



Letter from the Chair

As we embark on the Thanksgiving season, my colleagues and I have a lot to be thankful for. Our department continues to thrive, owing to our world-class faculty, dedicated staff, and, more importantly, our incredible alumni community. We extend our gratitude to those who made donations in our recent Giving Week Campaign as well as those who provide support and networking opportunity by attending our student events and sharing their experience.



Please read through our newsletter to learn more about the following:

- Alumni News and Notes: this section provides professional updates on your Economics classmates
- Undergraduate, Graduate Student, and Faculty Updates
- Our annual Food Drive for the Emory Eagle Food Co-Op

In 2025, we will begin admissions for our stand-alone MS in Economics Program. The curriculum mirrors the curriculum for our [4+1 BA/MS program](#), but our alumni will be eligible to apply. This degree requires only one year of course work. If you would like to learn more about this program, please add yourself to our [interest list](#) for further information. Another MS program in Computer Science and Economics with heavy emphasis on AI is also in development which will be implemented soon, so stay tuned for news about this program which may also be of interest to you or your colleagues.

We invite you to keep in touch with the Department of Economics by following us on [social media](#) to hear about news and events or contribute to the department via our [Giving page](#). Your gift will make a difference to students' academic opportunities, faculty research, and teaching.

Warm regards,

Hashem Dezhbakhsh
Goodrich C. White Professor and Department Chair

Department News

The Department of Economics in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Human Health, the Emory College of Arts and Sciences, the ECAS Office of Alumni Advancement and Engagement, and the Goizueta Business School presented the 2024 Harold and Florence Berson Lecture on September 19, 2024.



This year's Berson Lecture titled "On the Verge of Curing HIV-1, Long-COVID, and Central Nervous System Diseases: Implications Across Medicine, Economics, and Humanity" was presented by the Emory School of Medicine and the Center for the Study of Human Health Professor, Dr. Christina Gavegnano, Director of the Gavegnano Drug Discovery Program.

Following the presentation, there was a panel discussion featuring our faculty Sara Markowitz, Matt Grennan, and Hugo Mialon, as well as Dr. Lobsang Tenzin Negi, Executive Director of the Emory Compassion Center. The presentation and panel were recorded and can be accessed [here](#). The photo above shows Hugo Mialon, Sara Markowitz, Dean Barbara Krauthammer, Christina Gavegnano, Matt Grennan, and Lobsang Negi.

Last month, we opened a meditation room in the Department. Located in Rich Memorial Building, this space is designed to provide students, staff and faculty with a peaceful space for reflection and contemplative practice.

All Economics department faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are invited to participate in our annual food drive to support Emory's Eagle Food Pantry at Emory University. The food pantry is open to all Emory students. Donors can choose from items on the Food Pantry's Amazon "[Wish List](#)" or donate a gift card. All donations will receive a letter for tax-deduction purposes.

Alumni News and Notes

- **Mohna Shah 01C** started a new position as Senior Compliance Officer at Ellevest
- **Ranjan Roy 02C** was named one of the Vogue Business 100 Innovators for the Class of 2024
- **John (JP) Park 06C** started a new position as Director of Strategic Planning at Cox Communications
- **Digant Raj Kapoor 100x 12C** started a role as a Real Estate Investment Consultant at ALH Properties in Dubai, UAE
- **Isaac Privitera 12C** was promoted to Principal Data Scientist at Amazon Web Services

