



## Department of Economics News

Fall 2021

### Letter from Chair

The Economics Department's faculty and staff hope that you and your loved ones remain healthy and well during this ongoing pandemic. We are happy to report that most academic instruction and other activities have returned to an in-person format; this has been a direct result of the strict safety measures and protocols implemented by the University. While we are excited for a return to normalcy, we are also grateful for the best online practices we have learned over the past year and a half to maintain connection with our academic community and alumni who are based throughout the world.

Although we were faced with challenges in the 2020-2021 academic year, the Department had several notable achievements. We organized many outreach events for our students in a virtual environment, which allowed us to involve a larger number of alumni and connect with Oxford students prior to their arrival at the Atlanta campus. Among our organized events was a largely viewed online debate on the economic policies of the two presidential candidates, using the same format as presidential debates.

Last year, our graduate program recruited its largest PhD class in the history of the department, with ten students who just started their first year at Emory. The Department's first ever African American faculty member joined our ranks. Finally, we completed the approval process for two new pioneering programs: Computer Science/Economics joint major (available to current Emory students in Spring 2022) and 4+1 BA/MS (accepting applications in Fall 2023).

We hope that you visit our [department web page](#) and subscribe to our [social media](#) to stay up-to-date on our news and events. Visit the department when you are in town to meet with your former professors. Please also consider [making a gift to the Department of Economics](#). Your gift will make a difference to students, faculty research, and teaching. We look forward to keeping you updated on our department's achievements and developments.

Best,

Hashem Dezhbakhsh  
Chair and Goodrich C. White Professor

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## Alumni News and Note



On Wednesday, April 28, the Economics Department's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, in collaboration with the Office of Alumni Engagement, invited a group of first-generation Emory Economics alumni to share details about their experience at Emory and accomplishments after graduation. Panelists included:

- Ali Punjani 18C – Business Development, GiveCampus
- Hobie Hunter 17C – Launch Strategy Manager, Generation USA
- Jacqueline Verdin 16Ox 18C – eCommerce and Efficiencies Analyst, Colgate Palmolive
- Christian Romero 18Ox 20C – Software Developer, Revature
- Jonathan Bailey 13C – Senior Strategist, BCG Bright House

Recent alumni achievements include:

- V. Dori Alexandre 08C was recently promoted to Chief of Staff for the Global Operations Organization of Lyft.
- Austin Hunt 17C completed his master's degree in Environmental Economics from Michigan State University and recently started a role as the Virginia NRCS Economist at the USDA.
- [John Wang](#) 18C started his MPP/PhD at the University of Virginia in Education Policy. He earned his M.A.T. in Secondary STEM Education at Mercer University and taught public school for a couple of years.
- Bei (Nicole) Luo 18C completed her MA from the University of Chicago in 2019. After working as researcher with the Micro Group at the Booth School, she started her PhD in Economics at the University of Michigan.
- Paul McDermott 19C started his master's degree in Economics at the Toulouse School of Economics.

Stay connected with alumni and students virtually via [Emory Connects](#) and advance your professional network. Through this platform, you'll be able to introduce, employ, and mentor students.. Submit your career development news to [eeichin@emory.edu](mailto:eeichin@emory.edu) to be featured in a future newsletter and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have internship or job opportunities at your organization to share with current students.

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## Recent Faculty Achievements



### Welcome New Faculty

- Assistant Professor [Wei Huang](#) received his PhD in Economics from Harvard University. Dr. Huang came to Emory from the National University of Singapore; his research interests include public, labor, and health economics.
- Assistant Professor [David McMillon](#) received his PhD in Public Policy from the University of Chicago earlier this year. Dr. McMillon's research interests include stratification economics, economics of education, intergenerational mobility, and systemic racism.

### Faculty Updates

- Visiting Professor [Musa Ayar](#) received his PhD in Economics from The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Ayar's research interests include industrial organization.
- [Stephen O'Connell](#) and coauthor, Onur Altindag, were awarded the "Best Paper Award" at the [Economic Research Forum](#)'s annual conference for their work, [Unconditional Cash-Based Assistance to the Poor: What Do At-Scale Programs Achieve?](#)
- The Laney Graduate School is proud to announce [David Jacho-Chávez](#) as the 2021 recipient of the [Eleanor Main Faculty Mentor Award](#). This award is named in honor of the late Eleanor Main, a transformative leader at Emory and a devoted advocate for graduate education. It recognizes individuals who exemplify mentoring of the highest quality in graduate education. Dr. Jacho-Chavez was also recently appointed Director of Graduate Studies in the Economics Department.

- [Vivian Yue](#) was invited to join the editorial board of the [IMF Economic Review](#). The IMF Economic Review is the official research journal of the International Monetary Fund and presents articles that offer a high-level view of economics. It emphasizes rigorous analysis with an empirical orientation that is of interest to a broad audience, including academics and policymakers.

## Graduate Program Updates



- We have 10 new students joining our PhD program this semester. Welcome to [Ka Yan Cheng 27G](#), [Wonjun Choi 27G](#), [Rachel Clohan 27G](#), [Justin Eloriaga 27G](#), [Amy Lim 27G](#), [Alessia Scudiero 27G](#), [Shabnam Shahrezaei 27G](#), [Nixon Torres Candiales 27G](#), [Nathan Williams 27G](#), and [Lucie Xu 27G](#).
- Several of our PhD students are going on the [job market](#) this year. All candidates will be attending the ASSA 2022 annual meeting in January 2022 and will be available for interviews.
- [Xi Wu 23G](#) accepted a Data Scientist position at Facebook to begin June 2022. Xi, along with our colleague [Essie Maasoumi](#), had a paper, "[Contrasting Cryptocurrencies with Other Assets: Full Distributions and the COVID Impact](#)," recently accepted for publication at Journal of Risk and Financial Management.
- [Linh Phan 25G](#) was accepted to attend the Mitsui Center Summer School at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Linh will be joining other advanced PhD students and professors in finance in learning about structural estimation.

