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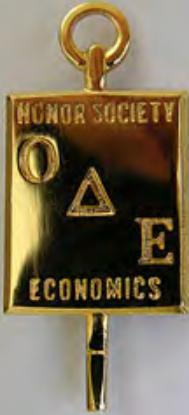
Department of Economics

Spring 2017 Economics Alumni Newsletter

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## Economics at OU: Be in Demand

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# Welcome and Department Update

## Report From the Chair

Gary A. Hoover, Department of Economics

Welcome to the latest installation of the OU Department of Economics Newsletter. On our website ([cas.ou.edu/economics](http://cas.ou.edu/economics)), you may find older editions of this newsletter to help you stay informed about the happenings in the department. So many wonderful changes have happened to our department that it is hard to know where to begin.

In May of 2017, we had our very first graduate from the joint BA/MA program with an emphasis on “Big Data”. It was such an honor to meet this young man and watch him receive his degree(s). What is more remarkable is that this program only came into existence nine months previously!

Our department continues to grow in the number of students majoring and minoring in economics. The classes are simply bursting at the seams. In addition, we provide a major service component for almost all freshmen who are required to take introductory economics courses. Yes, the dreaded (or loved) Econ 101. It is a honor for us to be able to impact so many young people.

In the fall of 2017 we will offer a new course in the Economics of Education. It appears to be drawing tremendous demand from students all over campus and especially from students in the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education.

You will note several alumni profiles in this edition of the newsletter. It is quite humbling to see how much concern and how many fond memories that you all have of your time in the department. Please keep the updates coming. We love sharing your good news.

Please don't forget that after more than 40 years of dedicated service, William Clark will retire after the fall 2017 semester. Therefore, as a way of showing our gratitude and to continue his legacy of supporting students in perpetuity, our department would like to start the William M. Clark Endowed Scholarship. Each year during our annual Fall Open House, we present scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students and would love to add a scholarship in Dr. Clark's honor to this tradition. Please help us, if you feel so inclined.

Feel free to reach out to me any time.

- Gary “Hoov” Hoover



*Left: Dr. Gary Hoover with OU Econ alum Dr. Roland Kirstein at the University of Madgeburg in Germany.*



## Economics Club Events

### Economics Research Scholars at the Dallas Federal Reserve

Fourteen Economics majors attended the Dallas Federal Reserve Economics Scholars Program at the end of March. Thanks to contributions from Econ Club sponsors, the department was able to send additional students to this year's event, which features undergraduate research presentations, peer feedback and poster sessions on-site at the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank. OU students prepared for the event by studying current economics research methods, including advanced statistics and econometric analysis.

While Federal Reserve employees are present, the sessions are led by undergraduates from more than two dozen colleges across the country. Competition to present, discuss, and host each session is fierce. Brian Frazier, OU senior, was selected to discuss a student's paper on the economic volatility of Afghanistan in the afternoon session. Students took time to interview and network with Fed researchers and were able to ask questions of the keynote speaker, who presented a new method of compiling an index of international economic freedoms.

OU Economics students who attended were: Jonathan Kim, Econ Club president, Ryan Fritz, Vladimir Garcia, Nicholas Ault, Jonathon Bellows, Brian Frazier, Alex McClintic, Jessica Robertson, Michael Lutter, Stephanie Jansson, Jay Maier, Alex Nongard, Ian Mooers and Katherine Yut.



*Below: Econ Club students pose onstage at the Dallas Federal Reserve in March.*



### A Legacy of Excellence



**Daniel Pae**, Economics and Political Science dual major, posing with OU President David Boren, was awarded the prestigious Carl Albert Outstanding Seniore Award by the College of Arts and Sciences.



**Chris Beasley**, BBA in Economics, was awarded a \$5,000 Sooner Innovation Fund Grant for his "killer app" idea to help students with common interests connect in real life. His app will be developed by the Sooner Launch Pad Accelerator.



**Kunal Naik** is the first graduate from the new Accelerated BA/MA in Economics and Big Data in spring 2017. He served as SGA president and plans to work for the Boeing Company following graduation.

