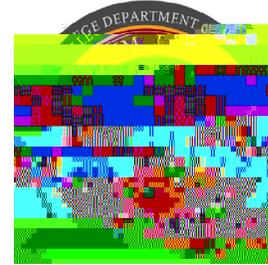


THE BOSTON COLLEGE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Curricular changes underway for the major

The BC economics major is the largest undergraduate major in the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences for the seventh year. A record 375 majors were in the graduating class of 2018: 149 women and 226 men.

following evaluation by department faculty and the College. Beginning in fall 2019, the Principles of

format. Principles continues to be a very popular course for students satisfying the University Core requirement in Social Sciences, but going forward, only

by department faculty will satisfy this requirement. Economics majors will still take 11 economics courses, with the second Principles course replaced by another

Principles sections will be linked to a discussion section, as is the case with the current large lectures, and

format, with the possibility of some smaller sections

A second major change, implemented last summer, is

(science, technology, engineering, mathematics) degree in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics. Although the economics major's transcript will still refer to a BA in

cess three years of optional practical training (OPT) in the US after graduation. The increasing sophistication

on' econometrics component and an array of electives providing analytical and quantitative skills makes this

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Julie Mortimer promoted

In this spring's announcements, Julie Holland Mortimer was promoted to Professor. Mortimer, a noted scholar of industrial organization, joined the Boston College faculty in 2011 as an associate professor, having held that rank at Harvard University since 2005. She received the PhD in economics from UCLA in 2001, and joined the Harvard faculty that year. Her research appears in *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy*, *AEJ Microeconomics*, *Journal of Industrial Economics* and the *American Economic Review*. It includes analysis of contractual relationships in the video rental industry, copyright enforcement in the market for digital images, and analysis of conditional pricing practices. She is teaching industrial organization at the graduate and undergraduate levels, as well as an undergraduate elective in Advertising and Media Markets: Advanced Research Methods; one of our department's 'big data' offerings.

New additions to the faculty ranks

The department added four colleagues in this academic year: two tenure-track assistant professors, Danial Lashkari