- **Ellie Chen 13C** started a new position as Law Clerk at Alston & Bird
- **James Crowe 13Ox 15C** had his research on stealth dual-class stock featured by the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance. Dr. Crowe is Research Manager at the Council of Institutional Investors in Washington, DC
- **Sahil Goswami 14C** began his Executive MBA at Columbia Business School and started a new position as SVP, Head of Fintech at Dart Bank
- **Mike Holmes 14C** was promoted to Manager at Bain & Company
- **Minkee Song 14C** started a new position as an Investor Relations Associate at Nordic Capital
- **Ann Ryan 15C** started a new position as High End Director at Anheuser-Busch
- **Audrey Balan 19C** started a new position as Associate, Impact Finance and Advisory at JPMorganChase
- **Ryan Levin 19C 24L** started a Tax LLM program at New York University School of Law
- **Justin Cohen 20C** started his JD at Fordham University School of Law
- **Alexander Dorfman 21C** started a new position as an Equity Research Associate at Deutsche Bank
- **Esteban Ancona Garcia 22B** started a new position as Product Marketing Associate at BlackRock
- **Lola Cleaveland 23C** started a new position as an Analyst at Cornerstone Research
- **Spencer Moore 23C** was promoted to Associate Analyst at NERA
- **Edouard Wemy 15G** was promoted to Associate Professor (with tenure) at Clark University
- **Jue Ren 17G** was promoted to Associate Professor (with tenure) at Texas Christian University
- Correction from the last newsletter: **Rashel Chahine 23C** started a new role as a Jr. Associate Product Manager at Publicis Sapient

If you have a professional update you wish to share in an upcoming newsletter, you can email that information to econalums@emory.edu.

Undergraduate Student News

This semester, we fully launched two new undergraduate extracurricular clubs: the Economics Women's Leadership Club and the Emory Economics Investment Forum. The [Economics Women's Leadership Program](#) is a transformative initiative designed to empower female students in the field of economics. Launched in 2024, this program offers a unique blend of mentorship, networking opportunities, and leadership courses aimed at fostering



the next generation of female leaders. By connecting students with accomplished professionals and providing a supportive environment for growth, the program plays a crucial role in advancing gender equity in economics. We invite alumni to contribute to this impactful program by offering mentorship or financial support. If you are interested, please reach out to Professor Elena Pesavento at epesave@emory.edu. Your involvement can make a significant difference in shaping the future of our students.

The [Emory Economics Investment Forum \(EEIF\)](#) is a dynamic student-led organization dedicated to fostering a deep understanding of investment strategies and economic principles among its members. Through hands-on experience in managing a real investment portfolio, students gain invaluable skills in financial analysis, portfolio management, and economic research. We are reaching out to our alumni community to seek your support in two crucial ways. Firstly, your mentorship can provide our members with the guidance and industry insights necessary to navigate the complexities of the financial world. Secondly, your financial contributions will help us expand our resources, enabling us to offer more comprehensive learning opportunities and maintain the high standards of our investment fund. Your support is instrumental in shaping the next generation of financial leaders from Emory. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact EEIF Advisor Professor Musa Ayar at musa.ayar@emory.edu.

Graduate Student News

We welcomed nine new doctoral students to our PhD program this Fall: [Joaquín Barrutia](#), [Atta Domson](#), [Swarali Havaladar](#), [Aikaterini-Christina Katsimpri](#), [Summer Ligon](#), [Michael Loroff](#), [Wing Yiu \(Sabrina\) Luk](#), [Joel Reyes](#), and [Gabriele Tori](#).

We are pleased to announce the following Ph.D. candidates on the job market in 2024-25 with their areas of interest (click on the name to view their website and CV).

- [Pablo Estrada](#): Network Interference, Causal Inference, Applied Econometrics
- [Hanna Glenn](#): Health Economics, Firm Organization, Labor Economics
- [Katie Leinenbach](#): Health Economics, Substance Use, Labor Economics, Public Economics; and
- [Tianhao Zhao](#): Macroeconomics, International Finance, Computational Economics.

Our first cohort of MS candidates from our 4+1 program are profiled in this recent [Instagram post](#).



[Jin Zhang](#) attended the Barcelona School of Economics ([BSE](#)) [Summer School](#) in Barcelona, Spain, June 25-29, 2024.

[Emerson Hamer](#) attended the [Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics](#) organized by the Energy Institute at Haas at UC Berkeley, August 19-23, 2024.

