraith, Richard Musgrave, Abram Bergson, Robert Bishnoff, and Alice Bourneuf.

Bourneuf, raised in a big and intensely religious family in Haverhill, was graduated from Radcliffe in 1933. In the summers of a stint as an instructor at Rosemont College in Rosemont, Pa., she did research on her dissertation in Europe.

She was sitting in a library in Louvain, Belgium, when the Nazi tanks rolled. She lost her thesis in the rubble and had to flee through southern France.

Then came a hitch with the Office of Price Administration. "Her great achievement — nobody seems to mention it — was in wartime administration of export-import prices," said Galbraith. "It was a field of the utmost complexity. She did brilliantly."

She moved quickly to the Federal Reserve Board staff and did some of the planning that led to the International Monetary Fund. She heard Keynes debate White and Viner at Bretton Woods.

But her great love was Norway, to which she ministered under the Marshall Plan. She did the research that was to become her thesis, Norway, The Planned Recovery.

Then it was off to teach at Mt. Holyoke and, after Berkeley.

She joined the Economics Department at Boston College in the fall of 1950 as a tenured full professor, the first woman appointed to the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences at BC.

Three years ago, after 16 productive years of teaching, she retired to Ogunquit, Maine. "I still have a good stiff drink before lunch," she told friends. Colleagues gave her a Festschrift, a volume of essays collected in her honor. A prize in her name was established for the best economics student at BC. A house on the hill was named for her.

And last week, Alice Bourneuf died at age 68, after a long but never grim siege of cancer. A group of scholars and friends celebrated a mass on Saturday.

The real monument to Bourneuf, however, is not the house nor the prize nor the Festschrift, but instead the Boston College Economics Department.

Alice E. Bourneuf

Alas, Harvard's Richard Caves, "The BC operation was her most distinctive accomplishment. She built it into a department with a national reputation." All the more remarkable when you consider the situation at BC when she arrived: male, Catholic, and very Jesuit.

Today, Boston College is on the lower edge of the top 50 departments in the nation. That makes it one of the top five in New England, after MIT, Harvard and Yale and behind — not very far — Brown University, and puts it well ahead of Tufts, Boston University and the University of Massachusetts. "We have ambitions for moving up to the top 30 schools," said James Anderson, a BC professor, "and we have some chips to play."

Bourneuf set out to build the department immediately after she arrived, becoming an aggressive bidder on the recruiting circuit.

Samuelson recalls, "At American Economic Assn. conventions when Father McGee and Alice Bourneuf appeared, department heads quaked for the ivory they were hoarding."

At first, she depended on MIT Assn. Friedlaender, now an MIT professor, who was one of Bourneuf's first hires, recalls, "Because of her friendship particularly with Paul Samuelson, MIT took Boston College seriously. When other departments didn't, my teachers told me, 'This is a remarkable woman and she is building a remarkable department and you should go.' I'm glad I did."

"She was interested in everything," said Cavas. Anderson agreed. "She would come bustling up and say, 'Well, Jim, what do you think about this?' Maybe you hadn't thought. But you'd begin and a couple hours later, you'd have something interesting to tell her." David Belisle added: "Anybody would give his eyeteeth to have a leader like that we sorely miss her."

The result is the modern BC department. Among its national-class scholars are Michael Mann, the expert on industrial organization; David Belisle, the econometrician James Anderson, the international trade specialist; Donald Richter, the general equilibrium theorist; and Barry Bluestone, the poverty researcher. Among its up-and-coming, John Tuckwell and Barbara Spencer.

And women at Boston College? Well Spencer, who just arrived, is the only one. Caroline Shaw Bell, chairman of the department at Wellesley, said, "I think it is a sham that the department is not more of a memorial to her. Imagine, for three years after her retirement, not having a single woman."