

Volume 4 Spring 2016

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Dear Alumni
and Friends,

Greetings
from the
UNT Eco-
nomics
Department!
This academ-
ic year we
will teach
over 6,000
students.

Last year, I mentioned the departures of Dr. Jewell, Dr. Clower, and Dr. Martinez. This year, Katie Raynor resigned so she could work at the company she and her husband own and spend more time with her children. We miss her but wish her well!

I am pleased to report that we have been very successful in filling some of these vacancies. As mentioned last year, Dr. Guillermo Covarrubias joined our faculty as a Senior Lecturer in Fall 2014. In Fall 2015, Dr. Michael Carroll joined us as a Professor to head the Center of Economic Development and Research (CEDR). Dr. Carroll got his Ph.D. from Colorado State University ('97) and came to us from Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. You can learn more about Dr. Carroll on page 3.

I'm also very pleased to announce that we will add two more new faces to our department this Fall. Dr. Xi Yang will

join us as Assistant Professor, and Dr. J. Alejandro Gelves will join us as Lecturer. Brief profiles of these new faculty members are on page 4.

One last item of note is that Dr. Michael McPherson has been promoted and is now the Associate Vice Provost for Faculty here at UNT. While we miss interacting with him daily and we have lost an excellent teacher, we wish him the greatest success in his new endeavor. Heather Miller has taken over management of our alumni database.

As you can see in this newsletter students and faculty remain very active. Dr. Dadores has done a magnificent job revitalizing the Economics Club and the Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society. The Econ Club has hosted numerous activities, and there are always a couple dozen or more participants at each event. Econ Club mixers that involve both students and faculty have been extremely successful and lots of fun.

After a year where we lost faculty for a variety of reasons, I'm excited about the future. We have excellent new faculty arriving in the fall, and students continue to collaborate with each other and the faculty. We are moving in a positive direction. Keep in touch and let us know how you are doing.

--David Molina
Associate Professor and Chair

Faculty & Staff News



Seated (from left): Jeff Rous and David Molina

Standing (from left): Myungsup Kim, Guillermo Covarrubias, Lisa Gage, Jiyoung Kwon, Kari Battaglia, Heather Miller, Janice Hauge, Michael McPherson, Margie Tieslau, Guohua Feng, Michael Nieswiadomy, and Michael Carroll.

Not pictured: Susan Dadres and Harry Ellis

Michael Carroll joined the department in fall 2015.

Harry Ellis was recognized for his 25 years of service to UNT at the Service Awards Ceremony on March 3, 2016.

Lisa Gage was recognized for her 20 years of service to UNT at the Service Awards Ceremony on March 3, 2016.

Janice Hauge:

- Served as Vice Chair of the 43rd Research Conference on Communications, Information, and Internet Policy (TPRC) held in Arlington, VA, in September 2015.
- Serving as Chair of the 44th TPRC Conference to be held in September 2016.
- Invited panelist to the 9th Annual Carl B. Menges Colloquium hosted by The Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization in April 2016.
- Serves as a panelist for the Virginia Sea Grant Research Fellowship (through the Virginia Sea Grant Institute).

Michael McPherson became Associate Vice Provost for Faculty in January 2016.

Michael Nieswiadomy:

- Won first place in the D/FW Association of Business Economists 2015 Forecasting Competition, awarded November 19, 2015.
- Selected as the recipient of the National Association of Forensic Economics 2015 Past Presidents' Award for Outstanding Service to the Association. This award was presented at the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) meetings on Jan. 3, 2016.
- Recognized for his 30 years of service to UNT at the Service Awards Ceremony on March 3, 2016.

Margie Tieslau will be on faculty development leave in Fall 2016.

Spring Banquet

The annual Spring Awards & Scholarships Banquet will be held on Friday, April 22, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Eagle Exhibition Hall, Room 160 of the Environmental Science Building. Recipients of undergraduate and graduate scholarships and awards for the 2016-2017 academic year will be announced.

Deborah Watkins (MS '97) will speak at this year's banquet. Deborah is Senior Vice President - Decision Management - Fuels Partners Division at Citigroup.

This year, we are honored to have two UNT alumna as our special guests. **Joza Ruffner Dailey** and **June Mandeville Barnebey** attended UNT (then North Texas State College) in the 1940s. Mrs. Dailey and Mrs. Barnebey were Economics majors, and both were members of the female UNT debate team that participated at the national debate tournament at Purdue University. Mrs. Dailey and Mrs. Barnebey are delightful ladies and enjoy sharing memories of UNT. The picture below is of the debate team from the 1948 edition of *The Yucca*, Yearbook of North Texas State College.



