

Economics Department

Newsletter

Greetings from the UNT Economics Department.

This is my third letter to you as Chair of the Department. I am very happy to announce that for the third year in a row that we have added faculty. This year we are very fortunate to have hired Dr. Tammy Leonard and Dr. Dan Zhao. Dr. Leonard, an Associate Professor, will be the Assistant Director to the Economics Research Group (formerly known as the Center of Economic Development and Research). Dr. Leonard, a graduate from the University of Texas at Dallas, has vast experience in Urban and Health Issues and a proven record of research and grant funding. Dr. Zhao, a graduate from the University of Kentucky, specializes in International Trade and Money and Banking. As our new lecturer, Dr. Zhao will increase our ability to teach macro and, being a semi-pro bowler, will also increase our Sport footprint. This year we also added two adjuncts: Dr. Meenakshi Beri (Wayne State University) and Lauri Nuchereno (MS '93).



I am also pleased to announce that we have two new scholarships in the department. First, Deborah Watkins (MS'97) established the Dr. Margie Tieslau endowed scholarship fund. The endowment is in its infancy, and it will take a few years to reach maturity before we can actually award the scholarship. You can donate to this scholarship on our website starting May of this year. In addition, Richard Johnson (BS'16) established the HOUS scholarship in honor of Dr. Janice Hauge and Dr. Jeff Rous. This past academic year also celebrates the first time we awarded the Ganga Sharada Scholarship established by Ashok Oli (MS '08). I am also very proud to say that all our other Scholarships have grown and continue to grow.

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University of North Texas

This has been possible thanks to the generosity of our faculty and staff and the many alumni who contribute to our scholarships. This year we are giving a total of 15 scholarships. This is the largest number of scholarships we have given since I became Chair.

The Econ Club president, Ariana Fehr, arranged for a Skype interview and Q&A session with Dr. Oliver Hart, Economic Nobel Prize winner 2016. It was exciting for the members to ask a Nobel Laureate questions. At our banquet last year we had two UNT alum (June Mandeville Barnebey and Joza Ruffner Dailey) who participated in the UNT debate team in the mid-1940s.

In other faculty news, Dr. Rous continues his participation with the Denton Community Market. Dr. Nieswiadomy has been telling everyone about winning his age group in the 5K Dallas Turkey Trot. Dr. Hauge continued to be active in research areas, including serving as an invited presenter at the Fourth Annual Josiah Bunting II Veteran's Day lecture. And, Dr. Tieslau can attend our Spring Banquet since the Mavs will not be in the playoffs this year.

Our Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet will be April 21st. We are changing things up a bit and giving our first Alumni Award. We are hoping this will be the first of many Annual Alumni Awards where we can recognize Alumni for their accomplishments. The first winner of this award is Justin Tischler (MS '07). Justin is a Senior Director of Modeling at *Intelligent Analytics*. I remember Justin very well since he was my Math Econ TA. Justin has done magnificent work applying his economic and econometric knowledge.

Finally, I hope many of you will continue to go on line and donate to our Scholarships. I would love to be able to award even more scholarships next year.

~DJM



Scholarship Recipients

2016-2017 Recipients

Jack Johnson Award

William Goode

Top BBA Award

Amanda Richardson

Aaron Wuensch Memorial Graduate Scholarship

CJ Lee

Department of Economics Faculty Graduate Scholarship in Memory of Karla Lynch (Rising Eagle)

Dressel Cruz Ruiz

Catherine and Virgil Rogers Graduate Scholarship

Filipe Gomes Pimentel

William H. and Virginia W. Wallace Graduate Scholarship

Kassi Hill

Ganga Sharada Oli Award

Elahe Boskabade

Lewis M. Abernathy Scholarship

Maham Mansoor Khan

Melton-Cochran Scholarship

Taylor Edward Santori

HOUS Scholarship

Madison Carrier

Department of Economics Chair's Award

Gabriel Puche

Department of Economics Graduate Scholarships for Academic Excellence

Erick Cordero

Steven Nelson

Department of Economics Undergraduate Scholarships for Academic Excellence

Richard Webber

Abir Aribi

Paul McCormick

Austin McGregor

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.

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 HOUS Scholarship is in honor of Drs. Hauge and Rous and their contributions to economics education.

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 Margie Tieslau Endowed Scholarship is in honor of Dr. Tieslau's contribution to the department and education of our graduate students.

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.

Year in Review

The Department was honored to host Joza Ruffner Dailey and June Mandeville Barnebey at our spring banquet. Joza and June shared how their economics degree and time at UNT prepared them for their careers.



Congratulations to Dr. Nieswiadomy who finished first in his age division at the 5K run at the 2016 Dallas Turkey Trot. He was also elected president of the National Association of Forensic Economics for 2017-2018.



