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Economics at OU: Be in Demand

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Welcome and Department Update

Report From the Chair

Greg Burge, Department of Economics

Welcome to the latest installation of the OU Department of Economics Newsletter! What an interesting time it is for the field of economics. As Jay Powell fights inflation by deciding how many rate hikes 2022 will bring, our team continues to advance knowledge through our teaching, research and service missions!

I hope you are staying safe and warm, and gearing up for a beautiful spring! I've always loved March on campus – something about the students coming back from spring break and the redbuds bursting with color! It makes me feel like the best days are waiting just around the corner. If you listen closely, you can almost hear the flowerbeds whispering – “Hey you - look up from your phone - don't miss me!”



But it's not spring yet! Oklahoma's recent winter storm brought “online classes” instead of “canceled classes” – a clear indication of the ways OU's faculty, staff and students now stand better prepared to adapt to the challenges life throws our way!

The economics department lies at the heart of OU's new strategic plan - “Lead On, University.” Due in part to growth in our majors and the success of our new master's program in data analytics, we are hiring new faculty in health economics and environmental/energy economics. These hires connect directly to OU's “strategic verticals” and will work with interdisciplinary research teams tackling society's most pressing challenges. As I write this update, we are “in the thick of it” – meaning that by the next newsletter we will (hopefully) be able to introduce two new colleagues!

Returning to a pre-pandemic tradition, we hosted a successful in-person department holiday party last December – our first major event bringing faculty/staff/students all together physically since Covid began! We had lots of backyard activities and a good deal of masking, but after seemingly countless zoom meetings over the past 18 months with one another – it felt good to actually see one another in person!

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And our in-person seminar series also returned in fall 2021! While lots of speakers are still “zooming” with us, Professor Kevin Kuruc organized an incredible connection between OU’s past and present. Professor Dean Spears – a 2005 Sooner graduate – presented his recent work on social choice theory. Spears serves on the faculty of the UT-Austin economics department (please hold all football rivalry-related concerns at bay) and is the director of the Research Institute for Compassionate Economics, which focuses on rural poverty, sanitation and infant/maternal health in India. We would LOVE chances to reconnect with other social/business leaders with connections to OU Economics in their past – just reach out if you are interested in traveling to OU to see us!

And speaking of travel, the Econ “T-shirt challenge” is running strong – now with fewer restrictions on travel due to health concerns than any time in the last two years! Contact the economics department to get a shirt and take it with you as you wander! Just snap a photo or two from those exciting locations and send them back to us! And don’t forget that our website (www.cas.ou.edu/economics) is a great source for previous newsletters, and 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 for a coffee/drink and hear how you are doing. Even as we continue to embrace measures to maintain health and continue winning the battle against COVID, the OU campus feels like it’s coming back bigger and better than ever!

Warm Regards,

Greg Burge
Department Chair and Professor of Economics
The University of Oklahoma

SAVE THE DATE

04.14.22

#OUGivingDay

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Dear OU Economics Sooner Friends and Alumni,

I would like to ask that you considering supporting OU Economics in an upcoming major giving event! On April 14, OU is sponsoring a Day of Giving, 24 hours of non-stop efforts to raise funds that help support the teaching/research/service mission of our great university. The college has offered considerable “Prize \$” to departments winning their “Giving Challenges.” So, for example - please help us win the challenge we are gunning for - MOST GIFTS IN THE 4 to 5:00 a.m. time slot! I know what you are thinking--that's totally crazy! Right?

Well, I'd like to advance the idea that it's not all that crazy! Set your alarms, hop on and click this link: <https://go.givesooner.org/economics> and help OU Econ make some magic happen! If we get the most donations in that hour - a very real possibility given our efforts - the college gives up a major prize - large enough to support THREE extra student-awarded scholarships! The specific program/support opportunity we are highlighting along with the college's help is this one:

Study Abroad gives OU students an opportunity to spread their wings while experiencing new places and cultures. The “Economics in London” program brings the history of economics and politics to life – giving students the experience of living and learning in a study abroad facility in the heart of historic central London. Led by multiple OU faculty with extensive experience living in the UK, students tour the British Museum, Parliament, Buckingham Palace, and the legendary Tower of London. Music and food festivals, day trips to see Stonehenge and the ancient Roman baths, West End Theater, and Wimbledon are among students’ favorite pursuits on this trip. A truly life-changing experience awaits any OU Sooner who embarks on this journey!

