



## Spring 2018 Economics Alumni Newsletter

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## *Economics at OU: Be in Demand*

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# Welcome and Department Update

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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 (<http://ou.edu/cas/economics>) you can find previous editions of this newsletter to help you stay informed about the happenings in the department.

Get ready, folks, this is our largest newsletter ever. We continue to be the fastest-growing major in the college. This growth is being fueled by great teaching from an energetic faculty and some simply amazing students. 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, the Economics of Education, Sports Economics, and the Economics of Discrimination.



For the second year in a row and the third time in the past five years, the recipient of the Carl Albert Award presented each year to the outstanding senior in the OU College of Arts and Sciences is an economics major!

The 2018 winner was Alexander Nongard. He graduated cum laude with bachelor's and master's degrees in economics and a graduate certificate in geospatial technologies with distinction. During his college career, Alex received numerous scholarships, honors and awards, including the Honors Undergraduate Teaching Fellows Award for outstanding service as an undergraduate teaching fellow for the Honors College; Truman Scholarship finalist; Udall Scholarship honorable mention; Regents' Award for Outstanding Junior; Cortez A.M. Ewing Public Service Fellowship; Philips 66 Shield Scholar; PACE Award and Oklahoma Regents Award for Higher Education. His research has been published in the OU Journal of Economics, at the Niskanen Center.

In the spring of 2018, the Econ Club took a field trip to the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank, with two members being invited to present their own original research. Over 20 students were accompanied by Dr. Holmes and Mrs. Quiett. I cannot express enough how proud I am of these students.

In the fall of 2018, we will welcome yet another new faculty member. Dr. Hewei Shen will join us after receiving his doctorate from the University of Indiana, where his research and teaching interests are in international economics, macroeconomics, and international finance.

In May of 2018, we had our largest graduating class of students from the joint B.A./M.A. program with an emphasis on "Big Data". It was such an honor to meet these young people and watch them receive their degree(s). What is more remarkable is that this program only came into existence 18 months previously!

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 in 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

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### Economics Club Visits Dallas Fed

On April 5 and 6, the OU Econ Club traveled to Dallas for the 12th annual Economics Scholars Program Conference for Undergraduate Research, presented by Austin College and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Members attended a reception at the bank before the conference, and sat in on research presentations given by economics undergraduates from around the country.

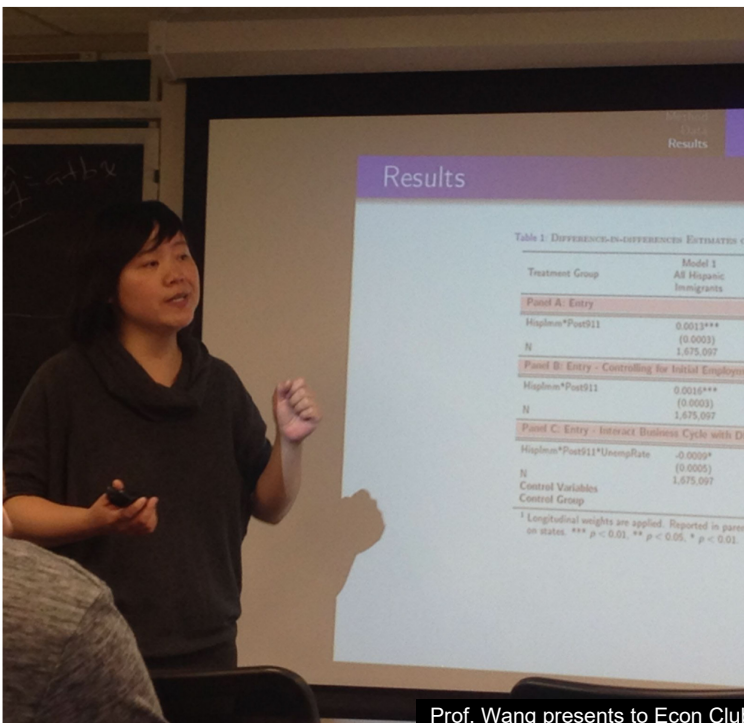
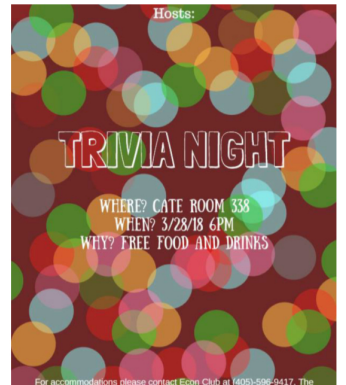
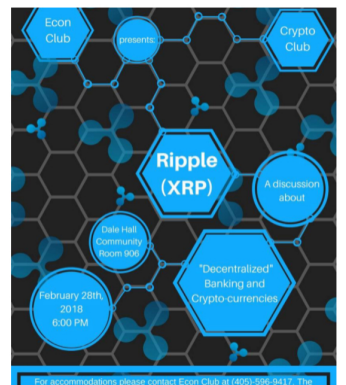
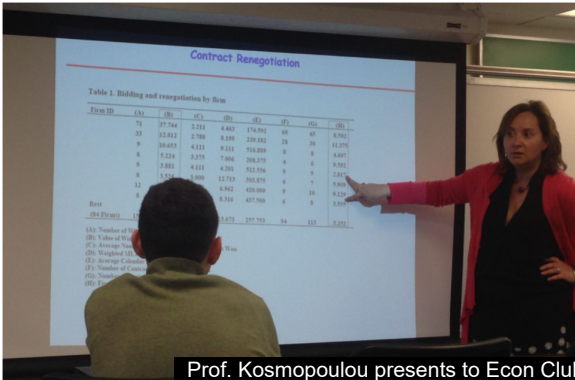
Former Econ Club president Jonathan Kim acted as discussant for one of the sessions, and member/sociology major Lauren Johnson presented her research paper "Bad People or Harmful Pasts? A Look Into How Abuse Affects Deviance," which was one of the most well-attended sessions of the conference.





