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Economics at OU: Be in Demand

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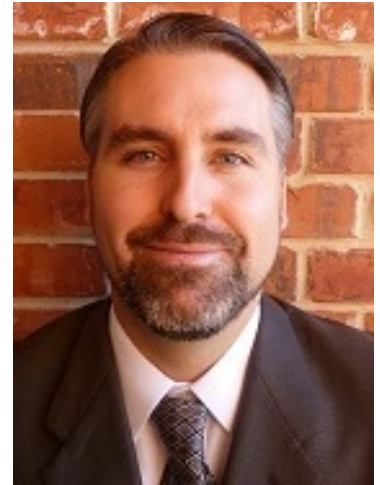
Welcome and Department Update

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Welcome to the latest installation of the OU Department of Economics Newsletter! Wow – where should I start – so much is happening! Actually - let's start by thinking about YOU and how we want to get better connected to YOU!

We want to learn about how we can do a better job providing you with updates and opportunities you benefit from. Would you please consider helping us accomplish this by filling out our recently drafted alumni/supporter survey? It will only take a few minutes.

https://ousurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9npibsurzFvRnUi



Also, having heard from supporters who asked about this - we are ramping up the department's profile on LinkedIn. Please take just a moment to connect your account to ours!

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ou-economics/>

Another great opportunity for alumni comes in the form of connecting with current students through the OU Econ Club. Dedicated student leaders like Caleb Anagnos, Will Miller, Avery Ravech, and Jennifer Dunbar, as well as faculty leaders Samantha Johnson and Daniel Nedelescu, have Econ Club regularly drawing 40-50 attendees to their weekly events – WOW! If you want to connect with them for either their fall or spring alumni engagement night – in person here or via zoom – please reach out to me at gburge@ou.edu and I'll connect you with their officers!

In fact, Econ Club kicked off Fall 2024 with a huge success – drawing nearly 200 attendees to a panel roundtable on current economic and political events – showcasing speakers including visiting Parliamentary Fellow MP Rehman Chishti, Oklahoma Senator Mary Boren, and former OU Student Body President (and Economics grad) Danial Pae. That same visit with MP Rehman Chishti also brought former Governor and U.S. Senator from Kansas – Sam Brownback – onto campus for multiple joint events. On Wednesday, August 28th, more than 1,000 students heard Senator Brownback and MP Chishti present on the topic of International Human Rights and Religious Freedom – an issue near to their hearts and on which they serve as global action leaders.

Welcome and Department Update

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A big change this Fall is that Lex Holmes is enjoying his new Emeritus Professor role following his retirement. This May we sent Lex into retirement in style! Check out the story & photos that follow. Friends, family members (including two siblings), colleagues, and former students all came out to honor the incredible legacy Lex built during his 50 years of service to Economics and the University of Oklahoma and to wish him well in what comes next. Lex and his wonderful wife Laddor have already been traveling the world and enjoying their extra time together, and we wish them well! If you want to help honor the legacy of Dr. Holmes – please consider donating to the Holmes Scholarship Fund. This merit-based scholarship honors two economics grads each year, with a special motivation towards identifying students who have displayed the skills and intentions of giving back to their fellow citizens in their lives of service.

<https://give.oufoundation.org/Holmes>

We also welcome Dr. Nghiem Huynh to the team! Dr. Huynh recently completed his degree from Yale University and specializes in development economics and urban/spatial economics – with an emphasis on understanding recent economic and demographic trends in Vietnam. Nghiem is excited to join our dynamic and thriving research group – and he certainly helps make us that much better with his arrival! We look forward to benefitting from his research insights and our students are blessed to have direct access to a leading global expert in Vietnam's economy.

In June Dr. Georgia Kosmopoulou hosted an NSF sponsored Conference on Auctions, Firm Behavior, and Public Policy. The event was held on OU's campus, bringing 25 leading scholars in the field of industrial organization together to showcase their groundbreaking new research. The event was incredibly impactful – with large numbers of OU faculty and grad students attending!

And while I'm most comfortable shining the spotlight on others, it is nice to see that my own hard work in the classroom over the years has made an impact on OU's students. In later portions of the newsletter, you will learn about how I was blessed, and quite frankly very humbled, to win the Oklahoma Medal of Excellence in teaching this year. This is an honor for me personally, but I want to state clearly that the joy I take in winning this award centers around the fact that it reflects well on the dedication & commitment of our entire team! This recognition highlights the importance of our teaching mission, and I'm honored that my colleagues facilitated this award. [A huge thank you to Georgia Kosmopoulou, Cindy Rogers, and Qihong Liu, among others.]

Welcome and Department Update

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As I've written in these chair messages before, we thrive together, and we support one another. Our team has so many dedicated teachers who are deserving of an award like this – it's my privilege to serve this group!

Also, the econ "T-shirt challenge" is running strong – shoot those pics of yourself wearing the Shirt wherever you go in the world! Contact the economics department to get a shirt & take it with you as you wander! Just take a photo and send them back to us at cquiett@ou.edu or gburge@ou.edu. Don't forget our website (<https://www.ou.edu/cas/economics>) is a great way to stay informed about current events in the department.

