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Welcome and Department Update

Report From the Chair
Gary A. Hoover, Department of Economics

Welcome to our latest installation of the OU Department of Economics Newsletter. On our website (http://ou.edu/cas/economics/) you can find previous editions of this newsletter to help you stay informed about the happenings in the department.

In August of 2018, the Economics Department received an additional $5,000 donation to the Joe Shary Endowed Scholarship, allowing us to offer additional awards to deserving students. In the last four years, the department has seen the number of undergraduate scholarships more than double.

We continue to expand the major. Adding up all undergraduate, B.A./M.A. and Ph.D. students, the department has now topped 600. The department is always looking to expand the learning experience for our students. We will be adding Sports Economics to the curriculum. It is a large draw for our students.

The department faculty continue to amaze. During the summer and fall of 2018 they have produced an enormous amount of scholarly output, which has been prominently featured in the profession. Several have been nominated for professional and university-wide awards. However, none have forgotten that our first obligation is to our fantastic students.

We still have our T-shirt challenge going on. Contact the economics department so that we can send you one of our Econ Club-designed shirts. So get a shirt and take it with you as you travel and snap a photo so that we can see how many exciting locations our alumni and friends are finding themselves. We have our first contribution all the way from Germany.

If you’re ever in Norman, please stop by to visit. You really have to see with your own eyes how exciting things are.

Gary “Hoov” Hoover
Shell Oil Representatives Speak

On Nov. 15, the OU Econ Club hosted representatives from Shell Oil, economists and OU graduates Jordan Chitwood and Houston Johnson. The pair gave a presentation about their journey from OU to Shell, examples of the kinds of projects they work on as economists, and what it is like working for Shell. They also answered student questions.

Around 50 students from Econ Club as well as different majors on campus attended the event, which also included T-shirt giveaways and free refreshments.
Economics Club Events

**ECON CLUB**

**GAME NIGHT!**

**THURSDAY**
**NOVEMBER 29 @ 6PM**
Cate Center One Room 338
“FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED”

**ECON CLUB MEETING**

**BREAKING BAD: THE FREAKONOMICS OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**
October 4, 2018 at 6 PM
Dale Hall - ROOM 103

**ECON CLUB**

**HEDGE FUND**

**THURSDAY 6:00 PM**
**OCTOBER 18TH**
**@ECON CLUB CATE 1 ROOM 338**

**ECONOMICS BY DR. TYLER RANSOM**
A LECTURE ON THE COLLEGE WAGE PREMIUM

**FREE FOOD!!!**

**Dr. Price**

**Thursday, November 1**
**Cate 338 @ 6pm**

Free food & drinks will be provided.
If you have any questions please contact economics.clubeou.edu

**ECON CLUB’S TRIVIA NIGHT**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 @ 6PM
CATE 338

Winner will get:
Amazon Snack Chest

**ECON CLUB COMMUNITY NIGHT**

Come study and hang out!

Every Wednesday from 6 to 8 pm
3rd floor Cate Conference room

**Bring your homework!**
2019 SGA President Adran Gibbs

Adran Gibbs Jr., who is pursuing his bachelor of arts degree in economics, was elected OU Student Government Association president for the 2019 academic year. He answered a few questions about his OU Econ experience:

**What do you like about studying economics?**
Personally, I enjoy macroeconomics the most because it has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of how trade and global policies affect the U.S. economy as a whole. I have always been drawn to public policy, so naturally economics has given me great insight and analytical skills to properly craft an opinion regarding macroeconomic problems in our country.

**How will economics help you as SGA president?**
Economics helps me tremendously because it has helped me take a balanced approach to difficult decision-making. I have found that the most helpful topic in economics as it applies to SGA is loosely gauging demand and utility. Within SGA, many of the projects that we hope to complete must be met with a demand that is significant enough for us to get our funding approved by Student Affairs, Undergraduate Student Congress, or the Student Activity Fee Reserve Board. Without the ability to make a convincing case that students would benefit from a service, it is likely that funding and support from OU administration would dwindle. Thus, we apply a variety of methods to determine if there is a significant demand, such as student surveys! In short, Econ helps with the framework of problem solving tremendously!

**Where are you from, what are your other interests, and what are your future goals?**
I am from Oklahoma City. Some other interests I have are running, reading presidential biographies books (also social justice books too!), going to new local restaurants, and road trips. My ultimate goal is to be a general counsel for a Fortune 500 company. So first, it is likely I am going to pursue a MBA/J.D. program. Later in life, I would like to return to the public sphere and perhaps run for public office. It has always been a dream of mine to be an attorney and be either a representative or a senator.
Daniel Pae, 2017 economics graduate and former OU SGA president, won a seat in the Oklahoma House of Representatives for District 62 in the Nov. 6 general election.

