

Greetings from the Department Head

Greetings! Thank you for taking the time to read our annual alumni newsletter that discusses recent developments within the Economics Department along with faculty and student accomplishments over the academic year. This year was filled with many exciting changes. First, Professor Rashid started a “Women in Economics” mentorship program. Second, Professor Stype was integral in the creation of a new Urban Studies Minor. Third, our Master’s program in Applied Econometrics is now classified as STEM. Fourth, the Department recently proposed a STEM eligible B.S. degree in Quantitative Economics. Fifth, Professor Yaya played an integral role in prompting the university to allow a new flavor of the joint Bachelors/Master’s degree. We will be working next year to create a joint Bachelors/Master’s degree program with our B.S. in Quantitative Economics and M.S. in Applied Econometrics. Lastly, Professor Elias received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor, and Professor Yaya was promoted to Full Professor. We are excited for all these great opportunities for our current and future students!



Our faculty continue to maintain an impressive record of research productivity with an astounding twelve published (or forthcoming) papers in highly respected journals. Several of our faculty presented their research in various professional conferences and served as ad-hoc referees for many academic journals. The Department is also happy to report that Professor Rashid received the Summer Research Award for Summer 2019, Professor Stype was selected to participate in ORDA’s Culture of Research Excellence (CoRE) grant writing program and she was named a recipient of the 2019-2020 Josephine Nevins Keal Professional Development Fellowship, and Professor Yaya was awarded a Faculty Research Fellowship for Fall 2019.

We are excited for our graduates and their many accomplishments throughout the last two years. We were fortunate enough to have three students present at the Undergraduate Research Symposium and one student present at the Graduate Research Fair. One of our students, Osayd Qatu, accepted an internship at Google. He was one of 80,000 applicants! Another student, and former President of the Economics Club, Ethan Smith, was elected President of Student Government. Some of our recent graduates accepted exciting job offers, for example, Atang Agustinus Mahlomaholo (M.A. degree in Applied Econometrics) accepted a position at the Central Bank of Lesotho, and Christopher Brightwell works as an agent at New York Life Insurance Company. We congratulate all these students for their wonderful accomplishments!

Finally, on behalf of the Economics Department, I want to thank all who have provided financial gifts to the Economics Department through the EMU Foundation. These gifts promote student success and contribute to the Department’s mission. If you wish to donate to the Department, then please click [HERE](#).

-- Dr. James Saunoris, Department Head



Faculty News and Updates

Professor Chris Elias received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. He was also awarded the Faculty of the Year award based on student votes.

Professor Amani Rashid was awarded a Summer Research Award for Summer 2019.

Professor Amanda Stype was selected to participate in the Office of Research and Development and Administration Culture of Research Excellence (CoRE) grant writing program for her program titled “The Law and Policy Implications of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act for Individuals with Disabilities”. She was also named the recipient of the James H. Brickley endowment award for Faculty Development and Innovation, as well as the 2019-2020 Josephine Nevins Keal Professional Development Fellowship.



Professor Stype presenting award

Professor Mehmet Yaya was promoted to Full Professor. He also received a Faculty Research Fellowship for Fall 2019.

Department Research Seminars

Professor Chris Elias presented a paper titled “Bayesian Estimation of a Small-Scale New Keynesian Model with Heterogeneous Expectations” on October 18, 2018.

The Department co-sponsored with The Department of History and Philosophy to create an event with an external speaker. Professor Marlous van Waijenburg, Michigan Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Scholar and Assistant Professor of Economics at University of Michigan, presented a paper titled “Financing the African Colonial State: Forced Labor and Fiscal Capacity” on November 7, 2018.

Publications

Below is a list of recent faculty publications.

ARTICLES

Moreland, Kemper, “Income Inequality, Utility, and Optimal Income Taxation”, *Economics Bulletin*, 39(1), 2019, 656-661.

Saunoris, James, “Driven Underground by (Mis)Trust?” with Aziz Berdiev, forthcoming in *Applied Economics Letters*.

Saunoris, James, “Globalization and Informal Entrepreneurship” with Aziz Berdiev, forthcoming in *Atlantic Economic Journal*.

Saunoris, James, “International Corruption and its Impacts across Entrepreneurship Types” with Rajeev Goel, forthcoming in *Managerial and Decision Economics*.

Saunoris, James, “Cross-country Evidence of Corruption Spillovers to Formal and Informal Entrepreneurship” with Aziz Berdiev, forthcoming in *Contemporary Economic Policy*.

Saunoris, James, “On the Relationship between Income Inequality and the Shadow Economy” with Aziz Berdiev, *Eastern Economic Journal*, 45(2), 2019, 224-249.

