

Summer 2017

Issue 1

Introduction 1

What's going on
in the Department?

Alumni Spotlight

Faculty Spotlight 2

Professors in Print

The Class of 2017

Student Spotlight 3

Placements

Professor Updates

The Econ Club 4

Women in Econ

Student Recognition 5

Updates and Help 6

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Economics Departmental Newsletter. Many of you will remember our first, and very popular, newsletter, News of Nominal Interest. Professor Tom Hall was the driving force behind NNI. Tom retired in 2014 and he was irreplaceable. So, NNI retired with Tom, but we are happy to launch our new newsletter.

Our plan is to publish the newsletter twice a year. Our goal is to stay connected or to reconnect with our alumni. We are closely connected to you while you are here. However, after you graduate, we often lose touch. We hope this newsletter helps us stay connected.

What's going on in the ECO Department?

The Department is experiencing an incredible increase in the demand for its major. From 2000 to 2013 we graduated on average about 70 students per year. In the past three years, we have graduated on average about 115 majors per year with 156 graduates over the 2015-16 academic year. In part to meet this increase in demand, and in part because of our recent retirements, we have hired eleven new faculty members in the last five years!

Alumni Spotlight

Andrew Duberstein works as a software engineer in San Francisco at Uber's Advanced Technologies Group. His division is dedicated to self-driving cars. He started at Uber as an analyst in Policy Research measuring economic concerns like Uber's effect on DUI rates, driver earnings, and transportation access in historically underserved communities. Eventually, he asked to write some of their software, and that is what he has been doing ever since.

Economic reasoning is one aspect he uses in his job. Product design is deeply tied to economics. Are public transit and Uber complements or substitutes? How much does an extra minute of arrival time cost riders? How severe are the lock-in effects of using a particular programming language? Answers to these questions dictate blueprints and their upshot.

One of his favorite memories of Miami is attending the hockey games. He said, "Despite all its amenities, California hardly engages in ice sports."



Andrew Duberstein MU '13

Faculty Spotlight: Analisa Packham



Analisa Packham just completed her first year at Miami. She received her B.S. in 2011 and her PhD in 2016 from Texas A&M University.

“I started college as a biology major. After taking a microeconomics course my first semester, I entered an economics essay competition and won. To claim the prize, I was required to switch my major to economics. I never looked back.

“I love economics because it applies math and statistics to social issues. My research focuses on policy-relevant questions and spans the fields of public, labor, and health economics. While much of my previous work focuses on how health and education policies affect contraception use and teen childbearing, I am more generally interested in how various government programs affect behavior. One of my current projects studies how the timing of nutritional assistance benefits can affect crime. In another project, I analyzed how physical education investments affect middle-school health and education outcomes.

“When I am not researching, I enjoy playing trivia and running. As a native Texan, I am constantly on the hunt for great tacos.” —Dr. Analisa Packham, assistant professor

Professors in Print

In 2016, our faculty had thirteen papers accepted for publication. Topics included the impact of the minimum wage on minimum wage workers, the connection between housing and unemployment, the impact of environmental factors on consumer choice, the effect of different contraceptive technologies on teen birth rates, US trade deficits, and the effect of regulations on nursing home quality.

We also made numerous contributions to media reports. For example, Professor Thomason was interviewed by the Washington Post on the origins of our health care system. Professor Smith discussed his work on the dangers at the switch to daylight savings time for drivers with PBS and was mentioned by the Wall Street Journal as well as many other out-

The Class of 2017

The graduation class of 2017 will look very similar to the class of 2016 once we have the August graduation data. These are very large numbers. This year will be the first time since 1982 that we have graduated more than 50 Business Economics majors in consecutive years, and will be only the second time, last year was the first, that we have graduated over 90 Arts and Science majors.

Bus	A&S	Quant	Total	Female	Male	Master	Minors
51	89	8	148	45	103	17	29



Jackie Craig graduated in May 2017 with her B.S. and M.A. in Economics as part of the combined 3+1 program.

Student Spotlight

Jackie Craig loved Miami from the first moment she stepped onto the beautiful campus; in fact, it was the only college she applied for. After taking Professor Moul's ECO 201 her freshman year, Jackie found that she loved how economics could explain and quantify basically everything and anything, so she became an economics major. Her favorite memories come from her senior year, where she participated in the 3+1 program, completed an Honor's/master's thesis advised by Professor Niemesh, and presented research at multiple conferences. In her free time, Jackie enjoys running and has completed 3 half marathons.

Jackie will work as an Associate Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Jackie will forever remember the outstanding faculty within Miami's economics department, who went above and beyond in providing her with the advice, guidance, and opportunities to find her passion for economic research.

Placements

Economics majors from the class of 2017 are pursuing a variety of opportunities post-graduation. In the private sector, students have secured employment at many companies including Amazon, Deloitte, The Hershey Company, KeyBank, and Ernst & Young. In the public sector, students will be working at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and with the Board of Governors in Washington D.C. Finally, others are pursuing graduate degrees in economics, public policy, and law including selective programs at UCLA and NYU. Along with career placements, many economics majors completed internships during the 2016-2017 academic year. These internships included private companies, nonprofits, political experiences at the US State Department and House of Representatives, and International experiences such as the Bank of China.

Emeriti Spotlight



Tom Hall retired in 2014 after 32 years

Tom Hall retired in 2014 after thirty-two years with Miami's Economics Department. He's enjoying his retirement, but misses interacting with students. He does not miss grading tests or attending meetings.

