Dr. Chris Jeffords joined the Department of Economics in August 2013. The results of this paper will be presented at the upcoming 2014 Allied Social Science Associa-

When I was a graduate student I spent an arguably inordinate amount of time reading through the constitutions of 198 countries. The purpose was twofold. First, I was looking for provisions offering some amount of protection of the natural environment framed within a human rights context. For example, I wanted to know which countries provided citizens with a constitutional human right to a clean environment. I was surprised when I found 125 countries included such provisions and to varying degrees of legal strength based on the language of each provision. Second, I wanted to somehow use the data to answer the following empirical question: What are the effects of constitutional environmental human rights (EHR) provisions on environmental (human rights) outcomes? Although the data collection and legal strength coding aspects are (thankfully) complete, Lanse Minkler (University of Connecticut) and I are still hashing out the framework for the empirical analysis. That said, this article serves to briefly introduce the data collection and coding process, and the nature of the ongoing empirical analysis. I will also discuss some future research related to state-level constitutional EHR as you may find it interesting to learn that the constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also includes such a provision, despite the nonexistence of such a provision in the constitution of the United States.

Editor: Nicholas Karatjas

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create the index. Perhaps this process is best explained by a simple example. The following table shows a brief description of each of the seven categories and a non-exhaustive list of keywords used to indicate the presence of some definitional language.

Table 1: Description of the Seven Keyword Categories

To illustrate the presence of these seven keyword categories, consider Article 15 of the constitution of Mali Every person has the right to a healthy environment. The protection and defense of the environment and the promotion of the quality of life is a duty of everyone and of the state the presence of categories 4, 6 and 1, respectively. The following table illustrates the numerical outcome of this process and the calculation of the index of legal strength for five countries out of 125.

Table 2: Forming the Index of Legal Strength

- 6 and 1-7, where

the larger the number, the stronger (in a legal sense) the constitutional provision. This counting distinction is important because the HR2H2O is an environmental human right, and10 countries (including Kenya) explicitly delineate this right in their constitutions. If, however, general EHR encompass the HR2H2O, then 10 is an underestimate of the number of countries that have granted its citizens some form of a constitutional HR2H2O. The maximum observed value across either index is a 5 and the minimum is a 1. The average index value for each index type is 2.25 and 2.34, respectively.

Greetings!

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It is a busy time for all of us as we prepare for the upcoming holidays. I am going to abbreviate my comments so that we can include the note below from the Office of Annual Giving. According to *The Project on Student Debt*, in Pennsylvania, the average student debt (for 2011) for public and private 4- Year Institutions was almost \$30,000. The proportion of students graduating with debt was 70% So I was thrilled to see this effort being undertaken by Dr. Karl McDermott. Scholarships, such as this one, help our students and help the department by enabling us to recruit students. I hope that you are able to contribute and make the Robert J Stonebraker Scholarship for Economics a reality. Thanks for your consideration and have a great holiday and New Year!

Nick Karatjas

ROBERT J. STONEBRAKER SCHOLARSHIP FOR ECONOMICS

Many of you may remember Dr. Robert J Stonebraker, a valued and respected member of the IUP Department of Economics. His career as a professor at IUP spanned thirty years, from 1971 until his retirement in 2001. In encouraging

est in the success of the students he taught. He truly cared about them.

On Sunday, October 20, 2013, rapidly aging economics faculty Drs. Todd Potts and David Yerger convinced newly hired and youthful faculty Drs. Chris Jeffords, Alexi Thompson, and Brandon Vick to join them (along with University of Pittsburgh finance professor Dr. Andy Koch) to run the Tussey mOUnTaiNBACK 50-miler as a relay.

The race started and ended at the Tussey Mountain ski resort just outside State College. Most of the race was on dirt roads throughout Rothrock State Forest with 21.7 miles of climbing for over a mile (5,485 feet) of elevation gain. Surprising the rest of the sedentary faculty, the team (known as *The Marginals*) managed to get nei-

What, if any, are the effects of constitutional EHR provisions on environmental outcomes?

Although the empirical framework is very much a work in process, the basic idea is to determine two pieces of information: first, what are the reason(s) why a country included a constitutional EHR provision in its constitution; and second, once included, how does the provision impact environmental outcomes (if it does at all)?

