



Winter 2018 Economics Alumni Newsletter

CONTENTS

- 1 Report From the Chair
- 2-3 Economics Club Events
- 4-10 News and Notables
- 11 Research and Development
- 12 Stay Connected

Economics at OU: Be in Demand

Department of Economics

308 Cate Center Drive CCD1

Room 158

Norman, OK 73072-7114

(405) 325-2861

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

Chair

Gary A. Hoover

Editor

Corey Quiett

Contributors

Tami Kinsey

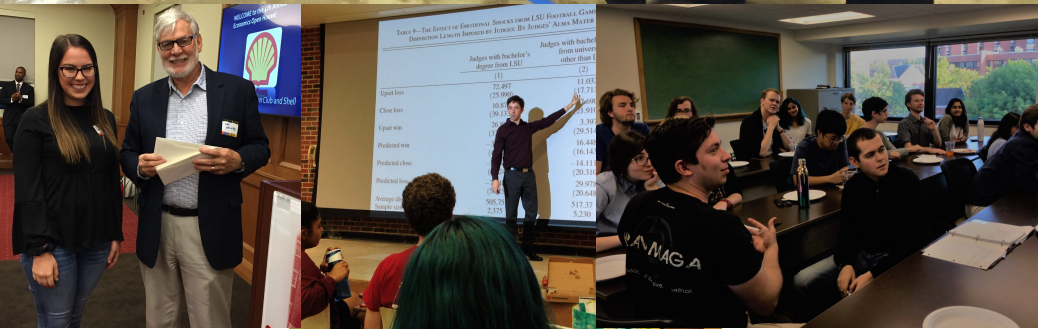
Kelli Broome



The University of Oklahoma, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, age, religion, disability, political beliefs, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes but is not limited to: admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to: Bobby J. Mason, University Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator, (405) 325-3546, bjm@ou.edu, or visit www.ou.edu/eoo.

This publication, produced by the Department of Economics, is issued by the University of Oklahoma and authorized by David Wrobel, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. This newsletter was produced at no cost to the taxpayers of the state of Oklahoma. For accommodations, please call the Department of Economics at (405) 325-2861.

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



Welcome and Department Update

1

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

In August of 2018, the Economics Department received an additional \$5,000 donation to the Joe Shary Endowed Scholarship, allowing us to offer additional awards to deserving students. In the last four years, the department has seen the number of undergraduate scholarships more than double.

We continue to expand the major. Adding up all undergraduate, B.A./M.A. and Ph.D. students, the department has now topped 600. The department is always looking to expand the learning experience for our students. We will be adding Sports Economics to the curriculum. It is a large draw for our students.

The department faculty continue to amaze. During the summer and fall of 2018 they have produced an enormous amount of scholarly output, which has been prominently featured in the profession. Several have been nominated for professional and university-wide awards. However, none have forgotten that our first obligation is to our fantastic students.

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. We have our first contribution all the way from Germany.

