BC EC

THE BOSTON COLLEGE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Five faculty promoted and tenured

The department presented five junior colleagues to the Morrissey College Promotions Committee last fall and spring, with unanimous recommendations of promotion to tenured Associate Professor. The five candidates' promotions were approved by President William P. Leahy, S.J., this spring.

Charles Murry, the Wieler Family Associate Professor, is a specialist in industrial organization and applied econometrics. He joined the faculty in fall 2018 from a former position at the Pennsylvania State University. His analyses of airline markets and automobile markets have appeared in the *Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Political Economy* and *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Assoc. Prof. Jaromir Nosal specializes in macroeconomics, with a focus on household finance, and international macroeconomics. He joined the faculty in fall 2015 from a former position at Columbia University. His recent research has appeared in the *Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Monetary Economics* and *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*.

Assoc. Prof. Richard Sweeney focuses on energy policy, environmental and energy economics, and applied microeconomics. He is an affiliate of the Environmental Studies program in the Morrissey College. He joined the faculty in fall 2015 following completion of his Ph.D. in Public Policy at Harvard. He earned his B.A. in Economics and Political Science, magna cum laude, from Boston College in 2004. His recent research on oil and gas leasing and production has appeared in the *American Economic Review* as well as the *Review of Economics and Statistics*. He has also received grants from the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency and Resources for the Future.

Assoc. Prof. Robert Ulbricht specializes in macroeconomics. He joined the faculty in fall 2019 from a position at the Toulouse School of Economics. His recent work has appeared in the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Journal of Political Economy*, and *Review of Economic Studies*. He and his coauthor Ludwig Straub received the SCOR-PSE Junior Research Prize in 2020.

Honors Program redesigned

The Department's honors program has recently experienced a surge in the number of students writing senior theses. 34 students have enrolled during the past two years compared to roughly 18-20 in previous years. This increase is in part due to better outreach by the Department to our high-achieving junior students as well as student recognition of the value of a year-long udergraduate research project for advancing their career goals.

In 2022, Co-directors Professors Robert Murphy and Michael Grubb redesigned the Senior Honors Thesis to give students a richer experience. Through this redesign, one thing has been kept constant: the core of the thesis writing experience remains independent research under the year-long one-on-one mentorship of a faculty advisor. Those faculty across the department who dedicate countless hours of their time serving as thesis advisors remain the cornerstone of the program. What we have changed is the in-class experience. In prior years, the class meeting time served primarily as a venue for end-of-semester presentations. Students relied entirely on their advisors to learn the necessary research skills. Tthe thesis course provides a venue for students to communicate their research with end-of-semester presentations. As of Fall 2022, however, Professors Murphy and Grubb are team-teaching the year-long course, enabling two

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Assoc. Prof. Rosen Valchev specializes in macroeconomics, international finance and financial economics. He joined the faculty in fall 2015 following completion of his Ph.D. at Duke University. His recent publications have appeared in *Review of Economic Studies, Review of Financial Studies, Econometrica* and the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*.

Three colleagues departed in summer 2023: Assistant Professors Danial Lashkari, Tzuo Hann Law and Professor M. Bumin Yenmez.

14 PhDs Awarded in May

The 146th Commencement Exercises of Boston College were held on Monday, the 22nd of May 2023 on the Chestnut Hill campus. Fourteen PhDs in Economics were conferred in this ceremony. Carter Bryson, "Essays in Macroeconomics and Labor Economics" (advised by Theodore Papageorgiou and Robert Ulbricht); Ilaria D'Angelis, "Essays in Labor Economics" (Theodore Papageorgiou and Claudia Olivetti); Marco Errico, "Essays on International Economics and Trade" (Jaromir Nosal); Haydar Evren, "Essays on Apportionment Methods for Affirmative Action (Utku Unver and Bumin Yenmez); Benjamin Ferri, "Essays in Applied Microeconomics" (Donald Cox, Christopher Baum and Hanno Foerster); Cristián Figueroa Berrios, "Essays on Health Insurance and Industrial Organization" (Michael Grubb); Kritika Goel, "Essays in Industrial Organization and Health Economics" (Charles Murry); Xiaoying Lan, "Essays in Econometrics and Finance" (Zhijie Xiao); Sriram Natarajan, "Essays in Market Design" (Utku Unver and Bumin Yenmez); Vera Sharunova, "Essays in Industrial Organization and Applied Microeconomics" (Michael Grubb and Julie Mortimer); Ali Simsek, "Essays on Information and Political Economy" (Mehmet Ekmekci); Ryan Westphal, "Essays in Industrial Organization and Behavioral Economics" (Michael Grubb and Lucas Coffman); Shunichi Yoneyama, "Essays in Macroeconomics" (Peter Ireland); and Zhu Zhu, "The Effects of Online Review Ratings: A Case Study of the Hotel Industry" (Michael Grubb).

