This volume collects the papers that were presented at the April 2004 Festschrift conference honoring the work of Professor Keith B. Griffin. The conference was held in Gordon Hall at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, the home of the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI). PERI co-sponsored the conference. The other co-sponsor was the Department of Economics at the University of California, Riverside. UC, Riverside was Keith’s academic home from the time of his stepping down as President of Magdalen College, Oxford University in 1988 until his retirement from classroom teaching – but not anything else – in 2004. (Professor Griffin’s curriculum vitae as of 2005 is presented at the end of this volume, listing all of his academic appointments and major professional activities over a more than 40-year period).

Professor Griffin has been a mentor, colleague, teacher and friend to all of us. We therefore feel highly privileged to have had the opportunity to organize the 2004 Festschrift conference and to edit this volume. But of course, none of
this would have been possible without the enthusiastic contributions of many other friends and co-workers. We must first mention Judy Fogg, the frighteningly capable, while still always warm, gracious and charming administrative manager of PERI. When we say ‘we organized’ the UMass conference, we really mean that we thought about how to organize it, and that Judy Fogg did virtually all the hard work to make things actually happen. We are very grateful for all of her contributions.

We are equally grateful to our colleagues who enriched the 2004 conference by presenting formal comments on the various papers. These discussants were Michael Ash, Jerry Epstein, Nancy Folbre, and Mohan Rao of UMass, Elissa Braunstein of Colorado State University (previously of UMass), Carmen Diana Deere of University of Florida (also previously of UMass), and Steve Marglin of Harvard. Gary Dymski and David Fairris of UC, Riverside also actively participated in the conference, offering typically trenchant and surprising observations. We were sorry that our other UC, Riverside colleague Howard Sherman was unable to come to the event. Professor Amy Ickowitz of Clark University was also an important contributor to the conference, presenting a preliminary version of her ongoing work about shifting cultivation patterns in Central and West Africa.

We were happy to work with Edward Elgar Publishing on this project. We wish to thank especially the US acquisitions editor Alan Sturmer, our copyeditor Cathrin Vaughan, and the typesetter David Manton. Lynda Pickbourn of UMass also provided us with important assistance in preparing the volume for publication.

There is only one logical place to end these acknowledgements, and that is by recognizing Keith’s wife Dixie. Dixie and Keith met in their 12th-grade homeroom class in Texas, and have been a couple ever since. Dixie’s name by itself gives a partial sense of who she is – a warm, generous, livewire from the heart of Texas. But Dixie is also an Oxford sophisticate and an unpredictable Californian. One cannot imagine Keith’s persistent energy and originality proceeding as it has for decades without Dixie’s own energy and originality keeping pace, every step of the way.

Jim Boyce, Steve Cullenberg, Prasanta Pattanaik and Bob Pollin