

## Economics Newsletter

### Issue 4: Winter 2019

#### Inside:

- Faculty Spotlight
- Emeritus Spotlight
- Sad News
- Student Spotlight
- Women in Econ
- Entering Class Stats
- Internships
- EAB
- Upcoming Events/ Requests

### What's going on in the ECO Department?

Melissa Thomasson will be the new Chair of economics beginning on July 1! We are very excited about the prospect of new leadership for the department. Melissa came to the department in 1998 and is in the midst of a distinguished career. You can find more information at her [FSB directory page](#). Congratulations Melissa!

Also congratulations to Professor John Bowblis who has been promoted to full professor! John is a leading expert in the economics of nursing homes and related areas, and an outstanding teacher. For more see his [FSB directory page](#).

In the fall of 2018, Mark Tremblay joined our faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor. Mark earned his PhD from Michigan State University and comes to us from McMaster University where he was a postdoctoral fellow. He taught mathematical economics and intermediate microeconomics last semester, and is teaching intermediate microeconomics again this spring. Mark works on industrial questions and questions about platforms like Amazon, Airbnb, or eBay.

### Alumni Spotlight: Laura Buonopane



Laura (Crosley) Buonopane graduated in 2010 and is currently working at lululemon.

I started my career working as a Business Analyst for Deloitte Consulting's Strategy & Operations practice in 2011. I was a true generalist, working across various industries and functions - banking, healthcare, pharma, consumer products, retail, industrial – you name it. I then went back to school for my MBA at UCLA through Deloitte's Graduate School Assistant Program (GSAP). I also took the opportunity while back in school to explore my interest in consumer goods companies. I worked part-time for TOMS Shoes primarily in Supply Chain + Sourcing while living in Hong Kong for some time. I returned to Deloitte following my MBA focusing my work in the Consumer Products+ Retail Strategy practice.

I recently had the opportunity to combine my personal passion of fitness & wellness (I am a certified personal trainer and nutrition specialist) with business and joined the fitness apparel retailer **lululemon** in January, 2018 as Manager, Network Operations. My role supports strategic decision-making through analytics for our supply chain. I support the department in answering questions backed by quantitative analysis – For example, What is the expected impact of Brexit? What is the cost/benefit of having in-house vs. third-party distribution globally? How do we better align our network capacity to demand? – I love that I get to use a bit of economic reasoning every day to help solve these business questions.

I am currently based out of our Distribution Center in Columbus, Ohio and will be transferring to our headquarters in Vancouver, Canada in January with my husband Paul & dog Patch.



Mike Lipsitz is in his second year at Miami. He received his BA in Economics and Mathematics from Haverford College and received his PhD in 2017 from Boston University.

## Faculty Spotlight: Mike Lipsitz

I pursued a Ph.D. in economics because I wanted to explore tough questions with serious consequences in the real world. To that end, I study labor markets and the policies that surround them. How do those policies impact people's lives? I was lucky enough to find a home at Miami, where I've settled in wonderfully with my wife, Claire, and my two sons, Noah and Jacob (who was born in September). In my spare time, I'm taking a cue from Miami's strengths and playing intramural ice hockey (where I'm at best a great benchwarmer), and I also advise the men's ultimate frisbee team.



Nick Noble came to Miami in 1976 and retired in 2010. He was part of the Retire Rehire program and finished his Miami career when he taught in 2011 and spring 2013

## Emeritus Spotlight: Nick Noble

While visiting Oxford in the Spring of 1975 (Green Beer Day!), I called a friend from graduate school. In our conversation, he asked me if I would be interested in a job next year. That started my 37 year adventure at Miami. During that time, I taught almost every macroeconomics and econometrics course, served on University Senate, was FSB Director of International Programs and Chief Departmental Advisor for economics.

