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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 the inaugural edition of the OU Department of Economics Newsletter. We have had a rather exciting and dynamic 2015, and it is only half over!! I cannot begin to tell you all of the things that are going on, but I will mention a few of the highlights. First of all, the Economics Department is growing quickly. I just arrived as the new department chair in January of 2015.

I was a William White McDonald Family Distinguished Faculty Fellow and assistant dean for Faculty and Graduate Student Development at the University of Alabama for 17 years before arriving here. I am humbled by this opportunity to serve the department.

We also have two young and exciting scholars joining us in the fall: Ariel Weinberger from the University of California – Davis and Saleh Tabrizy from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. In addition, we are in the process of hiring a new faculty member for the Chong K. Liew Chair in Economics.

The faculty have continued to be leaders in various areas of scholarship and teaching. Our faculty are known around the globe for their cutting-edge research. In addition, students from this department continue to lead the university in awards and recognition for their diligent efforts to be thought leaders both on and off the campus. The Econ Club continues to amaze. They run a weekly seminar and serve as ambassadors to the OU community on behalf of economics. I could not be any more proud of their endeavors.

So please enjoy this newsletter and feel free to contact us with suggestions on notable accomplishments of department alumni, ways that we may be of service to you and opportunities to support our ever-increasing need.

- Gary “Hoov” Hoover
2015 Scholarship Winners

Economics Students Stand Out

Hayden Redmon - Junior
Economics, B.A.
Judi and Dave Proctor Scholarship

Amount: $5,000

Amanda Ahadizadeh - Junior
Economics, B.A., French, B.A., Pre-Law
Lela Mitchell Berlin Scholarship
Robert Dean Bass Scholarship

Amount: $3,600 (total)

Jonathan Kim - Junior
Economics, B.A., Mathematics, B.A.
Leadership Scholars Program

Amount: $1,500

Courtney Shupert - Junior
Economics, B.A.
Leadership Scholars Program

Amount: $1,500

Connor Moore - Sophomore
Economics, B.A., Mathematics, B.A.
Corinne Price Scholarship

Amount: $1,200

Daniel Pae - Sophomore
Economics, B.A., Political Science, B.A.
Leadership Scholars Program*
Capitol Scholars Program*

*Non-monetary awards

Michael Lutter - Senior
Economics, B.A., Pre-Med
Robert Dean Bass Scholarship

Amount: $2,500

Wondering about the atoms?

They are part of the new College of Arts and Sciences logo!
Job Market Candidates Find Success Around the World

**Ross Hallren, Ph.D.**

**Fields:** Economic Development, International Finance, Monetary Systems

**Paper:** "Exchange Rate Policy and Economic Crisis Recovery in the Developing World: A Quasi-Experimental Methods Approach"

**Employment:** U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, D.C.

**Souleymane Soumahoro, Ph.D.**

**Fields:** Economic Development, Political Economy, Applied Econometrics

**Paper:** "Essays in Development Economics and Political Economy"

**Employment:** Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.

**Trey Dronyk-Troper III, Ph.D.**

**Fields:** Urban Economics, Public Economics, Public Finance

**Paper:** "An Empirical Analysis of Non-Linear Spatial Capitalization Effects"

**Employment:** Murphy Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, Tulane University, Louisiana
Job Market Candidates Find Success Around the World (continued)

**Alex Ufier, Ph.D.**

**Fields:** Growth and Development, Political Economy, Public Finance

**Paper:** "The Effect of VATs on Government Balance Sheets"

**Employment:** Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., Washington, D.C.

**Jia Wang, Ph.D.**

**Fields:** Public Economics, Urban Economics, Applied Econometrics

**Paper:** "Do Economic Development Incentives Crowd Out Public Expenditures in U.S. States?"

**Employment:** Sewanee University of the South, Tennessee

**Lingxiao Zhao, ABD (Ph.D. expected Summer 2015)**

**Fields:** Public Economics, Urban Economics, Labor Economics

**Paper:** "Housing Wealth, Property Taxes and Labor Supply Among the Elderly"

**Employment:** Southwest University of Finance and Economics, China
A Legacy of Excellence

OU Econ Alum Named University President

Benjamin Akande, former dean of the George Herbert Walker School of Business and Technology and chief of the Office of Corporate Partnerships at Webster College, was named the new president of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.