However, deserving students often need a helping hand to afford the cost of flights/lodging for this trip. Please help support the economics department as we raise funds to provide need-based \$1,000-\$2,000 scholarships to talented students who wish to engage in study abroad through the economics department. Any size gift helps! Give \$25, give \$100, heck - give \$500 if you can and you have a passion for helping students achieve their dreams! We just ask that you consider making your gift in the 4 to 5:00 a.m. hour. As crazy as this sounds - if we get lots of success acquiring gifts in this hour - the college will give us a BONUS prize that is enough \$\$ to support three extra students' scholarships!

Of course, we would love your donation to come in the 4 to 5:00 a.m. window, but all donations at all times of day will help us support the OU student body through meaningful scholarships that help them participate in economics study abroad programs.

Best Wishes and Boomer Sooner,

Greg Burge, Department Chair and Professor of Economics

Economics senior Ethan Maddy receives Overall Outstanding Senior award



Ethan Maddy, a senior in the economics department's accelerated bachelor's/ masters program, was named Overall Outstanding Senior at the University of Oklahoma in the fall.

From the [Dodge Family College of Arts and Science's website](#):

Maddy is pursuing a B.A./M.A. in economics and plans to attend graduate school to study health economics and public health. He is a leader on campus who addresses food insecurity in the Norman area and beyond, dedicating much of his time outside of the classroom to ensure everyone in the OU community has food on the table. Since his freshman year, Maddy has made an enormous impact through the OU Food Pantry, starting as a volunteer and now serving as director. With his help, the OU Food Pantry has expanded its facilities, created an online ordering system, and increased the overall number of individuals served as a result. He is also the founder and chair of the Big 12 Food Pantry Alliance, a collaboration that aims to improve the relationships and operations of the food pantries within the Big 12 Conference. Because of his dedication to serving the needs of his OU and Big 12 neighbors, he was a Harry S. Truman Scholarship finalist and a recipient of the Economics Academic Excellence Award and the OU Campus Life Award.



Professor Firat Demir organized several guest speakers through the OU Center for Peace and Development and the Security in Context network, including Prof. Elaine Hsieh and Prof. Eric Kramer, University of Oklahoma, “[Cultural Attitudes and Vaccine Resistance: Sustainability and Justice for Vaccination Interventions in a Global Pandemic.](#)”

He also authored the following publications:

“[Local Corruption, Total Factor Productivity and Firm Heterogeneity: Empirical Evidence from Chinese Manufacturing Firms.](#)” Forthcoming in *World Development* 151 (with C. Hu, J. Liu and H. Shen)

“[Institutional Similarity, Firm Heterogeneity and Export Sophistication.](#)” Forthcoming in *The World Economy* (with C. Hu)

“[The Real Exchange Rate and Development: Theory, Evidence, Issues, and Challenges.](#)” Forthcoming in *Journal of Economic Surveys* (with A. Razmi)

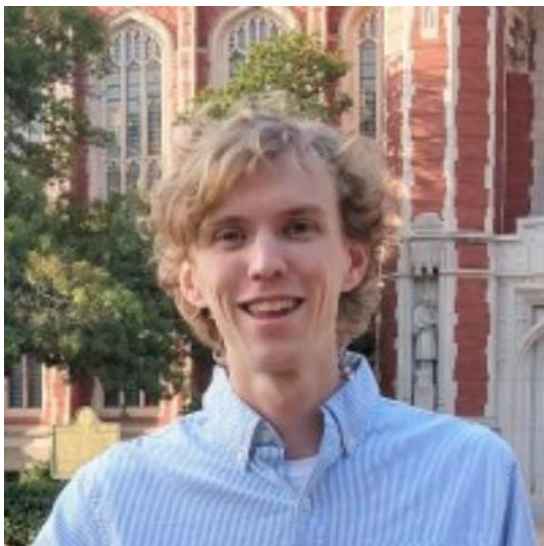
Professor Hwei Shen authored the following publications:

“Fiscal Commitment and Sovereign Default Risk,” with Siming Liu, published in the *Review of Economic Dynamics*.