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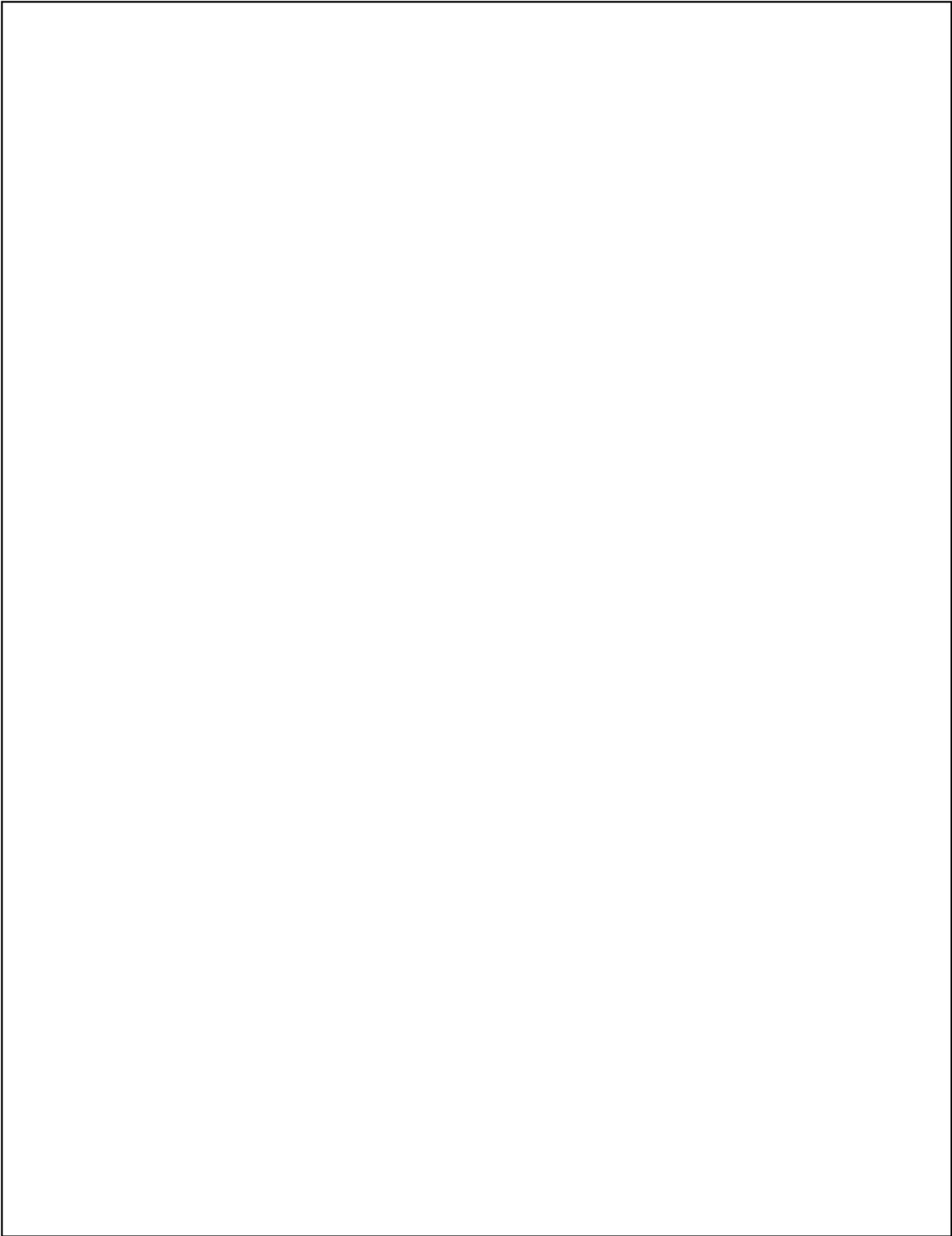
Alumni News Notes



Meghan Skira (PhD'12) was promoted and granted tenure at University of Georgia. Madhavi Pundit (PhD'11) published "Nowcasting Indonesia" in *Empirical Economics*, September 2018. • Nadia Karamcheva (PhD'10) published "In Debt and Approaching Retirement: Claim Social Security or Work Longer?" in *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 2018. • Sisi Zhang (PhD'10) and Robert Moffitt published "The Dynamics of Income: Celebrating 50 years of the PSID" in *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 2018. • James LeSage (PhD'83) published "Spatial econometric Monte Carlo studies: Raising the bar" in *Empirical Economics*, August 2018.

Jim Anderson published “Dark Costs, Missing Data: Shedding Some Light on Services Trade”, with Ingo Borchert, Aaditya Mattoo and Yoto V. Yotov (PhD’07), *European Economic Review*, 2018 and “GEPPML: General Equilibrium Analysis with PPML”, with Mario Larch

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Faculty News... from p. 5

drea (PhD'02) "Is Bridge Job Activity Overstated?" in *Work, Aging and Retirement*. In August, Joe and Kevin presented a paper co-authored by all three, "Transitions from Career Employment among Public- and Private-Sector Workers," at an NBER conference on retirement transitions in Jackson Hole. He reported that the conference attracted far fewer press than the Fed's annual gathering in that venue.

Chandini Sankaran published "Rethinking How We Evaluate Teaching Effectiveness: Does Only the Mean Matter?" in *Perspectives on Economic Education Research (PEER)* with Jamie Wagner and Elizabeth Breitbach. She presented her research with Tamara Shelton titled "Transboundary Pollution in Southeast Asia: Welfare and Avoidance Costs in Singapore from the Forest Burning in Indonesia" at the Athenian Policy Forum in Greece and is serving as one of the two Course Coordinators for the redesign of the Principles of Economics course.

