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

Firstly, I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. The spring of 2020 started off with a bang but COVID-19 caused the department to go from in-person instruction to 100% online in just one week. The tremendous efforts put forward by the faculty and staff of this department were nothing short of Herculean. I watched faculty who had never heard of Zoom or Webex embrace new technology and then excel.

What has been more amazing during the spring of 2020 is the resiliency of economics majors. We had students who were scheduled to graduate with either a bachelor's or bachelor's/master's successfully complete all of their academic obligations while dealing with the most extraordinary circumstances!

Some things have changed and not for the better as our budget, due to the pandemic, has been slashed. In the fall of 2020, Professor Holmes was slated to teach a new course that is taught nowhere else in the state on the history of Oklahoma economic development. We have postponed that class until the spring of 2021.

In fall of 2020 the department will still support scholarships to undergraduate economics majors. The number has tripled over the last five years. 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.

The department faculty continue to amaze. During the spring and summer of 2020, they have produced an enormous amount of scholarly output, which has been prominently featured in the profession and the press. If you have seen any local or national media coverage, you saw our faculty discussing the most pressing economic news of the day.

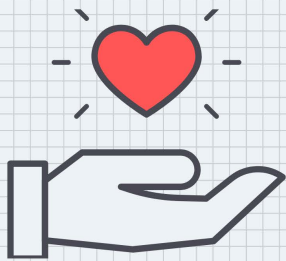
We still have our T-shirt challenge going on. Contact the economics department so that we can send you one of our Econ Club-designed shirts. So get a shirt and take it with you as you travel and snap a photo so that we can see how many exciting locations our alumni and friends are finding themselves.

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 two events co-hosted with Math Club for Valentine's Day!



OU ECONOMICS CLUB:

# THE ECONOMICS OF LOVE, DATING, AND SEX

*A talk from Dr. Dan Hicks*

Thursday, Feb. 13th ~ PHSC 201 ~ 6:00 pm

♥ Free food! ♥

## ***KEPLER'S LOVE LIFE***

What happens when a physicist is just  
too sexy



UNDERGRADUATE MATH CLUB  
FEBRUARY 12 AT 6 PM PHSC 1105  
FREE PIZZA AND DRINKS!  
FOR ACCOMADATIONS ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY,  
CONTACT DR. HALL (CHALL@OU.EDU)  
THIS EVENT FUNDED BY SGA

- Economics accelerated B.A./M.A. student Leah Pomerantz won an undergraduate research award
- 9 Economics majors received the OU Bass Scholarship award
- Ph.D. graduate Chen Xu will begin a position at St. Edward's University
- Ph.D. graduate Xiao Liu got a position at Nanjing Audit University
- OU economics Ph.D. graduate Lei He will begin a position at York College of Pennsylvania
- Ph.D. graduate Xiao Liu will begin a position as an assistant professor at Nanjing Audit University after successfully defending her dissertation "Three Applied Essays on Chinese Households."
- Former OU economics student and exchange student from Colombia Ana Patiño was accepted to the master's program in the University of British Columbia for a degree program titled "Master of Food and Resource Economics."
- OU economics Ph.D. graduate SunHyung Lee will begin a position as Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy

Current economics major Devon Colby was [named a 2020 Goldwater Scholar](#).

Colby volunteers with Opens Arms Clinic, is a member of the OU Symphony Orchestra and enjoys intramural tennis. Holding a 4.0 GPA, he is a member of the Honors College and is an officer of the OU Economics Club. He is the 2019 recipient of the Dick Van Der Helm Fellowship, was named an American Society for Mass Spectrometry Undergraduate and won the John Laing Undergraduate Research Award in 2018.



Joan Hamory, assistant professor of economics, co-authored [Twenty Year Impacts of Deworming](#) and the findings were featured by [Vox](#) and by [NPR](#). This study recently reinterviewed individuals who participated in a health intervention conducted in rural Kenyan primary schools starting in 1998, to study the long-term economic impacts of improved child health.



Professor Gregory Burge was surprised before one of his classes in February by Dean Wrobel with the James and JoAnn Holden Faculty Award. The annual award honors faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching courses at the freshman or sophomore level and exhibit excellent leadership in research.



- OU economics graduate Austin Coffey was one of 18 students nationwide to be named a [Luce Scholar](#).