Six Master of Arts degrees were conferred on Jorge Batanero Rodriguez, Giada Bozzelli, Kevin Choi, Shengtao Dai, Tomoaki Mikami, and Anirudh Padinjaray Pisharam in the degree ceremony for the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

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Recent PhD Placements

Carter Bryson: US Bureau of Economic Analysis • Marco Errico: Bank of Italy • Cristian Figueroa: Charles River Associates • Jade Ngoc Nguyen: British Telecom pension fund • Luigi Pollio: visiting instructor at Wesleyan College • Vera Sharunova: Executive Insight, Healthcare Consultants • Ali Simsek: Keystone Strategy • Denis Sokolov: post-doc at Ecole Polytechnique • Ryan Westphal: Assistant Professor, Brandeis University. Congratulations to all!

PhD students garner awards

Ryan Westphal was awarded this year's Donald and Hélène White Dissertation Award for the best Ph.D. thesis in the Social Sciences at Boston College.

The Donald J. White Teaching Excellence awards, established by a former dean of the graduate school, are made each year for those Teaching Fellows (TFs) and Teaching Assistants (TAs) who have done an exemplary job with our Core course, Principles of Economics, required majors' courses and labs, and electives, evaluated by a committee of our Professors of the Practice. The Center for Teaching Excellence announced the awards in April. Alex Opanasets and Deyin Jia received the TF awards . Pietro Dall'Ara, Shane McMiken, Luis Morano, and Elena Pellegrini received the TA awards.

For 2023-24, Graduate School dissertation fellowships were awarded to Emine Tasci and Qingsong Yao. Summer 2023 dissertation fellowships were given to Rodrigo González Valdenegro, Yuzhi Yao, Elena Pellegrini, and Enrico Cristoforoni. The summer support is partially funded by contributions to the Department's H. Michael Mann Fund. Please see the "Giving to Economics" link on our department web page's "About" tab.

A selection of recent alumni publications: Laura Gáti (PhD'21), "Monetary Policy & Anchored Expectations - An Endogenous Gain Learning Model," forthcoming in *Journal of Monetary Economics*, and "Talking Over Time - Dynamic Central Bank Communication," *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, 2023. Sylvia Hristakeva (PhD'16), "Vertical Contracts with Endogenous Product Selection: An Empirical Analysis of Vendor-Allowance Contracts," *Journal of Political Economy*, 2022; Bo Wang (PhD'21), "Copula-Based Time Series with Filtered Nonstationarity," *Journal of Econometrics*, 2022; Lauren Hoehn Velasco (PhD'18), "The Long-term Impact of Preventative Public Health Programs," *Economic Journal*, 2021; Jacob Penglase (PhD'19), "Consumption Inequality Among Children: Evidence from Child Fostering in Malawi," *Economic Journal*, 2021; and Rossella Calvi (PhD'16), "Why Are Older Women Missing in India? The Age Profile of Bargaining Power and Poverty," *Journal of Political Economy*, 2020.

Alumni News Notes

Carter Bryson (PhD'23) and Div Bhagia (PhD'22) have their joint paper "Understanding the Racial Employment Gap: The Role of Sectoral Shifts" accepted at *Labour Economics*.

Alessandro Barattieri and Matteo Cacciatore (PhD'10) published "Self-Harming Trade Policy? Protectionism and Production Networks" in *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 2023.

T. Clifton Morgan, Constantinos Syropoulos, and Yoto V. Yotov (PhD'07) published "Economic Sanctions: Evolution, Consequences, and Challenges" in *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 2023.

Serhan Ciftçioglu (PhD'90) is a member of the faculty of Final International University in Northern Cyprus. He published "Relationship between Energy Consumption, Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Economic Growth: Evidence from Selected Top Oil Energy-Consuming Countries," with Maryam Noorymotlagh, in *Journal of Energy Research and Reviews*, 2023, and coauthored "The effect of energy price shocks on commodity currencies during the war in Ukraine", with Amin Sokhanvar and Chien-Chiang Lee in *Resources Policy*, 2023.

Yoto Yotov (PhD'07) published "On the role of domestic trade flows for estimating the gravity model of trade" in *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 2022.

Mark Klock (PhD'84) is emeritus professor of economics at George Washington University.

Bertan Turhan (PhD'15) was promoted and tenured at Iowa State University.