“Financial Integration and the Correlation between International Debt and Equity Flows,” published in the *Journal of International Money and Finance*.



- Professors Daniel Nedelescu and Qihong Liu, along with former OU Ph.D. student Professor Gu Li, published “The Impact of Strategic Agents in Two-Sided Markets” *Journal of Economics*, Vol. 134, 195–218 (2021).
- Former OU Ph.D. student Amir Tayebi has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.
- Current Ph.D. student Rafael Alfena Zago was invited as a finalist to compete in the University of Oklahoma’s Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Final Competition with the topic “Let There Be Light! Better Lights, Lower Nighttime Crimes.”



Recent Ph.D. graduate Robert Press started a two-year postdoc position at the Center for Business and Public Policy of the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University and published two papers with his thesis advisor Georgia Kosmopoulou, Ph.D. and co-authors in *Economic Inquiry* and *Oxford Economic Papers*. The paper titled “Posthumous Trading Patterns affecting Artwork Prices,” published in *Oxford Economic Papers*, considers the price of artwork over time. In the art world, the death of an artist can impact how much their work sells for at auction. Robert Press, Professor Kosmopoulou and their collaborators look at why only some artists’ works increase in price following their death, and how their families and networks play key roles in their trajectory of success.

Professor Tyler Ransom has been selected as this year's recipient of the prestigious Irene Rothbaum Award.

From the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences website:



The Irene Rothbaum Award for Outstanding Assistant Professor in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences was established with a generous donation from Julian Rothbaum in honor of his wife. The recipient will receive a one-time award of \$2,500 that may be used either as a salary supplement or in support of teaching and/or scholarship. The recipient also will have their name placed on a plaque for permanent display in the college office. The award is presented annually.

The nominee should be a model teacher, recognized for dedication, effectiveness and ability to inspire students to high levels of achievement. Outstanding teaching should be demonstrated through student-teacher evaluations, chair recommendations and additional information such as student or peer letters of support, sample syllabi, course materials, etc. The nominee also should show evidence for good progress in scholarship, such as publication in peer-reviewed outlets and fellowship or grant support.

Ph.D. student Anthony Mayberry will be joining the Amazon Economist Community as an economist for the PXT (People Experience Technology) Team. This position is in Arlington, Virginia, and is associated with the forthcoming Amazon HQ2.



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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

Alexander Holmes
Human Resources Public
Finance
Local Econ. Development

Samantha Johnson
Agriculture
Industrial Organization
Applied Microeconomics

Benjamin Keen
Monetary Economics
Macroeconomics
Applied Time Series
Econometrics

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

Brent Norwood
Public Policy
Education

Tyler Ransom
Labor Economics
Urban Economics
Economics of
Education

Cynthia Rogers
Urban Economics
Public Economics
Public Policy

Hwei Shen
International Economics
Macroeconomics
International Finance

Chunbei Wang
Labor Economics
Entrepreneurship

Le Wang
Econometrics
Labor & Development
Applied Microeconomics
Chinese Economy

Mu-Jeung Yang
Empirical Analysis

Stay Connected to OU Economics



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 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: _____

Please make your check payable to the University of Oklahoma Foundation and send it and this form to:
University of Oklahoma Foundation, Inc. PO Box 258856, Oklahoma City, OK 73125-8856

All gifts are made to the University of Oklahoma Foundation for the benefit of the OU Department of Economics.