Professor Firat Demir, in collaboration with the Center for Peace and Development at OU and the Security in Context, which is a multi-institution network, received a research grant for 2020-2022 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for \$175,000. He also received the Prestigious Scholarships Award from the VPR Faculty Recognition Program 2020, and the Fulbright Award to spend the spring 2021 semester at the University of Vilnius in Lithuania. He also had the following items published: “Effects of Motherhood Timing, Breastmilk Substitutes and Education on the Duration of Breastfeeding: Evidence from Egypt,” forthcoming in *World Development* 133, 2020 (with P. Ghosh and Z. Liu), [“Effects of Cultural Institutes on Bilateral Trade and FDI Flows: Cultural Diplomacy or Economic Altruism?”](#) in *The World Economy*, 2020 (with H. Im), and [“Destination Institutions, Firm Heterogeneity and Exporter Dynamics: Empirical Evidence from China,”](#) *Review of World Economics (Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv)* (with C. Hu).



Professor Georgia Kosmopoulou, associate dean for research in the college, was recently appointed as associate editor for the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. The journal is devoted to theoretical and empirical research concerning economic decision, organization and behavior and to economic change in all its aspects. Its specific purposes are to foster an improved understanding of how human cognitive, computational and informational characteristics influence the working of economic organizations and market economies and how an economy's structural features lead to various types of micro and macro behavior, to changing patterns of development and to institutional evolution.

- Professor Hewei Shen's paper, "[Foreign asset accumulation among emerging market economies: A case for coordination](#)," was published in the January issue of the *Review of Economic Dynamics*.
- A paper by Professor Tyler Ransom about discrimination against Asian Americans in the Harvard admissions process was discussed on an episode of the podcast "The Weeds." [The episode is posted here](#) and the paper is referenced at 50:00.

Professor Saleh Sahabeh Tabrizy has a forthcoming paper, titled "[Industrial Research and Development and Real Exchange Rate Depreciation in a Small Open Economy](#)" in *The World Economy*.

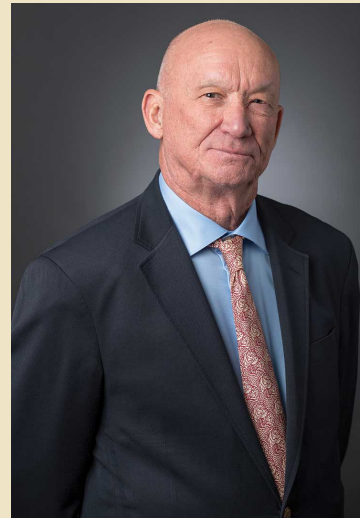
Former OU economics major Nazha Diwan recently joined the Hudson College of Public Health at the OU Health Sciences Center to pursue a master of science degree in epidemiology and biostatistics.

OU econ grad Kody Oliver recently joined the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University to pursue a master of public health degree in global health epidemiology and disease control.

## 2020 Department News and Notables

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OU alumnus Professor Ed Stuart has been featured in several television and online news reports and economics-related organizations, including [WWTW Chicago](#) for the story “US Stocks Surge Amid Easing Tension with Iran, Imminent China Trade Talks,” the [APICS organization yearly meeting](#), and YouTube series “Relatecasts” to discuss [Ireland’s economy and culture](#).



### Alumni News

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



Economics and political science graduate Daniel Pae was awarded the 2020 OU CAS Young Alumni Award. [From the CAS website:](#)

Daniel Pae recently graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade-point average from the university in 2017 with a double major in economics and political science and a double minor in history and international area studies, and a master’s degree in public administration. During his time at OU, he served as Student Body president, along with volunteering his time with The Oklahoma Group, Loveworks Afterschool Leadership, and Generation Citizen.

Pae received numerous scholarships, honors and awards during his college career, including the Carl Albert Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Carl Albert Capitol Scholars and Henderson Scholarship.

He was the recipient of the 2017 Carl Albert Award, the most prestigious award given to a student by the OU College of Arts and Sciences, based on academics, moral force of character, and promise of future service to the state and nation.

Currently, Pae is serving as the state representative for House District 62. Before being elected, he worked as an administrative assistant in the Lawton City Manager’s Office. Pae is hard-working and committed to bettering his district. Recently, he introduced House Bill 1071, his first bill after being elected. This highly anticipated bill raised the speed limit on certain highways and certain areas of the turnpike.

Pae is steadfast in his efforts to represent the community of Lawton in its mission to connect young, career-bound leaders to social, civic and business resources.

## 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

**James Hartigan**

International Trade  
International Finance  
Industrial Organization

**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

**Krishna Regmi**

Labor 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

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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: <https://giving.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/Economics>

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

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