Saunoris, James, “Cigarette Smuggling: Using the Shadow Economy or Creating its Own?” with Rajeev Goel, forthcoming in *Journal of Economics and Finance*.

Saunoris, James, “Give Me Liberty, or I Will Produce Underground: Effects of Economic Freedom on the Shadow Economy” with Aziz Berdiev and Friedrich Schneider, *Southern Economic Journal*, 85(2), 2018, 537-562.

Saunoris, James, “What Drives Entrepreneurs Underground? The Role of Tax Morale” with Aziz Berdiev, *Applied Economics Letters*, 26(10), 2019, 818-822.

Saunoris, James, “Drivers of the Underground Economy for Over a Century: A long Term Look for the United States” with Rajeev Goel and Friedrich Schneider, *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 71, 2019, 95-106.

Saunoris, James, “Does Variability in Crimes Affect Other Crimes? The Case of International Corruption and Shadow Economy” with Rajeev Goel, *Applied Economics*, 51(3), 2019, 239-258.

Yaya, Mehmet, “Great Recession and Income Inequality: a State-level Analysis”, *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*, 1(2-3), 2018, 112-125.

Conferences and Presentations

Several faculty have represented the department at various professional conferences including:

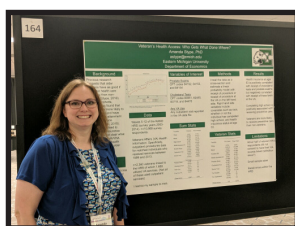
- **Association for Public Policy and Management (Washington D.C.)**

Professor Rashid presented her paper titled “Are Foster-Care Children More Likely to be Adopted When They Have Attorney Representation?”



- **American Society of Health Economists (Washington D.C.)**

Professor Stype presented her paper title “Veteran’s Health Access: Who Gets What Done Where?”



Professor Stype presenting research at ASHEcon

- **Centering the Margins: Addressing the Implementation Gap of Critical Criminology (EMU)**

Professor Rashid presented her paper titled “How Old is Too Old? The Effect of Foster-Care Age Extensions”

- **Midwest Economics Association (Evanston, IL)**

Professor Yaya presented his paper titled “When the American Dream Becomes a Nightmare: Health Implications of Intensified Immigration Enforcement”



- **St. Louis Fed Professors Conference (St. Louis, MO)**

Professor Stype presented her paper titled “Moving Beyond Lecture: Making Time for Active Learning in Small Groups.”



- **Western Economic Association (San Francisco, CA)**

Professor Stype presented her paper titled “Health Care Adequacy of Older Veterans: The Role of the VA”



Student News

Undergraduate Research Symposium

The Undergraduate Research Symposium is an event that showcases undergraduate student research and creative projects. This event took place on Friday, March 29, 2019.

The Department had three participants:

Evan Delcamp

Faculty mentor: Thomas Taylor

“State Health Disparities Across the United States: A Cross-Sectional Study of Variation in Life Expectancy”

Hallie Barkume

Faculty mentor: James Thornton

“Defensive Medicine’s Role in Healthcare Spending”

David Nichols

Faculty mentor: Mehmet Yaya

“A Study on the Effects of Imports and Exports on Life-Expectancy in Post-Communist Poland”



David Nichols, presenting research

Graduate Research Conference

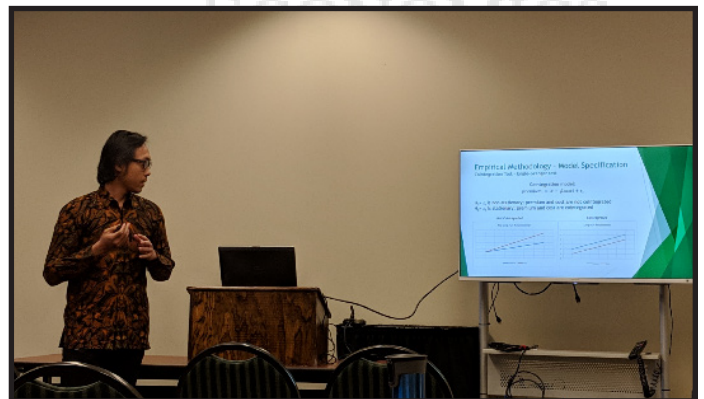
The Graduate Research Conference showcases graduate student research and creative activity in a professional conference format. This event took place on Friday, March 22, 2019.