# Economics Club Events

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## 2018 Department News and Notables

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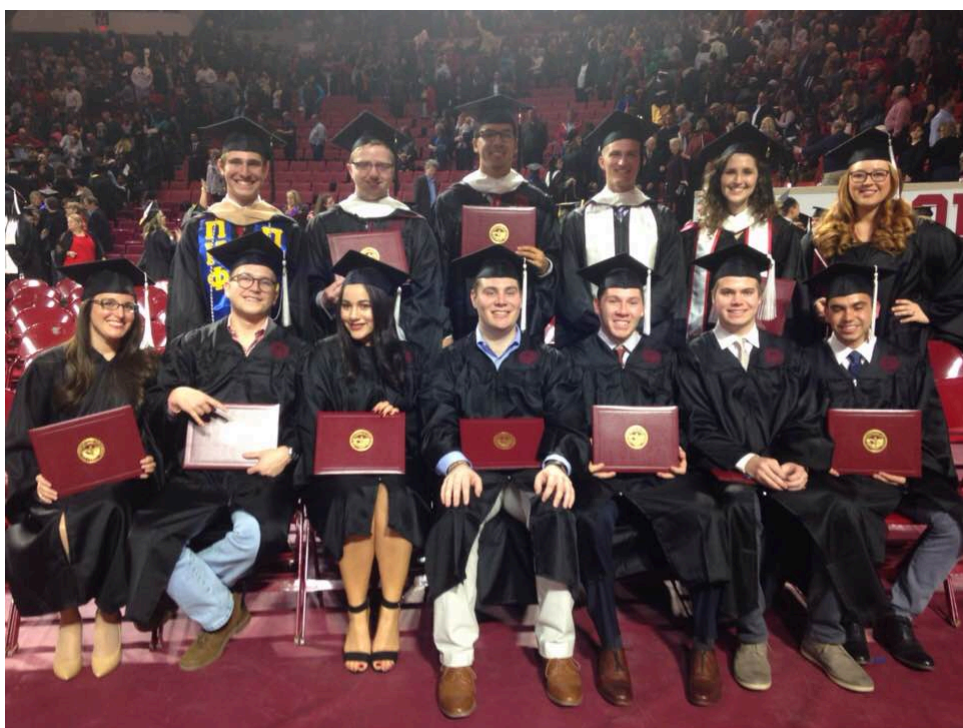
### 2018 Carl Albert Award



Economics Accelerated B.A./M.A. Senior **Alexander Nongard** is the recipient of the 2018 Carl Albert Award, presented each year to the outstanding senior in the OU College of Arts and Sciences.

He graduated cum laude with bachelor's and master's degrees in economics and with a graduate certificate in geospatial technologies with distinction during OU's Commencement ceremonies on May 11. After graduation, Nongard intends to return to Tulsa to work in civil service and eventually run for office.

