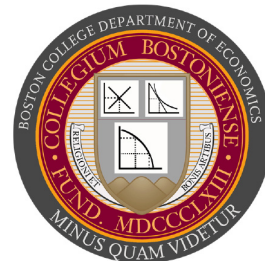




THE BOSTON COLLEGE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

December 2024
Vol. 47



Six join the department faculty

In the aftermath of last season's recruiting efforts, six colleagues have joined the department faculty in 2024-25: two tenured faculty and four Professors of the Practice.

In addition, we welcome Prof. Edson Severnini, a member of the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society core faculty, who holds a joint appointment with the Department of Economics and will join BC in January 2025.

Assoc. Prof. **Farid Farrokhi** comes to BC from Purdue University, where he was an Assistant Professor of Economics. He has also been a visiting scholar at Princeton and Columbia. He received the PhD in economics from Penn State. His research areas are international trade, spatial economics, and environmental economics. He has published in *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics* and *Journal of Urban Economics*. He is teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in International Trade during 2024-25.

Prof. **Rahul Deb** comes to BC from the University of Toronto, where he was Professor of Economics since 2022 and held Associate and Assistant Professor assignments since 2010. He received the PhD in Economics from Yale University in 2010. His research area is economic theory, with numerous publications in *Review of Economic Studies*, *Econometrica*, *American Economic Review* and *Journal of Economic Theory*. In spring 2025, Deb is offering two sections of a new undergraduate elective in the Economics of Discrimination.

Assoc. Prof. of the Practice **Maria Bejan** comes to BC from Rice University, where she was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics. She also was an Assistant Professor in the ITAM Business School, Mexico, and held positions at the University Carlos III in Madrid. Her PhD and MA in Economics were earned at Carlos III. Bejan is teaching a section of our large Principles course this fall, and will offer an undergraduate elective in Mathematical Economics next spring.

Assoc. Prof. of the Practice **Michele Biavati**, Bejan's partner, also served as a Senior Lecturer at Rice University. He was also an Assistant Professor in the ITAM Business School, Mexico, and a Teaching Assistant at the Universities of Carlos III and Bologna. Biavati earned the PhD at the University of Bologna, with additional coursework at Carlos III and University College London. His major fields of research are game theory and behavioral economics. He is teaching two sections of the popular elective in Game Theory this fall, as well as a section of Microeconomic Theory this spring and two sections of a new undergraduate elective in Behavioral Economics.

Assistant Prof. of the Practice **Peter Devine** joined us this fall after a year's deferral when he was awarded the Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship, in which he served on the National Economic Council in the White House. He received the PhD in Economics from George Washington University in 2023 after serving as an instructor at the US Naval Academy and, for three years, as a F/A-18 strike fighter pilot in the Indo-Pacific. This fall and next spring, Devine is teaching one of our large sections of Principles of Economics: a very popular choice to satisfy the University Social Science Core requirement, and a required course for all students in the Carroll School of Management.

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14 PhDs Awarded in May

The 148th Commencement Exercises of Boston College were held Monday, the 20th of May 2024 on the Chestnut Hill campus. For the second year in a row, 14 PhDs in Economics were conferred in this ceremony, including graduates from August and December 2023. Pietro Dall'Ara, "Essays in Microeconomic Theory" (advised by Mehmet Ekmekci); Dinghe Cui, "Essays in Applied Microeconomics" (Arthur Lewbel); Deyin Jia, "Three Essays in the Economics of Education" (Christopher F Baum); Norihiro Komura, "Essays in Applied Economics" (Theodore Papageorgiou); Esther Lee, "Essays in Labor Economics" (Theodore Papageorgiou); Aastha Malhotra, "Consumer Preferences and Policy Implications for Renewable Energy Adoption" (Richard Sweeney); Ngoc Thi Tuong Nguyen, "Essays in Development and Labor Economics" (Arthur Lewbel); Alexandra Opanasets, "Essays on Gender Differences in Job Search Beliefs and Behavior" (Lucas Coffman); Arnab Palit, "Essays in Industrial Organization" (Michael Grubb and Charles Murry); Denis Sokolov, "Essays on Two-Sided Matching Theory" (Tayfun Sonmez and Utku Unver); Christian Velasquez Javier, "Essays in Applied Macroeconomics" (Pablo Guerron-Quintana); Liang Yin-Herr, "Essays in the Economics of Crime" (Arthur Lewbel); Qingsong Yao, "Essays in Econometrics and Machine Learning" (Zhijie Xiao); and Linqi Zhang, "Essays in Industrial Organization and Applied Econometrics" (Arthur Lewbel).

