

Midwest Economics Association

2013 Annual Meeting

March 22-24, 2013

Sheraton Columbus
Hotel at Capitol
Square
Columbus, Ohio

The Midwest Economics Association is a non-profit organization whose purposes are the advancement of economic knowledge and the economics profession. The Association provides an annual forum for our members to exchange ideas and to present research. Any person who is or has been engaged in full-time or part-time teaching, research, or study in the fields of economics and business administration, or who has worked as an applied economist is eligible for membership in this Association. While the majority of our members reside in the Midwest, our membership base covers the United States and overseas.

Message from the President- Ping Wang

Let me begin, in my capacity as President of the MEA, by delivering my warmest welcome to you for participating in the forthcoming 77th meeting of the Midwest Economics Association to be held in Columbus, where you are ensured *to discover* the many talents of *the America*.

Upon realizing that it is impossible to succeed a great leader – the then-President of the MEA, Narayana Kocherlakota, I decided to follow a strategy laid out by ancient Chinese philosophers: “*Three ordinary people together can out-compete a genius.*” In particular, I, with great help from my first VP Marianne Bertrand, put together a formal Program Committee (co-chaired by Marianne and me), consisting of Gerhard Glomm (Indiana; immediate past first VP who is experienced), Jonathan Guryan (Northwestern), Christian Hansen (Chicago), Brian Rogers (Northwestern), Ellis Tallman (Oberlin and Cleveland Fed; who is a local host for the 2013 meeting) and Bruce Weinberg (Ohio State; who is another local host). We have tried our best to match submitted research papers to themed session slots, much better than the “*random-matching technology*” proposed by Diamond, Mortensen and Pissarides. Moreover excitingly, we have either self-organized or outsourced someone else to organize 18 invited sessions that cover diversified topics to be presented by highly productive and reputable scholars in our profession. These include Sessions 3C, 3F, 4B, 4G, 4I, 5N, 6A, 6B, 6I, 6N, 7B, 7C, 7G, 7K, 7N, 8F, 8I and 8M. Of course, we also have over 100 contributed sessions with many interesting intellectual works that would fit your personal preferences almost surely.

As usual, this year’s MEA conference features two plenary sessions. The first of these is the C. Woody Thompson lecture which will take place on Friday at 5:30pm. The lecture will be given by Samuel S. Kortum, Professor of Economics at Yale University. Sam’s seminal work in 1997 and a series of pivotal articles with Jonathan Eaton and co-authors have led many economists from various fields, from IO to trade and macro, to better understand the interplays between firm technologies, international trade, economic geography and sustained growth. Needless to promote further, let me simply point out that, nowadays, everyone in this field must cite Marc Melitz and BEJK, where K is referring to Sam. His talk should not be missed by any participants.



My presidential address will take place on Saturday at 5:30pm. I plan to talk about “*When Space Meet Time: Agglomeration, Locational Stratification and Rural-Urban Migration.*” I shall cover from Johann von Thünen, to Arthur Lewis, to John Fei and Gustav Ranis, to Jane Jacobs, to John Kain, to John Harris and Michael Todaro, to Masa Fujita dai-sensei, and to the recent development of the literature over the past two decades inclusive of some of my own works collaborated with Hesham Abdel-Rahman, Marcus Berliant, Rick Bond, Been-Lon Chen, Ed Coulson, Wen-Tai Hsu, Fan-chin Kung, Derek Laing, Wen-Jung Liang, Chu-Chia Lin, Chao-Cheng Mai, Shin-Kun Peng, Ray Riezman and Jacques Thissee.

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Message from the President

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As an MEA tradition, there will be several CSWEP (organized by Anne Winkler, UM-St. Louis) and undergraduate sessions (put together by my second VP, Mark Montgomery) in the program. The vitality of economics relies on the infusion of fresh ideas from new scholars, and the MEA has been wise to play a role in facilitating that process.

I am very grateful to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (via Director Mark Schweitzer) for sponsoring the C. Woody Thompson reception and to the Economics Department of the Ohio State University (via Chairman David Blau) for sponsoring the Conference Reception right after my Presidential Address and the MEA's business meeting. The Stata Corporation provided funding for the coffee breaks that you can enjoy in between sessions. The generous financial support of these organizations helps keep the MEA fiscally sound without falling over the cliff and serves to accomplish the great mission of the MEA.

