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# Economics Department Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Volume 1

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**Department of Economics**  
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Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the UNT Economics Department! For those of you who haven't heard, things have been very interesting on the Denton campus recently. UNT has entered a growth phase, with more than 36,000 students this year and a target of over 40,000 in the next five years. When I arrived on campus in the early 1990s, the student population was less than 20,000. The dynamic growth is both exhilarating and challenging! The Department of Economics also is growing. This academic year, the department enrolled more than 5,900 students, the most we have ever had.

The Department has experienced a few other recent changes. In Fall 2010, the UNT Center for Economic Development and Research, and center director Dr. Terry Clower, moved to the Department. We are excited by Dr. Clower's research, especially that funded by several grants from TxDOT. The Department also saw two long-term members move on in the last year. Jan Wood, administrative assistant, and Dr. William Wallace, adjunct professor, both retired in December 2012 after serving the department for over a decade. Good luck in retirement Jan and Bill! To honor Bill's service to students,

the Department has established the William H. and Virginia W. Wallace Scholarship in Economics. If you had Dr. Wallace as a teacher, we encourage you to consider donating to this scholarship fund.

I hope you enjoy the material in this newsletter. One of the best things about being a college professor is hearing from ex-students. I encourage you to send us an email with an update on your life and career (Economics-Alumni@unt.edu). We would love to hear from you.

Finally, please consider joining us for our annual Economics Department Spring Awards Reception on May 3. Details about this event can be found on page 8 of this newsletter. It would be great to see you again.

Cordially,  
Todd Jewell, Professor and Chair



## Faculty News



Seated (from left): Guohua Feng, David Molina, Todd Jewell, Michael Nieswiadomy. Standing (from left): Myungsup Kim, Terry Clower, Jiyoung Kwon, Janice Hauge, Michael McPherson, Kari Battaglia, Susan Dadres, José Martinez, Katie Raynor, and Jeff Rous. Missing: Steve Cobb, Harry Ellis, and Margie Tieslau.

An article published in 2005 by Terry Clower ("Neoliberalism and the Institutions for Regional Development in Australia") in *Geographical Research: Journal of the Institute of Australian Geographers* 2005 was recognized by the Regional Australia Institute as one of the 50 most influential publications on the subject of Australian regional development.

Terry Clower is a member of the Transportation Research Board Committee on Transportation and Economic Development.

Terry Clower and Janice Hauge received a \$138,745 grant from the Texas Department of Transportation for the study: "Impacts of the Panama Canal Widening on Freight Traffic in Texas".

Steve Cobb is a member of the American Economic Association Committee on Economic Education.

Guohua Feng was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Australian Research Council Discovery Project for the study: "Carbon Pricing and its Impacts on the Productivity Growth of Australian Industries."

In 2013, Janice Hauge was nominated for UNT's President's Council Award for Teaching. In 2011, she was selected as UNT's nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper teaching award. This prestigious statewide award honors superior teaching at the college level.

Violence and Aggression in Sporting Contests: Economics, History, and Policy, a book edited by Todd Jewell, was published by Springer in 2011.

"Ivan and Arnold: Day Laborers from Both Sides of the Border," a documentary film co-produced by Todd Jewell, José Martinez, Michael McPherson, and David Molina, will be shown in April 2013 at the Phoenix Film Festival and in May 2013 at the Workers Unite! Film Festival in New York City. This film focuses on two day-laborers in the U.S. Their stories highlight the struggles and internal racial tensions in this workforce disengaged from formal labor structures.

Myungsup Kim was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in 2011.

A paper by José Martinez ("Migrant's Selectivity-Corrected Health Outcomes and the Mexican-American Health Paradox.") was awarded Honorable Mention (3rd place) in the 2012 Victor L. Urquidi Economics Award contest, given in recognition of original work that contributes to the advancement of scientific knowledge in the area of Mexican development.

David Molina is President of the American Society of Hispanic Economists. He is also a member of the American Economic Association Summer Program National Advisory Board.

Michael Nieswiadomy is Vice President of the National Association of Forensic Economics.

Jeffrey Rous has been invited to present his paper, "Neighborhood Dynamics Under Urban Growth (or Lack Thereof)" at the Spaces and Flows conference in Amsterdam in November 2013.

Margie Tieslau has served as Assistant Editor for the *Journal of Economics* since 2000.