Ten Master of Arts degrees were conferred on Juan Pablo Baquero Vargas, Edoardo Bella, Jarod Couler, Jaeyeong Kim, Kitak Kim, Norihiro Komura, Yao Luo, Yu Sugasaki, Joseph Cyr Wilske and Wei Yang in the degree ceremony for the Morrissey College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Three faculty promoted

In the 2023-24 academic year, three faculty members were promoted. **Theodore Papageorgiou** was promoted to Professor, and named the Felter Family Professor. He joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in 2019 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2022. During 2022-23, Papageorgiou served as a visiting scholar in the Applied Economics Group at MIT's Sloan School. He received the Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University.

Robert Murphy, now the chair of the department, joined the faculty in 1984 after receiving the Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1990 and served as the director of the International Studies Program from 2001-2018. Since 2017, Murphy has served as BC's Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA and ACC. In the department, he has chaired or co-chaired the undergraduate Honors Program for many years.

Geoffrey Sanzenbacher was promoted to Professor of the Practice, Geoff, a double Eagle, received the M.A. in Economics from BC in 2006 and the Ph.D. in Economics in 2010, specializing in labor economics and applied econometrics. From 2014-2019, he was employed at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, most recently as Associate Director of Research. During that time, he was a part-time member of the department faculty before being appointed Associate Professor of the Practice in 2019.

Endowed assistant professorship awarded

Joanna Venator has been appointed as the Wieler Family Sesquicentennial Assistant Professor in Economics. Dean Gregory Kalscheur, SJ stated "Congratulations on receiving this much deserved appointment, which recognizes your excellence as a teacher and scholar in the area of economics." Venator joined the faculty in 2022 after a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Rochester. She received the Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2021. She has been teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in labor economics.



is a publication of the Boston College Department of Economics, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3806 USA. Please visit <http://bc.edu/economics>

Ryan Westphal (PhD'23) published one of his dissertation chapters, "People Don't Demand Commitment Devices That Might Not Work" in the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*.

Ig Horstmann (PhD'81), Robert Clark and Jean-François Houde published "Hub-and-Spoke Cartels: Theory and Evidence from the Grocery Industry", *American Economic Review*, 2024.

Former colleague Scott Fulford, a senior economist at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, published *The Pandemic Paradox: How the COVID Crisis Made Americans More Financially Secure*, Princeton University Press. He is currently collaborating with Fabio Schiantarelli: see BC EC WP 1081.

Meghan Skira (PhD'12) of the University of Georgia has been appointed a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. She is affiliated with the Economics of Aging and Economics of Health research programs.

Mariano Kulish (PhD'05), Terry Fitzgerald, Callum Jones, and Juan Pablo Nicolini published "Is There a Stable Relationship between Unemployment and Future Inflation?", *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 2024.

Lauren Hoehn-Velasco (PhD'18), Sherajum Monira Farin, and Michael F. Pesko published "The Impact of Legal Abortion on Maternal Mortality", *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2024.

Maurizio Zanardi (PhD'01), Christos Mavridis and Ortestis Troumpounis published "Police militarization and local sheriff elections", *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 2024.

Francesco Zanetti (PhD'01), Daisuke Ikeda, Shangshang Li and Sophocles Mavroeidis published "Testing the Effectiveness of Unconventional Monetary Policy in Japan and the United States," *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 2024.

Eugene P. Coyle (PhD'69) published "Slowing and Stopping Runaway Climate Change" in *Green Social Thought*.