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



Economics Club Events

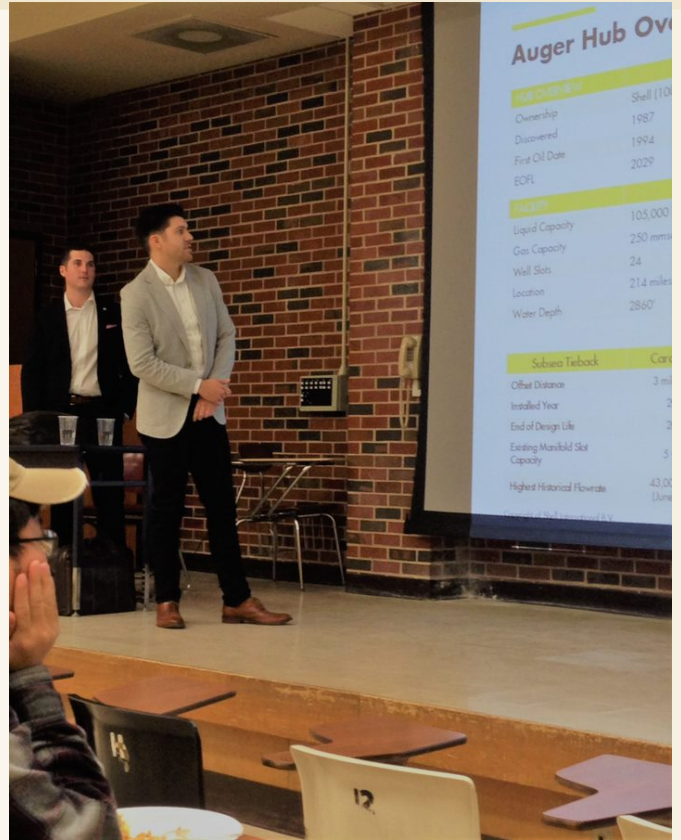
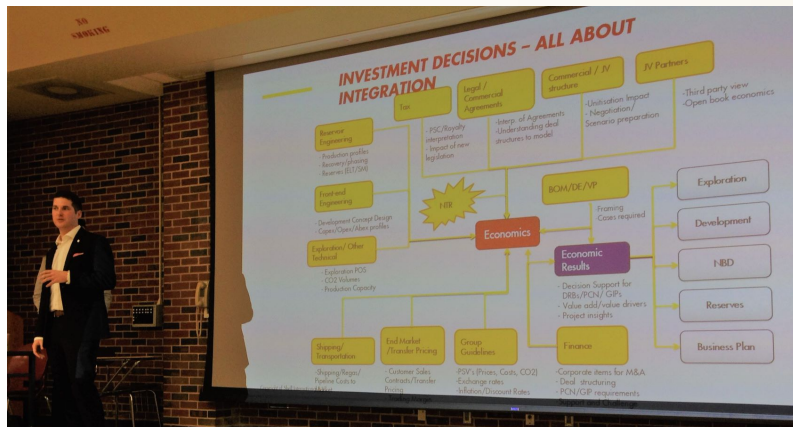
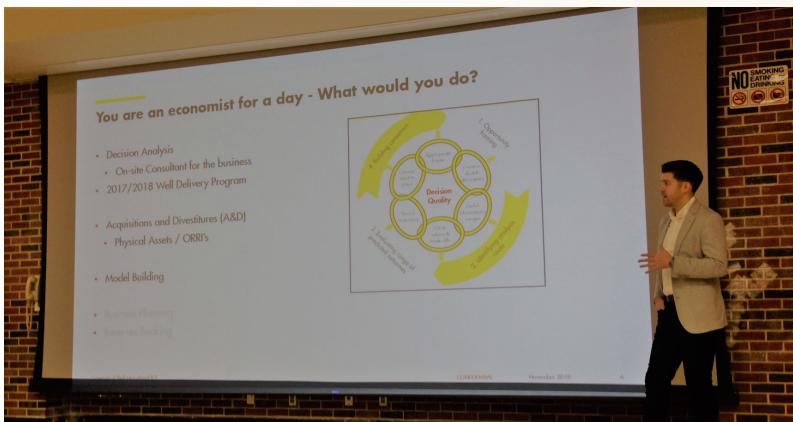
2

Shell Oil Representatives Speak



On Nov. 15, the OU Econ Club hosted representatives from Shell Oil, economists and OU graduates Jordan Chitwood and Houston Johnson. The pair gave a presentation about their journey from OU to Shell, examples of the kinds of projects they work on as economists, and what it is like working for Shell. They also answered student questions.

Around 50 students from Econ Club as well as different majors on campus attended the event, which also included T-shirt giveaways and free refreshments.



Economics Club Events

3


ECON CLUB

GAME NIGHT!



**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 29 @ 6PM**

Cate Center One Room 338
FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED



Econ Club Meeting
**BREAKING BAD:
THE FREAKONOMICS
OF CRIME AND
PUNISHMENT**

October 4, 2018 at 6 PM
Dale Hall - ROOM 103




*Come study
and hang out!*

**ECON CLUB
COMMUNITY
NIGHT**

*Bring your
homework!*


**Every Wednesday
from 6 to 8 pm
3rd floor Cate
Conference room**



**THURSDAY 6:00 PM
OCTOBER 18TH
@ECON CLUB
CATE 1 ROOM 338**

**ECONOMICS BY DR. TYLER
OF EDUCATION RANSOM**
A LECTURE ON THE
COLLEGE WAGE PREMIUM

FREE FOOD!!!