In his Carl Albert Award essay, Nongard said while at OU, his instructors inspired him "to pursue political economy as a means to environmental solutions. And my lesson in empathy was important to realize that not everyone on Earth has the same priorities, abilities, knowledge or understanding and I should not begrudge those who do not fight the same fight that I do in the same way I do. My job at the Center for Risk and Crisis Management gave strong research fundamentals and an emphasis on smart policy-making and why public service is key to crafting environmental policy."



41 OU students graduated with their bachelor of arts in economics in fall 2017, including these students pictured at the Fall 17 College of Arts and Sciences Convocation.

75 students applied to graduate with the degree for spring 2018.



## Spring 2018 Scholarship Winners

### Phillips 66 Academic Scholarship: \$777

Christopher Beasley  
Stephen Cromwell  
Jesus Diaz  
Sydney Keele  
Santiago Restrepo Bethes  
Brittany Rider-Dunstone  
John Slay  
Ella Watson  
Katherine Yut

Thanks to a \$25,000 donation, the department will begin the Joe W. Shary Endowed Scholarship in Economics in fall 2018.



OU Economics was represented at the 2018 Majors & Minors fair (left) and Sooner Saturday (right) to spread the word about the major to current and prospective OU students.

Senior **Ian White** was awarded an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant in the amount of \$445 and participated in OU Undergraduate Research Day.

**Yi Duan**, 2017 economics Ph.D. graduate, recently accepted a tenure-track position in the Economics Department at Marshall University.

**Constant Yayi**, 2017 economics Ph.D. graduate, recently accepted a tenure-track position at Texas A&M International University.

2016 economics graduate **Cait Walsh** will be attending Columbia University's Master of Financial Economics program in fall 2018.



## 2018 Department News and Notables

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**Prof. Tyler Ransom** was featured in the MarketWatch article "[Students who hold jobs during college earn more money after they graduate.](#)"

**Prof. Gregory Burge** received a \$15,000 award from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy for his research project titled "Land Value Taxation and Businesses." He also was featured in the University of Oklahoma podcast *Just Sow* discussing "[the economic secrets of bitcoin.](#)"

Burge also was honored with a "Graddy" faculty award from the OU Graduate College due to his excellent performance in his position as graduate liaison with the economics department.

**Prof. Chunbei Wang** and **Prof. Le Wang** received the 2018 [Kuznets Prize](#) from the Global Labor Organization for their article "[Knot Yet: Minimum marriage age law, marriage delay, and earnings,](#)" published in the *Journal of Population Economics*.

The paper finds there is a causal effect of marriage delays on earnings, with a stronger impact for females than for males. This works almost exclusively through more education for both men and women.



With the support of Rick Luce, dean of OU Libraries, and David Wrobel, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Alternative Textbook Grant Committee awarded **Professor Alex Holmes** with the OU Libraries' inaugural Open Education Award.

The committee noted, "We feel strongly about recognizing the commitment and effort you have dedicated to open educational resources...namely, the work on your open textbook has already been completed. You are an important voice in the OER community and here at OU."



### Economics Department Awards and Recognition



Tami Kinsey (center) with son Ryan Kinsey (left) and economics department chair Gary Hoover (right)

Economics department managerial associate **Tami Kinsey** received the 2018 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Staff Award for outstanding job performance. Kinsey has worked with the department for over 32 years.



Tami Kinsey with College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean David Wrobel (right)

Two economics department faculty members received awards at the 2018 Faculty Tribute awards ceremony on April 10:

**Professor Cynthia Rogers** received the Vice President for Research Award for Improving Quality of Life and Communities, and **Professor Gregory Burge** received the General Education Teaching Award.



Cynthia Rogers (center) receives award from Provost Kyle Harper (right) and president of the OU Faculty Senate Sarah Ellis (left)



Gregory Burge (center) receives award from Provost Kyle Harper (right) and president of the OU Faculty Senate Sarah Ellis



### Women in Economics Lunch

Prof. Cynthia Rogers organized a lunch event for female economics faculty, alumni, and friends to gather with current students and share ideas and experiences.

The event, sponsored by the Scholars Strategy Network, of which Prof. Rogers is the co-chair of the Oklahoma chapter, was an opportunity to emphasize the prevalence and importance of the contributions of women to the field of economics, and encourage current students to continue to pursue their educational goals.