Oleksandr (Sasha) Talavera (MA'03) has an article with Y. Gorodnichenko and T. Pham, "The Voice of Monetary Policy", published in the February 2023 *American Economic Review.*

Margarita Rubio (PhD'08), Stephen Millard, and Alexandra Varadi published "The Macroprudential Toolkit: Effectiveness and Interactions" in *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 2023.

Bedri Kamil Onur Tas (PhD'05) won a TED Ambassador award for work in the field of 'Emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in public procurement'. His paper "Weak Supervision Can Help Detecting Corruption in Public Procurement" appeared in *Intelligent Systems and Applications*, 2022.

Mahhavi Pundit (PhD'11) is a Senior Economist at the Asian Development Bank in Manila. Her coauthored blog entry on climate crises and disaster response appears on the ADB website.

The work of Inacio Bo (PhD'14) and Orhan Aygün (PhD'14) helped pass a bill in the Brazilian Parliament modifying affirmative action in Brazilian federal universities, affecting about 2 million students per year. See the link https://x.com/inaciog/status/1689465614258077696?s=20

Undergrad News

During the 2022-2023 academic year, Boston College's Chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), the International Economics Honors Society was active. In the Fall, as in years past, several members helped to advise underclassmen on their progress through the Economics major. The chapter also hosted a fall lunch with Professor Peter Ireland on inflation policy and its annual end-of-semester Alumni/Faculty/Member mixer at Union Street Bar and Grill. In the Spring, ODE hosted an event featuring OpportunityInsights researchers that was attended by over 35 majors, and also inducted over 80 new members: 50 from the class of 2023 and 30 from the class of 2024. The year ended with a mixer of faculty and members old and new. Thanks to Prof. Geoff Sanzenbacher, the ODE faculty advisor.

Our thesis students once again impressed us with their creativity and drive over the past year. Several students were recognized for their exceptional achievement. The Bourneuf Award for top overall economics student this year went to Katherine Garrett. Her thesis was titled "The Love/Hate Relationship: The Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage and the Number of Reported Anti-LGBT Hate Crimes in the United States." Katherine explored why the number of LGBT hate crimes has risen in the past decade following the legalization of same-sex marriage across states and then nationally. She found that the measured rise has been in part due to a backlash effect increasing the absolute number of these hate crimes as well as a greater willingness of victims to report these crimes. Katherine's thesis was advised by Geoff Sanzenbacher.

The Giffuni Family Fund supported three prizes for outstanding thesis work in economics among our senior majors graduating in 2023. These awards went to Nadia Capolino, Luke DeMartin, John Hayfron-Benjamin, and Grace Wagner. All four wrote excellent theses, capping off successful academic careers at Boston College.

Our Bourneuf Award and Giffuni Prize winners have had great starts to their careers. Katherine Garrett is backpacking in Australia and New Zealand (having just completed the Routeburn Track on the South Island of New Zealand), Nadia Capolino is working as an Associate at AlphaSights, Luke DeMartin is working as an analyst at Cornerstone Research in Boston; John Hayfron-Benjamin is working as an Associate Consultant at Boston Consulting Group.

Earlier this year, the Giffuni Family Internship and Summer Study Abroad Program offered awards to five economics honors students who were identified by the Financial Aid Office as having significant financial need. We are pleased that four of the students accepted. These students worked at internships or research positions this past summer. Garrett Domaratzky worked at the FDIC in their Los Angeles office, Megan Nelson interned at Windsor Private Wealth in Boston, Matthew Sher worked at the Center for Mind and Culture in Boston, and Diane Yoon was an intern at Iris ID Systems in New Jersey.

Faculty News Notes

Robert Ulbricht was promoted and tenured. His article with Ryan Chahrour, "Robust Predictions for DSGE Models with Incomplete Information", was published in *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*. His paper with Ludwig Straub, "Endogenous Uncertainty and Credit Crunches", is forthcoming in *Review of Economic Studies*. He gave presentations at the NBER Summer Institute, SITE Workshop, and Dartmouth College.

Hanno Foerster's article "Untying the Knot: How Child Support and Alimony Affect Couples' Decisions and Welfare" is forthcoming in *Review of Economic Studies*. His paper "The Colocation Friction: Dual-Earner Job Search and Labor Market Outcomes", joint with **Robert Ulbricht**) was on the program of the NBER Summer Institute. He made presentations at the Southern Economic Association conference, at NYU, and was on the program committee for the 2023 Annual Congress of the European Economic Association.