We would love to see you at the banquet. **Please RSVP to Heather Miller (Heather.Miller@unt.edu) by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13.**

New Faculty



Michael C. Carroll
Professor

- 1997 - Ph.D. in Economics, Colorado State University
- 1990 - M.S. in Applied and Social Economics, Wright State University (CCER)
- 1982 - B.S. in Business Economics, Wright State University

I joined the department in fall 2015 as professor and director of the Center for Economic Development and Research. Prior to joining UNT, I spent numerous years at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, including ten years as director of the Center for Regional Development.

I have served as Editor-in-Chief of *Regional Science Policy & Practice* since 2007 and as Associate Editor of *Economic Development Quarterly* since 2006. Over the course of my academic career, I have published more than eighty academic articles, book chapters, and policy monographs.

After arriving at UNT and settling in, I began working to re-invigorate the center. As the **Economics Research Group** (ERG), I envision providing support to communities and industries to help them to understand today's dynamic economy. For more information, visit our website at <http://economicsresearch.unt.edu>

New Faculty (cont'd)



Xi Yang
Assistant Professor

- 2014 - Ph.D. in Economics, Johns Hopkins University
- 2008 - M.A. in Economics, Beijing University (CCER)
- 2005 - B.S. in Economics and Mathematics, Wuhuan University

I was born in Xi'an, China. Prior to coming to UNT, I served as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at Lusk Center for Real Estate, Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. I am looking forward to moving to north Texas and joining UNT economics department in the fall 2016.

My primary research fields are Labor Economics, Urban Economics, and Chinese Economic Development. In particular, I'm interested in topics of local labor market, migration, homeownership, and housing supply regulations. My research has been published in journals such as the *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics* and the *Journal of Corporate Finance*.



J. Alejandro Gelves,
Lecturer

- 2009 - Ph.D. in Economics, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2003 - B.S. Escuela Colombiana De Ingenieria

I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and lived in the U.S. until I was 6. My family moved to Colombia in South America, and that's where I went to high school and took my first class in economics. Following the encouragement of my high school teacher, I went to college to study economics and also studied music part time at an academy. I quickly realized that economics was my passion and earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Escuela Colombiana de Ingenieria in Bogota, and continued to enjoy music as a hobby. While in college, I was able to T.A. for some of my professors and realized how much I enjoyed teaching. I enrolled in the American Economic Association summer program after I graduated in order to increase my chances of getting into graduate school. In 2004, I accepted a scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where I earned my Ph.D. in Economics.

My life in academics has allowed me to grow both as a teacher and a researcher. My teaching career started in 2006 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Whitewater and continued in 2009 at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. I have mainly taught courses in the area of microeconomics and statistics. I am very excited to join the economics department at UNT in the fall 2016 semester.

Alumni Focus



Mofioluwasademi Odunowo

- 2015 graduate M.S. in Economics University of North Texas
- First year Economics Ph.D. student Texas A&M
- 2014-2015 winner of Aaron Wuensch Memorial Scholarship

My exposure to some degree of rigor especially in my second semester at UNT has allowed me to expand my capacity to work well under pressure, which is super helpful in a Ph.D. program. I really loved my time at UNT; I enjoyed and cherish the relationship I built with the professors and students.

UNT was also an eye-opener for me to give back to the community through volunteering, which I carried over to TAMU. UNT is definitely pivotal in the accomplishment of my goals.

Gig 'em!



Brandon Norton

- 2015 graduate M.S. in Economics, University of North Texas
- First year Economics Ph.D. student Purdue University
- 2014-2015 winner of Department of Economics Faculty Scholarship

I think one of the experiences at UNT that has helped me the most so far was working as a teaching fellow. After teaching your own course, being a TA and running recitations is very easy, and I think that was reflected in my evaluations. I believe working at UNT as an RA will also pay off in future years. As far as the classes, the metrics as I mentioned was a big help.

My advice for current students at UNT who want to pursue a Ph.D. is to try to get all of the teaching and research experience that they can. Also, take as much math as possible. My first math and macro course and second micro course here was almost entirely proving theorems, and I could have used more preparation while earning my MS at UNT.