**Women in Economics & Lunch**  
Wednesday, March 28, 11:45 am - 1:15 pm  
Headington College, Private Dining Room



## Alumni News

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2007 economics Ph.D. graduate **Luisa Blanco** presented her research about retirement savings and financial education among minorities at the 2017 annual meeting of the Research Centers for Minority Aging Research. [Click here to view a video presentation about her research.](#)

**Edward Stuart**, 1979 Ph.D. graduate from the OU economics department, has been teaching Comparative Economic Systems courses for over 30 years. He has worked for the past three years to develop a video lecture course on comparative systems with The Great Courses company, which was recently released.



**Bettina and Gerd Linderkamp** show off their OU Econ Club T-shirts in Steyerberg, Germany.

OU econ alumnus from the class of 2002 **Brandon Payne** is pursuing a master of arts degree in Israel studies through the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. He has taught English in China and currently is a part-time English teacher in Vietnam, also studying cyber-security and working to become a CFA. He is married with a 3-year-old son.

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



## OU Research Seminar Series

Spring 2018 - Coordinator: Dan Hicks

**Carlos Lamarche, The University of Kentucky**

*"Common Correlated Effects Estimation of Heterogeneous Dynamic Panel Quantile Regression Models"*

**Michael R. Ransom, Brigham Young University**

*"Meritocracy in Academic Labor Markets: A Comparison of Three Fields"*

**Ariel Weinberger, The University of Oklahoma**

*"Credit and the Labor Share: Evidence from U.S. States"*

**Kevin Stange, The University of Michigan**

*"Price Regulation, Price Discrimination, and Equality of Opportunity in Higher Education: Evidence from Texas"*

**Robert Fairlie, The University of California, Santa Cruz**

*"Job Creation and Survival Among Entrepreneurs: Evidence from the Universe of U.S. Startups"*

**Delia Furtado, The University of Connecticut**

*"Do Immigrant Inflows Improve Quality of Care in Nursing Homes?"*

**Jiawei Chen, The University of California, Irvine**

*"Reimbursing Consumers' Switching Costs in Network Industries"*

**Laura Razzolini, The University of Alabama**

*"Best-of-five Contest: An Experiment on Gender Differences"*

**Kristian Behrens, The University of Quebec, Montreal**

*"Are Clusters Resilient? Evidence from Canadian Textile Industries"*

**Dakshina De Silva, Lancaster University**

*"Winner's Curse in Bond Markets"*

**Christopher Neely, Federal Reserve of St. Louis**

*"A Survey of the Empirical Literature on U.S. Unconventional Monetary Policy"*

**Daniele Tavani, Colorado State University**

*"Consumption Externalities and Growth: Theory and Evidence for the United States"*

## OU Economics Faculty Research Interests

**Gregory Burge**

Urban Economics  
Public Economics

**Firat Demir**

International Finance  
Development Econ.

**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

**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

**Saleh S. Tabrizy**

International Trade  
International Finance  
Development, Growth,  
Innovation

**Chunbei Wang**

Labor Economics  
Entrepreneurship

**Le Wang**

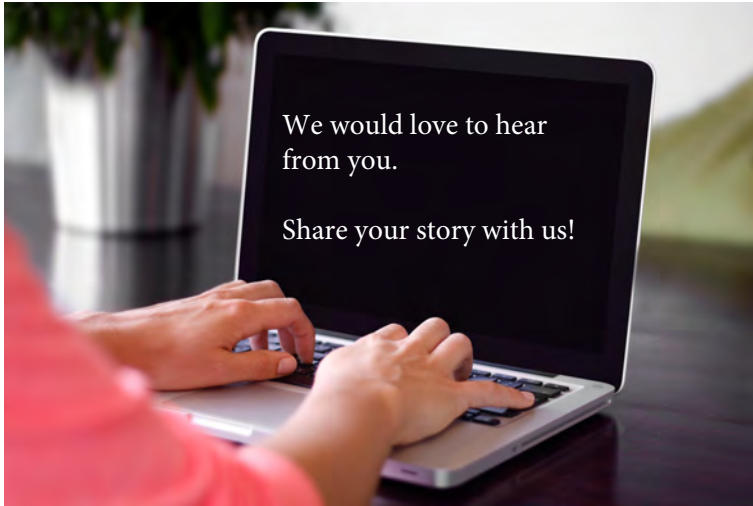
Econometrics  
Labor & Develop. Econ.  
Applied Microeconomics  
Chinese Economy

**Ariel Weinberger**

International Trade  
Macroeconomics  
Aggregate Productivity  
Fluctuations

## 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: [www.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/](http://www.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/)

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