

Thomas Bradley, "Local School Financing: A Cost-Benefit Analysis of School Auctions." Prepared for the **Eugene Education Fund**.

Fangdian Du and Chris Koehler, "A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Truck versus Rail Shipping in Lane County." For the **Eugene Chamber of Commerce**.

Andrew Fagin, Daniel Pellatt, and Andrey Voloshinov, "Characterizing Oregon's Economy: Key Determinants of Oregon Tax Revenue, 2001-9." Prepared for **Portland Business Alliance**.

Melinda Noell, "Relative Costs and Benefits of Campus Land Use." Prepared for the University of **Oregon Campus Planning and Real Estate** office.

Over the years, there has been a lot of repeat business with organizations. We are interested in exposing our students to greater and new opportunities. If you are interested in participating in this program, please do not hesitate to contact the department. ■

Oregon Economic Forum

The Oregon Economic Forum continues to build momentum. Our 2010 annual conference attracted a sell-out crowd, drawing 350 guests to the Governor Hotel in Portland to listen to presentations by UO economics faculty members Mark Thoma, Jeremy Piger, and Tim Duy, and Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco economist John Fernald as they lectured on trends

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and developments in the U.S. and Oregon economies. This year we also expect a capacity crowd for our two guests, University of California at Berkeley economics professor Brad DeLong and Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco economist Glenn Rudebusch. In

addition, Mark Thoma and Tim Duy will once again share the stage. This year our presenting sponsor is Key Bank, and we received additional support from Providence Health Plans, the Portland Business Journal, the Portland Business Alliance, Langley (formerly Ashforth Pacific), Colliers International, and the Port of Portland. In other exciting news, we inaugurated our first outside board for the Oregon Economic Forum, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank board members Bill Smith, Bill Wyatt, Dick Sorenson, Bill Thorndike, Jim Rudd, Jill Eiland, Jim Lobdell, Connie Worrell-Druliner, Brian Rice, Jack Friedman for their willingness to serve. We are seeking the board's direction on new program offering and fundraising mechanisms. Be on the lookout for exciting changes to the Oregon Economic Forum in the upcoming year! ■

SAIL SUMMER ACADEMY TO INSPIRE LEARNING

There's no denying that we economists love our theories. But every now and then we try to do something in the real world—and sometimes it even works. In 2005, the department started the Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) program with thirteen low socioeconomic status students from local schools. The theory was to bring them to campus for a week, get them inspired about going to college, and then bring them back to campus every summer for a new camp in a different academic department until they graduated high school—at which point going on to college would seem like the natural next step.

There were just a few practical problems with this great idea. We had no money for it, no experience running a summer camp or teaching high school

kids, no idea how to teach anything except economics, and the university administration thought we were nuts. So we siphoned off a few thousand dollars in department money, read some articles on college enrollment and "enrichment programs for adolescents," got the professors to volunteer their time, and started a summer camp. It went pretty well, so we convinced a psychology professor, Helen Neville, to take our kids the next summer while we started a new cohort. The year after that we got more departments involved, and a generous UO alumnae, Shirley Rippey, helped fund the program.

This year, the economics department organized two camps for thirty-eight new students. We've got about eighty faculty volunteers from across campus, and we will have 160 students in a few more

years. Last year, we hired Lara Fernandez to manage things, so the faculty volunteers can concentrate on the teaching. SAIL is now the UO's largest program to "fill the pipeline" with students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Ms. Rippey has just upped her annual gift, and the UO administration has decided that while we are certainly nuts, it's a good nuts, and is now chipping in to pay for Lara's salary.

This year, our first big cohort finished SAIL. Of nineteen students, seventeen are going to college, nine of those to Oregon. Now we need to figure out how to run a program to help our SAIL students get through college. So send us a note if you've seen any research on relevant theory—quickly, please! ■