Alpay Filiztekin (PhD'95) and Hulya Canbakal published "Wealth inequality in northwestern Anatolia under the Ottomans, 1460-1870" in *European Review of Economic History*, 2024.

Jean-François Gauthier (PhD'22), Achyuta Adhvaryu, Anant Nyshadham and Jorge Tamayo published "Absenteeism, Productivity, and Relational Contracts Inside the Firm," *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2024.

Xiaojie Li (BA'17) graduated with Honors in Economics, and earned a MSc with Distinction from the London School of Economics of Political Science in 2018. He will receive the PhD in Quantitative Marketing from Rochester's Simon Business School next spring, and join the Carroll School of Management Marketing faculty next fall.

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The Department's honors program continues its recent surge in the number of students writing senior theses, with over 30 students enrolled again this fall. The increase is due to better outreach by the department to our high-achieving juniors as well greater recognition by students of the value of a year-long research project for advancing their career goals.

The Bourneuf Award for top overall economics student this year went to Adalyn Schommer. Her thesis was entitled "Jesus Didn't Have to Run a College: The Impact of Test-Optional Admissions Policies on Socioeconomic Diversity at Catholic Colleges and Universities." Adalyn's thesis explored the question of whether making tests like the ACT and SAT optional in the college admissions process affects diversity as measured by the percent of students receiving Pell Grants. Adalyn found that at Catholic Universities, test optional policies seemed to reduce the share of students with Pell Grants, not increase it as is often intended, although at other universities there is little effect. Adalyn's thesis was advised by Geoff Sanzenbacher.

The Giffuni Family Fund supported four prizes for outstanding thesis work in economics among our senior majors graduating in 2024. These awards went to Brock Daylor, Ansel Kufta, Ben Ragland, and Aditya Rao. All four wrote excellent theses, capping off successful academic careers at Boston College.

Brock's thesis used an advanced econometric technique called "correlated random effects" to explore how a country's dependence on natural resources affects corruption and governance. His findings suggest that natural resource dependence increases corruption and decreases the quality of governance. Brock presented his work at an international conference for undergraduates at Georgetown University. Brock was advised by Geoff Sanzenbacher.

Ansel's thesis explored the link between Vitamin D deficiency and opioid use, using variation in consumption of certain kinds of milk to identify any effect. The results suggest a weak relationship – in contradiction of past research – perhaps because of Ansel's excellent attempts to address concerns of endogeneity. Ansel was advised by Don Cox.

Ben's thesis explored the relationship between overtime work and divorce rates, finding a negative relationship between the two. Ben was advised by Joanna Venator. The wide range of topics and methodologies in these theses speaks to the breadth of our honors program, and the degree to which students' earlier statistical training is paying off.

Finally, Aditya's thesis focused on a macroeconomic question: do U.S. environmental regulations impact E.U. environmental debt markets? The results suggest a small effect, limiting concerns on spillovers. Aditya was advised by Michael Grubb.

Also, of note this past year were the three thesis students honored as "Scholars of the College." The Scholar of the College designation is given to exceptional students who both excelled

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William B. Neenan, SJ Millennium Prof. **Jim Anderson** published “Back to the Future: Gravity at 60”, *European Economic Review*, January 2024, and “Latent Exports: Almost ideal, gravity, and zeroes”, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, January 2025, with **Penlong Zhang** (BC’18). His paper “Commercial rivalry as seller incidence shifting: Non-parametric accounting of the China shock” is forthcoming in *Journal of International Economics*.

In October 2024, Barbara A. and Patrick E. Roche Professor **Arthur Lewbel** was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Southern Denmark, in recognition of lifetime achievements in Econometrics and Household Economics. Lewbel also gave an invited keynote address at the International Association of Applied Econometrics conference in Xiamen, China. This year Lewbel published the following papers: “Estimating A Model of Inefficient Cooperation and Consumption in Collective Households,” in *Review of Economics of the Household*; “Ignoring Measurement Errors in Social Networks,” in the *Econometrics Journal*, and “Identification of a Triangular Two Equation System Without Instruments,” in the *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*. This last paper was coauthored with recent Boston College PhD **Linqi Zhang**. In 2024 Lewbel’s presentations included the New Advances in Family Economics Workshop in Paris; a seminar in Tilburg University in the Netherlands; the Leuven Summer Event Econometrics Workshop in Belgium; a seminar at Hunan University in Changsha, China; the Consumer Demand workshop in Oxford, UK, and two seminars at the National University of Singapore as this semester’s one week Goh Keng Swee Professor.