Fabio Schiantarelli published "Financial Markets, Banks' Cost of Funding, and Firms' Decisions: Lessons from Two Crises", with P. Balduzzi and E. Brancati, in *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, 2018.

Uzi Segal is on the scientific team of the RUD (Risk, Uncertainty, Decisions) 2017 conference. He published "Preferences and Social Influence" with Chaim Fershtman in *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, 2018. Uzi also gave seminar presentations at Goldsmiths (London), Ben Gurion University, Johns Hopkins, and in the D-Tea conference in Paris.

Bumin Yenmez became an associate editor for *Mathematical Social Sciences*. He published "A College Admissions Clearinghouse" in *Journal of Economic Theory*, "A Simple Characterization of Responsive Choice" in *Games and Economic Behavior* with Christopher Chambers, and "On Lexicographic Choice" in *Economics Letters*, also coauthored by Chambers. Bumin received an NSF grant on liver exchange with Tayfun Sonmez and Utku Unver.

PhD Candidates' Professional Activities

Dominique Brabant presented her paper at the Midwest Economic Theory and International Trade Conference, the 18th Doctoral Meetings in International Trade and International Finance in Munich, and the Western Economic Association International 93rd An-

nual Conference in Vancouver.

Michael Connolly presented at the Financial Management Association Doctoral Consortium in Boston in October 2017, Southern Finance Association in Key West in November 2017, Midwest Finance Association in San Antonio in March 2018, Canadian Economics Association in Montreal in June 2018, International Banking Economics and Finance Association in Vancouver in June 2018, and Northern Finance Association Ph.D. Session in Charlevoix in September 2018.

Bogdan Genchev presented his paper "Empirical Evidence on Conditional Pricing Practices: A Review", co-authored with Julie Holland Mortimer, in April 2018 at the International Industrial Organization Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

Zafer Kanik joined the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as a dissertation fellow in Summer 2018. Zafer presented his work at the 2018 North American Meeting of the Econometric and the 23rd Coalition Theory Network Workshop in Maastricht.

Mashfiqur Khan published "The Effect of the Disability Insurance Application Decision on the Employment of Denied Applicants" in *AEA Papers and Proceedings* 2018.

Tina Letsou attended the Summer School of the Econometric Society in Singapore this past June.

Tomohide Mineyama presented "Downward nominal wage rigidity and inflation dynamics during and after the Great Recession" at the Young Economist Competition at the EBC Forum on Central Banking 2018 in Sintra, Portugal.

Alexander Poulsen presented his work "Political Opposition, Legislative Oversight, and Politician Behavior" at the EEA Conference, the PacDev conference at UC Davis, and the BYU grad student conference.

Priyanka Sarda presented her work at the Experimental Economics Summer School in Paris in June 2018.

Zhu Zhu was awarded the Dean of Summer Session Teaching Fellowship conferred by the Woods College of Advancing Studies. Zhu taught two sections of Principles of Microeconomics and participated in a number of teaching and writing workshops throughout the summer.

Undergrad News... from p. 3

In November, the Economics Department cosponsored a university-wide lecture by former Colorado governor Bill Ritter, who is well known for having supported the development of clean energy during his term in office. Ritter spoke about the progress being made on renewable energy technologies and expressed optimism that the momentum is strong enough to offset headwinds now coming from Washington.

In April, the Department sponsored our annual Omicron Delta Epsilon induction dinner. Our faculty speaker was Geoff Sanzenbacher, from the Boston College Center for Retirement Research, who provided an overview of income inequality in the United States. As always, the evening was an opportunity for students and faculty to interact in a relaxed setting.

This past year, Gemini Family Internship and Summer Study Abroad Program offered awards to six economics honors students who were identified by the Financial Aid Office as having significant financial need. We are delighted that three of the students accepted. These students all worked at non-paying internships this summer. John Patrina ('19) interned at Savage Partners, an executive search firm located in Simsbury, CT. Patrick Mingey ('19) joined Kingston-Dwight Associates in Boston as a summer research associate intern. Noah Jussila ('20) worked as a research assistant for Prof. Sam Richardson.