According to an article published in the OU Daily, when Pae was the president of the Student Government Association in 2016, he worked to pass several reforms and bills. One of the biggest changes Pae instituted was the Crimson Cruiser bike share program at OU aimed at helping alleviate parking problems on campus. He worked with OU’s Parking Services to get 75 bikes and 10 racks installed on campus.

Pae said that in his elected position, he is going to work to help develop a budget that puts the people of Oklahoma first.

Student Profile: Matthew Viriyapah

What are you studying at OU?
My majors are economics and professional writing with a minor in Japanese.

Where are you from?
I am from South Oklahoma City.

What do you plan to do after you graduate?
After I graduate I am not sure of what I will do. I am going to be writing. I am not sure exactly where economics will take me, but that is one reason I chose to do a major in economics. It is a degree that can take you a lot of places because it teaches you so many different skills.

Who has helped you along the way or pushed you to succeed?
(Previous economics adviser) Buchanan Vrazel was a big factor in my decision to do a double major in economics. I was planning on only a minor, but he really supported my interest in economics and after taking the introductory classes, I decided to do a double major.

Economics Ph.D. candidate and graduate assistant Christine Strong was recognized for “outstanding teaching performance” with the Provost's Certificate of Distinction in Teaching in November 2018.

Institutional Shareholder Services hired seven OU graduates in junior analyst roles, including economics graduates and students from the OU College of Arts and Sciences.

On Sept. 23, faculty, staff and students from the Department of Economics and the Department of Communications attended a fun evening with their families at the last home game of the season for the OKC Energy soccer team at Taft Stadium in Oklahoma City (and were featured on the stadium big screen at halftime, above).
Professors Joan Hamory Hicks and Daniel Hicks were mentioned in the Economist article “The stark relationship between income inequality and crime.”

Prof. Gary Hoover, department chair, was featured in the WalletHacks article “Average 401(k) Retirement Savings- Why We Need to Save More. Way More!”

Personal savings are more critical now than ever before.

Government benefits are becoming an increasingly small portion of the portfolio available to retirees.

With a shift away from pensions to 401K savings plans, having something put away is a necessity.

It is also a great hedge against the unexpected, whether it be financial or medical.

Professor Qihong Liu received travel support from ZEW to present at the ZEW Economics of Information, Communication and Technology Conference in Mannheim, Germany, in June 2018. Also, his paper titled “Competing with Complementors: An Empirical Look at Amazon.com,” was accepted for publication in Strategic Management Journal, and his paper titled “Interactive Advertising - The Case of Skippable Ads,” was accepted for revision in the Management Science journal.

Professors Cynthia Rogers and Lex Holmes were featured in an OETA Oklahoma News Report segment titled “Amazon Gets Tax Payer Money.” (click to view video)

Story summary: Economists question whether financial incentives are always a good deal for taxpayers. Oklahoma City's Economic Development Trust has approved a deal that would pay Amazon $1.7 million to locate a fulfillment center in Oklahoma City. Economists say while financial incentives can sometimes be worthwhile, they often pay companies for something they would be doing anyway.
2018 Department News and Notables

**Professor Myongjin Kim** received the Best Paper Award from the Air Transport Research Society in July 2018 for her paper “The Value of Relational Contracts in Outsourcing: Evidence from the 2008 Shock in the U.S. Airline Industry.”

**Professor Ariel Weinberger** and co-authors published their paper, “Exporter Heterogeneity and Price Discrimination: A Quantitative View” in the Journal of International Economics. For the fall 2018 semester, Weinberger was a visitor at the economics department at UC Berkeley.

**Alumni News**

2012 economics Ph.D. graduate **Chen Wu** received tenure and was promoted to associate professor at Plymouth State University. He was also featured in the BusinessNH Magazine article “Foreign Firms a Growth Sector for NH.”

Send your alumni news to cquiett@ou.edu
On Oct. 23, the economics department hosted its fourth annual open house event in Zarrow Hall. Approximately 100 guests, including students, faculty, staff and family members, attended the event, which was sponsored by Shell and the OU Econ Club.