Alumni Focus (cont'd)



C.J. Lee

- 2015 graduate B.S. in Economics
- 2015-2016 winner of Lewis M. Abernathy Award

My name is C.J. Lee, and I was the recipient of the Lewis M. Abernathy Scholarship from the Department of Economics at the University of North Texas. I was awarded with the amount of \$1,500 in the year 2015-2016. This scholarship was tremendously helpful toward completing my education, as it allowed me to receive an in-state tuition waiver and paid close to a quarter of the tuition. But this scholarship meant something much more than financial help. It gave me the sense of encouragement that our department and community cares about their students' development and future. Your generosity inspired me to work harder and motivated me to be at the giving end of generosity someday.

Thanks to your support, I was able to graduate summa cum laude with B.S. in economics in the winter of 2015. I am now planning to continue my study in economics in graduate school. I once again thank you for your selfless act of generosity and want you to know that your contribution has left a deep impact in my life. Thank you.

Scholarships

The generosity of our alumni and friends makes it possible for the Economics Department to support many outstanding students each year. All gifts are tax-deductible, to the extent permitted by law, and can be designated to any of several scholarship funds. Information on how to contribute is noted on page 10.

The Ganga Sharada Oli Award is a new scholarship funded by Ashok Oli (MS '08) in honor of his parents to support graduate students who are active members of World Echoes, FACES, or other international or multicultural student organizations with open membership policies.

The Economic Scholarship in Memory of Karla Lynch is in memory of alumna and longtime faculty member who passed away in 2015 after a long struggle with pancreatic cancer.

The Lewis Abernathy Scholarship is in memory of a beloved teacher and scholar who joined the faculty in 1962, serving until his retirement in 1995. Professor Abernathy also served as department chair from 1985-1995.

The Melton-Cochran Scholarship is in memory of Rosser B. "Abe" Melton (a faculty member from 1946-1975) and Kendall P. Cochran (a faculty member from 1957-1989 who served as chair from 1969-1977). Both were noted scholars and inspirations to generations of students.

The Wallace Scholarship honors the late William H. Wallace, former faculty member and friend, as well as his late wife, Virginia W. Wallace, for their long service and dedication to education.

The Aaron Wuensch Scholarship celebrates the life of graduate student Aaron Wuensch (1983-2009), whose generous spirit and love of life touched the lives of his fellow students and all who knew him.

The Friends of Economics Department Scholarship is our general-purpose scholarship fund.

Econ Club

I joined economics club because I saw it as an opportunity to network, but it's done more than just give me a chance to network. It's stimulated me intellectually with guest lectures covering topics like fracking, healthcare, and the 2008 recession.

It's also been an enjoyable social experience. We've had mixers, picnics, and bowling nights. Just before spring break, we organized a field trip to the Federal Reserve in Dallas that was very interesting and informative. It's something I'm very glad to have chosen to join.

Jesse Dadres, UNT Economics Club President



economics honor society. The North Texas chapter is still in its early developmental stages. Dr. Dadres opened the chapter in May 2015, so we are coming up on a year! This is the perfect time to be involved for those who want a hands-on experience in determining the future of the group. I joined because the group is a great venue to explore my passions for economics and a great networking tool to interact with other economics enthusiasts. It is also a nice addition to a resume!



In recent meetings we have debated (light-heartedly) current events and their ramifications on the future. We have been discussing the possibility of a volunteer research paper for anyone in ODE who might be interested, but the details are still in the planning stages as we continue to expand.

We hope to continue to attract more students who have a desire to learn and discuss ideas. ODE is quickly becoming a wonderful addition to the economics program, allowing for discussion and growth for anyone interested!

Omicron Delta Epsilon

My name is Kelsey Stewart, I am the current president of Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), and I want to take some time to discuss some of the exciting things that are going on now and in the near future of ODE. For those who do not know, ODE is the international



Fun and Games



Summer means group outings to the Ballpark in Arlington. These pictures show current and former students, employees, and family members enjoying a game. Harry Ellis coordinates group ticket purchases. If you would like to be notified of upcoming group outings, please e-mail him at Harry.Ellis@unt.edu to be added to his e-mail group. He does a great job of keeping us informed.