Uzi Segal's article "Social influence in committee deliberation", with C. Fershtman, is forthcoming in *Theory & Decision*. His paper "For all or exists?" appeared in Theoretical Economics, 2023. "All probabilities are equal, but some probabilities are more equal than others", with alumna C. Letsou (PhD'20) and S. Naeh, was published in *Economic Theory*, 2022, and "A lot of ambiguity", with Z. Safra, appeared in *Journal of Economic Theory*, 2022. He presented "Allocation mechanisms with mixture-averse preferences." with David Dillenberger, at the D-TEA conference in Paris last July, as well as the University of Alabama and the Technion, Israel.

A forthcoming article by **Utku Ünver** and **Tayfun Sönmez**, with Parak Parthak and M. Bumin Yenmez, "Fair Allocation of Vaccines, Ventilators, and Antiviral Treatments: Leaving No Ethical Value Behind in Health Care Rationing", will appear in *Management Science*. Their article "The First 4-Way Liver Paired Exchange from an Interdisciplinary Collaboration between Healthcare Professionals and Design Economists," with Sezai Yilmaz, Volkan Ince, Sami Akbulut, Burak Isik, and Sukru Emre, is forthcoming in *American Journal of Transplantation*. Utku presented "How (Not) to Reform India's Affirmative Action Policies for its Economically Weaker Segments" at the 2023 Conference on Economic Design in Girona and the 2022 Recent Advances in Fair Division: Conference in Honor of Herve Moulin in Paris, as well as "Market Design for Distributional Objectives in (Re) assignment: An Application to Improve the Distribution of Teachers in Schools" at the 2023 Rice University Paris Market Design Conference: Kidneys and Beyond, the 2023 Bilkent University Conference in Honor of Semih Koray, and the 2023 Stony Brook University Seminar. He also presented "Blood Allocation with Replacement Donors: A Theory of Multi-unit Exchange with Compatibility-based Preferences" at the 2023 Becker-Friedman Institute Economic Theory Conference at the University of Chicago and the 2022 Virtual Applied Theory Innovation Conference at Liaoning University of China. He has been named one of two Editors-in-Chief for the journal *ACM Transactions in Economics and Computation*.

Utku Ünver and **Tayfun Sönmez** are co-founders of the "Banu Bedestenci Sonmez Liver Exchange Program" at Inonu University in Malatya, Turkey. This program conducted the world's first two 5-way exchanges, leading to more than 50 transplants in 2023. See http://liverpairedexchange.bc.edu for details.

Tayfun Sönmez, Kyle Greenberg, and Parag Parthak have a conditional acceptance for "Redesigning the US Army's Branching Process: A Case Study in Minimalist Market Design" at the *American Economic Review*. His articles "Immigration Lottery Design: Engineered and Coincidental Consequences of H-1B Reforms" and "Reversing Reserves," both joint with Parag Pathak and Alex Rees-Jones, are respectively forthcoming in *Review of Economics and Statistics* and *Management Science*. His article "Fair Allocation of Vaccines, Ventilators, and Antiviral Treatments: Leaving No Ethical Value Behind in Health Care Rationing", with Parag A. Pathak, **Utku Ünver** and M. Bumin Yenmez, is also forthcoming in *Management Science*. His article with **Utku Ünver**, Parak Parthak, Govind Persad, "Reserve system design for allocation of scarce medical resources in a pandemic: Some perspectives from the field," appeared in *Oxford Review of Economic Policy,* 2022. Another joint work with **Utku Ünver** et al., "Weighted Lottery to Equitably Allocate Scarce Supply of COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody," appeared in *JAMA Health Forum*, 2023.

Charlie Murry was promoted and tenured this spring. His paper "The Evolution of Market Power in the US Automobile Industry" was accepted for publication in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. His paper "Inventory Management in Decentralized Markets" was accepted for publication in the *International Economic Review*. Charlie gave invited discussions at the Cowles Foundation Summer Conference and the NBER Summer Institute. Over the summer, he was invited to attend the Mannheim Centre for Competition and Innovation Summer Institute.

