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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Notre Dame	Expected May 2012
Dissertation: <i>“Essays on Firm Competition and Entrepreneurship”</i>	
M.A., Economics, University of Notre Dame	May 2009
B.A., Economics, Whitman College	May 2006

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Industrial Organization, Environmental Economics, Public Economics

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

“Endogenous Capacity and Productivity in Duopolies” (Job market paper)
“A Stochastic Life Cycle Model of Academic Research and Patent Licensing” (with Richard Jensen)
“From Academia to Entrepreneurship” (with Richard Jensen and Marie Thursby)
“Absorptive Capacity in a Dynamic Firm Competition”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Instructor</i> , Principles of Microeconomics	Fall 2010 and Spring 2011
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Game Theory – Undergraduate level	Spring 2009 and Spring 2010
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Mathematics for Economists I - Graduate level	Fall 2008
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Microeconomic Theory I - Graduate level	Fall 2008
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Econometrics – Undergraduate level	Spring 2008

AWARDS

Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	2011-2012
NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp, selected participant	July 2010

SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), Vietnamese (native)
Computing: Matlab, STATA, Eviews, Mathematica, Gauss

PRESENTATIONS

Roundtable for Engineering Entrepreneurship Research, Georgia Tech	November 2011
Midwest Economic Theory Conference, University of Notre Dame	April 2011
Midwest Economic Association Annual Meetings, St. Louis	March 2011
Kauffman Entrepreneurship Mentoring Workshop, Denver	January 2011
Roundtable for Engineering Entrepreneurship Research, Georgia Tech	November 2010

REFERENCES

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ABSTRACTS

“Endogenous Capacity and Productivity in Duopolies” (Under review)

I examine the effects of investment in capacity and cost-reducing R&D on a duopoly in which firms compete via product prices, capacity, and productivity by incorporating stochastic cost-reducing R&D investment into the framework developed in Besanko and Doraszelski (2004). The inclusion of stochastic cost-reducing R&D investment is shown to affect the industry concentration most significantly when the probability of R&D success is neither very high nor very low. In this case, there exists a strong positive relationship between a firm’s equilibrium capacity and productivity and the industry is probabilistically monopolistic. At the lower end of this range, a cost advantage is more important for achieving industry leadership whereas for higher probabilities of R&D success, a capacity lead is more important.

“A Stochastic Life Cycle Model of Academic Research and Patent Licensing” (with Richard Jensen) (Under review)

We extend the literature on life cycle behavior of faculty researchers by assuming two knowledge stocks, scientific (free to all) and patentable (appropriable). Faculty derive utility from research effort, leisure, prestige in knowledge accumulation, and income. Faculty with a strong preference for one type of research tend to devote more time to it, but if the knowledge stock associated with it grows fast enough, then they reallocate time from more to less preferred research later in the life cycle. Both knowledge stocks matter to utility, so if one grows sufficiently larger, the marginal utility from an increase in the other becomes greater, implying a time reallocation. An increase in license income, such as from the Bayh-Dole Act, increases in the time spent in applied research, but faculty do this by decreasing their leisure time first, then their time spent in basic research. Thus, the scientific knowledge stock is not always smaller as a result of this type of legislation. The primary effect of spillovers from applied to basic research (the Pasteur's Quadrant effect) is to increase the scientific knowledge stock, but faculty effort in basic research need not decrease, and may increase.

“From Academia to Entrepreneurship” (with Richard Jensen and Marie Thursby) (In progress)

In light of the Bayh-Dole Act (1980), my research examines the trade-offs a university researcher faces when deciding whether to remain in academia or to found a start-up firm. Given the extensive involvement of a researcher in the development and implementation of his innovation, I am investigating a professor’s choices between basic and applied research when there exists a possible career switch from professorship to entrepreneurship.

“Absorptive Capacity in a Dynamic Firm Competition” (In progress)

This model studies the effect of absorptive capacity in an environment identical to that of the “Endogenous Capacity and Productivity in Duopolies” paper. Absorptive capacity refers to the ability of a firm to recognize the value of new, external information, assimilate it, and apply to commercial ends (Cohen & Levinthal, 1990). Since the effectiveness of R&D success is crucial to

whether a smaller firm survives in the market, the inclusion of spillovers among knowledge stocks is studied. There are two cases of spillovers that I would like to consider. First, spillovers are exogenous, that is a firm is not required to have any in-house knowledge in order to learn and imitate a new technology. Second, spillovers are endogenous, meaning that a firm's ability to absorb and imitate a new technology depends on the firm's own knowledge.