

Marathon Men – and Woman

In addition to studying for (or giving and grading) prelims and other little annoyances like research and teaching, and not having fully grasped the basic concept of opportunity cost, in recent years several members of the Department of Economics have trained for and completed the Chicago marathon.

For 2011 that recognition and honors go to graduate students David Burke, Sun Yi, and Daniel Hedblom, and Department Chair Harald Uhlig, who ran a very impressive 3:37.40. (In 2009, Uhlig also finished Chicago in 3:30.05, perhaps the fastest time ever recorded for a non-Kenyan Chicago economist not being chased by Paul Krugman.)

The departmental participation was stunning for 10-10-10: Laura Pilossoph and Gregor Jarosch ran a combined 52.4 miles; Javier Arias-Vazquez ran Chicago as well as participated in a 200-mile relay event – Madison-Chicago – with five of his classmates (their team name: The Invisible Hand-Offs). Dan Schmierer also ran it 2010 (as well as two years earlier), and Uhlig completed his third Chicago marathon that year.

Eisuke Okada “ran” both 2007 – the high-heat year when the race was canceled part way through and he ended up walking to the end; he came back to run all 26.2 miles in 2008.

Earlier in this century, Ali Hortacsu completed the 2002 race in 3:48; he followed that up in 2004 with a time of 4:02. Extrapolating to 2012,

Under the heading of “that’s so last century,” Victor Lima ran it in 1998. And Allen Sanderson has run Chicago three times (in 4:11 for 1998), second only to Uhlig’s four.

Congratulations to all! (And apologies to anyone we missed or slandered.)

Remember: Training for the October 2012 race begins in April or whenever the snow melts, whichever comes first.