Cleanlyates(a)re(b)o(ad)q3(ext)o3(sith)4t193Ceod)as(atmatytio(4))ard(ps)re(o)c3((wi)rd(xs1Fo(x))x4mf)[6]. Datas(3a)ct382 582.51 Tm[)] need to account for the fact that many constitutions, such as that of the United States, do not include EHR provisions yet take steps to protect the environment through statutory law and policy. Another problem is that it may be the case that countries that are more likely to take steps to protect the environment are also those that are more likely to include EHR provisions in their constitutions. Perhaps one of the biggest problems we face is defining the environmental outcome variables: Do we use carbon dioxide emissions or percent of the population with access to water? Yet another problem, and by no means the last, is how do factors such as colonial history, existing rule of law, and availability of physical and financial resources fit into this broad framework? Once we do figure out how to deal with these problems from an empirical standpoint, the question still remains as to what time period of data to use because the provisions are fixed in time while environmental outcomes change on a regular basis. There is much left to be done!

Concluding remarks

If nothing else, I hope you come away from this article surprised by the number of countries that have included EHR provisions in their respective constitutions. And if these provisions have legal teeth, then we might see the

(continued from page 6)

Montana and Hawaii also have their own EHR provisions. Going forward, it is important to consider what effects these provisions—whether at the national or sub-national scale—have on environmental outcomes and business location decisions. At the state level, federal preemption is also an important consideration.

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sity Law School.

University Press.

is directed to students with outstanding academic potential.

What is your hometown? I am from Jamestown, in the southwest corner of New York State. Some may recognize Jamestown as the home of Lucille Ball, the former furniture capital of the world, or for its close proximity to historic Chautauqua Institution.

Do you have a double major/minor? Aside from my major in Economics, I have a minor in International Studies. This minor (through the Political Science Department) features courses such as International Relations, European Politics, American Foreign Policy and International Development Strategies.

Why did you choose IUP? I began applying to colleges my senior year of high school without any idea as to what I wanted to major in. IUP offered a wide variety of programs and a quality education at a good price. When I came to visit the campus for the first time in early November of 2010, I knew it was where I wanted to be.

Why did you choose to major in economics? In the fall of my freshman year, I decided that I wanted to become more immersed in campus life. Looking

considered Economics as a major, but I figured getting involved in the organization would be beneficial no matter what academic path I decided to take. My involvement early on influenced me to take Principles of Macroeconomics with Dr. James Jozefowicz the next spring. I loved the course material, and along with some convincing from Dr. J. I declared as an Economics major towards the end of the semester. I felt as though Economics would be not only a major that offered great career potential, but would also allow me to spend my time in college studying a subject that I loved. Both the classes I have taken since then and the professors that have supported me thus far have only reinforced my decision.

What are some of your college highlights/ accomplishments/ achievements/ honors/ extracurricular activities? Throughout college I have been a member of the Economics Club, serving as the Treasurer for the 2012-2013 school year and President for the current year. I am also a devoted member of Golden Key International Honour Society (formerly Mortar Board), and am currently serving as the Treasurer. I am also a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda Service and Honors Organization and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. I was honored to receive the Donald A. Walker Department of Economics Scholarship in the spring of 2013. In addition, I have been

How has your experience in the Department of Economics, specifically, and your experience at IUP, generally, impacted your life? The Economics Department here at IUP has certainly had an impact on my life. As many people experience, entering college as someone who had little to no idea about what I wanted to do for the rest of my life caused a feeling of apprehension. As time went on, and I became a student in the Economics Department, this feeling of uncertainty soon dissipated. Studying economics at IUP has felt like a home away from home in the past few years. As opposed to many of my elective classes, attending economics lectures is one of the things I e-5(a)- lar (, a1(r)4(es)4(is o)-5(ne)-2(I)- (U)-2(P)-5)-4(nd)-2(s)4(c)5(lk4(o)15elt)-6(li)(m)-2(y)3(t)-5(erma)-4(lker)4ve cB

A Whole New World By Ashleigh Craig

Being born, raised, and attending college in small towns in Western Pennsylvania has not exposed me to much diversity in my life. Although I had visited Salt Lake City, Utah, a few times before, I never quite experienced the culture shock that occurred when I decided to spend 10 weeks of my summer there, after accepting an internship with Goldman, Sachs & Co. My cousin, an employee of Goldman Sachs, had encouraged me to apply for an internship online. A month later, I was contacted to fly out for a STEM recruitment and interview day. Two weeks later, I found myself accepting an internship offer with the Operations Division.