- [Juan Estrada 20G 23G](#) and [Diego Rojas 20G 23G](#), whose paper, "[Survival Analysis of Banknote Circulation: Fitness, Network Structure, and Machine Learning](#)," (joint with [David Jacho-Chávez](#) and Kim P. Huynh) was accepted for publication in the Advances in Econometrics, Volume 42: The Econometrics of Networks.
  - [Diego Rojas 20G 23G](#) had his paper "[Data Science in Stata 16: Frames, Lasso, and Python Integration](#)," (joint with Anson Ho, Kim P. Huynh, and [David Jacho-Chavez](#)) accepted for publication in the 'Journal of Statistical Software.'
  - [Juan Estrada 20G 23G](#) presented his paper, "On the Identification and Estimation of Endogenous Peer Effects in Multiplex Networks," (joint with Kim P. Huynh, [David T. Jacho-Chavez](#), and Leonardo Sanchez-Aragon) at the [2021 Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics](#). Juan also presented this paper at the [6th Annual Conference on Network Science and Economics](#) in March 2021 and the [2021 Stata Conference](#) in August 2021.
  - Two Emory Economics graduate students recently presented their papers at the [Young Academics Networks Conference](#), in June 2021. [Juan Estrada 20G 23G](#) presented his paper, "Causal Inference in Multilayer Social Networks" and [Alexandra Manta 24G](#) presented her paper, "Estimating Social Effects in a Multilayered Linear-in-Means Model with Network Data."
  - [Carla Moreno 19G 24G](#) obtained an [AEA Summer Fellowship for 2021](#) at the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank.
  - [Yisroel Cahn 20G 23G](#) presented his paper, "Multivariate Heterogeneous Effects: How Minimum Wage Affects Wages and Hours Worked," at the [Society of Labor Economists Annual Conference](#) on May 14, 2021.
  - [Andrew Smith 24G](#) presented his paper, "Nurse Practitioner Oversight Ratios and Labor Market Outcome," co-authored with [Sara Markowitz](#), at the Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop on April 30, 2021. Andrew also presented this paper at the [2021 Knee Center for the Study of Occupational Regulation Emerging Scholars Conference](#) in June 2021.
  - [Kaylyn Sanbower 20G 23G](#) was selected to present her paper "Online Reviews and Hospital Prices" in the graduate student session at the [Southern Economic Association's annual meeting](#) on Nov 20-22, 2021 in Houston, TX. Kaylyn also presented this paper at Carolina Region Empirical Economics Day in May 2021 and at the [10th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists \(ASHEcon\)](#) in June 2021.
  - [Alexandra Manta 24G](#) and [Katie Leinenbach 26G](#) were selected to serve as Laney Graduate School EDGE Ambassadors for the 2021-2022 academic year. EDGE Ambassadors are selected based on their passion and appreciation for establishing, maintaining, and enhancing a diverse graduate community at Emory.
  - This year's [Graduate Award Winners](#) were: [Aliaksandr Zaretski 24G](#) (Graduate Student Research Award of Excellence) and [Sam Wunderly 20G 23G](#) (Graduate Student Teaching Award of Excellence).
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## Undergraduate Program Updates



- Two Economics majors were recently featured in the [Emory News Center](#) as they pursue their passion projects with micro grants sponsored by The Hatchery, Center for Innovation.
  - Yifei Gao 23C is the founder of [Art for Heart](#), a nonprofit organization with an initiative that funds art supplies for kids, creates art that can be auctioned off to raise funds, and runs a camp for high schoolers who would not otherwise have access to art lessons. She was also highlighted in Emory's [Making Good](#) series.
  - Kaitlin Zhang 23B is president and a founding member of [AltKey](#), Emory's sustainable fashion club.
- Economics dual degree student at Georgia Tech, Ashling Devins 22C, was recently included as co-author in a dataset titled, [European Union Countries' Recovery and Resilience Plans](#), published by Bruegel, a European think tank.
- Economics major [Vanessa Goris 23C](#) was selected as one of this year's American Economic Association (AEA) Summer Program 2021 Scholars. AEASP is a prestigious program that enables students to develop and solidify technical skills in preparation for the rigors of graduate studies. Since 1974, the AEA Summer Training Program and Scholarship Program have increased diversity in the field of economics by preparing talented undergraduates for doctoral programs in economics and related disciplines.
- This year's [Undergraduate Award Winners](#) were: Nikita Dsouza 21C (The W. Tate Whitman Prize in Economics), Danielle Handel 21C (The Jack and Lewis Greenhut Prize), Phoebe Lei 180x 21C (The George Benston and Richard Muth Prize for Excellence in Economics), and Sofia Benzi 21C (Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Assistant).

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## Upcoming Events



The Economics Department continues to remain active with in-person and virtual activities. Please stay up to date by viewing the [Events Calendar](#) section of our website and feel free to join us for seminars or other events that you are interested in.

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## Support the Economics Department



Your support plays a crucial role in strengthening the department by providing resources for core academic initiatives. You can contribute to two different funds:

- 1) **Research and Teaching Fund:** This fund supports teaching initiatives, student research and teaching awards, and invitation of prominent scholars to campus to share their expertise with faculty and students.
- 2) **Kafoglis Nobel Laureate Lecture Series Fund:** This fund was initially endowed with generous support from our late colleague Milton Kafoglis and his wife Virginia Kafoglis to bring Nobel Laureates to campus to present public talks and interact with the faculty and students. Your contribution to this fund will enhance the department's ability to continue this tradition.

To support either fund, please visit the [giving section](#) of our website.