New Adviser Wins Provost's Award, Grant

Buchanan Vrazel, academic adviser for Economics and OU alum, was awarded Outstanding New Adviser by the Provost's Advisory Council on Academic Advising. His proposal earned a Sooner Parents Mini-Grant for a Peer Mentoring Program for Economics majors in 2015-16.

Kevin Hadley, former Econ Club president and Economics banner carrier at convocation, earned a double major in economics and mathematics and will be a research associate at the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City.

Lauren Schechter, BBA-Economics, was awarded Outstanding Economics Major. She has worked at INVISTA, The Oklahoma Group, and the OU Women’s Outreach Center and will attend graduate school in economics.

Daniel Meschter, Economics and Finance senior, will spend a final year with the Arabic Flagship Program at the University of Texas. He is a consultant for Arrow Global Capital.

Jonathan Kim (below) is given a certificate recognizing him as Outstanding Economics Student from Cindy Rogers, professor of economics; Daniel Pae (right) receives the Outstanding Sophomore Award from University of Oklahoma President David Boren.
Economics Welcomes New Faculty

Saleh S. Tabrizy, Ph.D., joins the department as visiting assistant professor of economics. Tabrizy received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and specializes in international trade, international finance, and growth Economics.

Ariel Weinberger, Ph.D., joins the department as assistant professor of economics. Weinberger received his doctorate from the University of California at Davis and specializes in international trade, macroeconomics, aggregate productivity, and fluctuations.

New Graduate Director Appointed

Gregory Burge recently accepted the position of graduate director. He is an associate professor of economics, and an applied microeconomist with interests in urban and public economics. His research investigates the causes and consequences of local revenue mechanisms, including development impact fees, local option sales taxes and property taxes. He also has published work on the federal LIHTC program and is researching the effects of the recent boom/bust cycle in the housing market on elderly employment outcomes.

His research was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and DeVoe L. Moore Center, among others. His papers have been published in scholarly publications such as the Journal of Urban Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, National Tax Journal, Journal of Regional Science, Real Estate Economics, Cityscape, Journal of the American Planning Association, and Housing Policy Debate. He loves teaching economics and enjoys working with undergraduate and graduate students in class and on independent research.

James Hartigan was named visiting professor at University College - Dublin Sutherland School of Law from September 2014 through January 2015, and jointly taught international economic law with the dean of the law school. He was named honorary fellow of the Society of the International Economics and Finance Society, bestowed at the Allied Social Science Association meetings in January.

Hartigan was appointed editor-in-chief of the Journal of International Trade Law and Policy in 2014, and invited to participate in the World Trade Organization Case Law Program, which pairs economists and legal scholars to analyze panel and appellate body disputes. The analyses will be published in the World Trade Review, an independent journal sponsored by the WTO and published by Cambridge University Press. The case analyses were presented at the WTO Case Law Program in Florence, Italy, in May.

Qihong Liu co-authored a paper titled “Competing With Complementors: An Empirical Look at Amazon.com” with Feng Zhu; was accepted by the Sixth Annual Searle Center Conference on Internet Search and Innovation.

In spring 2015, he applied for and was awarded a College of Arts and Sciences IT grant to install an AV Learning Space for Cate 1 Classroom 338. The Learning Space is expected to be upgraded in summer and will be operational by fall.
Award-Winning Teaching and Research

Firat Demir received the 2015-2016 Fulbright Fellowship and was recognized by the OU Office of the Vice President for Research for Exceptional Achievements in Research and Creative Activity. In 2014-15, he appeared on a dozen international news programs, including Russia Today TV, to discuss world events and economics. He was featured on LYVBC Radio in New York City in February to discuss Jordan and the War Against ISIS. His paper, “Turkey’s Enemy Within,” was published in Foreign Policy, in January, 2014.

Cynthia Rogers was promoted to full professor in economics. She was appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Urban Affairs, and is an invited panelist at the Western Meetings of the National Conference of State Legislators in June. Rogers will teach a new course in Environmental Economics starting fall. She serves as co-chair of the Oklahoma Chapter of Scholars Strategy Network, which seeks to bridge academic research with policy making.

