ECON NEWS

February 25, 1999.

The year of the Rabbit and second semester are well underway. The happiest news of the new year is the marriage of Jim Roumasset to Jane Kirton last December 27. According to Jim, they were actually married twice--once in the Cal-Neva Lodge Chapel at Lake Tahoe on the California side, and again 100 feet away on the Nevada side, "just to make sure". The department organized a picnic for them at Waimanalo Beach Park after their return. Congratulations!

Congratulations, also, to Denise and Jim Mak, winners of the two College of Social Sciences Excellence in Teaching Awards for 1997-98. Each award comes with $250 in certificates at the UH Bookstore.

A few personnel changes have taken place. We have hired Carolyn Paet as our new clerk/steno (beginning March 15), replacing Evelyn Ho, who has been on temporary assignment to us from the Political Science Department. Carolyn comes to us from the Linguistics Department. Evelyn returned to the Political Science Department. Thanks, Evelyn, for helping us out during a difficult transition period.

The new semester also brings us two new student assistants. Grant Shiroma is an electrical engineering major and Aubrey Harmon is an elementary education major. They already look comfortable in the office.

The new year began with a conference hosted by Sumner and Byron at the East West Center on "Japan's Economy in the 21st Century: the Response to Crisis". The conference was sponsored by the European Institute of Japanese Studies at the Stockholm School of Economics. The project brought together economists from the University of Hawaii, the Stockholm School and other European, American and Japanese institutions to evaluate changes that are reshaping the Japanese economy. UH faculty members presenting papers at the conference include Denise, Chung, Jim Mak, and Andy as well as alumni Yuki Abe (Kobe and Kyoto Universities) and Hiro Ogawa (Nihon University). The collection of papers will be edited by Sumner, Byron and Magnus Blomstrom (Stockholm School) into a book.

While student enrollment at UH-Manoa has declined, enrollment in econ courses during the spring semester has increased slightly from 1,233 last spring to 1,264 this spring. Student enrollment figures for Spring, 1998 and 1999 are distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Level</th>
<th>Spring, 1998</th>
<th>Spring, 1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Econ 120</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econ 130-131</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 Level</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 Level</td>
<td>139</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Level</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>1,264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Faculty Publications

Denise has two papers forthcoming: "Deep Integration, Nondiscrimination and Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade" (jointly with Bernard Hoekman), in J. von Hagen and M.


**Jim Mak, Marcia Sakai** (UH alumnus) and grad student **Jeff Brown** recently were notified that their paper, "Impact of Population Aging on Japanese International Travel in the 21st Century" has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Travel Research*. The paper was presented last fall at the 6th East Asia Economic Association Convention in Kitakyushu, Japan. (Marcia, who teaches at UH-Hilo, will be leaving in March on a Fulbright Award to Austria to do research and lecture at the University of Innsbruck, Institute of Tourism and Service Economics.)

*Faculty Presentations and Travel*

In February, **Jim Roumasset** travelled to Manila to present "Economic Cooperation in the New Millennium: Corruption, Sustainable Development, and the Role of Government," at the East-West Center Alumni Reunion. He mentioned that it was great to see our alumni ("the Hawaii Mafia" as they are called in the Philippines) **Arsenio Balisacan**, **Ramon Clarete**, **Bruce Tolentino**, **Maria Mendoza**, **Joji Reyes**, **Cecile Icay**, and honorary members **Manabu Fujimura** and **Suganya Hutaserani**. "They are an impressive bunch—very professional!"

**Jim Mak** presented "Airline Deregulation in the U.S. and Japan" at a January forum on Japanese domestic airline deregulation hosted by Okinawa International University, Okinawa, Japan. The paper and his subsequent comments were extensively reported by Okinawa Times, the local daily.

**Denise** has racked up quite a few miles presenting papers at several conferences in Bonn (Germany), Kitakyushu (Japan), and at Lake Tahoe since last summer. Thanks for sending us the information...finally.

**Andy, Byron, Jim Roumasset, Denise, and Chung** attended the annual AEA meetings in New York in January. Mahalo to **Andy and Byron** for taking on the lion's share of the burden of interviewing candidates for job openings in the department. On the way to New York, **Chung** took in some skiing in Colorado with son, Geoffrey.

**Jim Moncur** attended a meeting of the Board of Directors, Universities Council on Water Resources in Scottsdale, Arizona on February 5th. "The meeting was okay; dinner that evening was excellent..."

**Jim Mak, Paul Brewbaker** and Jack Suyderhoud (Business School) gave an afternoon workshop in February on Hawaii's economy to members of the Hawaii House of Representatives. The workshop was organized by the Hawaii Council on Economic Education. Don no if it done any good...
Forthcoming Events

The Hawaii Economic Association annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 23rd this year. The Department is organizing an after lunch panel presentation and discussion on the theme, "Can Government Pick Growth Industries?" Seiji, Chung, and Jim Roumasset will be on the panel. Dave McClain from the Business School rounds out the panel. Plan to attend and meet other Hawaii economists. You can also see Carl and Byron make their predictions on Hawaii's economy for 1999. The food is usually great...

Andy is coordinating the Cooperative Strategies Forum this month. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss foreign assistance strategies in population and reproductive health programs in Asia and the Pacific. The meeting is being attended by representatives of international organizations, private foundations, foreign aid agencies and non-governmental organizations in Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Thailand. The meeting is co-sponsored by the East-West Center and the Packard and Rockefeller foundations.

Seiji and Gerry Russo will be participating in the March 29-30 symposium on Emerging Health and Medical Services in the 21st Century, jointly hosted by Hawaii and Miyagi Prefecture (Japan) at the East West Center.

The Hawaii Council on Economic Education (HCEE) annual meeting is scheduled for May 11th this year at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Keynote speaker is Paul LeMahieu, Hawaii's new superintendent of education. Cost is $50, including lunch. Put this event on your calendar and support economic education in Hawaii.