### OU Econ Alum Receives Teaching Award

**Michael Scott**, OU Econ alum and professor of business administration at East Central University's Harland Stone School of Business, received the Teaching Excellence Award from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs Region 6. Scott received his master of arts in economics from OU in 2003 and his PhD in economics from Clemson University in 2012.



### Alum Joins the London School of Economics



**Daniel Reck**, OU alum, will join the faculty at the London School of Economics as an assistant professor in fall 2017, following a one-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California-Berkeley. Reck received his BA in economics and math from OU and his PhD from the University of Michigan.

### Alum Rises at Major News Media Company



**Bill Church**, 1980 OU graduate, recently was named senior vice president of news for GateHouse Media, one of the nation's largest newspaper companies. He previously served as executive editor of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune and GateHouse southeast regional editor. A collaboration between the Herald-Tribune and Tampa Bay Times earned a 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting.

Church is the current president of Associated Press Media Editors, a 2016 Knight Visiting Nieman Fellow at Harvard and a two-time Pulitzer jurist. He has been a longtime member of the Asian American Journalists Association and a recipient of the national Robert G. McGruder Diversity Leadership award.

## Faculty News and Alumni Spotlight

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**Gregory Burge** co-authored a paper with OU alum Chen Wu of Plymouth State University for Public Finance Review titled "Competing for Foreign Direct Investment: The Case of Local Governments in China."

**Saleh S. Tabrizy** was awarded the University of Oklahoma Libraries Dataset Acquisition and Transmission Award Grant for 2016-17.

**Myongjin Kim** and her co-authors Ricard Gil (Johns Hopkins) and Giorgio Zanarone (CUNEF) were invited to present her working paper, "Adaptation and Relational Contracting in the Airline Industry," at the NBER Organizational Economics Working Group Meeting.

**Daniel Hicks and Gregory Burge** will teach two economics courses as part of a London Economics Summer Study Abroad Program. The program was launched this year to great success, with 20 OU economics students filling all of the available slots. Students will stay in a facility maintained by the University of Florida in central London for the month of July, and will earn credit for World Development Economics and Urban Economics with a London twist. Due to the popularity of the program, future study abroad trips are on the books.

**Qihong Liu** was invited to serve as a discussant at the Seventh Annual Conference on Internet Commerce and Innovation, held in June 2016 at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. He recently sponsored Visiting Economics Scholar Hongyan Sun from the Hefei University of Technology.

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Dr. A.G. Malliaris (1971)



**A.G. "Tassos" Malliaris** currently is a professor of economics and finance and holds the Walter F. Mullady Sr. Chair in Business Administration at Loyola University, Chicago. He specializes in financial economics and has made several contributions in the area of futures markets, options markets and risk management. He is currently studying price asset bubbles and how they destabilize the financial and real sectors of an economy.

Tassos holds a BA in economics from the Athens University of Economics and Business. He met Alex Kondonassis in Athens, Greece, in 1965 when Alex was visiting as Fulbright Scholar. Tassos chose to continue his graduate work at OU from 1966 to 1971. Tassos describes his graduate work as a great period of his academic life because of the encouragement received by a very supportive group of economics faculty and colleagues. He completed his PhD in economics from OU in 1971 and was so excited about learning that subsequently completed a second PhD in mathematics from the University of Chicago.

He has authored and co-authored numerous articles in professional journals and has also co-authored with William A. Brock two books on Stochastic Methods in Economics and Finance and also Differential Equations, Stability and Chaos in Dynamic Economics. Another of his books on Foundations of Futures Markets was published in 1999. A collection of his recent papers appears in Economic Uncertainty, Instabilities and Asset Bubbles, published by World Scientific in 2005. He has co-edited with Douglas Evanoff and George Kaufman, New Perspectives on Asset Price Bubbles, published in 2012 by Oxford University Press. His most recent book, co-edited with Hersh Shefrin and Leslie Shaw, is The Global Financial Crisis and its Aftermath, published by Oxford University Press in 2016.



