



## Returning to a New Normal

As we experience unprecedented changes, the Department of Economics continues our dedication to strong work.

by Jeremy Piger, Department Head



I write to you with excitement as our campus is set to come back to life after a much longer than usual slumber, and we look forward to seeing our students and colleagues after many months of only digital interaction. I am proud of how the Department of Economics has persevered through the pandemic and continued to serve our students and meet the research mission of the university. The innovation and adaption of our students, faculty, and staff to manage the pandemic has been nothing short of remarkable. However, remote instruction and interactions were never a long-run solution. Coming back together for instruction and other



**Jeremy Piger,**  
Department  
Head

activities allows us to make connections that are essential for fostering a robust and inclusive department culture. As we look to this future with anticipation, in this letter I aim to give you an update of recent departmental events.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have continued to innovate in our programs. This year we will launch an *Accelerated Masters Program*, the first official such program at the UO. This program represents a partnership between our bachelor's and master's degree programs and allows students to begin working on their master's degrees while still finishing their undergraduate studies. We will also launch a new *Data Science Domain* in economics, which

*continued on page 2*

### FALL 2021

#### INSIDE

- 2 New Phi Beta Kappa Members
- 2 Awards and Recognition
- 3 Faculty Notes
- 6 Welcome Jose Carreno
- 7 Career Highlights
- 8 Graduate Program at a Glance
- 9 PhDs on the Market
- 10 A Disruptive Visionary
- 11 Donor Honor Roll
- 12 Economics by the Numbers



UNIVERSITY OF  
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## Returning to a New Normal



### Phi Beta Kappa

In 2020–21 18 of our department's graduating seniors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious honorary society in the nation. In addition to a strict GPA requirement, Phi Beta Kappa membership is by invitation only and requires both a strong breadth and depth of classes in the liberal arts.

Erik Andersen  
Ian Bogley  
Santiago Giordano  
A.J. Heckmann  
Owen Jetton  
Nina Kerkebane  
Victoria Kwong  
Joe Moll  
Blake Rubey  
Mychal Smigley  
Dominic Stevenson  
Marie Rose Tonguino  
Adrianna Vaca-Navarro  
Natalie Walker  
Jeffrey Yang  
Noah Jordan  
Daniel Leef  
Conrad Sproul

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is a collaboration between the economics department and the newly created data science major at the UO. This program will allow data science majors to specialize in the application of data science tools to economic problems and promises to be a popular choice for students.

Our faculty continues to produce timely, innovative, and influential research. This research is highly visible and is relevant for policy in a wide variety of areas, from education to the environment to international trade to name just a few. I invite you to read more about the research being produced by our faculty members on pages 3–6.

The only constant is change, and this year will see some significant changes in our faculty ranks. We are very happy to welcome Jose Carreno to the department as a new assistant professor. Jose comes to us after receiving his PhD from Northwestern University and working as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. You can read more about Jose on page 6. We also have three longtime colleagues who are retiring: Trudy Cameron, Chris Ellis, and Wes Wilson. I can't even begin to do justice to the wide-ranging contributions of these faculty members and

the profound impact they have had on our department over the years, and I certainly won't attempt to do so in this short letter. Here I will simply say that their combined *90 years* of experience in our department will be sorely missed. I invite you to read more about Trudy, Chris, and Wes on page 7. Finally, on a sadder note, last April saw the passing of our longtime friend and colleague Ed Whitelaw. "Professor Ed" has had a tremendous positive impact on our students over the years. You can read more about Whitelaw's career and legacy on page 10.

It is very important to emphasize that our department's success would quite literally *not* be possible without the support of you: our alumni, former colleagues, and many other friends of the department. Your support makes it possible to attract and retain top faculty, innovate in our curricular programs, and support our undergraduate and graduate students—a primary reason why we emerge from the pandemic in a position of strength. We encourage any and all of you to visit the department so that we might thank you in person. In the meantime, you are invited to read this newsletter, which provides highlights of the many activities recently undertaken by our students, faculty, and staff.

## Awards and Recognition

**Jessica Lu, Kate Tonin, Presley Smith** and **Jonathan Ely** each received the department's Grace Miller Economics Scholarship, which is targeted to Oregon residents who have a demonstrated interest in teaching.

**Jonathan Ely** received the H.T. Koplín Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to an Oregon resident who has finished the math and

intermediate courses at the University of Oregon with a high GPA in their economics coursework.

