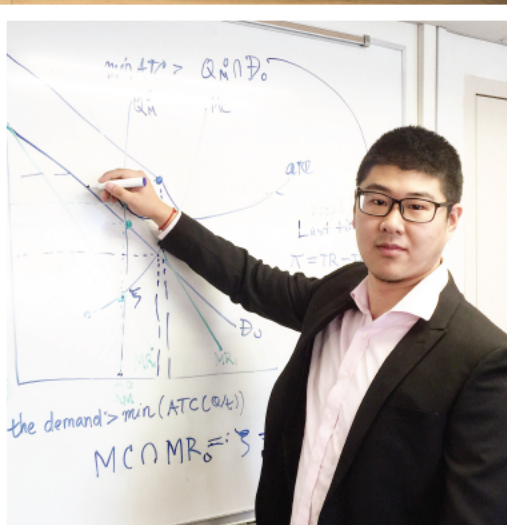




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Economics at OU: Be in Demand

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Report From the Chair

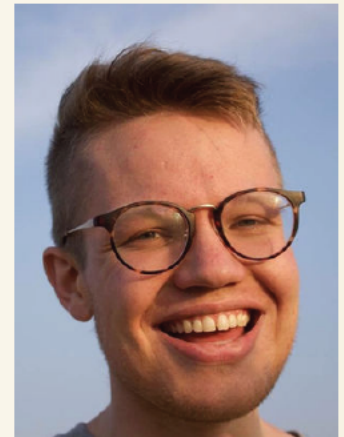
Gary A. Hoover, Department of Economics

Welcome to our latest installation of the OU Department of Economics Newsletter. On our website (cas.ou.edu/economics) you can find old editions of the newsletter to keep up with current and past events happening in the department. Our department continues to grow. It is my stated goal for economics to be the largest major in the College of Arts and Sciences, if not the entire university.

During the spring semester, we were successful in hiring Le Wang as the Chong K. Liew Endowed Chair. He formerly was employed at the University of Alabama. In addition, we were able to hire Chunbei Wang, who formerly was employed at Birmingham Southern College. These new additions will arrive in the fall and strengthen our growing programs in the department.

As I have said many times, it is my stated goal for economics to be the largest major in the College of Arts and Sciences, if not the entire university. We are on our way! In addition to the standard economics courses, we are offering a wide variety of electives for students, such as Experimental Economics, Environmental Economics, Game Theory, Labor Economics, and the Economics of Discrimination. Students are expanding their economic skill set. Our faculty are known nationally and internationally. Their research helps to inform policy in all facets of the economy. They then take those findings and bring them fresh into the classroom. This spring saw the Econ Club take a field trip to the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank and host a wide variety of seminar speakers at their weekly meetings. The only thing missing from these pages is more about YOU! Got a promotion? Let us know. Used some of the training you learned here in a practical way? Let us share that with other alumni.

Finally, the need is great. We could always use your financial support. Consider making a small gift to the department.



Above Gary A. Hoover, left, and Jeremy Allen, right. Jeremy is an Economics junior and winner of the 2016 Truman Scholarship. *Below* New Ph.D. James Schlawfer, center, is joined by Economics Department faculty after his successful dissertation defense.





Economics Launches New Programs to Help Students Succeed in the Era of Big Data

Industry experts predict that thousands of skilled workers will be needed in the Big Data field to meet demand, and University of Oklahoma students will lead the way. This fall, the department welcomes the inaugural class for the new Economics M.A. with Data Emphasis. Students in the College of Arts and Sciences have the option of earning

"I'm really excited to be part of the new program and get the skills I need to start a career as a financial data analyst."

-Kaelan Washington, B.A.,M.A. student

an accelerated BA+MA degree in five years. The core curriculum of econometrics and advanced economic theory is supplemented with data science electives in computer science, industrial engineering, management information technology, and geographical information systems. The new programs are under the direction of Le Wang, who joins the department this year from the University of Alabama. The popular programs have filled quickly with students from across the university, eager to acquire top-notch technical and data analytics skills for their careers in the Big Data era.

Students get hands-on training with widely-used programming and statistical languages and software, such as data mining and modeling in SAS, which are among the most-valued career skills across many types of jobs. The first graduating class is planned for spring 2017.



OU Econ Club Finds Winning Strategy in International Game Theory Competition

OU Econ Club students took first place in the first-ever MobLab Game Theory Student Tournament, defeating Northeastern University (second place) and the University of Waterloo (third place). The online competition was held over eight weeks, with participating universities from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. According to the organizers, the OU team played "ruthlessly," coming in first place for five of the eight weeks.

Fifteen schools completed the contest, which included teams from Cornell University, Oxford University and the University of Southern California. Jonathan Kim, incoming Econ Club president, said that the OU team used the game theory fundamentals they learned in class to figure out the most successful strategies. "We didn't use just one strategy," Kim stated, "We divided up and competed against ourselves to see who could score the highest."