## OU Research Seminar Series

Spring 2017 - Coordinator: Dan Hicks

**Jeffrey Wooldridge, Michigan State University**  
*Testing and Correcting Endogeneity in Nonlinear Unobserved Effects Models*

**Olivier Deschenes, UC-Santa Barbara**  
*Weather and Death in India: Implications for Climate Change*

**Daniel Reck, UC-Berkeley**  
*Do Minimum Wages for Young Workers Raise Their Employment? Evidence from a Danish Discontinuity*

**John Patty, University of Chicago**  
*How the Legislative Agenda Can Drive Polarization*

**Asli Leblebicioglu, University of Texas-Dallas**  
*Trade Liberalization and Investment in Foreign Capital Goods: Evidence from India*

**Ozkan Eren, Louisiana State University**  
*The Effects of Teacher Incentives on Student Outcomes: Evidence from Louisiana Teacher Advancement Program*

**Joaquin Blaum, Brown University**  
*Importing, Exporting and Aggregate Productivity in Large Devaluations*

## OU Economics Faculty Research Interests

**Gary A. Hoover**  
*Public Policy Analysis  
 Public Finance  
 Income Distribution  
 Labor Economics*

**Firat Demir**  
*International Finance  
 Development Economics*

**Robin Grier**  
*Economic Development  
 Economic Growth  
 Latin American Development*

**Alexander Holmes**  
*Human Resources  
 Public Finance  
 Local Economic Development*

**Georgia Kosmopoulou**  
*Microeconomic Theory  
 Industrial Organization*

**Daniel Nedelescu**  
*Industrial Organization  
 Labor Economics  
 Behavioral Economics  
 Experimental Economics*

**Chunbei Wang**  
*Labor Economics  
 Entrepreneurship*

**Gregory Burge**  
*Urban Economics  
 Public Economics*

**Pallab Ghosh**  
*Labor Economics  
 Econometrics*

**James Hartigan**  
*International Trade  
 International Finance  
 Industrial Organization*

**Benjamin Keen**  
*Monetary Economics  
 Macroeconomics  
 Applied Time Series  
 Econometrics*

**Qihong Liu**  
*Industrial Organization  
 Applied Micro*

**Cynthia Rogers**  
*Urban Economics  
 Public Economics  
 Public Policy*

**Le Wang**  
*Econometrics,  
 Labor and Development  
 Economics, Applied  
 Microeconomics and  
 Chinese Economy*

**Will Clark**  
*Public Finance  
 Economic Development*

**Kevin Grier**  
*Economic Growth  
 Economic Development*

**Daniel Hicks**  
*Economic Development  
 Macroeconomics*

**Jaeho Kim**  
*Empirical Macro  
 Bayesian Econometrics*

**Myongjin Kim**  
*Industrial Organization  
 Applied Econometrics*

**Aparna Mitra**  
*Labor Economics  
 Development Economics*

**Saleh S. Tabrizy**  
*International Trade  
 International Finance  
 Development, Growth,  
 Innovation*

**Ariel Weinberger**  
*International Trade  
 Macroeconomics  
 Aggregate Productivity  
 Fluctuations*

*Right: Students lining up outside the Norman Public Library as part of OU's Big Event community service project. OU Economics Club students, led by Vice President Erik Fretland (far left), spent a day cleaning and improving public facilities.*

*Pictured from left: Erik Fretland, Stephanie Jansson, Jessica Robertson, Nick Ault, Jonathan Kim, Samantha Alcott, Brian Smith*



## Stay Connected to Economics

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

Please send us updates to be included in the next newsletter. You may send us news and subscribe to our Events newsletter by sending an email to [buchanan@ou.edu](mailto:buchanan@ou.edu).

If you want to participate by mentoring an Economics student, recommending an internship, or by sharing how you've used your economics degree with our student organization, please contact Buchanan Vrazel at [buchanan@ou.edu](mailto:buchanan@ou.edu) or (405) 325-2861.

*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 you can give online at: [www.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/](http://www.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/)*

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