On my first day of orientation, I quickly realized that as a Caucasian female, I was in the minority group for the first time in my life; everyone was from a different race, school, academic program, and location. There was so much diversity to absorb. Nevertheless, everyone in the office was very friendly, helpful and team oriented; the people were my favorite thing about Gold-

hard and are dedicated to what they do.

This internship was truly a rewarding and eye opening experience. I was given daily tasks and projects to work on; I was not getting coffee or making copies. I was treated as an actual employee. I worked for 10 hours each day, which was more than the 40 hour weeks I was used to in previous summer jobs. My daily tasks included performing reconciliations on trade transactions for various accounts. I worked on projects that involved improving their operational procedures.

At the end of my internship, I was required to make a presentation for my managers and team on the project I had completed over the summer. After presenting several projects in class and at conferences, I was not the least bit concerned or nervous about this presentation; I initially was confident in my presentation skills. However, that quickly changed. My entire PowerPoint presentation was thoroughly critiqued; the entire presentation was reworded and reorganized. I am usually comfortable enough giving presentations that I only practice once, if at all. I practiced more for this presentation than any other presentation in my life. Although I feel I gave decent presentations before, I really learned how to give an excellent presentation. Every single word written on the PowerPoint and spoken truly mattered. I also learned how to become prepared for difficult questions that could be asked by audience members and how to answer them appropriately. Additionally, I presented several times via video conference or screen sharing, which were new experiences for me.

This summer was full of new eye- opening experiences that really exposed me to the world beyond Pennsylvania. I experienced what it is like to work with a diverse group of professionals. In addition to my coworkers in Salt Lake City, I also worked with people in Bangalore, New York, and London, which was a great experience. This internship really gave me a feel for what my life could be like after graduation in May. My summer internship was an invwauy85[me in

Facul ty Notes

Dr. David B. Yerger

Facul ty Notes (continued)

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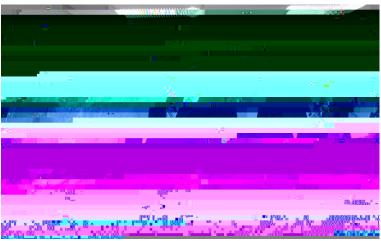
Dr. Willard W. Radell

the Halls of Ivy: Some Unintended Policy Drivers of

AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Conference on the State of Higher Education, in Washington, DC, in June 2013.

Dr. Yaya Sissoko presented a research paper entitled

Effectiveness in Sub-Saharan Africa," co-authored with Dr. Niloufer Sohrabji, at the 76th International Atlantic Economic Society (IAES) Annual Conference held in Philadelphia, PA, October 10 13, 2013. Dr. Sissoko was also a discussant at the conference.



Dr. Yaya Sissoko, Dr. Christopher Jeffords, Dr. Brandon Vick, and Dr. James Jozefowicz attended the PEA Conference held at the University of Scranton in June.

Dr. Yaya Sissoko, along with Dr. Stephanie M.

bzefowicz, and **Dr. James J Jozefowicz**, attended the annual fall meeting of the Pennsylvania Economic Association (PEA) board of directors held at the Penn Stater in State College, PA, on October 19, 2013. Dr. Stephanie Jozefowicz serves as PEA secretary, and Dr. James Jozefowicz and Dr. Yaya Sissoko are Ex Officio PEA board members.

Dr. Alexi S. Thompson had four manuscripts accepted for publication during the fall semester. His manuscript *Energy Economics*. Three *Opal* Did EU

Modern

Economics

included in the book Terrorism, Tourism, and the Economy. Dr. Thompson is also included in a grant proposal

- Directed Regulation When Ethical Environmental Policy Empirical Economics, 2013.

Water Within a Neoclassical Economics Framework," was published in the *Review of Social Economy*, 2013 71(1), pp. 65-92.

Dr. Christopher R. Jeffords

(University of Connecticut), at the 2014 ASSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, on January 5, 2014.

