



Winter 2019 Economics Alumni Newsletter

# CONTENTS

- 1** Report From the Chair
- 2** Economics Club Events
- 3-9** News and Notables
- 10** Research and Development
- 11** Stay Connected

## *Economics at OU: Be in Demand*

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<http://ou.edu/cas/economics/>



## 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 old editions of this newsletter to help you stay informed about the happenings in the department.

In fall of 2019, the department gave out ten scholarships to undergraduate economics majors. That number is triple what we did just five years ago. The growth in our scholarship funds is the direct result of efforts of alumni like yourself. Please continue to give as the need is substantial.

In the fall of 2019, we welcomed two new faculty members. Professor Kevin Kuruc joined us after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Texas-Austin. His research and teaching interests are in applied microeconomics and environmental economics. In addition, Professor Jonathan McFadden joined us after previously working for the United States Department of Agriculture. McFadden immediately jumped in to help in our ever growing “Big Data” M.A. program.

The fall College of Arts and Sciences convocation ceremony was very successful, with several dozen students receiving both B.A. and M.A. degrees. Since economics majors can also receive their degrees from the Price College of Business, the department will begin attending those ceremonies also. We love to celebrate all of our majors.

The department is always looking to expand the learning experience for our students. We added sports economics and machine learning to the curriculum this school year. I am currently in talks with other departments to add a "Law and Economics" course to the curriculum. In addition, in the fall of 2020, Professor Holmes will add a new course taught nowhere else in the state on the history of Oklahoma economic development. We are anticipating that this class will be a huge draw for our students.

The department faculty continue to amaze. During the summer and fall of 2019 they produced an enormous amount of scholarly output, which has been prominently featured in the profession. If you have seen any local or national media coverage, you saw our faculty discussing the most pressing economic news of the day.

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 in.


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



The Econ Club stayed busy throughout the semester with regular meetings, special guest speakers and a Trivia Night!

OU ECONOMICS CLUB:




**TRIVIA NIGHT**

SEPTEMBER 12TH • 6 PM  
Cate 1, Room 338

Free pizza and prizes!

OU Economics Club



**WHY OKLAHOMA  
NEEDS ECONOMISTS**

A Case Study in Utilities Regulation

Presented by Jared Haines, Attorney General's Office

SEPTEMBER 19 • 6 PM • CATE 1, 338

FREE FOOD



**OU  
ECONOMICS  
CLUB**

First meeting of Fall 2019!

Thursday, September 5th  
6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Cate 1, Room 338

**FREE PIZZA**

## 2019 Econ Open House Event - Sponsored by Shell

On Oct. 29, the economics department hosted its fifth annual open house event in Zarrow Hall. Approximately 165 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 Stephanie Jansson and economics department chair Professor Gary Hoover, and a chance for students and faculty to meet and exchange ideas about the future of the department.



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA  
Department of Economics



OPEN HOUSE

FALL 2019

OCTOBER 29th

COME MEET & GREET WITH THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY & STUDENTS. ENJOY SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
FREE MERCHANDISE, AND COMPLIMENTARY FOOD & BEVERAGES.

LOCATED AT ZARROW HALL FROM 6:15<sup>PM</sup> TO 8:00<sup>PM</sup> SPONSORED BY:  
Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work  
700 Elm Ave, Norman OK 73069



## Economics Department Awards and Recognition

### 2019 Econ Department Scholarship Award Winners:

\$1,000 Shary Scholarship

**Ethan Maddy**  
**Elizabeth Harjo**  
**Ian Miller**

\$1,000 Clark Scholarship

**Jack Leps**

\$1,000 Holmes  
Scholarship

**Luke Denton Brian**  
**McHatton Brianna Stotts**  
**Benjamin Filmore**  
**Paul White**  
**Joseph Quinton**



## Economics Department Awards and Recognition

### 2019 Econ Department Graduate Student Award Winners:

Outstanding First-Year Student  
**Ruichun Liu**

Outstanding First-Year Student-Runner-Up  
**Anthony Mayberry**

Liew Summer Research Award-1st Place  
**Robert Press**

Liew Summer Research Award-2nd Place  
**Saini Das**

Liew Summer Research Award-3rd Place  
**Rafael Zago**  
**Chen Xu**

Liew Summer Research Award-Honorable Mention  
**Brent Norwood**  
**Xiao Liu**

A.J. Kondonassis Development Award  
**Saini Das**



## 2019 Department News and Notables

Approximately 25 OU economics graduates attended the College of Arts and Sciences' convocation ceremony on Dec. 13.