The event included economics departmental scholarship awards, presentations by Econ Club president Alex McClintic and economics department chair Gary Hoover, and a chance for students and faculty to meet and exchange ideas about the future of the department.
2018 Econ Dept Scholarship Award Winners:

$500 Economic Dept scholarship
Chris Beasley

$500 Shary Scholarship
Joseph Herrera
Abigail Hoffman

$500 Clark Scholarship
Audrey Hopewell
Hannah Pike

$1,200 Holmes Scholarship
Mason Hayes
Logesvar Balaguru
Bradley Rann
Katelin Samaniego
Katy Yut
Renat Sergazinov
Joseph Ezzell
Zachary Olsen
Thomas Corr
2018 Econ Dept Graduate Student Award Winners:

Summer Research Award: 1st Place
Brent Norwood

Summer Research Award: 2nd Place
Rafael Alfena Zago
Lei He

Summer Research Award-Honorable Mention
Christine Strong
Saini Das

Best 1st Year Student Performance
Tejas Ghirknar

Best 1st Year Student Runner-Up
Salimeh Birang
OU Research Seminar Series
Fall 2018 – Coordinator: Jaeho Kim

Hewei Shen, The University of Oklahoma
"Fiscal Commitment and Sovereign Default Risk"

Anil Bera, The University of Illinois
"Spatial Analysis: A Helicopter Tour (From the Prehistory to the beginning of the frontier"

Michael D. Noel, Texas Tech University
"Price Dispersion and Consumer Search: Evidence from a Natural Experiment"

George Borjas, Harvard University
"Job Vacancies and Immigration: Evidence from Pre-and Post-Mariel Miami"

Ce Shang, OU Health Sciences Center
"The Pass-Through of Alcohol Taxes to Prices in OECD Countries"

Dan Cao, Georgetown University
"Recursive Equilibrium in Krusell and Smith (1998)"

Chinhui Juhn, The University of Houston
"Coordinated Work Schedules and the Gender Wage Gap"

Leilei Shen, Kansas State University
"Polarization of American Workers: The Big Squeeze from Occupational Exposure to Value-added Imports"

Deven Carlson, The University of Oklahoma
"When the Walls Come Down: Evidence from New Orleans on Teacher Labor Markets in the Absence of Unions, Tenure, and Certification Rules"

Robyn Meeks, Duke University
"Grid Versus Off-Grid: Electricity Services and Enterprise Development in Nepal"

Jeffrey Thurk, The University of Notre Dame
"Outsourcing, Firm Innovation, and Industry Dynamics in the Production of Semiconductors"

OU Economics Faculty Research Interests

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<th>Research Interests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Burge</td>
<td>Urban Economics, Public Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firt Demir</td>
<td>International Finance, Development Economics</td>
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<td>Pallab Ghosh</td>
<td>Labor Economics, Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Hartigan</td>
<td>International Trade, International Finance, Industrial Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Hicks</td>
<td>Economic Development, Macroeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Hicks</td>
<td>Economic Development</td>
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<td>Alexander Holmes</td>
<td>Human Resources Public Finance, Local Econ. Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Keen</td>
<td>Monetary Economics, Macroeconomics, Applied Time Series Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaeho Kim</td>
<td>Empirical Macro, Bayesian Econometrics, Time Series Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myongjin Kim</td>
<td>Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Kosmopoulou</td>
<td>Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qihong Liu</td>
<td>Industrial Organization, Applied Micro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aparna Mitra</td>
<td>Labor Economics, Development Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Nedelescu</td>
<td>Industrial Organization, Labor Economics, Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics</td>
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<td>Chunbei Wang</td>
<td>Labor Economics, Entrepreneurship</td>
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<td>Tyler Ransom</td>
<td>Labor Economics, Urban Economics, Economics of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Rogers</td>
<td>Urban Economics, Public Economics, Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selim S. Tabrizy</td>
<td>International Trade, International Finance, Development, Growth, Innovation</td>
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<td>Le Wang</td>
<td>Econometrics, Labor &amp; Development, Applied Microeconomics, Chinese Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ariel Weinberger</td>
<td>International Trade, Macroeconomics, Aggregate Productivity Fluctuations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Kosmopoulou</td>
<td>Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte Mandel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chiharu Ueno</td>
<td>Labor Economics, Development Economics</td>
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<td>N. A. S.</td>
<td>Industrial Economics, Macroeconomics, Applied Microeconomics</td>
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<td>S. Y.</td>
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<td>X. Z.</td>
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<td>Z. Z.</td>
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Stay Connected to OU Economics

We would love to hear from you.
Share your story with us!

Please send us updates to be included in the next newsletter. You can send news, announcements, photos and more by sending an email to cquiett@ou.edu.

You also may participate with OU Economics by mentoring a student, recommending an internship or sharing how you’ve used your economics degree with our student organization. Please contact Corey Quiett at cquiett@ou.edu or (405) 325-4307.

The power of an economics degree from the University of Oklahoma helps our graduates "Be in Demand."

Support our department's efforts to provide an outstanding foundation for success.

You may use the form below, or give online at: www.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/

I would like to make a gift of $_________ to the Department of Economics Development Fund (30980)

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Contact the Department of Economics
308 Cate Center Dr. CCD1 Rm 158 Norman OK 73072-7114
(405) 325-2861
http://ou.edu/cas/economics/cquiett@ou.edu