As always, if you're ever in Norman, please stop by for a visit! I'd love to treat you to a coffee/ drink and catch up on how you are doing.

Best & Boomer Sooner,

Greg Burge

Department Chair & Professor of Economics, Faculty in Residence for Dunham, Headington, and David L. Boren Colleges.

University of Oklahoma

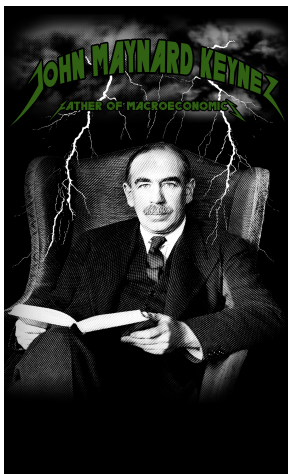
Econ Club Updates

Econ club had an active and productive semester, with weekly meetings resuming and a successful and collaborative presentation featuring British M.P. Rehman Chisti.



Econ Club Updates

After a busy fall semester, The Economics Club carried forward the momentum into the Spring! The club hosted 6 guest speakers from both inside and outside of the OU community and participated in the Big Event, a day of service where OU organizations volunteer in the Norman community. We also ran the first Econ Club T-shirt design competition! Members were tasked with creating an Economics-inspired T-Shirt design and presenting them to the club. This year's winner created a John Maynard Kanes-inspired shirt. We can't wait to see what sort of designs our members will make next semester!



Student profile: Edward "Jack" Leps

Edward “Jack” Leps, a recent graduate (May 2021) of OU, came back to campus this semester to give presentations about the Bureau of Labor Statistics to undergraduate students and Economics Club members. Jack began work for BLS in January 2022, where he works for the Economic Analysis and Information Division. Additionally, Jack has been attending graduate school at Southern Methodist University and is on track to graduate with a master’s in economics by this May.



One piece of advice he’d like to offer all students is “always keep your options open, don’t pigeon-hole yourself into one option. College is the best time to explore your career options.



OU Econ graduate student Beth Felkner was awarded the honor to be named top 10 Senior Honor Society.

Felkner also praised Tyler Ransom, who Felkner is doing their master's research with, and Greg Burge, chair of the economics department. Felkner said both professors taught them to maximize their opportunities.

Felkner is also passionate about renewable energy and said much of their research was about transitioning to resources that are more environmentally friendly than petroleum and coal. Norwood helped Felkner as they were presenting research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas last semester.

“I remember him saying, ‘Beth, I will move mountains for you at this university,’ and he meant it,” Felkner said. “To have a relationship like that with a professor is really special.”

OU Economics Professor Greg Burge to Receive Medal for Excellence



The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence is honoring University of Oklahoma economics professor and department chair Greg Burge with the Medal for Excellence in Research University Teaching.

“Dr. Burge’s personal touch and sustained engagement work miracles,” said colleague Qihong Liu, who noted that rates of student failure — measured by the number of D’s and F’s — fell by more than half during the first year Burge started teaching OU’s Principles of Macroeconomics introductory course.

Retiring Faculty Member

Dr. Alexander Holmes retired in May after 50 years of service to the University of Oklahoma. Faculty, staff, and former students of the economics department came together to honor him and remember his invaluable contributions to the department. Former students from all over the country sent in messages of appreciation and well wishes that were played during the event. He will be missed!



New Faculty



Professor Nghiem Q. Huynh received his Ph.D. from Yale University and his fields of research include development economics and international trade.

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Research and Development

OU Economics Faculty Research Interests

Gregory Burge

Urban Economics
Public Economics

Firat Demir

International Finance
Development Economics

Pallab Ghosh

Labor Economics
Econometrics

Joan Hamory

Economic Development

Nghiem Q. Huynh

Development Economics
International Trade

Samantha Johnson

Agriculture
Industrial Organization
Applied Microeconomics

Benjamin Keen

Monetary Economics
Macroeconomics
Applied Time Series
Econometrics

Ibrahim Kekec

Econometrics
Machine Learning
Labor Economics

Myongjin Kim

Industrial Organization
Applied Econometrics

Georgia Kosmopoulou

Microeconomic Theory
Industrial Organization

Judith Liu

Health Economics
Public Economics
Labor Economics

Qihong Liu

Industrial
Organization
Applied Microecon.

Chris Malloy

Energy Economics
Environmental Econ
Law Economics

Daniel Nedelescu

Industrial Organization
Labor Economics
Behavioral Economics
Experimental Economics

Brent Norwood

Public Policy
Education

Jayash Paudel

Environmental Economics
Development Economics

Tyler Ransom

Labor Economics
Urban Economics
Economics of
Education

Cynthia Rogers

Urban Economics
Public Economics
Public Policy

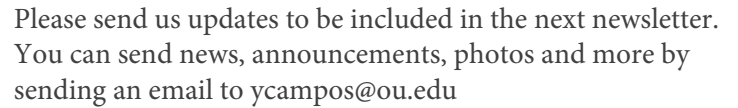
Hewei Shen

International Economics
Macroeconomics
International Finance

Mu-Jeung Yang

Empirical Analysis

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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 click here to [give online](#).

I would like to make a gift of \$_____ to the Department of Economics Endowed Fund (43099)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____
Email: _____

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