#### (continued from page 1)

important to carefully consider the avenues through which the two are linked. One such avenue is economic growth.

Economic growth has been linked to environmental harm in various different contexts, so much so that the rela-

Higher comments As current economics students juggle financing their college education with other responsibilities, they often look towards scholarships to help fill the gap. Through the support of generous alumni, faculty and staff members, emeriti professors, and friends, three endowed scholarships are currently available to current economics students:

- 0505 Karl A. McDermott Scholarship for Economics
- 0449 Robert J Stonebraker Scholarship for Economics
- 0359 Donald A. Walker Department of Economics Scholarship

The Donald A. Walker Department of Economics Scholarship and the Robert J Stonebraker Scholarship for Economics were established to provide a lasting tribute to acknowledge the impact of these (emeriti) professors on economics students during their tenure at IUP. Scholarships can also be established by alumni. Dr. Karl McDermott set up an endowed scholarship to recognize the impact of his IUP education on his professional career and to provide scholarship assistance to future economics students. These funds will continue to supply annual scholarships for IUP students for years to come. However, to increase the impact of the annual scholarship payout, additional donations to these funds are needed. Your gift will assist in increasing the annual scholarship payout. You can support future economics students by designating your gift to any of these scholarship funds. Go to the IUP secure on-line giving form at <u>www.iup.edu/giveagift</u>

# Facul ty Notes

Dr. Brandon C. Vick and ten students attended the 15th annual Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) Symposium in

Sustainable Solutions: Using Mixed Methods to Understand the Economic Barriers to Living- Wage Jobs in Indiana,

### Dr. Yaya Sissoko

soko is the faculty advisor of the Pan-African Student Association (PASA) and coordinator of African Night 2016. Dr. Cherif Keita, a filmmaker and professor at Carlton College, Northfield, MN, was a guest speaker in **Dr. Yaya Sis**-

## Student Notes

At the 2016 IUP Undergraduate Scholars Forum held on April 5, the following economics students and majors presented their research papers.

lan Bright and Derek W. Hanely

Marc A. Colon Krenn E. Crider Dr. Yaya Sissoko) Patrick S. Edwards and Hannah C. Mercer

**Eizabeth A. Johnson**: "Portfolio Management: A Venture of Risk and Return" (Advisor: Dr. Yaya Sissoko)

Donisha N. Kendrick

Julian A. Sebia

Christopher M. Seibel

Joshua Soundararaian

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## Economic Growth and Fatal Crimes (cont.)

#### (continued from page 2)

Across 20 different model specifications, the results demonstrate a robust inverted U- shaped relationship between income per capita and fatal crimes against environmental and land activists. This implies that, all else equal, fatal crimes against environmental and land activists increase with increases in income per capita but eventually decline with further increases in income per capita. Given this relationship, it is possible to calculate the level of income per capita at which the turning point occurs. Across the 20 specifications, the turning point ranges from \$8,574 to \$10,460, which not only contains the average value of \$9,272 across the 34 countries and 11 years, but is also well within the range of reported income per capita values: \$4,079 to \$16,316.

Another robust result implies that the prevalence of violent crimes (not including those against environmental and land activists) is positively related to fatal crimes against environmental and land activists. There is not much of a statistically significant relationship between rule of law, control of corruption, and resource rents, perhaps because of the sparsity of data and relatively small sample size or because they simply are not related or some other econometric issue.

The relationship between deforestation and environmental murders is tricky. In one set of results, where deforestation is measured simply as the percent of land covered in forest, the relationship is negative and statistically significant (in all six specifications where deforestation is included). In accordance with the findings of the GW report, this implies that more forest cover is associated with fewer environmental murders. In six different specifications, the relationship is still negative but not statistically significant. We then changed the measure of deforestation to the percent change in forest cover from one year to the next and found mixed results. This measure was positively related to environmental murders in some specifications and negative in others, with mixed statistical significance. Taken as a whole, the relationship between deforestation and environmental murders is murky at best. The results of our paper imply that deforestation could be positively or negatively related to environmental murders which implies that reforestation policies could be associated with more or fewer environmental murders. A policy thus aimed at increasing forest cover could have the unintended consequence of engendering situations associated with violence and fatal crimes.

Although the primary result of our paper is the inverted U- shaped relationship between fatal crimes against envi-

out of its environmental murders. Rather we point out that as global climate change persists and countries experience economic expansion and contraction, it will likely become increasingly important to consider policies directed at additional forms of environmental harm, not just the traditional forms of pollution and natural resource inadequacy (broadly speaking). Further research on the nexus between global warming and climate change, economic growth, and fatal crimes against environmental and land activists is certainly an important consideration, especially as each of these issues may be sensitive to climate and environmental pressures.

Note: References available upon request.