The Economics Department had the following participant:

Risyaf Fahreza

Faculty mentor: Amanda Stype

“Measuring the Financial Deficit Sustainability of the Indonesian National Health Insurance”



Risyaf Fahreza presenting research

Student Publications

Risyaf Fahreza, Master’s Student, published an article titled “[National Health Guarantee: A Long Way to Universal Health Coverage](#)” in the *Bisnis Indonesia* on January 18, 2019.

Women in Economics

In order to provide support and celebrate the growing number of women in economics (majors and minors alike). Professor Rashid helped students start an Organization for Women in Economics here at EMU. The goal of the organization will be to provide women with the resources and opportunities for academic and career development, foster community and a network among economics students, and generally advocate for gender equality in economics.

The student run club will officially form in the Fall 2019 semester. The first meeting to kick off the new organization took place on April 4th, 2019.

If you are interested in learning more about the Organization for Women in Economics please contact the faculty advisor Professor Rashid at arashid3@emich.edu.

Economics Club

The Economics Club is a student-led organization where students discuss current events and topics related to economics. The club also hosts events. This year the Economics Club was very active with a new group of students.

The Economics Club Officers include:

President: Ethan Smith

Vice President: Alex Binkley

Treasurer: Michael Manning

Secretary: Pariss Gray

Supervisory Members: Jacob North, Anna Veleva, and Osayd Qatu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EMUECONClub/>

If you are interested in becoming a member of the economics club contact the Economics Club Advisor Professor Rashid at (arashid3@emich.edu).

Events

Professor Amani Rashid presented her paper titled “The Mitigating Effect of Marijuana Legalization on Child Victimization” on October 17, 2018.

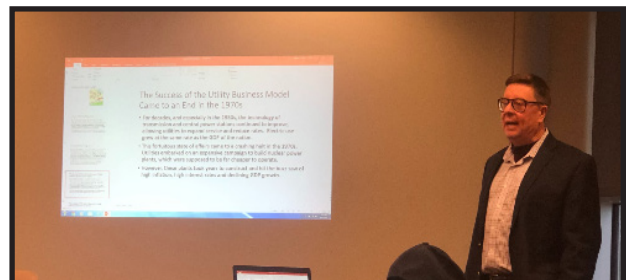
Greg Pakela, Manager of Regulatory Affairs in Energy Trading at DTE Energy gave a talk on “Electricity Deregulation” on April 17, 2019 at the EMU Student Center.



Ethan Smith, ECON Club President



Pariss Gray, ECON Club Secretary



Greg Pakela, presenting at EMU

If you are interested in donating to the Economics Club, click [HERE](#).

“Up to Us” contest

Several economics students participated in the “Up to Us” contest, which is an annual nation-wide competition to raise awareness about the long-term national debt.

This year’s event, “My Two Cents Day: Freeze the Rising Debt!”, provided free ice cream sundaes and a chance to learn the importance of the national debt.

Omicron Delta Epsilon

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) is the national honor society for economics. The faculty mentor for ODE is Professor Yaya. This year ODE inducted ten members.

The 2019 inductees

Top Row: (L-R)

Kevin Krause, Ian House, Adriana Ramirez Cuellar, and Nasiba Usmonova

Bottom Row: (L-R)

Evan Delcamp, Martyna Czopek, Camila Henriquez-Mora, and Adegboyega Owolabi

Not pictured: Katherine Maza and Troy Pardo



Fed Challenge

After a two year hiatus, EMU’s Economics Department will return to the Chicago Federal Reserve on Wednesday, October 31st to compete in the regional Fed Challenge. About 15 mid-western universities will compete for the regional championship and a trip to the national competition at the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. Students preparing with Professor Crary for this year’s competition include: Semora Bell, Martyna Czopek, Evan Delcamp, Michael Farrug, Pariss Gray, Camila Henriquez Mora, Emma Krietemeyer, Anna Newmyer, and Ethan Smith.

To the right is a picture of our 2014 Fed Challenge team: Ian Krell, Cameron Copland, Kari Caye, Garrett Doyle, and Katy Kembitzky.



Please consider a contribution to help support travel expenses for the Fed Challenge Team.

Annual Celebration of Student Achievement

Each year, the Department recognizes a select number of students for outstanding achievements. Below we list this year's winners, and picture some of the various recognitions. Congratulations!

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Bruce C. Gockerman Award: **Austin Hardoin**

The Gockerman Award recognizes an economics major who submitted a superior paper on a subject related to economics. Established in 1977 by alumnus Bruce C. Gockerman.