Outstanding Undergrads Receive Cheney Scholarships

Thanks to the continued generous financial support from the many friends of the late Professor Robert Cheney, S.J., we were able to make nine Cheney Scholarship awards this year. The awards were given to senior Economics majors with strong academic records. They comprise a very active, adventurous, and talented group of awardees.

Claire Driscoll is an economics major and international studies minor. She interned and studied abroad in Dublin and Prague, respectively. Claire is a student worker at the BC Career Center and a trip leader for the Appalachia Volunteers program. Last summer Claire interned at the Harvard Gradu-

Cheney Scholarships... from page 7

Consultant/Data Scientist. After graduation, he will be returning to IBM full time as a Strategy Consultant.

Kevin Frederiks is an economics and psychology double major. Last fall, he attended University College London (UCL) where he studied economics. Kevin has been a volunteer for Big Brothers, mentoring youths in Allston since freshman year. He is also a volunteer for Camp Kesem, a nationwide student-run non-profit which puts on a free week of summer camp for kids whose parents have cancer. Kevin is interested in why people make the decisions they do, and has spent the last few years as a research assistant in economics, psychology, and neuroscience labs at BC and Harvard. After graduation, Kevin hopes to go to graduate school and learn more about human behavior and decision making.

Jianchao Huang is an economics major with minors in finance, mathematics, and computer science. Last summer he worked at Citibank Shanghai on their Business Planning and Marketing Team. After graduation, Jianchao plans to work in finance or consulting before attaining an MBA degree.

Dongkyu Lee is an Economics major with a minor in accounting for consulting. He studied abroad at Seoul National University in South Korea. At BC, he is involved with various student organizations and played clarinet in the University Wind Ensemble. His passion for social justice led him to volunteer through BC's PULSE program, working with low-income adults to improve literacy skills and assist with career workshops. This past summer he interned at Getfused, a digital marketing startup in Boston. Following graduation, Dongkyu hopes to stay in Boston and enter the consulting industry before continuing his education.

Devin Liu is an economics and finance major in CSOM who spent his junior year studying at the London School of Economics focusing on economic history. Earlier this year, he successfully raised over \$27,600 in a Kickstarter project, PowerPod Case, with Sameer Bhutani, an LSE classmate. Devin interned at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in the Goldman Sachs Risk Assurance group this past summer in NYC. Upon completing his undergraduate studies, Devin hopes to pursue a masters in economic history or accounting.

Shane Mallee is an economics major and Omicron Delta Epsilon member who will graduate with his freshmen colleagues in May 2019 despite completing his degree in three years. Shane took a gap year to work full-time at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston last fall and backpacked in Europe last spring. Shane is also a member of the Men's Club Golf team and a leader of a 4Boston group that does weekly service at a men's homeless shelter. Shane interned at Investment Banking for Deutsche Bank in NYC last summer and will work there after graduation.

Caroline Mulrey is an economics major with a minor in management and organization. Caroline studied abroad at University College Dublin. She is the assistant publicity coordinator for the BC Irish Society, a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, and an economics tutor on campus. Caroline interned as an analyst at Liberty Mutual Insurance and will return to Liberty after graduating to join their analyst development program.

Matthew Terry is an Economics and Mathematics major, a Dean's Scholar, and a member of Alpha Sigma Nu. He studied abroad at the London School of Economics. After graduating, he will work as an Analyst on the Rates Desk at Barclays, where he interned after his junior year.

New faculty... from page 1

Charles Murry comes to the Heights from Penn State, where he served as an assistant professor of economics since 2014, teaching both undergraduate and Ph.D. courses. He received his Ph.D. in economics that year from the University of Virginia. His research interests are in industrial organization and applied econometrics, with a recent article in International Journal of Industrial Organization on new-car advertising. His research focuses on the automobile and international airline markets.