## Recent Faculty Publications

Guohua Feng (with X. Zhang), "Productivity and Efficiency at Large and Community Banks in the U.S.: A Bayesian True Random Effects Stochastic Distance Frontier Analysis" *Journal of Banking and Finance* (2012)

Guohua Feng (with A. Serletis), "Public Infrastructure and Externalities in U.S. Manufacturing: Evidence from the Price Augmenting AIM Cost Function" *Macroeconomic Dynamics* (2012)

Janice Hauge (with M. Jamison and J. Prieger), "Oust the Louse: Does Political Pressure Discipline Regulators?" *The Journal of Industrial Economics* (2012)

Janice Hauge (with F. Kang and T. Lu), "Competition and mobile network investment in China's telecommunications industry" *Telecommunications Policy* (2012)

Todd Jewell, Michael McPherson, and Margie Tieslau, "Whose Fault is It? Assigning Blame for Grade Inflation in Higher Education" *Applied Economics* (2013)

Todd Jewell and Michael McPherson, "Instructor-Specific Grade Inflation: Incentives, Gender, and Ethnicity" *Social Science Quarterly* (2012)

José Martinez, "Social Capital, Trust, and the Use of Financial Institutions in Mexico" *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* (2012)

Michael McPherson and Myungsup Kim (with Master's alumnae M. Dorman and N. Perera), "Research Output at U.S. Economics Departments" *Applied Economics Letters* (2013)

Michael McPherson, "Ranking U.S. Economics Programs by Faculty and Graduate Publications: An Update Using 1994-2009 Data" *Southern Economic Journal* (2012)

Michael Nieswiadomy (with M. Strazicich and S. Clayton), "Was There a Structural Break in Barry Bonds' Bat?" *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports* (2012)

(continued on page 4)

## Alumni News

### 2012

Ralph Checchi (BA ECON) is a financial advisor for Modern Woodmen of America.

Kevin Hill (MSER) is a risk manager at Cottonwood Financial. Zachary Koerner (MSER) is a research analyst for the Buxton Corporation.

Saba Pourreza (MSER) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Logistics at UNT.

Lacy Reasons (BBA ECON) is a foreclosure specialist at Nationstar Mortgage.

Lauren Rhodes (BS ECON) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at Texas A&M University.

Jessica (Heaston) Shumate (BBA ECON) is office manager at UNT's Office of Space Management and Planning.

Anny Truong (MSER) is a forecasting analyst at Hilton Worldwide.

### 2011

Chad Boger (MSER) is a credit risk analyst at MetLife.

Mike Boswell (AECO) is a project manager for Scarborough Lane Development.

Megan Dorman (MSER) starts the Ph.D. program in Economics at Notre Dame in 2013.

Alisa Cameron (MSER) is continuing her studies at UNT.

Eddie Hockenberger (MSER) is a risk analyst at Citi.

Yi-Lin Huang (MSER) is a sales anchor at Citi Taiwan.

Ibrahim Kekec (MS ECON) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at Michigan State University.

Afsheen Moti (MSER) is senior analyst at Enterprise Spectrum.

Gabriel Salinas (BS ECON) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Texas.

Daniel Salisbury (MSER) is an analyst at Javelin Marketing Group.

Daisy Solis (MSER) is an information analyst at Fiserve.

Amy Treanor (MSER) is a business analyst at Javelin Marketing Group.

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## Recent Faculty Publications

(continued from page 3)

Michael Nieswiadomy, "The Risk and Reward of Investing a Lost Earnings Award: A Comparison of Stocks, Bonds, and Bills" *Journal of Forensic Economics* (2012)

Jeffrey Rous (with Y. Kim), "House Price Convergence: Evidence from U.S. State and Metropolitan Area Panels" *Journal of Housing Economics* (2012)

## Our Newest Faculty Member

Professor Guohua (Joshua) Feng joined our faculty in 2012 as an Associate Professor. Guohua comes to us from Monash University in Australia, where he spent four years as a faculty member.



Professor Feng, who earned his Ph.D. in 2008 from the University of Calgary, is a widely respected scholar, with recent publications in the *Journal of Econometrics*, *Econometrics Reviews*, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, the *Journal of Banking and Finance*, and

others. A warm welcome to Professor Feng and his family!

## Master's Degree Recipients

Congratulations to our 2011 and 2012 Master's degree recipients!

### Class of 2011:

Miriam Birdwell, Mike Boswell, Chad Boger, Alisa Cameron, Eddie Hockenberger, Yi-Lin Huang Sarah Miller, Afsheen Moti, Daisy Solis, Katie Dessi, Megan Dorman, Amy Treanor, Ibrahim Kecec, Steven Matthis, and Daniel Salisbury.