Aparna Mitra was one of only five faculty named a Presidential Teaching Fellow in the Joe C. and Carole Kerr McClendon Honors College, to serve a two-year appointment. Mitra has taught the Economics Capstone, "Economics as a Social Science," for several years, and serves as the director of Advanced programs in economics.


Georgia Kosmopoulou is on loan to the National Science Foundation for the third year, where she serves as program director in economics.

Jaeho Kim is working on a paper, “Efficient Bayesian Inference in Non-linear/Non-Gaussian Switching State Space Models: Long-run and Short-run Risk Return Tradeoffs in the U.S. Stock Market.”

Myongjin Kim presented at the International Industrial Organization Conference in April. Her research examines the effects of competition and market structure on price dispersion in the airline industry.

Daniel Hicks was awarded the Irene Rothbaum Award for the Outstanding Assistant Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences in recognition of his dedication to teaching and research achievements. In February, he delivered his highly-anticipated Valentine’s Day-themed lecture, “Market Relationships - The Economics of Dating, Marriage, and Sex or That Time Some Guy Tried to Buy My Wife for 30 Camels” to the OU Economics Club. Hicks had three papers published in refereed journals during the spring semester and in February received a Faculty Investment Program research grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research - Norman Campus. The research grant will provide resources for a project examining the causal impact of air pollution on infant health and worker productivity to be undertaken during the summer.

Pallab Ghosh will publish a paper in the Journal of Applied Econometrics, "Replication of Unconditional Quantile Regressions by Firpo, Fortin and Lemieux (2009)". In June, Ghosh will present his solo-author paper, "Noncognitive Traits, Sorting and Gender Wage Gap in the US Labor Market," at the Society of Labor Economics Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada.
## OU Research Seminar Series

**FALL 2015 - Curator: Daniel Hicks**

**Seema Jayachandran, Northwestern University**  
*Why are Indian Children So Short?*

**Melinda Petre, UC Irvine**  
*Are Employers Omniscient? Employer Learning About Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills*

**Elira Kuka, Southern Methodist 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*

**John Winters, Oklahoma State University**  
*Do STEM and Non-STEM College Graduates Increase Innovation? Evidence from U.S. Metropolitan Areas*

**Henry Wang, University of Missouri**  
*A Model of Partial Sequential Search*

**Mahmut Yasar, University of Texas-Arlington**  
*Export Diversification and Firm Productivity: Evidence from a Large Developing Country*

**Owen Ozier, World Bank**  
*A Firm of One’s Own: Experimental Evidence on Credit Constraints and Occupational Choice*

### OU Economics Faculty Research Interests

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Research Interests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Burge</td>
<td>Urban Economics, Public Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Clark</td>
<td>Public Finance, Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firat Demir</td>
<td>International Finance, Development Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pallab Ghosh</td>
<td>Labor Economics, Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Grier</td>
<td>Economic Growth, Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Grier</td>
<td>Economic Development, Economic Growth, Latin American Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Hartigan</td>
<td>International Trade, International Finance, Industrial Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Hicks</td>
<td>Economic Development, Macroeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Holmes</td>
<td>Human Resources, Urban Economics, Micro Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Keen</td>
<td>Monetary Economics, Macroeconomics, Applied Time Series, Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaeho Kim</td>
<td>Empirical Macro, Bayesian Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myongjin Kim</td>
<td>Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Kosmopoulou</td>
<td>Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qihong Liu</td>
<td>Industrial Organization, Applied Micro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aparna Mitra</td>
<td>Labor Economics, Development Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Nedelescu</td>
<td>Industrial Organization, Labor Economics, Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Rogers</td>
<td>Urban Economics, Public Economics, Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saleh S. Tabrizy</td>
<td>International Trade, International Finance, Development, Growth, Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariel Weinberger</td>
<td>International Trade, Macroeconomics, Aggregate Productivity, Fluctuations</td>
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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 can send us news and subscribe to our Events newsletter by sending an email to buchanan@ou.edu.

If you want to participate by mentoring an economics student or by sharing how you’ve used your economics degree with our student organization, please 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:

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The power of an Economics degree from the University of Oklahoma helps our graduates "Be in Demand."

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You can use the form below, or you can give online at: www.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/Economics

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

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