Arthur Lewbel published papers in the *Journal of Political Economy* (*JPE*) and the *Journal of Econometrics*, the latter coauthored with former BC students Jin-Young Choi (PhD'14) and Zhuzhu Zhou (PhD`22). The *JPE*

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paper is his 25th publication in a top five economics journal. Lewbel also has a forthcoming paper in the *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, coauthored with current BC student Linqi Zhang. He was on this year's committee to choose the Journal of Econometrics Aigner award winner. In 2023 Arthur gave in-person seminars and workshops in the following places (listed chronologically): the University of Chicago Economics Department; the Kansas Econometric Workshop at the University of Kansas; The Family Economics Conference in Ravello, Italy; the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy; the Econometric Society North American Summer Meetings at the University of California Los Angeles; the Econometric Society European Meetings at the Barcelona School of Economics in Spain; the California Econometrics Conference at the University of Washington in Seattle; The University of Macau; The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and at the following Universities in the People's Republic of China: Jinan University in Guangzhou; Shandong University in Jinan City; Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing; Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; New York University in Shanghai; Shanghai Jiao Tong University Antai School of Management; Keynote address at the Workshop on Spatio-temporal and Panel data in Wuhan University; and Xiamen University.

Matt Rutledge taught his first course abroad: "Work, Life, and Retirement in Ireland and the U.S." out of the BC Ireland house in Dublin in summer 2023. The course had 18 undergraduates, mostly economics majors, who learned about employment policy and social insurance, while getting to experience Irish history and culture. In spring 2024, he will introduce a new upper-level elective, Economics of Aging, where students will conduct original empirical research using data from the Health and Retirement Study. Matt is advising four senior theses, three undergraduate research fellows, and two students doing an independent study. He had articles published in the *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, the *Journal of Retirement,* and the *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, as well as several short articles for the MoneyGeek website. He also helped to coordinate a conference on the four-day workweek.

Fabio Schiantarelli, P. Balduzzi, E. Brancati and Marco Brianti (PhD'21) published "Political Risk, Populism, and the Economy" in the *Economic Journal*, July 2023. Their article "Credit Constraints and Firms' Decisions: Lessons from the COVID-19 Outbreak" is forthcoming in the *Journal of Monetary Economics*.

Mehmet Ekmekci, Leandro Gorno, Lucas Maestri, Jian Sun, and Dong Wei published "Learning from Manipulable Signals" in the December 2022 *American Economic Review*. His article "Signaling Covertly Acquired Information" with Nenad Kos is forthcoming in *Journal of Economic Theory*.

Joanna Venator gave invited seminars at NYU, UC Berkeley, and Kansas State, as well as presenting at the ASSAs, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Labor Summit, the Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop, the Society of Labor Economics conference, the BSE Summer Forum: Migration, the NBER Summer Institute: Gender, and NBER Summer Institute: Children.

David Hughes gave a seminar at Northwestern University and presented at the Econometric Society 2023 Australasian Meeting.

Michael Grubb's paper, "Sending out an SMS: Automatic Enrolment Experiments for Overdraft Alerts", with Darragh Kelly, Jeroen Nieboer, Matthew Osborne, and Jonathan Shaw, is forthcoming at the *Journal of Finance*.

Hideo Konishi's recent publications include "Assortative Matching with Externalities and Farsighted Players"", with Kenzo Imamura, in *Dynamic Games and Applications* (special issue on Group Formation and Farsightedness), "Stability in Matching with Externalities: Pairs Competition and Oligopolistic Joint Ventures", with Kenzo Imamura and Chen-Yu Pan, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization,* 2023, and "Allocation Rules of Indivisible Prizes in Team Contests", with Benoit Crutzen and Nicolas Sahuguet, forthcoming in *Economic Theory*.

Can Erbil published "The Effects of the Post-2013 Socio-political Turmoil on International Tourism Demand into Emerging Economies: An Oaxaca-Blinder Decomposition Approach, " with Deniz Karaoglan and Caglar Yurtseven (PhD`11), *Bogaziçi Journal*, 2023. He also presented the paper at the International Conference on Economic Modeling (EcoMod2023) in Prague. His work was highlighted by the Center for Teaching Excellence of Boston College under BC Faculty Members' Creative Assignments "Can Erbil & Kalpana Seshardi's Multi-Media Essay Project," in November. In April 2023, he presented the Economics Department to the Admitted Eagles (class or 2027): "Boston College, Economics, Beyoncé and Happiness".

Theo Papageorgiou received a $700,000 NSF award to study "The Economics of Port Infrastructure" along with Giulia Brancaccio and Myrto Kalouptsidi. This collaboration also was the basis for the 2022 Frisch Medal of the Econometric Society, awarded for their 2020 *Econometrica* article. Theo's paper "Search Frictions and Efficiency in Decentralized Transport Markets", joint with Giulia Brancaccio, Myrto Kalouptsidi and Nicola Ro-

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saia, appeared in the November 2023 *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. He visited the economics departments of Chicago, Yale, BU and Duke. (February 2023). He also designed an innovative new undergraduate course entitled "Connecting Sellers and Buyers in Decentralized Markets: An Analysis of Labor and Transportation Markets and Platforms" which was offered for the first time in the Fall of 2023.