**Nathan Bracken** was awarded the Alanson H. Kleinsorge Scholarship, which is awarded to economics majors who have overcome academic and financial hardships to succeed in their studies.

# Faculty Notes



**Bruce Blonigen** is the Tykeson Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. This past year, he published an article in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* with Professor Anca Cristea and a former graduate student, Don Lee. He is also working with Professor Woan Foong Wong on several projects connected to a National Science Foundation grant to examine the impact of trade on wages and growth in world port cities over the past two centuries.



**Alfredo Burlando** is a development economist who primarily studies financial instruments available to people in low- and middle-income countries. In the past year, he completed a randomized control trial testing the effectiveness of SMS messages in reducing exposure to COVID-19 in Zambia, an evaluation of a microfinance lending in Ghana, and continued work evaluating digital credit in Mexico and financial inclusion interventions in Zambia. He published articles in the *International Economic Review* and *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, presented (remotely) at seminars at Monash University in Australia and the Center for Global Effective Action in Berkeley, and participated in several remote conferences. He was recently nominated for a faculty affiliation at J-PAL, the Poverty Action Lab based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



**Trudy Ann Cameron** was inducted as one of the first four Fellows of the Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Association/ Association canadienne d'économie des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement (CREEA|ACERE) at the virtual October 2021 conference of the association. She also joined the ranks of UO's emeriti on July 1, 2021. However, her research collaborations with PhD students in UO's Mikesell Lab continue unabated. For example, during August and September, she and PhD student Garrett Stanford collected data on the tradeoffs that Oregonians are willing to make across potential cap-and-trade programs for carbon emissions. Analysis continues for a survey study with PhD student Joe Mitchell-Nelson concerning tradeoffs willingly made by people in Oregon, Washington, and California concerning COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and their economic costs, in the presence or absence of federal unemployment insurance. Work with PhD student Shan Zhang concerns demands for public health policies in general. This work focuses on best practices in designing choice-experiment surveys for future benefit-function transfer exercises, which can extend the usefulness of any particular study to help answer future policy questions that may arise. All three projects have expanded over the last year to include methodological innovations, as well as policy-relevant quantitative findings.



**Shankha Chakraborty's** research in macro-development spans multiple areas of interest. He has been working on cultural change, low labor force participation among India's married women, and worldwide trends in life expectancy since the 1960s. During the last year, he has published on the long-term effects of India's COVID-19 crisis, on the effect of inequality on health behavior in the context of COVID-19, and coedited a special issue of the *Journal of Mathematical Economics* on the ongoing pandemic. He serves as specialized coeditor at *Economic Inquiry*, associate editor at *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, and is on the editorial board of two other international journals. This past June, he completed a five-year tenure as the associate head of economics.



**Mark Colas** continues his research on labor, public, and urban economics. This year, Mark's work was published in the *Journal of Political Economy* and *AEJ Economic Policy*. Mark's work focuses on teacher sorting across schools and the effects of immigration.



**Anca Cristea** continues her research in international economics. In newly started projects, she examines the impact of trade policy on economic activity, the influence of multinational corporations in the global marketplace, and the key role that transportation services play in facilitating cross-border transactions. Anca also collaborates with the World Bank on policy-evaluation projects focused on infrastructure in Africa. As cofounder of the West Coast Trade Conference and as scientific board member of the Midwest International Economics Group, Anca remains actively engaged in the academic community. On the teaching front, Anca recently developed a new undergraduate course examining the organization and activity of multinational corporations. In addition, she continues to teach courses on globalization and international trade at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Outside of work, Anca stays busy with her three young children.



**Jonathan Davis** has spent the last year working on the evaluation of several large field experiments. He is still studying the long-term impacts of matching Army officers to positions using the deferred acceptance algorithm instead of the status quo assignment process. He is excited to be nearly finished revising a paper evaluating a large-scale, high-intensity tutoring program in Chicago that caused large and statistically significant increases in participants' math test scores and GPAs. He is excited to launch a new study in Peru this fall that will examine whether providing potential teachers with information about how competitive it is to be hired for particular teaching positions will increase the number of applicants to difficult-to-fill positions.



# Faculty Notes



**Tim Duy** continues to track the US and Oregon economies as they recover from the pandemic. He is particularly interested in the evolution of monetary policy during the period as the Federal Reserve manages a series of supply side shocks to the economy in the context of a new policy framework primarily designed to respond to the prolonged period of demand weakness that followed the 2007-08 recession. Tim continues to be a frequent speaker at events, virtually, across Oregon but is looking forward to in-person meetings at some point in the future.