Felter Family Professor **Theodore Papageorgiou** was appointed Co-Editor of *Economic Theory*. During October 2023, he visited the Becker-Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago.

Assistant Professor **David Hughes** published “Efficient Bias Correction for Cross-section and Panel data”, coauthored with Jinyong Hahn, Guido Kuersteiner and Whitney Newey, in *Quantitative Economics*.

Associate Professor **Farid Farrokhi** published “Root Growing and Path Dependence in Location Choice: Evidence from Danish Refugee Placement”, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 2024; “Trade and Technology Adoption in Distorted Economies”, *Journal of International Economics*, 2024, and “Trade Elasticities

in General Equilibrium: Demand, Supply, and Aggregation”, Forthcoming in *Review of Economics and Statistics*. In the previous academic year, he visited the Princeton Economics Department and the International Economics Section as a Kenen Fellow. This fall, he has give seminars at Purdue GTAP, University of British Columbia, and SUNY Buffalo.

Assistant Professor **Hanno Foerster** presented “Job Displacement, Remarriage, and Marital Sorting”, coauthored with Tim Obermeier and Bastian Schulz, at the NBER Summer Institute. He gave seminars at Brandeis University, the University of Copenhagen, and Arizona State University, and presented at the American Economic Association meetings, the Society for Labor Economists meetings, and the Southern Economic Association meetings.

Professor of the Practice **Can Erbil** delivered two online Masterclasses on economic inequality, organized by the Aspire Leaders Institute, which were attended by over 1500 first-generation scholarship students from 50 countries. Over the summer, he organized and led a graduate seminar titled “Research Ethics and Plagiarism” for joint Ph.D. students from the University of Dubrovnik (UNIDU) and the University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, Croatia. At Harvard Business School, he gave a talk titled “Doing Business in Istanbul, Turkey”. At Boston College, he developed and taught the inaugural fourth-year experience seminar focused on Economics, Ethics, and the Common Good, and co-designed and co-taught a new first-year Complex Problems course, “Exchange and Values: Stories and Measures of Inequality,” which offers students an interdisciplinary approach to understanding inequality. He received a Boston College Academic Exploratory Technology Grant for his project “Exploring Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning Economics.” Can also joined advisory boards for three AI startups and launched the “Integration of Virtual and Augmented Reality in Higher Education at Boston College” project. Furthermore, Professor Erbil’s students are actively developing the Erbil Chatbot, a closed-source large language model platform based on his 27 years of teaching materials, aimed at creating an advanced tool for economic education.

Professor of the Practice **Tracy Regan** received an internal TAME grant to support Women in Economics during the ’23-’24 academic year. During the spring she hosted four workshops for a dozen upper-class students where

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Faculty News... from p. 4

they discussed current research in the area, the role of CSWEP in the profession, and popular-press books devoted to female leadership, representation, and support. One session was devoted to a Q&A with recent alumnae and Profs. **Mariana Laverde** and **Joanna Venator**. During the summer of 2024, Tracy taught a class in London—“Which is Better? An Economic Comparison of Health and Health Care in France, the U.K., and the U.S.” Students from different disciplines and years spent a month together learning, living, and traveling. Tracy has also taken on the inaugural role of the Faculty Advisor to the Living and Learning Communities. She is revamping these first-year residential communities to have an accompanying 1-credit class and senior TAs/mentors. In this position Tracy is working to bridge the gap between Academic and Student Affairs; this is a joint effort with the Provost’s Office and Residential Life.