### Class of 2012:

Caroline Gosch, Zachary Koerner, Reuben Mwangeka, Saba Pourreza, Kevin Hill, Aaron Clewis, and Anny Truong.

## Support UNT Economics

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 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 (on the faculty from 1957-1989, and department chair from 1969-1977). Both were noted scholars and were inspirations to generations of students.

The Wallace Scholarship honors former faculty member William H. Wallace and his late wife Virginia W. Wallace and their 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 Economic Development Scholars Scholarship supports students with a demonstrated interest in regional economic development.

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

You can add your support online by visiting [https://development.unt.edu/givenow/givenow\\_cas.php](https://development.unt.edu/givenow/givenow_cas.php). Select "Other Area" from the drop-down box, then type in the name of the fund to which you would like to into the box labeled "Other Area I." Finally, type the following code into the "Comments or Instructions" box: NTI3ECNL EMI.

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](mailto:Economics-Alumni@unt.edu).

## Alumni News

(continued from page 3)

### **2010**

Melva (Guillory) Barresi (MSER) teaches Spanish at a middle school in Ft. Worth.

Brittany Causey (MSER) is a senior analyst at Enterprise Spectrum.

Levi Dartt (BA ECON) is a management accountant at Texas Instruments.

Joseph Kamt (MSER) is sub-manager for commercial intelligence at Grupo El Comercio.

Dorothy Nandinghi (MSER) is employed by Aegis Communications Group.

Collin Pace (MS LIRE) is a senior data engineer at TargetSmart Communications.

Nishelli Perera (MSER) is an assistant professor at the American National College in Sri Lanka.

Todd Reveley (AECO) is an economist for the Montana Dept. of Revenue.

Ahmed Siddiqi (BS ECON) is continuing his studies at the University of Texas.

Marcy Sutherland (BS ECON) is a senior systems administrator at Children's Medical Center in Dallas.

Ryan Tharp (AECO) is director of business information & research for the Dallas Regional Chamber.

Thomas Wheat (BA ECON) is a business sales consultant at Wells Fargo in South Carolina.

### **2009**

Jared Colleps (BA ECON) is a technical support analyst at TRC Consultants.

Ashley Hanisko (MSER) is employed by Bank of America and enjoys spending time with her three-year old son Ezra.

Trevor Hussey (BBA ECON) is a system sales representative for Ultra Electronics.

Jessica Kelton (MSER) is a senior program analyst at the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

Andrea Maloy (MSER) is employed by Javelin Marketing Group.

Hunter Nelson (BS ECON) works for an environmental consulting firm in Austin, TX, and was recently elected precinct chair for the Democratic Party in his county.

Girish Oli (AECO) is a decision support analyst at Central West Community Care Access Centre in Ontario, Canada.

Rafael Raygada (AECO) is a 4th-grade bilingual teacher in the Denton ISD.

Anna Ruth (BS ECON) is a dispute resolution specialist for the Better Business Bureau.

### **2008**

Preston Cecil (MSER) is a senior financial analyst at Rushmore Investment Advisors.

Charles Dart (AECO) is employed by the city of Ferris, TX.

Jennifer (Mann) Garza (AECO) is an associate director for Standard & Poors.

Adrienne Gilligan (BS ECON) expects a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Economics from the Univ. of Arizona in 2013.

Drake Kyalimpa (MSER) received his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

Ashok Oli, (MSER) is a data and research analyst at the Washington, DC Public Charter School Board.

Erin Winkler (BS ECON) is a research consultant at the Morgan Samuels Company.

### **2007**

Jimmy Schlaffer (MSER) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Oklahoma.

Justin Tischler (MSER) is manager of solutions engineering at Intalytics.

Matt Tischler (BS ECON) is a senior financial analyst at Yum! Restaurants International.

### **2006**

Sara Balderas (MSER) works for Exeter Finance Corp.

Chandra Ganesan (MSER) is assistant manager of risk consulting at KPMG Services (Singapore).

Bonnie Harllee (MSER) is senior business analyst at Real Estate Disposition LLC (REDC).

Paul Hendershot (AECO) is manager of business development for DFW International Airport.

Elizabeth Kasekende (MS ECON) started the Ph.D. program in Economics at the University of Capetown in 2012.

Heather Klinger (MSER) teaches high school in Oak Cliff and recently announced her engagement. Heather plans to return to UNT this fall for a Master's in Library Science.