**David Evans'** current research focuses on optimal fiscal-monetary policy and computational methods to approximate equilibria of dynamic stochastic general equilibrium models with large numbers of heterogeneous agents. Other work explores the optimal maturity structure of government debt and the endogenous transmission of monetary policy through risk. This year he has worked on an NSF grant project on the optimal maturity structure of government debt as well as publishing in *Econometrica*, the *Journal of Economic Theory*, and *Economic Letters*.



**George Evans** published several articles over the last year: "Adaptive Learning in Macroeconomics," November, 2020, and "Agent Level Adaptive Learning" (in press), both coauthored with Bruce McGough, in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*; "Learning When to Say No" (with David Evans and Bruce McGough) in *Journal of Economic Theory*, April 2021; and "Theories of Learning and Economic Policy" in *Revue d'Economie Politique*, May-June 2021.



**Ben Hansen** published research on police force size and race in *American Economic Review Insights*, the determinants of victimization in *Journal of Human Resources*, and whether vaccine lotteries increase vaccination in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (they don't). He currently is investigating the effect of the work from home on labor reallocation, whether school reopenings affect female employment, and how drug smuggling is related to international trade patterns. He is most excited that his three kids are back in school full time as of fall 2021.



**Bill Harbaugh** has survived the pandemic thanks to Pfizer and Zoom, teaching experimental economics and undergrad honors research courses in the economics department and the honors college. He's looking forward to teaching the economics honors sequence in person again and his students are too, mostly. He also reports that Zoom and online data analysis with

R worked surprisingly well for teaching. Office hours are clearly better online—more students showed up, they were more relaxed and talkative, and he met many cats and dogs and occasionally got introduced to a mom or dad in the kitchen.



**Van Kolpin's** research examines both strategic and cooperative behavior in contexts of asymmetric information, discontinuous preferences, heterogeneous populations, and adaptive regulatory policy. His most recent research project, entitled "Discontinuous Social Psychology," formulates a framework of interactive behavior in which social conventions, superstition, conspiracy theories, and so forth can be endogenously determined in equilibrium despite the discontinuous impact of "bandwagon" effects both in terms of payoffs and individual belief systems. Continuing research includes analysis of cost/resource sharing; equilibrium pricing in higher education markets; and the strategic production and application of neonicotinoids.



**Michael Kuhn** welcomed newborn twins Paige and Damien this past year! He also continued his research on patience, consumer financial decision making, and SNAP. His work demonstrating the effect of electronic benefit transfer on the expenditure patterns of SNAP households was published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*, and his work on the role of deliberation time ("cooling off periods") on patience in decision making was published in the *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*. His work in progress includes a study of how men and women differ in their expectations of how having children affects their future wages, and how those differences affect their college major decisions, and studying how the delivery speed of digital loans affects the likelihood they are repaid.



**Grant McDermott** has emerged (mostly) unscathed from last year's disruptions and is wiser (older) for the experience. He managed to publish a long-in-the-queue paper on Bayesian updating in *Climatic Change* and move the needle forward on several other projects. The main things occupying his time at moment are research on labor market spillovers and reallocation due to COVID-19 and other shocks, and some stuff on the environmental consequences of piracy (you heard it here first).



**Bruce McGough** Another strange year for all of us. Like spring 2020, I delivered this year's courses remotely, and, once again, the students handled the circumstances better than I did. Their resilience continues to impress me, and gives me confidence that we will emerge from these dark days with hope anew. Remote collaboration has allowed me to continue to pursue

# Faculty Notes

my research program on bounded rationality in macroeconomics. This year (in a pattern remarkable similar to last year) my coauthors and I published papers in *Journal of Economic Theory*, *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*, and *Theoretical Economics*; and I gave a keynote address at a conference in Prague, though, due to COVID-19 restrictions, I “attended” remotely—in fact, I delivered my address from my basement. Sigh . . .



**Keaton Miller** specializes in industrial organization. In the past year, he has completed projects investigating the heterogeneous impacts of Airbnb on housing markets, the vertical integration incentives created by gross receipts taxes, and the impact of cannabis legalization on labor markets.