Assistant Professor **Joanna Venator** was appointed to the Wieler Family Sesquicentennial Assistant Professorship. She, along with co-investigators Prof. Summer Hawkins of the School of Social Work and Prof. Kit Baum, received a \$97,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Fund to research the impacts of state restrictions on access to abortion on maternal health outcomes. Her paper, “The Impacts of Same and Opposite Gender Alumni Speakers on Interest in Economics” was published in *Economics of Education Review*. She presented her research at invited seminars at Ohio State University and Kansas State University, as well as at conferences including the KU Leuven Migration and Family Economics conference, OSUS, NBER Children Spring Conference, NBER Summer Institute: Health Economics, APPAM, and SEAs. She also received a Teaching and Mentoring grant from Boston College to establish a series of Women in Economics events for undergraduates.

Professor **Zhijie Xiao** published “Bootstrap inference for panel data quantile regression”, *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, 2024, coauthored with Galvao and Parker; “A new test for unit roots with a partial quadratic trend”, *The Econometrics Journal*, 2024, coauthored with Li, **Bo Wang** (PhD’21), Jin; “Improved Estimation of Semiparametric Dynamic Copula Models with Filtered Nonstationarity”, *Journal of Econometrics*, 2024, coauthored with Chen, Wang, and Yi; “Robust Nonparametric Confidence Intervals for Treatment Effects in Panel Data Using Random Forest”, *Journal of Econometrics*, forthcoming, coauthored with Chen and **Quinsong Yao** (PhD’24); “Functional Quantile Autoregression”, *Journal of Econometrics*, forthcoming, coauthored with

Dong, Chen, Liu; and “A Nonparametric Test for Instantaneous Causality with Time-varying Variances”, *Econometric Theory*, forthcoming, coauthored with Wu and Wu.

Professor **Uzi Segal** published “Large compound lotteries”, with Z. Safra. *Journal of Mathematical Economics*, forthcoming and “Social influence in committee deliberation”, with C. Fershtman, *Theory & Decision*, 2024. He is serving a second term as an Associate Editor of *Theoretical Economics*.

Assistant Professor **Mariana Laverde** gave invited seminars at the Empirical Analysis of School Choice Systems conference at Washington University in St. Louis and the Market Design Workshop in Universidad de Chile, as well as presenting at the SITE: Empirical Market Design conference at Stanford, the Northeast Economics of Education Workshop at Brown, the NBER’s Education group, and the IEA World Congress. She was appointed a research affiliate at the University of Chicago’s Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility. Finally, her undergraduate advisee, Jack Sui, successfully completed a Master’s degree in International and Development Economics at Yale University and is now preparing applications to Ph.D. programs in economics and public policy.

Professor **Hideo Konishi**’s recent publications include “Free Trade Agreements with Environmental Standard,” with Minoru Nakada and Akihisa Shibata, *Environmental Economics and Policy Studies*, 2024; “Allocation rules of indivisible prizes in team contests,” with Benoit Crutzen and Nicolas Sahuguet, *Economic Theory*, 2024; “The Best at the Top? Candidate Ranking Strategies under Closed List Proportional Representation,” with Benoit S.Y. Crutzen and Nicolas Sahuguet, *Political Science Research and Methods*, 2024; and “Prize-Allocation Rules in Generalized Team Contests,” with Katsuya Kobayashi and Kaoru Ueda, forthcoming in *Economic Theory*.

Associate Professor **Jaromir Nosal**, Marcin Kacperczyk, and Savitar Sundaresan published “Market Power and Price Informativeness”, *Review of Economic Studies*, 2024.

Associate Professor **Michael Grubb** and Brandeis faculty member **Ryan Westphal** (PhD’23) presented their joint work, “The Illusion of Competition”, at several conferences including the International Industrial Organization (IIOC) Conference, the Behavioral Industrial Or
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Faculty News... from p. 5

ganization and Marketing Symposium (BIOMS), and the European Association of Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE) Conference.

Professor **Bob Murphy** took on the role of chair in the Economics Department this past summer and continues as co-director of the Economics Honors Program. His role as Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA and Atlantic Coast Conference includes serving on the ACC FAR steering committee and as the sole faculty athletics representative on the ACC Men's Basketball committee. Bob also continues as a member of the Board of Directors for IA FAR, now serving as vice president of this national organization of faculty athletics representatives at Football Bowl Subdivision schools. At the IA FAR Annual Conference this November, Bob organized and participated in a panel entitled "Navigating Troubled Waters" that explored the challenges facing college sports including implications of student-athletes monetizing their name, image, and likeness. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Master's Program in Applied Economics in the Woods College of Advancing Studies.

