

New Professor Aims to Attract Students to Finance

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by Travis Kaya

Chincarini joined the Pomona economics department this year.

Boasting more than a decade of experience on Wall Street and at Switzerland's prestigious Bank for International Settlements, Professor Ludwig Chincarini would probably fit in just as well at the Federal Reserve as he does among Pomona's growing economics department.

With extensive real-world experience as an entrepreneur and billion-dollar-a-day hedge fund manager, Chincarini hopes to apply his firsthand knowledge of finance and investment banking to change the way his students study economics.

"I like teaching and I like doing research," Chincarini said. "It gives you the opportunity to do something more important in life."

A former Georgetown University professor, Chincarini earned a doctorate in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before making the move to Wall Street in the '90s. In 1999, he helped develop a novel online investment firm called FOLIOfn specializing in personal accounts. As the start-up venture's director of research, Chincarini managed over 120 client portfolios and contributed to a new online asset allocation system that at one point rivaled investment giant e*trade Financial. While in Switzerland, he managed a U.S. Treasury Portfolio in excess of \$200 million, getting the opportunity to work with then-Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Chincarini was hired last spring after undergoing a grueling selection process that required all applicants to conduct student seminars in their area of expertise.

Before his selection, Chincarini was a consultant at the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business in Washington, D.C. where he also worked for a string of start-up companies.

In just his first few weeks on the job, Chincarini has already garnered the praise of his colleagues.

"I think Pomona is lucky to have Ludwig," said Assistant Professor Michael Steinberger. "Now we have a top-notch researcher in this field."

“We’re thrilled to have him,” said Economics Department Chair Michael Kuehlwein. “He’s a really dynamic, knowledgeable professor, and he’s going to be a great addition to the department.”

A strong advocate of student involvement, Chincarini hopes to draw high-profile speakers from the national financial scene to speak with students and spark their interests in a variety of economic fields.

“I hope to get the finance community more involved with the college,” he said. “I hope to get students involved with entrepreneurial projects.”

In addition to Chincarini’s hiring, the Economics Department also plans to begin a search to fill positions in the areas of behavioral and environmental economics in the coming months.

“We’re adding to the offerings in our department,” Kuehlwein said. “Hopefully we can appeal to students with lots of different interests.”

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