**Jeremy Piger's** recent research focuses on understanding how the effects of monetary policy vary over the business cycle and on measuring contagion of recessions across countries. He continues to serve as an associate editor for the *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking* and *Studies in Nonlinear Dynamics and Econometrics*. In the past year he presented his work (virtually) at a variety of venues, including the American Economic Association annual meeting and the University of Connecticut. Two of his articles were published in the past year, one in the *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking* and one in the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*. Inside the department, he is in his third year as department head. He will also be serving during the next year as the codirector of undergraduate studies.



**Ed Rubin** continues to build his research agenda in environmental economics, data science, and social inequality. He is particularly interested in how new sources of information (e.g., satellite imagery, cellphone records, online chat transcripts) can yield new insights into the successes and shortcomings of public policy—and discriminatory social behaviors. He and coauthors recently received a grant from the US EPA for a project that develops a framework to compare pre-program projected benefits to realized benefits of air-quality programs—focusing on strategic responses to the regulation. Along with collaborators, Ed organized the second “edition” (first remote edition) of TWEEDS (The Workshop in Environmental Economics and Data Science). Finally, Ed and coauthors recently published a textbook with Springer entitled *Data Science for Public Policy*.

Over the nine years of his teaching-intensive role at the department, **Mike Urbancic** has taught more than 11,000 students (9,541 unique individuals) in 76 courses. The pandemic upended years of in-person experience and classroom activities. Humbled and daunted, he worked especially hard over the last year and a



half to learn new skills and techniques to provide his students the best remote and online instruction he could. Mike's prodigious service commitments across the university continue, including the Undergraduate Council, the Committee for Academic Infrastructure, the Williams Council, the board of the Provost's Teaching Academy, the Textbook Affordability Committee, and the Learning Management System Service Advisory Board. He was reelected to represent UO's career instructional faculty in United Academics—our faculty union—and is also on UA's bargaining team. Along with seven students, a staff member, and another faculty member, Mike serves on the board of directors of The Duck Store.



**Anne van den Nouweland** specializes in economic theory, with a focus on farsighted stability, equilibrium in public good economies, and axiomatic approaches to coalitional problems. She is an associate editor of the *Journal of Public Economic Theory* and of the *Journal of Dynamics & Games*, and serves on the program committees of several conferences. Anne spent her summer presenting her work in two (virtual) conferences and intensively working on research projects with coauthors, finishing one paper and completing revisions on two more. In the past year, one of Anne's papers has been published in *Economics Letters*.



**Glen Waddell** continues his research in the various intersections of labor, health, public, and education, while teaching the economics and data-science components of the Executive MBA program, and the Clark Honors College. He is currently serving as coeditor of *Economic Inquiry*.



**Wesley Wilson** has retired from the UO. He came to Oregon in the fall of 1989 and retired this year. He edited *Economic Inquiry* from July of 2012 until June 30 of this year. During his tenure at the UO he published nearly 90 papers in refereed outlets. He had considerable number of grants and contracts that yielded a large number of reports. He was recognized by the Transportation Research Forum in 2018 and the Transportation and Public Utilities Group of the American Economics Association for his 40 years of research in transportation. Over the years, he made about 200 presentations at professional meetings and departmental seminars, which included a dozen or more keynote presentations. He has also been recognized for teaching on multiple occasions, most notably the UO's Erstad Teaching Award in 1996. In the short run, he is finishing off grant and contract work, and has a number of papers in various stages and plans to see these through.

## Faculty Notes

### Alumni Corner

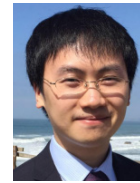
All too often we are only made aware of the amazing careers and accomplishments of our alumni when they happen to share them with us. Please help us out by writing to [economics@uoregon.edu](mailto:economics@uoregon.edu) with your own career updates or those of other students that you know. We love to hear from you!



**Woan Foong Wong** continues her research on international trade, focusing on trade and transportation, as well as trade policy. Her recent projects investigate entrepôts and the trade networks they form, as well as how foreign direct investment and domestic firms adjust to new export. She is teaching the graduate level international trade field course for PhD candidates as well as international trade and intermediate micro courses for undergraduates this year. She presented her research at several invited seminars including Yale University (as part of Cowles Trade Day), University of Virginia, Boston College, Syracuse University, University of Warwick, and Indiana University. Her paper titled “The Round Trip Effect: Endogenous Transport Costs and International Trade” has been conditionally accepted by the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. Additionally, her paper titled “The Role of Non-Discrimination in a World of Discriminatory Preferential Trade Agreements” has been accepted by the *Canadian Journal of Economics*.