Professor **Fabio Schiantarelli's** "BBBS" research team: Pierluigi Balduzzi, Carroll School; Emanuele Brancati, Sapienza University of Rome; **Marco Brianti** (PhD'21), University of Alberta and Fabio—published "Credit constraints and firms' decisions: Lessons from the COVID-19 outbreak", *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 2024. He was invited to chair a session of the 68th Annual Conference of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston on "The Future of Finance" held on November 15-16. In that session Christina Wang, Senior Economist and Policy Advisor in the research department of the Boston Fed (and Prof. Susanto Basu's wife) presented a paper on new financial technologies and small business lending, coauthored with Mattia Landoni. Keeping mind and body limber, Fabio and his wife Lisa Lynch did some great hiking during the summer in his valley, Valtellina; in the Dolomites; and in the Fall, in the White Mountains around Bretton Woods (Willard, Pierce and Zealand Hut) with Phil Strahan of BC's Carroll School and new faculty colleagues **Michele Biavati** and **Maria Bejan**.

Professor of Economics and Social Work **Kit Baum** visited the University of Dubrovnik, Croatia and lectured on applied econometrics to PhD students from that university and the University of Zagreb. His article "Estimating the wage premia of refugee immigrants: Lessons from Sweden," with Hans Loof, Andreas Stephan, and Klaus F. Zimmermann, appeared in *ILR Review*. "Population-level effects of Hurricane Sandy on adolescent

health", with Betty Lai, Alexa Riobueno-Naylor and Summer Sherburne Hawkins appeared in *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 2024. "Emerging adult mental health during COVID: exploring the relationships between discrete and cumulative individual and contextual stressors and emerging adult well-being," with Naoka Carey, Rebekah Levine Coley, and Summer Sherburne Hawkins, was published in *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2024. Baum presented the refugee immigrant paper at the 30th UK Stata Conference, London, and the US Stata Conference in Portland, Oregon. He also presented "Drivers of COVID-19 in U.S. counties: A wave-level analysis" at the 2024 Empirical Health Economics Workshop, Scuola Sant'Anna, Pisa last summer.

Six join the department faculty... from page 1

Assistant Prof. of the Practice **Megan McCoy Dowdy** comes to BC from Berry College, where she was an Assistant Professor of Economics. She earned the PhD and Master of Science in Economics from the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. This year, she is teaching Intermediate Microeconomic Theory as well as two sections of a new undergraduate elective in the History of Economic Thought: a subject missing from our curriculum for some time.

As mentioned above, **Edson Severnini** has a joint appointment in the department and the Schiller Institute. He will come to BC this spring from Carnegie Mellon University, where he has been an Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy. He is a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He earned the Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley. Severnini has published widely in environmental economics as well as the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *American Economic Review* and the *Economic Journal*. This spring, he is offering a Schiller Institute course, cross-listed with Economics: Health and the Environment: People, Policy, and Technology.

The Department also welcomes two Visiting Professors this year: **Paul McNelis, S.J.**, and **Ken Felter**. McNelis, a BC graduate of 1970, served as Gasson Professor of Economics in 2001-2002 and subsequently served as a chaired professor in Fordham's Gabelli School of Business, where he has emeritus status. He received the PhD in Economics from Johns Hopkins University. McNelis has published extensively in open economy macroeconomics and computational economics. This academic year, he is

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Serhan Çiftçioglu (PhD'90), Amin Sokhanvar and Shawkat Hammoudeh published "Comparative analysis of the exchange rates-stock returns nexus in commodity-exporters and -importers before and during the war in Ukraine," *Research in International Business and Finance*, 2024.

Undergrad news...from p. 3

academically and who accomplished work of the highest quality. Adalyn, Brock, and Yuecheng Su (advised by Zhijie Xiao).