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## Alumni News

(continued from page 5)

Matt McLelland (MSER) is team lead at Alteryx.  
 Brian McNeal (MSER) is a senior business analyst at Fannie Mae.  
 Courtney Molchan (AECO) is the director of research development for UNT's College of Public Affairs and Community Service.  
 Karen Mulligan (MSER) completed her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Texas in 2012 and is an assistant professor of Economics at Middle Tennessee State University.  
 Lesley Remington (AECO) is a project manager at USAA.

### 2005

Derrick Bertrand (MSER) is a senior modeling analyst at USAA.  
 Joanna Palin (MSER) is a statistician at GM Financial.  
 Bianca Porneala (MSER) is a senior programmer analyst at Massachusetts General Hospital.

### 2004

Cheri Baker (MSER) is a senior fraud analyst at Sabre Holdings.  
 Svetlana Barnes (AECO) is an associate instructor in UNT's Department of Library and Information Sciences.  
 Jennifer Graves (AECO) is an economic development project Specialist for the city of Mesa, AZ.  
 Andrew Ojede (MSER) completed his Ph.D. in Economics at Kansas State University in 2009 and is an assistant professor of Economics at Cal State-Long Beach.  
 Piyali Pal (MSER) is a business analyst at Xilinx.  
 Nathan Roseberry (MSER) is a senior associate of market research at TXU Energy.  
 Norbert Walter (MSER) is a project manager at Citi.

### 2003

Adam Canton (BS ECON) is a business analyst and project manager at Attensity.  
 Mindi Galland (BS ECON) is a senior analyst at Sears Holdings.  
 Kathy (Miner) Nash (MSER) is manager of transportation analytics at Greatwide Logistics Services.  
 Matthew Pharr (AECO) is a senior analyst at Targetbase Marketing.  
 Katie Raynor (MSER) completed her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Texas in 2008 and is a permanent lecturer in UNT's Economics Department.

Caesar Righton (MSER) is an associate project manager at Citigroup.

Eva Schaffer (LIRE) is assistant professor of Accounting and Economics at Tarrant County College.

Sandra Stokes (MSER) is a senior modeler/scoring specialist at LATAM Modeling Analytics.

### 2002

Zubaer Mahboob (MSER) is a senior associate at Heitman.  
 Carter Truly (BBA ECON) is the director of finance and operations at Texas Instruments.

### 2001

Angela Arredondo (MSER) is a quantitative risk manager at Citigroup.  
 Michelle Driscoll (AECO) is assistant regional commissioner for prices (Southwest Region) of the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### 2000

Jodie Foster (AECO) is a regional economist at the US Army Corps of Engineers.  
 Paul Kagundu (MSER) completed his Ph.D. in Economics at Georgia State University and is a clinical assistant professor in the Economics Department there.  
 Laura (Rattner) Olivencia (AECO) is a sovereign research analyst for Standard New York, a subsidiary of Standard Bank Group.

### 1999

Gustavo Hernandez (AECO) is assistant human resources director for Denton County.  
 Michael Jensik (MSER) is manager of risk analytics at General Electric.  
 Markus Marktanner (AECO) is an associate professor of Economics, Finance, and Quantitative Analysis at Kennesaw State University.  
 Youqin Pan (MSER) is an assistant professor in the Accounting and Finance Department at Salem State University.

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## Alumni News

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### **1998**

Ed Bateman (AECO) is a development coordinator for the City of Dallas.

Ali Ritter (BS MATH) graduated from the Seattle University School of Law in 2005 and is a contract attorney for Garden City Group.

Sara Rutledge (AECO) is director of Texas research at CBRE.

### **1997**

Richard Gudmundsen (AECO) is an investment banker in Boston.

Martha Rangel (AECO) is the owner of Spanish Schoolhouse in Keller, TX.

Deborah Watkins (MSER) is senior vice president at Citigroup.

Malungisa Zwane (AECO) is a project analyst for the South Africa Infrastructure Fund.

### **1996**

Kathy Bauer (AECO) is a financial advisor at EdwardJones.

Steve Gray (AECO) is a vice-president in The Weitzman Group.

Paul McDonnold (MSER) is a freelance writer in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

Mark Trice (AECO) is the founder of ClearVista Financial in Austin.

Paul Winkelblech (AECO) is director of research for Research and Demographic Solutions in Grapevine, TX.