[Jafet Baca](#) attended the [Summer School in International Economics](#), organized by the Journal of International Economics and the Department of Economics at the University of Oxford, UK, July 1-3, 2024.

[Alessia Scudiero](#) was invited to present her paper, "Impulse Response Functions in Time Varying VARs: A Clustered Local Projections Approach," at the [34th annual Midwest Econometrics Group Conference](#) at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, November 1-2, 2024.

[Amy Lim](#) was invited to present her paper, "The Effects of Stricter Licensing on Residential Childcare Supply in Georgia" at the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) [Fall Research Conference](#) in National Harbor, MD, November 21-23, 2024 and at the [Southern Economic Association](#) (SEA) 94th Annual Meeting, November 23-25, 2024 in Washington DC .

[Justin Eloriaga](#), was invited to present his paper, "A Narrative for Fed Information Shocks" at the [Southern Economic Association](#) (SEA) 94th Annual Meeting in Washington DC, November 23-25, 2024.

Faculty News

Six of our faculty members earned tenure and promotions this year! These include: [Kaiji Chen](#), Professor; [Kyungmin \(Teddy\) Kim](#), Professor; [Elena Pesavento](#), Professor; [Krzysztof Karbownik](#), Associate Professor; [Nelson Lind](#), Associate Professor, and [Paloma Lopez de mesa Moyano](#), Associate Teaching Professor.

[David Jacho-Chavez](#) began a 12-month appointment as Associate Chair of the Department.



We welcomed six new full-time faculty to the department this academic year:

- [Jillian Grennan](#) (previously at UC Berkeley) is a distinguished financial economist specializing in corporate value creation and emerging technologies
- [Matthew Grennan](#) (previously at UC Berkeley) focuses on the industrial organization of life sciences and health care markets, examining how health technologies are developed, adopted, and priced

- [Florian Gunsilius](#) (previously at University of Michigan) specializes in nonparametric approaches for statistical identification, estimation, and inference
- [Alexis Toda](#) (previously at UC San Diego) is a mathematical economist who specializes in macroeconomics, finance, and numerical methods
- [Yuki \(Xue\) Wang](#) (Teaching-track faculty) who was previously teaching at Emory as an adjunct professor, is interested in macroeconomics and financial markets
- [Samuel Wunderly](#) (Teaching-track faculty) who was previously a lecturer at Georgia Tech, is interested in health and labor economics.

[Kaiji Chen](#) was recently appointed as a Fellow of the Asian Bureau of Financial and Economic Research ([ABFER](#)), the Asian counterpart of NBER and CEPR.

[Sara Markowitz](#) and Benjamin J. McMichael's article "[Toward a Uniform Classification of Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice Laws](#)" was chosen as the MCRR 2023 Article of the Year by the [Journal Medical Care Research and Review](#).

[Elena Pesavento](#) received \$188,548 from the National Science Foundation as a 3-year collaborative award with Ana Maria Herrera of the University of Kentucky.

[Melvin Ayogu](#) was awarded the Global Perspectives on Race+, Ethnicity+, and Nation+ grant from The [Halle Institute for Global Research](#) to develop a proposal and research infrastructure on 'Silencing the Guns Around Africa.'

[Stephen O'Connell](#) received \$216,279 from the National Science Foundation and \$227,885 from the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL) [Displaced Livelihoods Initiative](#) to investigate the effect on social cohesion of an at-scale livelihoods development program for internally displaced persons (IDPs), hosts, and returnees in displacement-affected areas of Iraq.

[Tao Zha](#) has been invited to submit a portfolio of his recent research for inclusion in an upcoming issue of the National Bureau of Economic Research ([NBER](#)) Reporter.

In Memoriam

Our former colleague, Paul Rubin, passed away on August 31, 2024. Paul joined the Department of Economics in 1991 as a Professor and was later appointed a Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor. He also maintained an affiliation with the Emory Law School where he taught tort law. During his tenure at Emory, he served as the Department's Director of Graduate Studies and on two occasions as Interim Chair. Please read our full tribute to him [here](#).