Our Bourneuf Award and Giffuni Prize winners have had great starts to their post-graduate careers. Adalyn Schommer is working as a Research Assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Brock Daylor has taken a position as an Economic Consultant at Bates White in Washington D.C. Ansel Kufta is working as Actuarial Analyst at Mercer, Ben Ragland has taken an analyst position with Canaccord Genuity, and Aditya Rao is pursuing an MS in Finance at Brandeis University.

Earlier this year, the Giffuni Family Internship and Summer Study Abroad Program offered awards to four economics honors students who were identified by the Financial Aid Office as having significant financial need. We are pleased that three of the students accepted. These students worked at internships or research positions this past summer. Alexander Amaral ('26) volunteered as a Finance and Accounting Intern at One Door in Boston. Chloe Lee ('26) interned at the Business Council for International Understanding, a non-profit organization that works to expand international trade and commerce. Julianna Manxhari ('26) worked as an intern at UMass Memorial Health.

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offering an undergraduate elective in Computational Methods in Macroeconomics and, next spring, a graduate course in Empirical Methods in Macroeconomics and Finance.

Ken Felter has been a trial attorney for over 45 years and has tried numerous cases to conclusion in federal and state courts. He is of counsel in Ropes & Gray's intellectual property practice. He earned the BA and MA from Boston College in 1972 as a Scholar of the College, and the JD from Harvard Law School in 1975. This academic year, he is offering two sections per semester of an undergraduate elective, Applying Economic Theory in The Practice of Law, focusing on how economic theory can be applied in the practice of law in real world situations.

Assoc. Prof. of the Practice Chandini Sankaran was on leave 2023-24 and decided not to return to the Heights. We wish her well.

Cheney Fellowship Awards AY 2024-25

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. You can see from the descriptions of the winners (below) that this is a very active, adventurous, and talented group of awardees.

Pauline Chang is a CSOM Economics major with a double major in Accounting. Pauline served as vice president for the first Christian dance team at Boston College, "C"apital Dance Ministry. She is currently working as a teaching assistant for an MBA Statistics course. She enjoys bullet journaling, hiking, and attending dance workshops in her free time. Over the summer, she interned for the audit practice of RSM in the Boston office, and plans to pursue her CPA license upon graduation.

William Connors is an Economics and Biology double major with a minor in Environmental Studies. On campus, William works as an intramural supervisor for Boston College Campus Recreation. Starting this past summer, he has been working in the Emergency Department at Mass General Hospital as a medical scribe, seeing patients and writing physician's notes. In his free time, William enjoys playing basketball, watching movies, and spending time with friends. His main interests in economics include behavioral economics, game theory, environmental economics, and health economics. After graduation, William hopes to work in research before eventually attending medical school.

Ryan Kittredge is an Economics major with a minor in Accounting for Finance and Consulting. Ryan participated in the Catalyst summer program. He has been a member of the Club Running team since his freshman year and is President of the club this year. He has greatly enjoyed organizing and participating in the club's 24-hour relay to raise money for the Campus School at BC. This past summer Ryan interned at the Office of the Treasurer for the State of Connecticut in the Pension Fund Management division. In his free time, he enjoys running, hiking, and traveling/exploring new places with friends and family. After graduating, he hopes to pursue a career in economic consulting before eventually going to grad school.

Jonah Liwschitz is an Economics major with a minor in Finance. On campus, he is a supervisor within the Intramural Sports department, as well as a Teaching Assistant for Father Richard McGowan's Financial Forecasting class. He previously served as a Research Assistant for Professor Theodore Papageorgiou and is currently a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the Economic honors society. This summer, Jonah interned with Moody's Ratings in New York as a Credit Analyst. In his free time, he enjoys playing basketball, watching football and

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baseball, and spending time outdoors. After graduation, Jonah hopes to pursue a career in finance or economic consulting.