Economics graduate and current Oklahoma State Rep. **Daniel Pae** received the 2019 Rising Star Award for professional

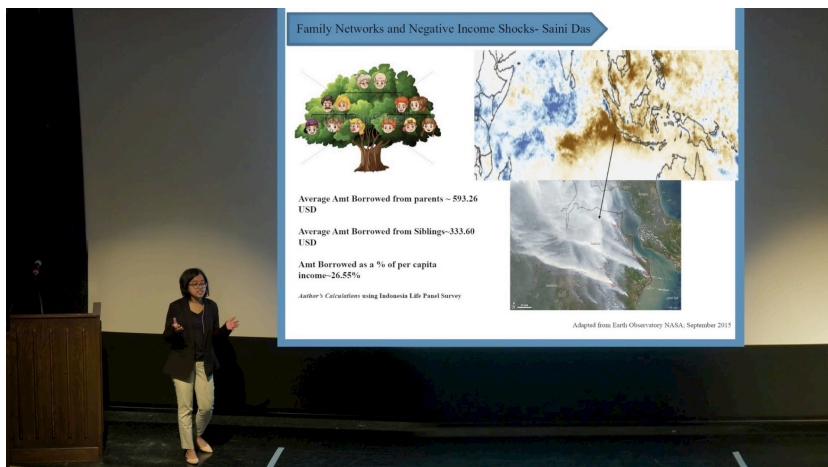
achievements and dedication to the Asian Pacific American community. The award was presented at the ILF 2019 Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.



On Sept. 1, faculty and staff from the Department of Economics attended a fun evening with their families at an OKC Dodgers baseball game at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City (and were featured on the stadium big screen).



Economics graduate student **Saini Das** competed in the final rounds of the Three Minute Thesis competition held by the OU Graduate College.



- Economics Ph.D. graduate **Chen Wu**, along with colleagues, presented their 2019 New Hampshire Foreign Direct Investment data and findings at the Future of FDI in New Hampshire event. [Read full report here.](#)
- OU economics graduate **Andrew Morse** will be attending the University of Chicago for graduate study
- OU graduate **Tyler Dang** is attending Yale Law School. During his career at OU, Tyler obtained a master of arts degree in public administration, a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a bachelor of arts degree in economics. He also earned a minor in religious studies.



**Professor Daniel Nedelescu** published the paper "Alpha-Final Offer Arbitration: The Best Way to Avoid Negotiation Failure" in the *Group Decision and Negotiation* journal.

**Professor Tyler Ransom's** work in the paper "Legacy and Athlete Preferences at Harvard" was referenced in several publications, including the *Washington Examiner*, *Bloomberg*, the *National Review*, the *New York Times* and *Moguldom*.

[Read the paper here.](#)

### **Professor Georgia**

**Kosmopoulou** was recently appointed as a co-editor for the *Southern Economic Journal*. SEJ is published by the Southern Economic Association and aims to disseminate results of novel research in theoretical and applied economics.



She is also serving as an expert at the National Science Foundation since May 2019 and is continuing to serve as an associate editor for the *Economics Bulletin*.

Her recently published work in the *International Economic Review* on "Strategic Bidding and Contract Renegotiation" (with H. Jung (her former advisee), C. Lamarche and R. Sicotte) provides empirical evidence of how ex-post-renegotiation affects bidding and outlays in government procurement contracting and uncovers strategic manipulation of bids. It studies bid skewing in contract renegotiation that leads to a substantial increase in the cost of procurement.

Professor **Firat Demir** became an associate editor in *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade* in addition to the two journals for which he serves as associate editor: the *Journal of Economic Surveys*, and the *Review of Social Economy*.

He had three papers accepted for publication: "Effects of Cultural Institutes on Bilateral Trade and FDI Flows: Cultural Diplomacy or Economic Altruism?" in *The World Economy* (with H. Im), "Destination Institutions, Firm Heterogeneity and Exporter Dynamics: Empirical Evidence from China" in *Review of World Economics* (with C. Hu), and "Exchange Rate Movements, Export Sophistication and Direction of Trade: The Development Channel and North-South Trade Flows" in *Cambridge Journal of Economics* (with M. Caglayan).

He attended the TEDU Emerging Markets and EEA conferences, and was invited to give two talks at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He also developed and co-taught a study abroad program in Uganda.

## 2019 Department News and Notables

9



**Professor Aparna Mitra** retired from the OU Economics Department after teaching at OU since 2000. She taught honors and non-honors sections of Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Labor Problems, and Economics of Discrimination. She also taught courses on poverty, income inequality, public policy and current issues in the labor market in the Honors College. In 2013, Mitra received the Patten Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her research interests are in the fields of development, labor and social policies both in the United States and in developing countries, such as India.

## Alumni News

Send your alumni news to [cquiett@ou.edu](mailto:cquiett@ou.edu)



OU Economics alumni Russ Maile and Long Shi, along with Jae-Yoon Kim display their OU Econ Club T-shirts. Email [cquiett@ou.edu](mailto:cquiett@ou.edu) for your free shirt, and send in a picture of you wearing it to be featured in the next newsletter!