Paul Cichello was promoted to Professor of the Practice. That process had him in touch with many more alumnae of his Impact Evaluation in Developing Countries course at BC, including two new Assistant Professors at Williams College (Economics) and Wake Forest (Epidemiology); a current Economics Ph.D student (Berkeley); a current Finance PhD student (Chicago) and two recent graduates from the Harvard Kennedy School, one now in the Philippines engaged in financial access, another interested in migration issues and working for the Inter-American Development Bank. Another student is working for J-PAL Africa, roaming the halls of the University of Cape Town. Another is working for UNICEF in Sudan, having been evacuated from Khartoum during the civil war. Two others are working at Abt Associates. Another alumnus switched teams: from consulting public sector to working in the public sector, and is currently Deputy Director of the Data Analytics division of Massachusetts OIG. Paul found it wonderful to catch up on the lives of the many former students and to see them handling both successes and difficulties in both professional and personal worlds.

Richard Sweeney was promoted and tenured. His paper "Investment versus Output Subsidies: Implications of Alternative Incentives for Wind Energy", with Joseph Aldy and Todd Gerarden, was published in *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists,* 2023.

Joe Quinn is nearing 50 years at Boston College: nine in the administration and nearly 40 in the Economics Department. He teaches his undergraduate Microeconomic Public Policy Issues course each semester, along with an undergraduate elective, Public Policy in an Aging Society, and a First Year Seminar on social insurance: Am I My Brothers' or Sisters' Keeper? in which the gender mix equalized after after adding "for Sisters"! He continues to work with alumni Kevin Cahill (PhD'00) and Michael Giandrea (PhD'02) on retirement trends and patterns.Their article "Does bridge employment mitigate or exacerbate inequalities later in life?" is forthcoming in *Work, Aging and Retirement,* and a review essay on "Bridge Jobs" is forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Retirement*.

Alicia Munnell gave the 2023 keynote address at the National Tax Association's Annual Spring Symposium. Her article "Do Retirees Want Constant, Increasing, or Decreasing Consumption?", with Angi Chen, appeared in *Journal of Retirement,* 2023. She has coauthored ten recent Issues in Brief for the Center for Retirement Research at BC, as well as five working papers with colleagues at the CRR, all available from the CRR website.

Kit Baum published "Impact of School Shootings on Adolescent School Safety, 2009–2019," with Danielle Walker, James Hodges and Summer Sherburne Hawkins, *American Journal of Public Health,* 2023; "Associations between e-cigarette policies and adolescent use and access to e-cigarettes," with Alexandra Patrana and Summer Sherburne Hawkins, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports,* 2023; and "Association of State Drug Laws with Nonmedical Use of Prescription Medications in Adolescents," with Hariharan Shanmugam (BA'23) and Summer Sherburne Hawkins, *Journal of Addiction Medicine,* 2023. His paper "COVID-19 vaccinations and mental health among U.S. adults: Individual and spillover effects," with Rebekah Levine Coley, Naoka Carey and Summer Sherburne Hawkins, is forthcoming in *Social Science and Medicine*. He presented "Drivers of COVID-19 deaths in the United States: A two-stage modeling approach" as the keynote speaker at the 2023 German Stata Conference, Berlin; at the UK Stata Conference 2023, LSE; and the 2023 Northern European Stata Conference, Karolinska Institutet. He also lectured at the IMF's Institute for Capacity Development in Washington.

Departures

We note with sorrow the passing in April 2023 of our former colleague Prof. Richard Arnott, Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of California, Riverside. He received a BS in Urban Studies from MIT and a PhD from Yale in 1975, directed by Joseph Stiglitz. He taught at Queen's University from 1975 to 1988, and was a Professor in our department from 1988 to 2007. Richard edited the *Journal of Economic Geography* in 1999-2003 and *Regional Science and Urban Economics* in 2003-2007 and was the archivist of William Vickrey's papers at Columbia University. He supervised over 70 PhD dissertations.

We also note regretfully the passing in March 2023 of Edward Kane, the inaugural Cleary Chair in Finance. Ed's early career was in our department, as an associate professor from 1966-1968 and a professor from 1969-1972. He spent the next 20 years as a chaired professor at Ohio State University before returning to the Heights in 1992. He was a noted scholar of the savings and loan financial crisis and federal deposit insurance.