Brendan McLaughlin is an Economics and Psychology double major. On campus, Brendan serves as the Senior Vice President of the Boston College Economics Association. He is also a Freshman League Captain and a Facility Supervisor at the Margot Connell Recreation Center. He studied abroad in Parma, Italy in the Fall of 2023. While there, he took a class that discussed the economic history of Europe and European food. Brendan's class research paper, "The Parent Trap: Investigating the Effect of Children on Retirement Age" will be published in BC's annual student economics research journal, *The Eagletarian*. Over this past summer, Brendan was an Undergraduate Research Fellow with Professor Venator in the Economics Department and Professor Wittwer in the Finance Department. In his free time, Brendan likes to run, play chess, or exercise at the gym. Brendan plans to pursue a career in public policy or law before pursuing further education in graduate school.

Emily Newdeck is an Economics major with minors in Philosophy and Accounting for Finance/Consulting. Emily has worked for two years as a Research Assistant with the Corporate Citizenship Center. Since freshman year, she has also been an active member of 4Boston, serving as a student leader for the past two years. In her free time, Emily loves to run. She completed her first half marathon this summer in Newburyport and will be running the Cambridge Half this fall. Emily spent a summer interning with the Federal Reserve in Philadelphia, working under Jeffrey Lin in the Regional Economic Research Department. This experience confirmed her interest in pursuing quantitative economic work in the future. Emily interned with Cornerstone Research last summer and will work in their Boston office after graduation.

Julianna Sunken is an Economics major with minors in Philosophy and General Business. On campus, she is a member of the Full Swing dance team and served as the Underclassmen Representative and Marketing Director for the club. She is also an economics and accounting tutor for Boston College student-athletes. Over this past summer, Julianna interned at Northern Trust in her hometown of Chicago. She spent most of her free time outside biking and running. She is also passionate about music and art and looks forward to continuing those hobbies beyond Boston College. After graduation, she hopes to work in the economic consulting industry.

Kevin Tang is an Economics and Biology double major with a minor in finance. Kevin is a first-generation student from NYC. He was a Finalist for the Benigno and Corazon Aquino Scholarship, which recognizes students who are actively engaged in Asian-American issues and service to the Asian-American community. He

PhD Placements 2024

Pietro dall'Ara: Post doctoral position, University of Naples Federico II • Deyin Jia: State Street Bank, Boston • Aastha Malhotra: Charles River Associates, Boston • Alex Opanasets: US Census Bureau, Washington D.C. • Arnab Palit: Bates White Consulting, Washington D.C. • Christian Velasquez: Reserve Bank of New Zealand • Qingsong Yao: Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Assistant Professor • Linqi Zhang: Chinese University of Hong Kong, Assistant Professor • Luca Gemmi: Post doctoral position, University of Bologna • Luigi Pollio: University of Maryland Baltimore County, Assistant Professor • Tobias Muller: European Central Bank, ECB Economist Graduate Program

New website features highlight placements

A redesign of the department website, bc.edu/economics, features a list of PhD alumni/ae placements from 2002 to the present day. This listing highlights both the initial placement and their current position. Two decades' placements of PhD students from our program indicate the success that our graduates have earned in academic, non-academic, government and international organizations. The website also contains a list of current graduate students with details of their research fields. The department has also reactivated its presence on Facebook, X and LinkedIn.

has served as the AHANA+ Rep on the Asian Caucus board and is also a member of the FACES Council, BC's only anti-racist organization. Kevin is also currently serving as an Assistant Director for BC's Campus Activities Board and a General Coordinator for the AHANA Leadership Council, a division of UGBC. This summer, Kevin interned at a small M&A firm. After college, he hopes to work in the financial space with a focus on biotech and healthcare.

Anora Zhu is a double major in Economics and Computer Science. Anora worked as a Teaching Assistant for the Computer Science Department for multiple years. Last year, Anora volunteered at the Asian American Civic Association where she taught many migrants from other countries English. Last summer, Anora interned as a software engineer position at Dell Technologies in Hopkinton, Massachusetts. She plans to seek employment in a software engineer, data science, or data analytics role after graduation.

If you would like to support the Reverend Robert J. Cheney, S.J. Fund, please see the "Giving to Economics" link on our department web page's "About" tab. Your contributions will assist some of our most talented economics majors.