Since retiring from Miami, I've moved from Oxford to Coastal North Carolina. My current interest is landscape and landscape astrophotography. I'm having a great time learning something new that uses a different side of my brain. It keeps me busy. I still do some teaching, but now it is photography-related instead of Econometrics and Money and Banking. ([www.nicknoblephotography.myportfolio.com](http://www.nicknoblephotography.myportfolio.com)).

I've been asked to put back on my economics hat and make a 30 second guest appearance... so here goes. While I know every expansion in U.S. history except one has ended, I'm optimistic the current expansion will continue for a "little" longer. Household and business debt are not large like in earlier recessions, energy prices and energy availability do not seem to be large macro issues. The Fed seems to have increased rates so they can reduce them in the future if needed. Trade with China is still a wild card. I'm thinking the current expansion will go past 2019, but .....

I continue to use my Miami email, [noblenr@miamioh.edu](mailto:noblenr@miamioh.edu), and I would enjoy hearing from past students.

## Sad News

Jerry Miller passed away in February. He made many important contributions to the department, but even more to the many students who he mentored throughout, and after, his time on the faculty. He was featured in our Emeriti Spotlight in the [last winter newsletter](#). You may also view his [Memoriam](#). Thank you, Jerry, for a life well lived.



August Hagemann will graduate in May 2020 and majors in Economics and Russian, East Europe & Eurasian Studies

## Student Spotlight: August Hagemann

I was first drawn to economics because it provides a logical way of thinking about, modeling, and solving world issues on every scale, from individual, to community, to global concerns. Economics has the power to make huge numbers of people better off, in the most efficient way possible. After graduation, I hope to continue on to law school -- after that, I want to combine my economics knowledge with my Russian studies and legal degree to help NGOs in Eastern Europe and Russia best accomplish their missions. I will always remember the depth of knowledge the faculty here at Miami have, and how eager they are to share it with us students to help us grow. Outside of schoolwork, I enjoy hiking and birdwatching in the parks and trails around Oxford, and am involved with the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, the Howe Writing Center, and Miami's Student Court.

## Women in Econ



The members of WE@MU who attended their first ever Etiquette Dinner

Women in Economics has 30 active members this year, ranging from freshmen to seniors. Members are primarily econ majors in FSB or the College of Arts and Sciences, but they have several econ minors and undecided members as well. The exec team consists of twelve members and is led by president Kiley Duhn, and vice president Rae Carroll. Fall semester was a great success, with many outstanding events including a resume workshop, speed interviews, and multiple executive speakers. The highlight was the etiquette dinner in early November—25 members were able to have a great meal and learn from a special guest speaker. They also had a successful professional recruiting season, with seniors accepting great jobs all over the country with firms including EY, JP Morgan Chase, and Avery Dennison. We'll miss our graduating seniors next year, but before then we're looking forward to another exciting, productive spring!

## Incoming Class Stats—the Class of 2022

Miami welcomed its largest ever incoming class last August. The class of 2022 numbers 3,954. Department enrollment remains robust. In the fall, there were 2,873 students enrolled in economics courses. We had 1,500 students in principles classes, and about 450 students in our intermediates (311, 315, and 317). We had more than 200 students enrolled in advanced electives in the fall, and nearly 300 this semester. These numbers suggest that we will again graduate about 200 economics majors this year. We continue to be in high demand! Hmmm. We wonder what the appropriate response to high and increasing demand is?

## Internships

In 2018, roughly half of the economics majors surveyed participated in an internship. These internships included many diverse locations such as London, Beijing, and Seattle. Internship experiences, just to name a few, took place at the Bank of China, JP Morgan Chase, the US Navy, Chanel, Cardinal Health, the Tennis Channel, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. We are always looking for additional ways to secure internships for our students. If you would like to us to share any internship information with our current students, please contact Jacob Brindley at [brindlj@miamioh.edu](mailto:brindlj@miamioh.edu).

## Economics Advisory Board

The EAB currently houses 14 members including our 2 newest members: Shibani Faehnle and Greg Moody.