I would like to thank my first vice-president, Marianne Bertrand (Chicago), second vice-president, Mark Montgomery (Grinnell College), all Program Committee members (listed above) and several outsourced session organizers (particularly, Aubhik Khan of Ohio State and Yili Chien and Carlos Garriga of St. Louis Fed) for their service to the MEA over the past year. Without them, not only would we have not had so many exciting sessions, but I would also have been "*Sleepless in St. Louis*" last November when the program was due. I, of course, owe a big THANK YOU to Bill Ferguson (our never over-the-cliff secretary-treasurer) and Jeanette Copeman (our super-efficient and professional managing secretary). They took such thankless jobs over the years; without their valuable time and strong effort, the MEA would have not been a great intellectual society as now. I also thank Joel Moky, Jeff Wooldridge, and Narayana Kocherlakota: it was them who have recruited me, convincing me to undertake this highly meaningful task despite my long and exhausting six-year service as Department Chair at Vanderbilt University and Washington University in St. Louis. It turns out a great fun to work with the team and a nice privilege to deliver this wonderful program to all of you.

At the conclusion of my Presidential Address, the MEA's business meeting will take place.



At that time, I will make room for my successor, president-elect Charles Manski of Northwestern University. There is no doubt that Chuck will lead the MEA to yet another plateau in the coming year.

Ping Wang
Washington University in St. Louis & NBER

CSWEP presents Career Development Sessions

Anne Winkler, Midwest CSWEP representative, has organized two career development sessions, one targeted at junior faculty and one targeted at graduate students. Both are presented on Friday, March 22. The first at 10:00 a.m. is *Academic Careers: A Panel Discussion on Opportunities and Challenges* and the other, *Jobs for Economists: A Panel Discussion on the Employee-Employer Match*, is at 1:15 p.m.

Between the two sessions is a networking luncheon for CSWEP members and others interested in CSWEP. See the preliminary program on the website for details of the presenters in those sessions.

[CSWEP](#) is a subcommittee of the American Economics Association charged with addressing the status of women in the economics profession.

What to do in Downtown Columbus

Join the Battle on Friday, March 22 as the Blue Jackets, Columbus's hockey team, take on the Calgary Flames. You can receive a discounted ticket and a free Blue Jackets hat. A ticket order form is on the next page. The Blue Jackets play at Nationwide Arena just a few blocks from the Sheraton Hotel. On Saturday night the Arena is host to Kid Rock.

If music is more your style the Columbus Symphony and BalletMet perform on the same stage to welcome spring with Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* at the Ohio Theater, around the corner from the hotel. For more information and for other theater options [click here](#).

For more information on activities in Columbus, check out the website: <http://www.experiencecolumbus.com/>

Hotel information and Reservations

Make hotel reservations with the [Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square](#) for the conference rate of \$129 and discounted valet parking at \$12 per night. The group rate is available until February 22, 2013.

The Theatre and Arena Districts are within walking distance of the hotel as is the German Village neighborhood. Ohio State University is just 3 miles to the north.

MEA Meeting Registration

You can [register](#) to attend the conference through the MEA website prior to March 10, 2013. After that date a late fee will be charged.

MIDWEST ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION NIGHT WITH THE BLUE JACKETS



FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013
7:00PM

MIDWEST ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION NIGHT WITH THE BLUE JACKETS

'Join the Battle' on Friday March 22nd as the Blue Jackets take on the Calgary Flames. Receive a discounted ticket and free Blue Jackets hat!

Price: \$26

Includes:

AEP Power Level Shoot Twice Ticket
(Face Value \$34)
FREE Blue Jackets Hat!

ORDER INFORMATION

Name: _____
Group Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

E-mail orders to:
jparchesky@bluejackets.com

Mail orders to:
Columbus Blue Jackets
Attn: **Jeremy Parchesky**
200 W. Nationwide Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Fax orders to:
614-246-4301

Orders placed by:

March 8, 2013

will be mailed to the address above.

Orders placed after:

March 8, 2013

will be left at the Ticket Office Will Call for pick-up under purchaser's name.

SELECTION*

OF TICKETS

PRICE**

TOTAL

vs. Calgary 3/22/13 - 7pm

\$26

\$

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check/Money Order payable to: Columbus Blue Jackets

VISA

MasterCard

AmEx

Discover

Name (as it appears on card)

Credit Card Number

Billing Address (if different then provided)

Expiration Date

Security Code

City/State/Zip

* Tickets are limited and subject to availability
** Price Per Ticket

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jeremy Parchesky, Group Event Specialist

Phone: 614-246-0228

Email: jparchesky@bluejackets.com