1971 OU Economics alumnus Doug Munro collaborated on the book *Brexit and the Car Industry*, released in June 2019. Munro received his Ph.D. at

Ohio State University, spent time as a faculty member at Alabama, then spent more than three decades in business on five continents before retiring and returning to academia.

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## Research and Development

10

### OU Research Seminar Series

Fall 2019

**Kevin Kuruc, University of Oklahoma**  
*"Foreign Aid and Forecast Errors"*

**Jonathan McFadden, University of Oklahoma**  
*"Consequentiality and Consumer Willingness-to-Pay for Food Labels: An Application to the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard"*

**Ben Zou, Michigan State University**  
*"Industrialization from Scratch: The 'Construction of Third Front' and Local Economic Development in China's Hinterland"*

**Joshua Chan, Purdue University**  
*"Large Hybrid Time-Varying Parameter VARs"*

**Kelly Bedard, University of California Santa Barbara**  
*"Unequal Use of Social Insurance Benefits: The Role of Employers"*

**Leilei Shen, Kansas State University**  
*"Export Expansion and Local Labor Market Outcomes in China"*

**Kristin J. Kleinjans, Colorado State University Fullerton**  
*"The Effect of the Fall of the Berlin Wall on Children's Noncognitive Skills"*

**Silke Forbes, Tufts University**  
*"Spillovers Across Complementary Industries: Evidence from Airlines and Hotels"*

**Alexander Ugarov, University of Oklahoma**  
(Jointly with Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies at the University of Oklahoma)  
*"Talent Misallocation Across Countries: Evidence from Educational Achievement Tests"*

**Edward Miguel, University of California Berkeley**  
*"Twenty Year Economic Impacts of Deworming in Kenya"*

**Nick Huntington-Klein, Colorado State University Fullerton**  
*"Instruments with Heterogeneous Effects: Bias, Monotonicity, and Localness"*

### OU Economics Faculty Research Interests

**Gregory Burge**  
Urban Economics  
Public Economics

**Firat Demir**  
International Finance  
Development Economics

**Pallab Ghosh**  
Labor Economics  
Econometrics

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

**Daniel Hicks**  
Economic Development  
Macroeconomics

**Joan Hicks**  
Economic Development

**Alexander Holmes**  
Human Resources Public Finance  
Local Econ. Development

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

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

**Jaeho Kim**  
Empirical Macro  
Bayesian Econometrics  
Time Series Analysis

**Myongjin Kim**  
Industrial Organization  
Applied Econometrics

**Georgia Kosmopoulou**  
Microeconomic Theory  
Industrial Organization

**Kevin Kuruc**  
Applied Macroeconomics  
Environmental Economics

**Qihong Liu**  
Industrial Organization  
Applied Micro

**Jonathan McFadden**  
Environmental Economics  
Agricultural Economics  
Applied Econometrics

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

**Tyler Ransom**  
Labor Economics  
Urban Economics  
Economics of Education

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

**Hwei Shen**  
International Economics  
Macroeconomics  
International Finance

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

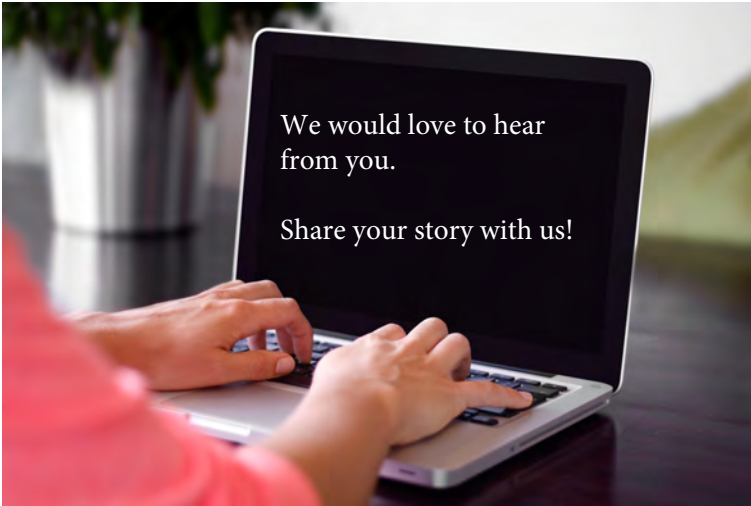
**Alexander Ugarov**  
Labor Economics  
Development Economics  
Economics Growth

**Chunbei Wang**  
Labor Economics  
Entrepreneurship

**Le Wang**  
Econometrics  
Labor & Development  
Applied Microeconomics  
Chinese Economy

## Stay Connected to OU Economics

11



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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/)

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

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