**Jiabin Wu's** research focuses on evolutionary game theory, cultural transmission, behavioral game theory, experimental economics, and political economy. He will teach game theory for undergraduates and core microeconomics part III for PhD students this academic year.



**Eric Zou** I am most proud that this year a master's student of mine—Yingfei Mu—was accepted into an economics PhD program. Even better, I wrapped up a manuscript with Yingfei and Ed Rubin on environmental economics, and I thoroughly enjoyed the teamwork. My research program otherwise has been divergent, to say the least, with topics spanning environment health, economics of biodiversity, and fintech applications. I am too long out of graduate school to remember my advisor's warning that a research program must have a clean through-line. Something to be aware of next year. Find more about my research at [eric-zou.com](http://eric-zou.com).

## Welcome Jose Carreno



New assistant professor **Jose Carreno** is a macroeconomist primarily interested in monetary economics, business cycles, firm dynamics, and household consumption. His research focuses on combining microeconomic data and empirical analysis with macroeconomic models to better understand the effects of macroeconomic policy.

His dissertation studies the forces behind the recent productivity slowdown in the US. Other works in progress provide new evidence that suggests that investment reacts to demand shocks in a much more pronounced way than what the standard macroeconomic models predict; and develop a new measure of potential output that factors in firm dynamics and other rigidities. He will be teaching macroeconomics for undergraduates and PhD students this year. Before starting his career at the UO, he was a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco during 2020–21. He gave talks this year at the Federal Reserve Banks of San Francisco and Atlanta, Florida State University, and the Philadelphia Workshop on Macroeconomics and Economic Policy. He received his PhD in economics from Northwestern University. Prior to that, Jose grew up in Spain and received his MPhil in economics and finance from CEMFI (Spain) in 2014. On a personal note, he lives with his wife, Maria, and their son, Gabriel. A baby girl is expected in December. He enjoys nature, time with friends and family, and music.

# Career Highlights

Three longstanding faculty members retire from the university in 2021.



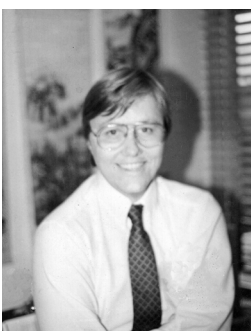
**Professor Trudy Cameron** joined the economics department in 2001 as the Raymond F. Mikesell Professor in Environmental and Resource Economics. Prior to arriving at Oregon, Cameron was an assistant, associate, and full professor of economics at UCLA between 1985 and 2001. She is one of the world's foremost environmental economists, and has served in many leadership positions in the profession, including editorial positions, boards of directors, and in a policy advising capacity for the US Environmental Protection Agency. In recognition of her research, Cameron was elected a Fellow of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economics in 2012, and a Fellow of the Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Association in 2021. Cameron taught environmental economics and

econometrics to legions of undergraduate and graduate students, and also taught for years in the UO's environmental studies program, where she had the unenviable but very important job of teaching economics to non-economics majors. Cameron also directed the UO's Mikesell Laboratory where, among other things, she mentored a very large number of doctoral students now spread around the globe.



**Professor Chris Ellis** joined the economics department in 1983 after completing his PhD at the University of Warwick. Ellis's research focuses on public economic theory and political economy, though he has contributed across a wide range of fields, including macroeconomics, industrial organization, and international economics. He has been a prolific scholar over his career and continues to publish in top journals today. Ellis taught a wide variety of courses at the UO but is perhaps most well known in recent years for his very popular "Introduction to Game Theory" course, which keeps students busy with hands on game playing to introduce concepts of game theory. Ellis maintains an international reputation in his fields of expertise, traveling regularly to present his research in a wide variety of

venues. Finally, no discussion of Ellis would be complete without mention of his legendary hosting of department social events across the years!