Honors program redesign… from page 1

sections to be offered in the fall. The thesis course meets throughout the fall semester to provide greater support to thesis students as they complete their research. This additional in-class time has 3 goals: (1) to build community among thesis students so that our seniors can support each other; (2) to introduce students to research support experts across Boston College; and (3) to teach widely relevant research methods and tools that will aid students in their thesis research and beyond.

Community building now begins on day one with thesis bingo. Students start getting to know each other by meeting each other and learning about each others' thesis topics and summer vacations to fill out bingo cards. Then, for the first half of the semester the first 15 minutes of every class is devoted to research updates by two students. Students are asked to relay (1) their research question; (2) the current step they are working on; (3) either a challenge they are facing that they would welcome class input on or a piece of advice they would like to share based on their experience so far. The power of the ideas suggested from the class about how to handle challenges and the advice shared by peers is an incredibly valuable complement to the guidance from faculty advisors. Community and the power of peer feedback are built into the course wherever possible. We also introduced a mid-semester dinner for thesis students and their advisors at the Faculty Dining Room. Later in the semester class time is devoted to writing sessions in which students trade Thesis Prospectus drafts with a classmate and give each other constructive feedback. Students find these opportunities to interact with each other some of the most engaging aspects of the redesigned course.

Boston College has a wealth of resources on campus open to support student research, yet most of our students are unaware of them. The redesigned course now brings guest speakers from the economics department, the library, research services, and other parts of BC into class. Students now learn about research tools and resources directly from our on-campus experts–and get to meet those experts so they know who to seek out for additional assistance if needed. Guest speakers will vary from year to year depending on the research interests of current students. Last year, speakers included experts from Research Services and the Office of Research Protections to support the design of economics experiments. Students learned about BC's Institutional Review Board, which must approve all human subjects research, power analysis for choosing appropriate sample size, and how to conduct Qualtrics surveys. This year, among others, speakers have included (1) Ken Felter, a BC alum who teaches Law and Economics at BC and gave students guidance about narrowing their research questions; (2) Sophie Leveque, our new Senior Liaison Librarian for Economics, who discussed literature searches and available economic data sources with students; and (3) Wei Qiu, BC's Senior Scientific Computational Consultant, who introduced the students to BC's research computing cluster. Wei Qiu's guest lecture was a particular success. Students were all given accounts on BC's research computing cluster, and in class each had the opportunity to upload data and code to the server, run analysis, and download results–ensuring any student who needs that level of computing power is ready to access it.

BC's experts are the most valuable results from guest lectures. For instance, this year after Sophie Leveque's visit to the thesis course, senior Braden Kramer reached out to her for help regarding his research on National Park gateway communities. Sophie referred Braden to Lester Carver, BC library's expert on spatial data. In no time, Lester had taught Braden how to access ArcGIS through the library and use the tool to identify gateway communities within ten miles of US National Parks. This saved Braden an immense amount of time, a tip he was eager to share with his classmates through the thesis course discussion board. Beyond community building and visiting experts, remaining additions to in-class time focus on broadly-relevant research methods. This year the course (1) covered a set of software tools for managing references, data analysis, and writing; (2) taught best practices for coding and data management via an in-class data exercise; (3) demonstrated new generative AI tools for coding assistance; (4) gave overviews of econometric methods widely applicable for theses on microeconomic topics and macroeconomic topics; and (5) gave advice and practice on academic writing. This new content and the corresponding hands-on data and writing exercises are designed to support students' thesis research rather than crowd it out. Hence it was all completed in-class to preserve out-of-class time for students' independent research.

This course redesign is an ongoing process and we expect the course to continue to improve in response to student feedback and evolve with ongoing innovation in research methods and tools.

Nine Outstanding Undergrads Receive Robert Cheney, S.J. Scholarships

Professor Robert Cheney, S.J., was a member of this department for many years, teaching a very popular elective on the History of Economic Thought. His office door was always open to his current and former students. Father Bob passed away unexpectedly in August, 1998.

Thanks to the continued generous financial support from the many friends of the late Professor Robert Cheney, S.J., we were able to make nine Cheney Scholarship awards this year. The awards were given to senior Economics majors with strong academic records. You can see from the descriptions of the winners (below) that this is a very active, adventurous, and talented group of awardees:

Catherine Bennett is an Economics major with a double minor in Finance and History. She is a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, Women in Business, and the History Club. At BC, Catherine has gained experience as a research assistant at the Center for Retirement Research. Over the summer, Catherine interned as a data analyst at an engineering firm. She is writing a senior thesis, ad-

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vised by Geoffrey Sanzanebacher, examining the impact of registered nurse staffing and vacancies on work satisfaction. In her free time, she enjoys reading, playing tennis, and attending tennis tournaments. After graduation, Catherine hopes to pursue a career in finance or analytics before pursuing a graduate degree.