ECON CLUB

Hedge Funds


presented by:

Dr. Price

**Thursday, November 1
Cate 338 @ 6pm**

Free food & drinks will be provided

If you have any questions please contact
economics.club@ou.edu



ARE YOU READY TO GET
YOUR MIND BLOWN?

ECON CLUB'S TRIVIA NIGHT

Winner will get:
Amazon Snack Chest

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 | 6PM
CATE 338**



2018 Department News and Notables

4



Photo credit: Jordan Miller/The Daily

2019 SGA President Adran Gibbs

Adran Gibbs Jr., who is pursuing his bachelor of arts degree in economics, was elected OU Student Government Association president for the 2019 academic year. He answered a few questions about his OU Econ experience:

What do you like about studying economics?

Personally, I enjoy macroeconomics the most because it has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of how trade and global policies affect the U.S. economy as a whole. I have always been drawn to public policy, so naturally economics has given me great insight and analytical skills to properly craft an opinion regarding macroeconomic problems in our country.

How will economics help you as SGA president?

Economics helps me tremendously because it has helped me take a balanced approach to difficult decision-making. I have found that the most helpful topic in economics as it applies to SGA is loosely gauging demand and utility. Within SGA, many of the projects that we hope to complete must be met with a demand that is significant enough for us to get our funding approved by Student Affairs, Undergraduate Student Congress, or the Student Activity Fee Reserve Board. Without the ability to make a convincing case that students would benefit from a service, it is likely that funding and support from OU administration would dwindle. Thus, we apply a variety of methods to determine if there is a significant demand, such as student surveys! In short, Econ helps with the framework of problem solving tremendously!

Where are you from, what are your other interests, and what are your future goals?

I am from Oklahoma City. Some other interests I have are running, reading presidential biographies books (also social justice books too!), going to new local restaurants, and road trips. My ultimate goal is to be a general counsel for a Fortune 500 company. So first, it is likely I am going to pursue a MBA/J.D. program. Later in life, I would like to return to the public sphere and perhaps run for public office. It has always been a dream of mine to be an attorney and be either a representative or a senator.



51 OU students applied for graduation with their bachelor of arts in economics in fall 2018, including these students pictured at the Fall 18 College of Arts and Sciences Convocation. Banner carriers for the department were students Armand Ghosh and Sarah Appleyard.

2018 Department News and Notables

5



Daniel Pae, 2017 economics graduate and former OU SGA president, won a seat in the Oklahoma House of Representatives for District 62 in the Nov. 6 general election.

According to [an article published in the OU Daily](#), when Pae was the president of the Student Government Association in 2016, he worked to pass several reforms and bills. One of the biggest changes Pae instituted was the Crimson Cruiser bike share program at OU aimed at helping alleviate parking problems on campus. He worked with OU's Parking Services to get 75 bikes and 10 racks installed on campus.

Pae said that in his elected position, he is going to work to help develop a budget that puts the people of Oklahoma first.

Student Profile: Matthew Viriyapah



What are you studying at OU?

My majors are economics and professional writing with a minor in Japanese.

Where are you from?

I am from South Oklahoma City.

What do you plan to do after you graduate?

After I graduate I am not sure of what I will do. I am going to be writing. I am not sure exactly where economics will take me, but that is one reason I chose to do a major in economics. It is a degree that can take you a lot of places because it teaches you so many different skills.

Who has helped you along the way or pushed you to succeed?

(Previous economics adviser) Buchanan Vrazel was a big factor in my decision to do a double major in economics. I was planning on only a minor, but he really supported my interest in economics and after taking the introductory classes, I decided to do a double major.

Economics Ph.D. candidate and graduate assistant **Christine Strong** was recognized for “outstanding teaching performance” with the Provost's Certificate of Distinction in Teaching in November 2018.

Institutional Shareholder Services hired seven OU graduates in junior analyst roles, including economics graduates and students from the OU College of Arts and Sciences.



On Sept. 23, faculty, staff and students from the Department of Economics and the Department of Communications attended a fun evening with their families at the last home game of the season for the OKC Energy soccer team at Taft Stadium in Oklahoma City (and were featured on the stadium big screen at halftime, above).

2018 Department News and Notables

6

Professors Joan Hamory Hicks and Daniel Hicks were mentioned in the Economist article "[The stark relationship between income inequality and crime.](#)"

Prof. Gary Hoover, department chair, was featured in the WalletHacks article "[Average 401\(k\) Retirement Savings- Why We Need to Save More. Way More!](#)"

Personal savings are more critical now than ever before.