Gary E. Murg Award: **Osayd Qatu**

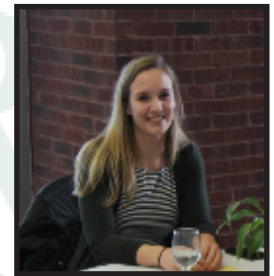
The Murg Award recognizes an economics major who has an outstanding record of service to the Economics Department. Established in 1977 by alumnus Gary E. Murg.



Osayd Qatu, Murg Award Recipient

Donald W. Pearson Award: **Emily Dunn**

The Pearson Award recognizes an economics major or minor with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 with preference given to an Honors Program participant and/or a student with international study experience. Established in 2012 by Professor Emeritus Donald Pearson.



Emily Dunn, Pearson Award Recipient

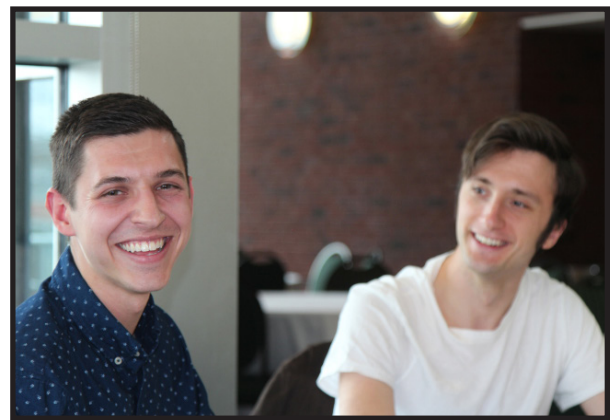
Highest Graduate Student G.P.A.: **Parisa Jahanbani and Kayla Zurawski**

Highest Undergraduate Student G.P.A.: **Matthew Beadle and Ethan Smith**

Instructor of the Year: **Chris Elias**



A few ECON Graduate Assistants take a selfie



Incoming Fall 2019 ECON Graduate Students

ECONOMICS

Summer 2018 Graduates

BACHELORS

Axon, Collin - Economics

Economics minors for Summer 2018: Peter Rusenias

MASTERS

Chen, Weitong - Trade & Development

Cornicelli, Joseph - Economics

Wang, Ying - Trade & Development

Xu, Jinjia - Economics

Yi, Ming - Economics

Zhang, Man - Trade & Development

Fall 2018 Graduates

BACHELORS

Eriksen, Ian - Economics

Farmer, Christina - Economics & Communication
(double major)

Littleton, Justin - Finance & Economics (double
major)

Martinez, Aimee - Economics BBA

Mendik, Alex - Economics

Minott, Danielle - Economics BBA

Pellar-Kosbar, Meara - Economics & Honors College

Russie, Patrick - Economics

Shen, Yuchen - Economics BBA & Marketing (double
major)

Veleva, Anna Zaharieva - Economics

Economics minors for Fall 2018: Dosha Danzy, Daniel
Jory, Samantha Stalbaum, and Osman Wehelie

MASTERS

Khalil, Sidrah - International Economics & Develop-
ment

Laswell, Edwin - International Economics & Development

Xhelili, Erza - Applied Economics

Winter 2019 Graduates

BACHELORS

Addison, Halle - Actuarial Science & Economics

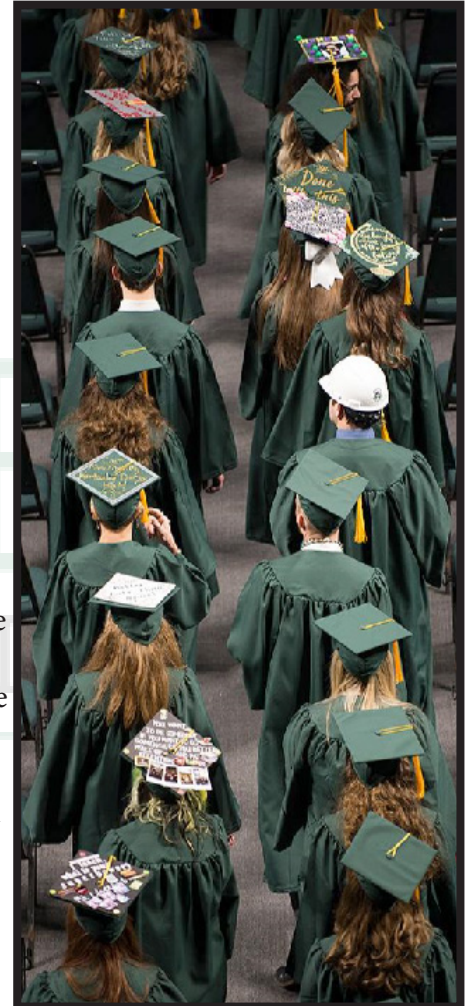
Batog, George - Actuarial Science & Economics