Economics Faculty

Kari L. Battaglia, Principal Lecturer

M.A. University of North Texas, 1986

Michael C. Carroll, Professor

Ph.D. Colorado State University, 1997

Steven L. Cobb, Associate Professor and

Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs

Ph.D. University of North Carolina, 1987

Guillermo Covarrubias, Senior Lecturer

Ph.D. Texas Tech University, 2004

Susan L. Dadres, Principal Lecturer

Ph.D. Southern Methodist University, 1998

Bryan Dickson, Adjunct Lecturer

M.A. Yale University, 1993

Harry Ellis, Jr., Principal Lecturer

M.A. Michigan State University, 1986

Guohua Feng, Associate Professor

Ph.D. University of Calgary, 2008

Janice A. Hauge, Associate Professor

Ph.D. University of Florida, 2001

Myungsup Kim, Associate Professor

Ph.D. Michigan State University, 2005

Jiyoung Kwon, Senior Lecturer

M.A. Michigan State University, 2002

Michael A. McPherson, Professor and

Associate Vice Provost for Faculty

Ph.D. Michigan State University, 1992

David J. Molina, Associate Professor and Chair

Ph.D. Texas A&M University, 1983

Michael L. Nieswiadomy, Professor

Ph.D. Texas A&M University, 1983

Jeffrey J. Rous, Associate Professor

Ph.D. University of North Carolina, 1996

Margie A. Tieslau, Associate Professor

Ph.D. Michigan State University, 1992

Kaycee Washington, Adjunct Lecturer

M.A. Southern Methodist University, 2006

Economics: From the Dismal Science to the Moral Science

The Moral Economics of Kendall P. Cochran

Edited by Susan McHargue Dadres, Mona S. Hersh-Cochran, and David J. Molina

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John Davis, Marquette University

"This book provides a major contribution to contemporary economic thought."

Harvey Rosenblum, Federal Reserve Bank, Retired

"...markets are social institutions...Professor Cochran understood this and tried to teach it and it is time to learn for all of us."

Robert Solow, MIT, Retired, Nobel Laureate

Professor Kendall P. Cochran was an important contributor to the Institutional School of Economic Thought. Today, the moral dilemma facing society, and thus economists, is not to defend the status quo with models, equations, etc., but to argue for social change as well as for the explicit implementation of moral or value judgments in this change.

Now, many of Cochran's most significant papers are available in a new collection. In each part, you will find numerous papers with commentaries by the editors. Topics of interest include:

- economics as a moral science
- the need for government policy
- the relevancy of institutional thought
- the importance of economic education

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www.library.unt.edu/eagle-editions/economics-000-7

2015-2016 Scholarship Winners

Hedieh Tajali - Aaron Wuensch Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Christopher Carlyle - Rising Eagle Scholar receiving the Economics Faculty Scholarship in Memory of Karla Lynch

John Kelsey - William H. and Virginia W. Wallace Graduate Scholarship

Ashupta Farjana - Catherine and Virgil Rogers Scholarship

Sana Elahi - Department of Economics Graduate Scholarship for Academic Excellence

Chang Jae Lee - Lewis M. Abernathy Scholarship

Jared Chalson - Melton-Cochran Scholarship

Lila Friedlander - Tom Preston Scholarship

Parker Barouch - Undergraduate Academic Scholarship

Darian Hughes - Undergraduate Academic Scholarship

Dressel Cruz Ruiz - Undergraduate Academic Scholarship

2016-2017 Scholarships

Graduate scholarship recipients will be announced at the Spring Awards & Scholarships Banquet on April 22.

Undergraduate Scholarship & Award Recipients:

Joel McGuire - Lewis M. Abernathy Scholarship

Dressel Eduardo Cruz Ruiz - Melton-Cochran Scholarship

Kamilla Galieva - Tom Preston Scholarship

Paul McCormick - Undergraduate Academic Scholarship

Robert Peyton Santori - Undergraduate Academic Scholarship

Austin Avery McGregory - Undergraduate Academic Scholarship

Dylan Brown - Undergraduate Academic Scholarship

Jared Chalson - Top BBA Award

Samuel Hatch - Jack Johnson Award

Mollie Ramsey - Jack Johnson Award

Joe Ibanez - Chair's Award

How to Donate

Online contributions to all scholarships (including those listed on page 6) can be made at: <https://one.unt.edu/denton/economics>

If you would like to contribute by mail, or if you have any questions, please contact us at (940) 565-2573 or at Economics-Alumni@unt.edu.

Other Ways to Give

Make a lasting impact by joining UNT's 1890 Society with a planned gift to UNT! Naming UNT Economics in your estate plans is a great way for you to make a larger contribution to the future students and faculty of the department. To learn more about making a planned gift, please contact our planned giving expert, Roy Grisham (Roy.Grisham@unt.edu)

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We want to hear from you!

Do you have news to share about yourself or other friends of UNT Economics? Please send your comments, suggestions, and news to:

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We'd love to see you!

If you're ever back in Denton, we'd love for you to drop by and say hello. Let us know when you're thinking of visiting, and we'll try to make sure your favorite professors are around to greet you.