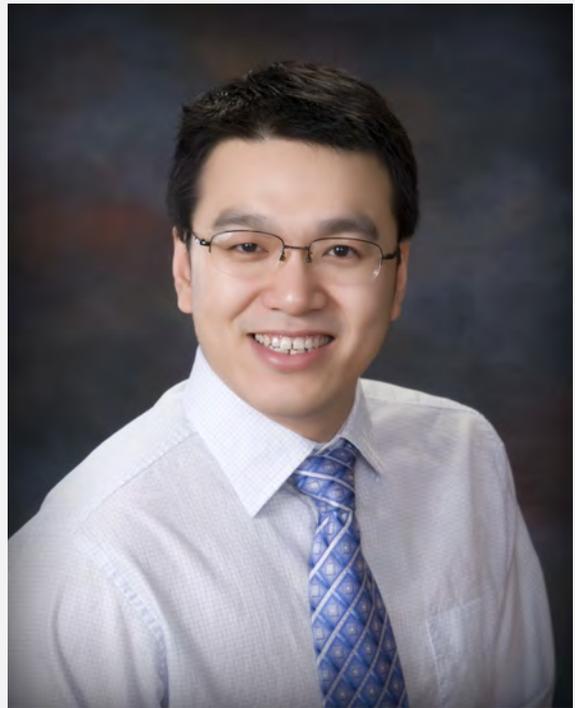
Dr. Hauge accepted a Senior Fellow position with the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization. She also presented at the Fourth Annual Josiah Bunting II Veterans Day lecture.



Looking Ahead

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Dan Zhao will join the Mean Green Family in the fall.

I grew up in Harbin, “the ice city” in China. In 2002 I moved to the United States to pursue my Ph.D. degree in Economics. I used to teach at Central College, College of Saint Benedict | Saint John’s University, and Austin College before I joined UNT starting from fall 2017. My research focuses broadly on international economics, Money and Banking, and Investment and Portfolio Management. I center my life around my wife, Shuai Zhang and our daughter, Vivian Zhao. Beside Family and Economics, my passions are cooking, swimming, and bowling (semi-professional).



We are on Facebook!

In an effort to stay connected throughout the year with information about the department and alumni, we are posting regularly on Facebook. Please follow us there [Facebook.com/UNTEcon](https://www.facebook.com/UNTEcon)

Looking Ahead

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Tammy Leonard will join the Mean Green Family in the fall.

Dr. Tammy Leonard has significant experience managing large research projects and collaborating with researchers from diverse disciplines. Her core research interests include: urban economics, spatial econometrics, and behaviors and outcomes of low-income households.

“I look forward to merging my current and on-going research interests with those of the ERG. In particular my work studying urban housing markets, neighborhoods, and the people living in local communities is particularly well-matched with the work being conducted by the many talented researchers at UNT.

I obtained my BS in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University and my PhD in Economics from the University of Texas at Dallas. “

Tammy and her husband, Matt have lived in the DFW area since 2004 and are blessed with 6 energetic kids who always make sure their “free time” is packed with exciting adventures.”



Alumni Happenings

We're rolling out the Economics Distinguished Alumni Award. Each year, one alum who has done remarkable service for the department and our students will be honored for their contribution at the annual Economics Scholarship Banquet.

Deborah Watkins (MS '97) signed a gift agreement to create the Dr. Margie Tieslau Endowed Scholarship in Economics. The scholarship will be awarded to one graduate student in Economics in the coming years.



Alumni Happenings



Richard Johnson, BS '16, signed a gift agreement to begin the HOUS Scholarship in honor of Drs. Hauge and Rous for their contributions to economics education at UNT. Richard was an active member of our department working in our Help Center and as a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon

Ashok Oli, MS '08 began a graduate scholarship in honor of his parents, Ganga and Sharada Oli and their support of his education. Ashok is pictured here with his parents and wife, as well as Sang Jun Lee, the first recipient of the scholarship.



Class of 2017

MS in Economics

Caleb Bishop
Nathan Burmeister
Chris Carlyle
Md Mainul Chowdhury
Debbie Cunningham
Nathan Hodgkin
Adetayo Ige
Yagha Joshi
Sang Jun Lee
Andreas Parides
Marcia Raphael
Kelsey Stewart

Congratulations, graduates!

All alumni interested in participating in networking events or social activities with other economics alum, please send an email to Heather Miller heather.miller@unt.edu or send us a message on Facebook to be included in future events.

How to Donate

Online contributions to all scholarships 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: Heather Miller, Alumni Coordinator, Economics-Alumni@unt.edu

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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.

Stay up to date on department happenings by liking us on Facebook and following us on

Twitter

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