He continues to be an active writer. He's working on a novel set in 1920s Detroit. An article he coauthored with Professor William (Rich) Hart on the Phillips curve (which appears in *History of Economics Review*, Winter 2012) resulted in comments and replies published in 2015 and 2016. His most recent books are *Aftermath: The Unintended Consequences of Public Policies* and a novel, *Tapper Jones*. Both books are available for purchase as ebooks for \$1.99 each.

Hall is often asked what he thinks about the U.S. economy. He says that the performance has been good, but not great. Perverse policies at the federal level during the past several years, along with unfavorable demographics, have resulted in slow U.S. economic growth. Hall is very concerned about the weak financial condition of hundreds of public sector pension systems around the country.

Hall spends his days writing, playing golf, following the financial markets, and volunteering as a TV sports announcer for Waycross Community Media. He lives in Wyoming, Ohio with his wife, Chris. Their adult son, Alex, lives in Colorado.

He enjoys hearing from his former students. His email address is hallte@miamioh.edu.

Econ Club

Founded in 1980, the Economics Club is a student-led organization that is geared toward anyone with an interest in economics, business, or government. The Club has 20-30 attendees per meeting. Its membership is an eclectic blend of international and domestic students, who represent a plethora of views in our discussions. We hold 10-12 meetings per semester and have one trip per academic year. This semester we collaborated with Women in Economics to hold an EAB Panel that informed attendees about economics in practice and as a career. We also took 13 members on a trip to Boston, where they visited MIT, Harvard, Boston College, and Fidelity. The most beneficial aspect of the Economics Club this year was the opportunity for students to learn about economics outside of the classroom.

Position	Name	Position	Name
President	Linus Beatty	Secretary	Sam Colleran
Vice President	Sanchit Arvind	Public Relations Officer	Colin Gatta
Treasurer	Mathew Maliekal	Marketing Officer	Ryan Sonkin

Women in Econ



WE@MU members at the Practice Elevator Pitch event. Seniors with jobs critiqued and helped strengthen elevator pitches and resumes.

Women in Economics was created two years ago when Dr. Thomasson, Dr. Fletcher, and Dr. Gupta helped students pioneer an organization aimed towards offering more professional development events for women in the major. With additional support from the Economics Department, WE@MU has since focused on offering events to enhance our members' professional skills and academic performance, following the mission of "Low in supply, high in demand! Professional organization committed to empowering and supporting women in their academic and professional goals."

WE@MU currently has 54 members, primarily women majoring or minoring in economics. They hold two all-member meetings per semester, in addition to other events including Excel workshops and networking sessions. Highlights of the year included a speaker series with Stephanie Schumacher and fall mock Interviews. We are very proud of our graduating seniors, as they head to full-time positions at firms including: EY, KeyBank, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Harris Corporation.

Position	Name
President	Rachel Hallman
Vice President	Kiley Duhn
Corporate Relations Director	Samantha Ackley
Alumni Relations Director	Sumedha Chakravarti
Professional Development Director	Sarah Neltner
Marketing Director	Rae Carroll
Membership Director	Terra Phillips
Finance Director	Madison Cain

Student Recognition

We recognize our outstanding students at our Awards Dinner in April. This year we honored fifteen students with senior awards. These students were academically outstanding in our major and in their overall studies. Economic Scholars are continuing students who have earned at least 12 hours of credit in economics, have completed at least one of the intermediate core classes, and who have an ECO and overall GPA of at least 3.6.

	Senior Awards	Economic	Scholars
Thatcher	Jackie Craig Alexandria Sterling	Sanchit Arvind Madison Cain	Nicole Laking Tarah Mason
McKinstry	Alexander Carey Spencer Reynolds	Sumedha Chakravarti Jiaxin Chen	Jill O'Bryan Anthony Panariello
Snider	Harry Fox Mason Kang	Aubrey Colliander Terra Collier	Mira Patel Ayesh Perera
Vail	Emily Engert Isabella Petas Ethan Wotring	Kiley Duhn Jack Fetick Jameson Foran	Natalie Quintero Tyler Schumacher Nathan Sell
Flueckiger	Nolan Lee Brandon Miller Glenn Trepeta	Allison Fugger Samuel Jerow Zachary Kushnar-Sanderson	Xinwei Wang Katherine Well Matthew Ziegman
Hart-Noble-Hall	Ian de Medeiros Ryan Pettit Evan Yoo		



(left to right) Cary, Pettit, Miller, Kang, Fox, Yoo, Engert, Petas, De Medeiros, Reynolds, Wotring, Craig, Trepeta



(left to right) Fugger, Cain, Panariello, Duhn, Sell, Chakravarti, Schumacher, Laking, Jerow, Mason, Fetick, Quintero, Perera

Upcoming Events

- Please let Misty Barrett, barretmd@miamioh.edu, know if you will be in or near Oxford the night before Career Fair, September 12. We'd like to plan a happy hour!
- We plan on hosting a Cincinnati Area Alumni reception in the fall. Please let us know if you would like to attend.
- Be sure to stay tuned for more information about a Chicago Get Together in the works during the Midwestern Economic Association Meetings from March 22-25, 2018.

Requests for Help

- WE@MU and Econ Club are interested in doing research—let us know if you have projects with data they could use.
- The department is planning on having one or more career panels for principles students. If you would be interested in participating, please let Misty know.
- For the responses and more questions about the best way to get the newsletters out to you please be sure to go to the following: <http://www.fsb.miamioh.edu/fsb/ecodata.htm>

Pass this newsletter on to other alums you know!