Benjamin Charleston is an Economics major with a minor in Biology. Ben is a member of the ski team at Boston College, where he has been named an NCAA Academic All-American three seasons running. Ben also served on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. In his free time, Ben enjoys cycling, running, or "anything that gets me outside." Last summer, Ben interned as a sales operations analyst with Ocean Spray Cranberries in Boston. He plans to seek employment in a sales development, sales operations, or data analytics after graduation.

Garrett Domaratzky is an Economics major with a minor in Finance. Garrett is the current treasurer of the Boston College History Club and is also an active member of the Boston College Committee for Creative Enactments (CCE), a BC comedy group. Garrett's grandfather is from Ukraine and Garrett was an active member in organizing the BC Rally for Ukraine in the spring of 2021, He remains an active member in the Boston area in gathering support for Ukraine by attending protests and participating in the Boston College Slavic Club events. Garrett comes from a big family and he credits his three brothers and sister for inspiring him to follow his passions. Garrett has interned at a variety of companies including Kroll (Cryptocurrency Risk Intern), Emergent Holdings (Project Management Intern), and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (Financial Management Scholar). He is writing a senior thesis on US healthcare utilization, advised by Professor Rutledge. He hopes to become an economic consultant after graduation. In his free time, Garrett enjoys theatre and playing strategy games, especially chess.

Emily Howell is an Economics and Political Science double major with a minor in Environmental Studies. She has centered her coursework around environmental economics and globalization themes. On campus, Emily is a panelist for the Student Admissions Program, and an active member of the Boston College Geology Association, working with the alumni mentorship program. She has also worked as an Undergraduate Research Fellow for Professor Krause (Political Science), working on the study of insurgent groups and factors that influence their success or failure in regime change. Emily spent last summer working at The Hanover Insurance Group as a Corporate Strategy Intern, where she analyzed how AI and climate change will impact the insurance industry. She is writing an honors thesis about women and financial inclusion, advised by Professor Sanzenbacher. Emily plans to pursue a career in economic consulting upon graduation.

Kyungjae Lee is a double major in Economics and Mathematics. He is on the E-board for Omicron Delta Epsilon. He is a teaching assistant for the Financial Forecasting course. Over the summer, he interned at a boutique search fund. His senior thesis, advised by Professor Grubb, focuses on identifying the discount rate NFL teams apply when trading picks across years. In his free time, Kyungjae enjoys staying active by going to the gym and playing basketball with his friends. After graduation, he plans to pursue a career in finance, leveraging his background in economics and mathematics.

Cameron Simard is an Economics major and Mathematics minor. Cameron has worked as a grading assistant in the math department for multiple years. This year, she is volunteering with 4Boston. She loves skiing, the ocean, and spending time with family at home on the coast of Maine. Cameron interned last summer as a sales analyst at Ocean Spray. After graduation, she plans to stay in Boston and find work in business that will combine her quantitative and analytical skills.

Jared Waite is an Economics major with minors in Philosophy and Finance. On campus, Jared has been a teaching assistant for the Applications of Learning Theory course for the past two years. He has also been on the Executive Board for Omicron Delta Epsilon, the Economic honors society. In his free time, Jared loves to golf, watch sports and movies, and spend time outdoors. This past summer, Jared interned with Walden Mutual Bank in Concord, NH. After college, he hopes to enter the economic consulting industry.

Logan Waite is an Economics major with minors in Philosophy and Finance. He studied abroad in Athens, Greece. He was fascinated by the analysis of Greece's recent economic crisis, particularly enjoying the recollections of one professor who had been working in the Central Bank as the crisis played out. Over this past summer, Logan interned at Data Axle. In his free time, Logan loves to play golf, explore new places to eat, and enjoy time with friends. After college, he hopes to work in the economic consulting industry.

Diane Yoon is an Economics major who has served as the President of the Boston College Economics Association and Girls Who Code at Boston College. She is also a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon. On campus, she also tutors Economics students the Connors Family Learning Center. Despite her roots in Princeton, NJ, Diane embraces the Bostonian lifestyle and enjoys running and avidly reading. Over the past summer, Diane interned at Morgan Stanley, where she contributed to the Legal and Compliance Division. Following her graduation, Diane plans to embark on a career in consulting before pursuing further education in graduate school.

If you would like to support the Reverend Robert J. Cheney, S.J. Fund, please see the "Giving to Economics" link on our department web page's "About" tab. Your contributions will assist some of our most talented economics majors.