**Professor Wes Wilson** joined the economics department in 1989 after spending three years as an assistant professor at Washington State University. His research focuses on transportation, industrial organization, and applied econometrics. He is a prolific and influential researcher, publishing nearly 100 papers in academic journals and books. He has an international reputation as a leading authority in his field, and has served in many leadership positions in the profession on editorial boards, scientific committees and panels, and boards of directors. In recognition of his research in transportation, Wilson was awarded the Distinguished Member Award from the Transportation and Public Utilities Group in 2013 and the Distinguished Transportation Researcher Award from the Transportation

Research Forum in 2018. Wilson was also one of the economics department's most outstanding teachers, and notably was a recipient of the UO's prestigious Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching. From 2012-21 he served as the editor in chief for *Economic Inquiry*, a top economics journal that receives more than 600 submissions each year. Wilson is also one of the department's most prolific and effective mentors of graduate student research, serving on countless dissertation committees.

These three faculty members have made consistent and significant contributions to our department—and to the university more broadly. Their combined 90+ years of experience will be sorely missed.

# Graduate Program at a Glance

Every year the Department of Economics receives numerous applications for our graduate program from a wonderfully large and diverse student body. Below are the home locations and requested areas of study of the most recent applicants for our program.

## Top 10: Where our potential new economists come from (rank ordered)



## Top 10: Economic subfields our potential new economists are asking to study

### 1 Economic Growth and Development

2 Applied Econometrics

3 Environmental Economics

4 Labor Economics (tie)

4 Public Economics (tie)

6 Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics

7 Experimental Economics

8 International Economics

9 Game Theory

10 Industrial Organization



# PhDs on the Market



**Youssef Ait Benasser** (he/they) is a trade economist. Their dissertation quantifies the economic implications of weakening international trade policy coordination. In their job market paper, they demonstrate that trade policy uncertainty has a weak impact on financial markets. Youssef received a BA in political science from Sciences Po and a MSc in public policy from Ecole Polytechnique prior to joining the UO. Outside of their passion for international economics, they pursue performance arts and learning new languages.



**Cory Briar** was born and raised in Helena, Montana, and attended Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, for his BA in economics. He specializes in urban growth and change, housing affordability, gentrification, and public policy. His dissertation examines gentrification in the Pacific Northwest and structural modeling of cities; he hopes to find work evaluating public policy design in urban environments. Outside of economics, Cory enjoys writing and performing music, downhill skiing, and partner dancing.



**Saurabh Gupta** is a PhD candidate in economics at the University of Oregon. Before coming to the UO, he completed a master's degree in economics and worked in various capacities as a research associate in India. His primary research interests include empirical exploration of trade, ID, and macro-related concepts in the context of developing economies. Saurabh's job market paper explores the economic impact of a large-scale highway construction project in India. When he gets time off from research, he likes to cook, read books from other disciplines, and catch up with friends.



**Sichao Jiang** is doing her PhD in economics at University of Oregon. Originally from China, she received undergraduate degrees in economics and mathematics at Texas Tech University before moving to the west coast. Her research studies firm exit, competition in transportation markets, and the effects of legislation change on the labor market. Outside of economics, she enjoys hiking and playing with her cat "Fluffy."



**Zachary Kiefer** is a PhD candidate in economics. Originally from Washington State, he completed his undergraduate degree in economics at Washington State University. His diverse interests include international economics, development, and game theory. For the job market, he will be presenting research using novel sources of big data on Internet routing and communication to examine the impact of information frictions and communication costs on international trade.



**Connor Lennon** is a microeconometrician working in machine learning and causal inference, with applications often being made to areas of environmental economics. On the job market, he will present his research on observed inequality in fire suppression expenditure—using causal machine learning, he separates the association between fire risk and hedonic environmental amenities from the direct strategic considerations of fire managers.



**John Morehouse** is finishing his PhD in economics, where he focuses on labor, environmental, and urban economics. John's research addresses spatial heterogeneity in responses to public policy, e.g., the US Clean Air Act and local housing regulations. In his job market paper, John estimates the labor market effects of carbon pricing in the continental United States. He enjoys cycling, climbing, reading, and medium-length walks on the beach.



**Jenni Putz** is a PhD candidate in economics at the University of Oregon. She's an applied microeconometrician, with broad interests in education policy, student access, and labor-market outcomes. On the job market, she will be presenting her research on the potential postsecondary enrollment effects of Louisiana's financial aid submission policy, where FAFSA filing was made mandatory for high school graduation.



**Kyle Raze** is an applied microeconometrician whose research examines racial inequality. In his job market paper, he considers mechanisms that drive racial disparities in school discipline. His research on the impact of weakened voting rights protections on Black turnout, cited by the New York Times and CNN, demonstrates that despite the potential for voter suppression, Black-white turnout gaps did not widen in affected states. In his free time, he enjoys swimming and playing the trombone.