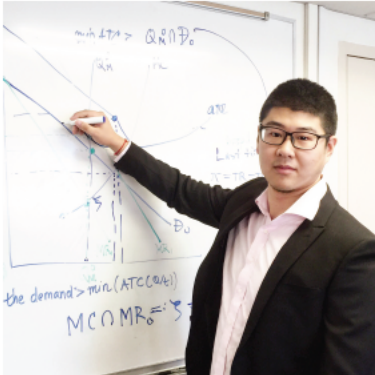


Above, from left: Economics Club officers who organized and led the team included Secretary Jonathan Kim, President Franklin Otis, Vice President Erik Fretland.





Graduates Find Success Around the World



Zexuan Liu, Ph.D. (2016)

Fields: Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics,
Applied Econometrics, Public Policy

Paper: "An Application of Genetic Matching on the US Airlines Merger"

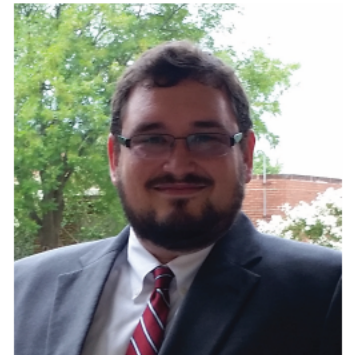
Employment: Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, China

James Schlafler, Ph.D. (2016)

Fields: Public Economics, Education, Applied Microeconomics

Paper: "Financing Public Education Facilities: The Role of Elderly
Populations and Geographic Mobility"

Employment: Westfield State University, Westfield,
Massachusetts.



Weici Yuan, Ph.D. (2016)

Fields: Economic Development, Labor Economics, Applied
Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics

Paper: "Equity Market Liberalization and Economic Growth
Revisited: New Data and New Methods"

Employment: University of Central Arkansas, Conway,
Arkansas.





OU Research Seminar Series

Spring 2016 - Coordinator: Dan Hicks

Saleh S. Tabrizy, University of Oklahoma
*Industrial Research and Development and Exchange
 Rate Depreciation in a Small Open Economy*

Svetlana Demidova, McMaster University
*Trade Policy, Firm Heterogeneity, and Variable
 Markups*

Christoph Rothe, Columbia University *Women's
 Enfranchisement and Children's Education: The
 Long-Run Impact of the U.S. Suffrage Movement*

Chris Conlon, Columbia University
*Wholesale Prices, Retail Prices, and the Lumpy Pass-
 Through of Alcohol Taxes*

Daniel Nedelescu, University of Oklahoma
Alpha-Final Offer Arbitration and Risk Preferences

Emily Conover, Hamilton College
*Missing Men and Female Labor Market Outcomes:
 Evidence from Large-Scale Mexican Migration*

Ken Wilbur, UCSD Marketing
Reminders of Others in Print-at-Home Coupons

Erik Kimbrough, Simon Frasier University
Kinship, Fractionalization, and Corruption

Thomas Lemieux, UBC
*The Minimum Wage, Turnover, and the
 Shape of the Wage Distribution*

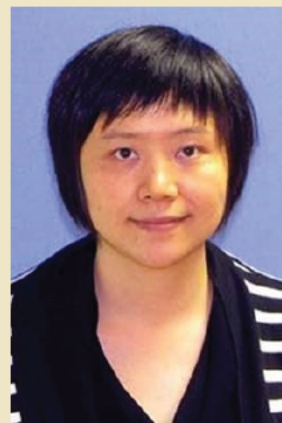
Yuya Takahashi, Johns Hopkins
*Preemptive Entry and Technology Diffusion
 in the Market for Drive-in Theaters*

OU Economics Welcomes New Faculty



Le Wang, Ph.D., joins the department as the new Chong K. Liew Endowed Chair and associate professor in economics. He received his doctorate from Southern Methodist University (2006) and most recently taught at the University of Alabama. His research interests are Econometrics, Labor and Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, and the Chinese Economy.

Wang is the director of the Managerial Economics MA with Data Emphasis Program. He will teach ECON 5023: Statistics for Decision-Making in fall 2016.



Chunbei Wang, Ph.D., joins the department as assistant professor in economics. She received her doctorate from the University of Texas at Dallas (2008) and most recently taught at the Birmingham Southern College. Her research interests are Labor Economics: Economics of Immigration, Entrepreneurship, Education, Gender, and Minority, Labor Demand and Supply.

Wang will teach ECON 4513 Economics of Discrimination in Fall 2016.

Below, left Econ Club students prepare for their trip to the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank. *Below, right* Peer mentors provide test help during "Dead Week" before final exams begin.





The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Economics



Stay Connected to Economics

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

Please send updates for inclusion in the next newsletter. You may send us news and subscribe to our "Events" newsletter by sending an email to buchanan@ou.edu.

If you would like to mentor an Economics student, recommend an internship, or speak to our student organization about how you have used your economics degree, contact Buchanan Vrazel at buchanan@ou.edu or (405) 325-2861.

What changes and improvements would you like to see? Fill out the Economics majors / alumni survey [here](#):

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.

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I would like to make a gift of \$_____ to the Department of Economics Development Fund (30980)

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