Government benefits are becoming an increasingly small portion of the portfolio available to retirees.

With a shift away from pensions to 401K savings plans, having something put away is a necessity.

It is also a great hedge against the unexpected, whether it be financial or medical.



Dr. Gary A. Hoover, Department Chair for Economics at the University of Oklahoma

Professor Qihong Liu received travel support from ZEW to present at the ZEW Economics of Information, Communication and Technology Conference in Mannheim, Germany, in June 2018. Also, his paper titled "Competing with Complementors: An Empirical Look at Amazon.com," was accepted for publication in Strategic Management Journal, and his paper titled "Interactive Advertising - The Case of Skippable Ads," was accepted for revision in the Management Science journal.



Professors Cynthia Rogers and Lex Holmes were featured in an OETA Oklahoma News Report segment titled "[Amazon Gets Tax Payer Money.](#)" ([click to view video](#))

Story summary: Economists question whether financial incentives are always a good deal for taxpayers. Oklahoma City's Economic Development Trust has approved a deal that would pay Amazon \$1.7 million to locate a fulfillment center in Oklahoma City. Economists say while financial incentives can sometimes be worthwhile, they often pay companies for something they would be doing anyway.



2018 Department News and Notables

7



Professor Myongjin Kim received the Best Paper Award from the Air Transport Research Society in July 2018 for her paper “The Value of Relational Contracts in Outsourcing: Evidence from the 2008 Shock in the U.S. Airline Industry.”



Professor Ariel Weinberger and co-authors published their paper, “Exporter Heterogeneity and Price Discrimination: A Quantitative View” in the Journal of International Economics. For the fall 2018 semester, Weinberger was a visitor at the economics department at UC Berkeley.

Alumni News



2012 economics Ph.D. graduate **Chen Wu** received tenure and was promoted to associate professor at Plymouth State University. He was also featured in the BusinessNH Magazine article “[Foreign Firms a Growth Sector for NH.](#)”

Send your alumni news to cquiett@ou.edu

2018 Department News and Notables

8

2018 Econ Open House Event - Sponsored by Shell

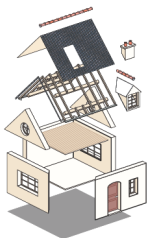


On Oct. 23, the economics department hosted its fourth annual open house event in Zarrow Hall. Approximately 100 guests, including students, faculty, staff and family members, attended the event, which was sponsored by Shell and the OU Econ Club.

The event included economics departmental scholarship awards, presentations by Econ Club president Alex McClintic and economics department chair 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 2018

OCTOBER 23rd

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

Economics Department Awards and Recognition

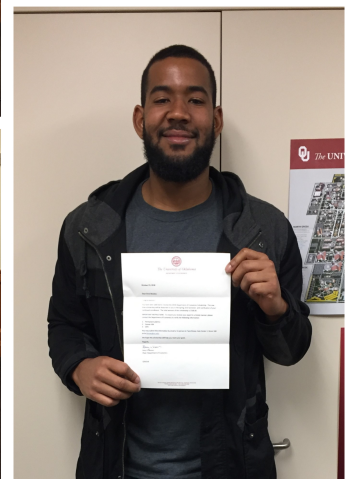
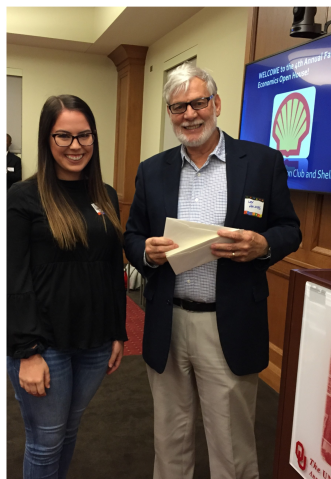
2018 Econ Dept Scholarship Award Winners:

\$500 Economic Dept scholarship
Chris Beasley

\$500 Shary Scholarship
Joseph Herrera
Abigail Hoffman

\$500 Clark Scholarship
Audrey Hopewell
Hannah Pike

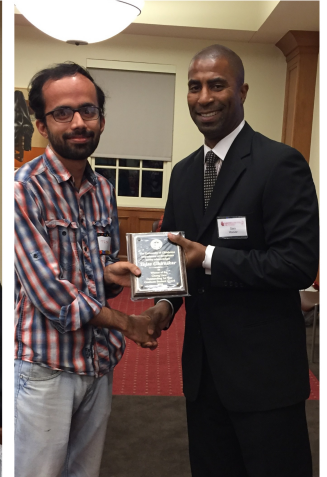
\$1,200 Holmes Scholarship
Mason Hayes
Logesvar Balaguru
Bradley Rann
Katelin Samaniego
Katy Yut
Renat Sergazinov
Joseph Ezzell
Zachary Olsen
Thomas Corr



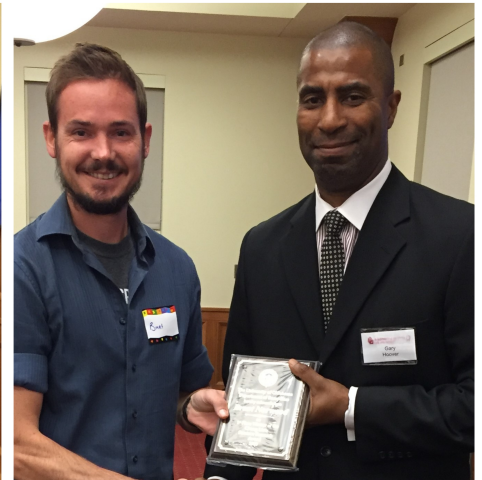
Economics Department Awards and Recognition

2018 Econ Dept Graduate Student Award Winners:

Summer Research Award: 1st Place
Brent Norwood



Summer Research Award: 2nd Place
Rafael Alfena Zago
Lei He



Summer Research Award-Honorable
Mention
Christine Strong
Saini Das

Best 1st Year Student Performance
Tejas Ghirknar



Best 1st Year Student Runner-Up
Salimeh Birang

OU Research Seminar Series

Fall 2018 - Coordinator: Jaeho Kim

Hewei Shen, The University of Oklahoma
"Fiscal Commitment and Sovereign Default Risk"

Anil Bera, The University of Illinois
"Spatial Analysis: A Helicopter Tour (From the Prehistory to the beginning of the frontier)"

Michael D. Noel, Texas Tech University
"Price Dispersion and Consumer Search: Evidence from a Natural Experiment"

George Borjas, Harvard University
"Job Vacancies and Immigration: Evidence from Pre-and Post-Mariel Miami"

Ce Shang, OU Health Sciences Center
"The Pass-Through of Alcohol Taxes to Prices in OECD Countries"

Dan Cao, Georgetown University
"Recursive Equilibrium in Krusell and Smith (1998)"

Chinhui Juhn, The University of Houston
"Coordinated Work Schedules and the Gender Wage Gap"

Leilei Shen, Kansas State University
"Polarization of American Workers: The Big Squeeze from Occupational Exposure to Value-added Imports"

Deven Carlson, The University of Oklahoma
"When the Walls Come Down: Evidence from New Orleans on Teacher Labor Markets in the Absence of Unions, Tenure, and Certification Rules"

Robyn Meeks, Duke University
"Grid Versus Off-Grid: Electricity Services and Enterprise Development in Nepal"

Jeffrey Thurk, The University of Notre Dame
"Outsourcing, Firm Innovation, and Industry Dynamics in the Production of Semiconductors"

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

Qihong Liu
 Industrial Organization
 Applied Micro

Aparna Mitra
 Labor Economics
 Development Economics

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

Hewei Shen
 International Economics
 Macroeconomics
 International Finance

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

Chunbei Wang
 Labor Economics
 Entrepreneurship

Le Wang
 Econometrics
 Labor & Development
 Applied Microeconomics
 Chinese Economy

Ariel Weinberger
 International Trade
 Macroeconomics
 Aggregate Productivity
 Fluctuations

Stay Connected to OU Economics

12



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 give online at: www.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/

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

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

Contact the Department of Economics

308 Cate Center Dr. CCD1 Rm
158 Norman OK 73072-7114
(405) 325-2861
[http://ou.edu/cas/economics/](http://ou.edu/cas/economics/cquiett@ou.edu)
cquiett@ou.edu