### **1995**

Ajay Babar (MSER) is an advanced risk management specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Hamid El-Tgani Ali (MSER) was awarded a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Texas in 2004 and is an assistant professor of public policy and administration at the American University in Cairo.

### **1994**

Shad Griffin (MSER) is the director of research and at modeling Enterprise Spectrum.

Kirk Johnson (AECO) is employed by the U.S. Department of State.

### **1992**

Terry Clower (AECO) is a faculty member in UNT's Economics Department.

Karla Lynch (AECO) is a faculty member in UNT's Economics Department, as well as a full-time faculty member in the Economics Department at North Central Texas College.

Roger Speas (BS ECON) Aug-92, is a software instructor at SAS Institute and a computer software consultant.

Ed Blackburne (BS ECON) completed his Ph.D. in Economics at Texas A&M in 1998 and is associate professor and chair of Economics at Sam Houston State.

### **The 1980s**

Russell Dabbs (MS ECON, 1989) completed his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Tennessee and is professor of Economics at Lubbock Christian University.

Chun-Keung (Stanley) Hoi (MS ECON, 1989) is an associate professor of Finance at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Tania (Albarracin) Jordan (MS ECON, 1989) is an instructor in the Economics Department at SMU.

Billy Ballard (MS ECON, 1988) is an attorney in Lubbock.

Mehron P. Azarmehr (MSER, 1987) is an immigration attorney in Austin.

Kari Battaglia (MA ECON, 1986) is a principal lecturer in the Economics Department at UNT.

Susan (McHargue) Dadres (MS ECON, 1986) earned her Ph.D. in Economics from SMU in 1998 and is a senior lecturer in the Economics Department at UNT.

### **The 1970s**

Mickey L. Burnim (MA ECON, 1972) completed his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Wisconsin in 1977 and is the president of Bowie State University.

## Did we get it wrong?

We make every effort to get our alumni news right, and we apologize for any errors. Would you please help us get it right the next time by contacting us (Economics-Alumni@unt.edu at 940-565-2573) with corrections?

## Economics Faculty

Kari L. Battaglia, Principal Lecturer  
M.A. University of North Texas, 1986  
Terry L. Clower, Associate Professor  
Ph.D. University of North Texas, 1997  
Steven L. Cobb, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for  
Administrative Affairs  
Ph.D. University of North Carolina, 1987  
Susan L. Dadres, Senior 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  
R. Todd Jewell, Professor and Chair  
Ph.D. University of California - Santa Barbara, 1992  
Myungsup Kim, Associate Professor  
Ph.D. Michigan State University, 2005  
Jiyoung Kwon, Lecturer  
M.A. Michigan State University, 2002  
Karla Lynch, Adjunct Lecturer  
M.S. University of North Texas 1992  
José Martinez, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D. University of California – San Diego, 2007  
Michael A. McPherson, Associate Professor  
Ph.D. Michigan State University, 1992  
David J. Molina, Associate Professor  
Ph.D. Texas A&M University, 1983  
Michael L. Nieswiadomy, Professor  
Ph.D. Texas A&M University, 1983  
Katie Raynor, Lecturer  
Ph.D. University of Texas, 2008  
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

## 2013-14 Scholarship Winners

Aaron Wuensch Memorial Graduate Scholarship:  
David Dansby  
Economics Faculty Graduate Scholarship:  
Carmen (Suzanne) Beltran  
William H. and Virginia W. Wallace Graduate Scholarship:  
Tyler Odegard  
Catherine and Virgil Rogers Scholarship:  
Terrence Clark  
Graduate Academic Scholarships:  
Jacob Casey, Matthew Gray, Ryan Johnston, Justin Martin, and  
Timothy Minich  
Lewis M. Abernathy Scholarship:  
Jessica Gore  
Melton-Cochran Scholarship:  
Westley Hill  
Tom Preston Scholarship:  
Cassandra Billingsley  
Undergraduate Academic Scholarship:  
Thomas Rice

## Save the date!

The annual Economics Department Spring Awards Reception will be held on Friday May 3 from 5:00 – 7:00 in the University Union's Diamond Eagle suite. Please contact us at [Economics-Alumni@unt.edu](mailto:Economics-Alumni@unt.edu) or (940) 565-2573 if you can make it. We would love to see you there!

## 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:

**Prof. Michael McPherson, Alumni Coordinator**  
Department of Economics  
1155 Union Circle, #311457  
Denton, TX 76203-5017  
(940) 565-2573

[Economics-Alumni@unt.edu](mailto:Economics-Alumni@unt.edu)