**Melissa Wilson** is a PhD candidate in economics at the University of Oregon. She received her BA in economics from the University of South Florida. She studies applied microeconomics, labor, and health, and focuses on policies related to the criminal justice system. On the job market, she will be presenting work in which she explores the incidence of racial discrimination and estimates the magnitude of the racial disparity caused by taste-based discrimination. Her personal interests include swimming, singing, and walking her dog.

# A Disruptive Visionary

The Department of Economics remembers Ed Whitelaw.

**Ed Whitelaw**—professor emeritus, founder of the ECONorthwest consulting firm, adviser to governors and presidents, and tirelessly rigorous-but-entertaining educator for a half-century’s worth of UO students—died April 27 at age 80. Ed joined the economics department faculty in 1967 and in his 50 years of teaching founded both ECONorthwest and another consulting firm in Eugene, FION (“Figure It Out Now!”), along the way. As an economist, Ed touched the state, region

and nation, demonstrating an unwavering dedication to spotting trends playing out over decades, not years, and prescience regarding the value that natural amenities—mountains, coasts, streams—can play in the economy. “It can be a burden to see things before others do,” wrote John Tapogna, president of ECONorthwest. “Seeing the unseen, and acting on what you see, is disruptive. Ed Whitelaw was a disruptive visionary.” There is no doubt that the Department of Economics has

benefited greatly from our affiliation with Ed. These benefits promise to continue far into the future through an anonymous donor gift creating the Ed Whitelaw Chair in Urban Economics. The department is thrilled and grateful that “Professor Ed’s” legacy will be honored through this named appointment.

For more about Ed, please visit his page on our website at [economics.uoregon.edu/2021/05-06/remembering-ed-whitelaw](https://economics.uoregon.edu/2021/05-06/remembering-ed-whitelaw).



CHRIS LARSEN, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

# Honor Roll: Pledges and Donations

**Pledges to the Department of Economics** by alumni and friends continue to be crucial for supporting students and faculty members in their teaching and research activities. We continue to be honored and humbled by the generous contributions our program receives.

Providing a gift in your will to the Department of Economics is a powerful way to support our efforts. The UO Office of Gift Planning is an excellent resource if you are considering providing support for economics in your will. Call 800-289-2354 or visit [giftplan.uoregon.edu](http://giftplan.uoregon.edu) for more information. The following is a list of contributions received from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. We apologize for any unintended errors or omissions.

## \$500 or Greater

Pamela and Ernest Ankrim, MS '75, PhD '76	Emily '05 and Christopher Looney '05
Anonymous	Kate '69 and David Ludwig '75
June and Thomas Berry '77	Thelma Mead
Joyce and Jack Cox, MS '60, PhD '63	Cambria and Spencer Noecker '06
Julie '83 and Michael Culleton '88	Mary-Louise and C. William Reinking '64
Bradley Curs '99, MS '00, PhD '05	James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation
Melody and Kim Ferguson '73	Tracy and James Samuel '84
Rebecca and Lee Freiermuth '76, MBA '78	Mary Saylor
Albert Gutowsky, MS '61, PhD '65	Revadee and Aran Thammano, PhD '62
Constance Gutowsky '61	Patricia '61, MEd '67, and Warren Tibbles '60, '63
Holly Hurwitz and Richard Price '75	Trudy Cameron and Gregory Williams
Sherrie and Michael Kaiel '66	Andrew Wood '80
Stanley Keil, MA '70, PhD '73	Ann and David Worthington '73
Timothy Kersten, MA '70, PhD '73	Yungja and Suk Yoon '72

## \$250 to \$499

Andrea and Robert Anderson '71 Benevity	Carol and John Mitchell, MA '68, PhD '70
John Benson '67	The Oregon Community Foundation
Daniel Blake, MA '70, PhD '71	Robert Palmer '94, '99
Marcia and Ritchie Burkart '64	Genalin and Kevin Riley '92
Susan and Raymond Cohn, PhD '77	Schwab Charitable Fund
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## Economics by the numbers

**414** Majors

**283** Econ minors

**30** Master's students

**10** Soon-to-be PhDs  
entering the job market

**51,196** undergraduates  
enrolled in an economics  
class in the last five years

**28** Faculty members

**17** Latin honors

**52** Doctoral  
students