### **Shibani Faehnle**

*KeyBank (Sr. Initiative Development Manager)*  
*BombayTaxiBoutique.com (Founder and CEO)*  
*SheInTheCLE (Founding Partner)*



Shibani Faehnle joined KeyBank in 2005 and is currently a Business Development Strategist with the Community Bank. Prior to that, she was the Interim Intern Program Manager for the Corporate Bank. Her past experiences at Key include Vice President with the Private Loan Management Group of KeyBanc Capital Markets, focusing on the Gaming Travel & Leisure, Healthy & Active, and Food & Wine sectors within the Consumer Markets segment. In addition, Shibani covered Technology as well as Waste Management.

Prior to joining the firm, she was a Commercial Credit Analyst at Sky Financial Group, subsequent to completing a management training program at Sky. She also worked as an Account Manager at CDW.

Shibani holds a B.S. in Business Economics from Miami University. In 2003, she received a M.A. in Economics, also from Miami University. Shibani graduated from The Cleveland Leadership Center's Bridge Builders Program in 2015.

Shibani is a board member for the Young Professionals Advisory Council for the Farmer School of Business. She is also a board member for the inaugural class of BVU: The Center for Nonprofit Excellence Young Professionals Ambassadors Program. She leads Key's Young Professional Business Networking and Impact Group. She is a former board member and current active volunteer for Secondhand Mutts and The Circle- Cleveland Orchestra's Young Professionals. Shibani is a founding partner of SheInTheCLE.com, a nationally recognized blog. She is also the founder of BombayTaxiBoutique.com, an online jewelry boutique and blog, which was awarded Editor's Choice for Best Online Boutique by Cleveland Magazine's Best of Cleveland 2016. She was also honored as Crain's Cleveland Business Forty Under 40 in 2016. She is a frequent speaker on entrepreneurship, women's leadership and young professionals leadership. Shibani is a native of Mumbai, India and has called Cleveland, Ohio home since 2004.

### **Greg Moody**

*Executive in Residence*  
*The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs*



Greg Moody is an Executive-in-Residence at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs where he teaches, conducts research, and provides leadership training for state and local elected officials through the State of Ohio Leadership Institute. He joined the faculty after 24 years of public service in state and federal government.

Prior to his appointment, Greg served as the executive director of Ohio Governor John Kasich's Office of Health Transformation. His team gained national attention for its creativity in coordinating multiple state agencies and diverse private sector partners to improve overall health system performance.

Greg began his public service career studying the impact of Medicaid on federal spending for the U.S. House Budget Committee under then-Chairman Kasich. He also served as chief of staff for Dean Bernadine Healy at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and executive assistant for Ohio Governor Bob Taft.

Greg has a Masters in Philosophy from George Washington University and a Bachelors in Economics from Miami University.

## Upcoming Events

- Each semester we have panels of alumni who speak to principles students about the value and opportunities of being an econ major. We are set for the rest of the semester, but we are now planning for the next panels. If you would like to participate in one of these, please email Danae Baker at [danae.baker@miamioh.edu](mailto:danae.baker@miamioh.edu).
- Please let us know if you will be around for Alumni Weekend, by emailing Misty Barrett at [barretmd@miamioh.edu](mailto:barretmd@miamioh.edu). Alumni Weekend will be June 6-9, 2019.
- If you will be around Oxford for Career Fair 2019, we may try to have a Happy Hour. Date is still TBD

## Requests for Help

- As we continue to grow our alumni contacts, please let Misty Barrett at [barretmd@miamioh.edu](mailto:barretmd@miamioh.edu) know if your contact information, employer, or city changes so we can try to keep our records up to date for future newsletters or events.
- We have started a departmental Twitter account, be sure to follow us! Our handle is @Miami\_Econ
- We also are on LinkedIN. We have a [Miami Econ Alumni group](#) entitled: Miami Econ. Be sure to join the group!
- If you would like to donate to our department or department associations, please click “Support Us” at : <http://miamioh.edu/fsb/academics/economics/index.html>



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Miami Econ (Group)