A university planning document has selected the economics department graduate program as one of several to be developed in the interest of "selective excellence". It is to early for the operational meaning of this to have emerged, but we are more optimistic than we have been in some time. On a somewhat related front, the university has received a Mellon Foundation faculty development grant of $400,000.00 to be spent in the next 4 years. We hope and expect that this will fund some excellent research in economics.

A major upgrading of computer facilities for economics is nearly complete. A number of people share credit, but Kit Baum should be given the major share. We now have an office in the department devoted to terminals (in the near future it will have 2 scope terminals and an LA 120 which effectively can act as a small printer), and interactive capability. When a new highspeed time-sharing machine (VAX 11/780) devoted exclusively to research use is in place this spring, we will have truly competitive facilities. Kit Baum's energy and talent have also supplied users with outstanding software.

Frank Gollop (Ph.D. Harvard) of Wisconsin was appointed associate professor (with tenure) over the summer. His work has been in applied production theory and industrial organization. He will greatly strengthen our applied micro and I-O fields. He will join the faculty in fall 1980 (formally, he is on leave this year).

We are in the market for two money-macro types, and one public finance person. We hope to make at least one appointment at the senior level.

Finally, a major overhaul of the undergraduate program is well under way. The explosion in enrollments (5-10% annual growth over the last 8 years) until recently had destroyed the small class intensive study environment of the late 60's. We now have an honors program with intensive seminars of around 15 students. The preliminary to them is success in honors intermediate micro and macro theory. The seminars are designed to introduce students to clear thinking and research in areas of faculty research activity, while avoiding the nastier mathematics. This spring the seminars are Topics in Microeconomics, Consumer Economics, Energy Alternatives, and Social Security.
I. FACULTY RESEARCH AND ACTIVITY

James E. Anderson


Christopher F. Baum


David A. Belsley

Page proofs are now returning for Belsley, Kuh and Welsch, Regression Diagnostics. Wiley is gearing for April 1980 publication.


"On the Efficient Computation of the Nonlinear Full Information Maximum likelihood Estimator," presented to the European Meetings of the Econometric Society, Athens, 1979, and currently under revision for publication.

"The Nature of the Statistical Harm Associated with Collinearity and a Test for its Presence," paper to be delivered to the Symposium on Model Reliability, Sponsored by G.S. Maddala, University of Florida, Tallahassee, April 18-20, 1980.

Belsley, Kuh and Welsch, Regression Diagnostics, has been selected by the program committee of the American Statistical Association to be presented as a short course prior to the ASA Meetings in Houston, September 1980.

This material will also be presented to a Symposium at IBM, Armenk, New York, May 1, 1980.

In conjunction with his research at MIT, Professor Belsley has been appointed Visiting Professor at the MIT Center for Computational Research in Economics and Management Sciences.

John S. Hekman


John S. Hekman (cont.)


Marvin Kraus


H. Michael Mann

"An Appraisal of Model Building in Industrial Organization" with J.A. Henning, forthcoming in Research in Law and Economics


Francis M. McLaughlin

"CETA and the Private Sector: The Skills Training Improvement Program in Massachusetts" paper presented to the Seventh Annual New England Business and Economics Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 1, 1979

Harold Petersen

Joseph F. Quinn

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Spring 1979.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Summer 1979.


Donald K. Richter


Have become an Associate Editor of Regional Science and Urban Economics.
GRADUATE STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACTIVITY

Teresa Amott (Wellesley) won a grant from the Mellon Foundation to aid in developing a course on women in the economy. She defended her thesis, "Three Essays on Occupational Segregation", on December 5, 1979.

Jean Corbo (Ph.D. 1979), has moved from the Urban Institute to Abt Associates.

Barbara Fraumemi delivered a paper at the AEA Meetings in December, 1979.


Karen McCormick, with Mike Mann, delivered a paper "Firm Attributes and the Propensity to Influence the Political System" at the Bureau of Economics, FTC on January 18, 1980. The paper will be published in a conference volume.

Don Mullineaux (Ph.D. 1971), has been appointed vice president of the Philadelphia Federal. In December he came back to Boston College to deliver a talk on measuring expectations, based on a forthcoming AER paper.