Beacom, Mary Helen - Actuarial Science & Economics

Boudalia, Leila - Economics

Bowman, Zachary - Trade & Development

Brightwell, Christopher - Mathematics & Economics (double major)



Cabaj, Andrew - Economics
Cruz, Cameron - Economics
Dabelstein, Rachael - Economics & Speech/Language Pathology (double major)
Diaz Jessen, Cinthya - Economics
Holland, Matthew - Economics
Jaiswal, Ayush Vinod - Mathematics w/concentration in Statistics, and Economics (double major)
Jarosz, Dylan - Economics
Krasavina, Daria - Economics
Loescher, Paul - Actuarial Science & Economics
Manning, Michael - Economics BBA
Nichols, David - Economics
North, Jacob - Economics
Rafferty, Collin - Economics
Saavedra, Juana - Economics BBA
Snavely, Kenneth - Economics & Philosophy (double major)
Sparks, Kyle - Actuarial Science & Economics
Vega III, Francisco - Marketing & Economics BBA (double major)
Venegas, Kiara - Economics
Weiler, Alisha - Economics
West, Adrian - Economics BBA
Zhou, Jicheng - Economics
Economics minors for Winter 2019: Gabriel Rittenhouse
MASTERS
Bowman, Zachary - Trade & Development
Burton, Jacob - Applied Economics
Fahreza, Risya - Health Economics
Keller, Maria - Health Economics

ECONOMICS

Alumni Advisory Committee

The Department is working on establishing the Department of Economics Advisory Board. The purpose of the board would be to use the collective knowledge and experience of its members from business, government, and academics to help guide the direction and decision making of the Department. If you are interested in being a member of the board please contact the Department Head James Saunoris at jsaunori@emich.edu.

Alumni Updates

Lance Fortnery graduated from William & Mary Law School.

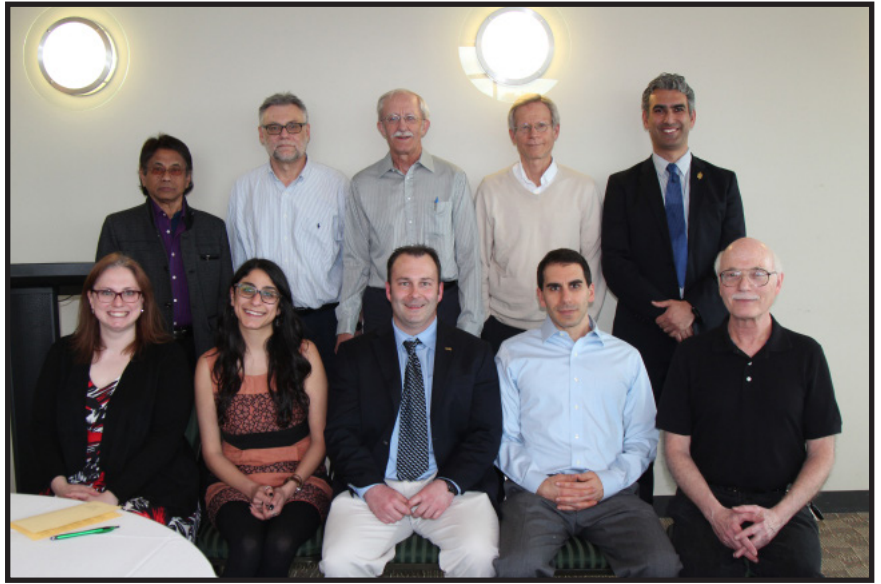
Atang Agustinus Mahlomaholo accepted a position at the Central Bank in Lesotho.

Lance Vought is an Economics Ph.D. student at the University of Oregon.

EMU Economics Department Faculty

Top Row: (L-R)
Abdullah Dewan, Kemper Moreland, David Crary, James Thornton, and Mehmet Yaya

Bottom Row: (L-R)
Amanda Stype, Amani Rashid, James Saunoris, Chris Elias, and Steve Hayworth



EMAIL US: emu_econ@emich.edu

We welcome and encourage you to contact us for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- * Links, updates, or statuses that you would like to share for the next newsletter.
- * Internship or employment opportunities for our graduate or undergraduate students.
- * Suggestions or comments regarding the student or alumni experience.

Please consider making a gift to one of our scholarship funds by clicking the “Make a Gift” button below.

MAKE A GIFT ⇒

Join us on the Web!

The Department of Economics invites alumni to check out our [website](#) and/or join our social media. You can click the links directly for [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), or search for “Eastern Michigan University Department of Economics.”



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