Facul ty Notes (continued)

- study. The self-

study is an assessment made by the IUP community of the progress made since our last Middle States Accreditation. We haveMie8Mi codn90(-5(e)fa(s)9(Au(I)-4(uni)-3(t)-2(ss)6(m-2(se)6(s)6(mrs(s)9(aw6()hn17()6(c)9(anr)3)bM57v)-2()6(as)r0(M2o)-5(dngre

was a guest at the unveiling of the new College of Humanities & Social

Sciences Building reception held at the Rivers Club in Pittsburgh, PA, on October 17, 2013. As an undergraduate at IUP, I was her economics advisor. I asked Stephanie if she could provide me with a brief synopsis of what she has been doing since she left IUP and she graciously agreed.

I graduated in 1994 with degrees in Economics and Government & Public Service with the intent of going on to law school. What cured me? I dated an attorney in my last semester as an undergraduate and no hard feelings he's a wonderful man to whom I'm grateful for a most important life-changing lesson: I'd much rather spend my days

After it was clear a career in law was not to be, I went through a vocational crisis, not knowing what to do, when a good friend

everything At the same time, I started to get emails about openings in IUP Admissions (because I was so active on campus as an undergraduate, staff noticed and thought of me when the positions opened—it pays to be involved!). It took about a nanosecond to realize that a career in the law was a means to my real life purpose: helping people. Through college admissions, I realized I could still achieve that same goal by helping students.

A short trip across the desk from college admissions counseling to M.Ed. in school counseling and I get to wear fantastic suits and heels, advocate for kids, and they still call me

I have the distinct honor of standing with kids as they perch on the cusp of their future—I love my job!

Two years at Mt. Lebanon High School, ten at Upper St. Clair High School, and now in a relatively new role: I'm in my third year at Baldwin-Whitehall School District as K-12 Supervisor of Guidance Services and I'm still helping people, advocating for kids and educators, and making arguments! I've earned principal's papers, a second M.Ed. in administration, and am now pursuing my doctorate at Duquesne in Educational Leadership.

The only thing surpassing all of this professional growth is personal happiness: I met my wonderful husband, David, and we married 11 years ago. He got his start in IT through Pitt, but is now administrative/management and serves as consultant for numerous businesses in the Pittsburgh region. We have two lovely children: Jack is about to be 6 and just started Kindergarten the same week his mom started her doctoral studiesd serves as e/e/ 65tultanda

Student Notes

The Department of Economics wishes to congratulate the following award recipients. The awards were presented at the May 2013 Department of Economics Commencement Ceremony:

Bright Dismal Scientist Award, which is awarded annually to the graduating major chosen by the faculty on the basis of academic interest, achievement, and service: Mitchell DeRubis

Dr. Brewer Award, which is awarded annually to a female graduating major chosen by the faculty on the basis of academic achievement in Economics and professional character: **Angela Rowland**

Dr. Jack D. Julian Memorial Award, which is awarded to the graduating major with the highest grade point average in Economics: Grey Berrier and Brent Stevens

In addition, the Department of Economics Honors Track Graduates were: Ashley Alt, Kevin Brodeur, Mitchell DeRubis, Brian Foster-Pegg, Chad Good, Shaye Kurdziel, and Angela Rowland.

At the 2013 Pennsylvania Economic Association (PEA) Conference held at the University of Scranton in June, the following students gave presentations:

Ashley M. Alt and Daniel R. Oberkofler
Effects of Power, Prestige and Performance on

Angela M. Rowland

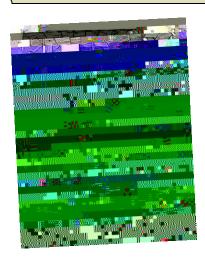
Wine Prices? Estimation of the Effects of Sensorial, Reputational, and Quality Factors in the Hedonic

Angela Rowland won the Best Undergraduate Student Paper Contest at the 2013 PEA Conference. Angela received a \$200 prize, and her paper will be published in the next issue of the *Pennsylvania Economic Review*. In addition, the paper co- authored by Ashley Alt and Daniel Oberkofler won Second Place in the Best Undergraduate Student Paper Contest. This is the third consecutive year that IUP economics students have won the PEA Best Undergraduate Stu-

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