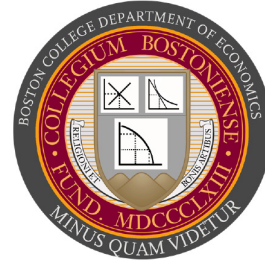




THE BOSTON COLLEGE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Three join department faculty

In the aftermath of last season's recruiting efforts, three colleagues have joined the department faculty in 2025-26 as Assistant Professors.

Binta Zahra Diop was a Kuznets Postdoctoral Associate at Yale University's Economic Growth Center in 2024-25 following a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University's King Center in 2023-24. She earned the PhD in Economics in 2023 at the University of Oxford, receiving the Edgeworth Prize for an outstanding thesis. She earned the Master's in Research at the Paris School of Economics in 2014 undergraduate and graduate study at University Paris X - Nanterre. Her research interests are in economic development. Her published work appears in *BMJ Public Health*. Before pursuing her academic career, Binta swam for Senegal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. She will be offering two sections of an undergraduate elective in Development Economics and Policy next spring.

Lukas Freund was a postdoctoral research scholar at Columbia University Business School in 2024-25 after earning the PhD in Economics at the University of Cambridge. He also earned a MPhil Economics and a BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from the University of Oxford. His research interests are macroeconomics, technological change, and labor markets. He has published in *Review of Economic Dynamics* and twice in the *Journal of Monetary Economics*. Lukas and his co-PI received an award for "Firm Growth: Understanding the Role of Skill and Teams" from the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation. He is teaching an undergraduate course in the Macroeconomics of Inequality this fall, as well as modules of the first-year Macro and second-year Monetary Economics graduate courses.

Gi Heung Kim completed the PhD in Applied Economics at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 2025 after serving as a Dissertation Fellow at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in 2024. He earned the BS in Computer Science at the University of Richmond in 2017. His research interests include industrial organization, applied microeconomics and real estate finance. His published work appears in *Health Services Research*. Gi's job market paper won awards from the Brattle Group and the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association in 2025. He is teaching an undergraduate elective in Industrial Organization and a graduate elective in Industrial Organization this fall.

BC Econ holds steady in rankings

The October 2025 rankings of US economics departments produced by IDEAS (<https://ideas.repec.org>) based on department authors' publications listed in the RePEc database show that the Boston College Department of Economics continues to hold the ranking of 21st that it had three years ago. The department also holds position 32 in the worldwide rankings of economics departments. The department is ranked 10th among the 164 institutions in New England, with the National Bureau of Economic Research ranked first. Thirteen members of the department faculty appear on the worldwide list of the top 10% authors as of October. A separate ranking based on publications in the last 10 years contains 11 members of the faculty, including four who do not appear on the "all publication years" list. Details on the construction of these rankings are available on the IDEAS website.

Nine PhDs Awarded in May

The 149th Commencement Exercises of Boston College were held Monday, the 19th of May 2025 on the Chestnut Hill campus. Nine PhDs in Economics were conferred in this ceremony, including one graduate from August 2024. Anshuman Bahkri, “Essays in Industrial Organization and Energy Economics” (advised by Richard Sweeney); Yuanchen Cai, “Essays on Skewness, Shocks and Macroeconomic Dynamics” (Pablo Guerrón-Quintana); Rodrigo Nestor González Valdenegro, “Essays in Industrial Organization and Labor Economics” (Theodore Papageorgiou); Alessandro Dario Lavia, “Essays in Macroeconomics” (Peter Ireland); Yuval Lisdany, “Essays in Industrial Organization and Experimental Economics” (Lucas Coffman and Charles Murry); Tobias Fabian Müller, “Essays in Macroeconomics” (Peter Ireland); Yusuf Ozkara, “Essays on Firm Dynamics and Intangible Assets” (Peter Ireland); Luigi Pollio, “Essays in Macroeconomics” (Fabio Schiantarelli); and Priyanka Sarda Tadikonda, “Essays on Gender and Family Economics in India” (Arthur Lewbel and Anant Nyshadham).

Seven Master of Arts degrees were conferred on Carlos Ignacio Eggers Prieto, Catherine Marie Lawlor, Yaakov Levin, Taoran Liu, Matteo Masullo, Bahadir Ulgey, and Mingyang Wei in the degree ceremony for the Morrissey College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Two faculty promoted

In the 2024-25 academic year, two faculty were promoted. **Lucas Coffman** was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. He joined the faculty in 2020, with research interests in behavioral economics, experimental economics and applied microeconomics. He has taught experimental economics courses at undergraduate and

graduate levels at BC and Harvard University. His published work includes a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics* and articles in *Economics of Education Review*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and the *Journal of Political Economy*. Lucas earned the PhD in Business Economics from Harvard University.

Matthew Rutledge was promoted to Professor of the Practice. He joined the faculty as an Associate Professor of the Practice in 2018, following eight years experience as a Research Economist at the Boston College Center for Retirement Research. He earned the PhD from the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor in 2010, and the BA in Economics (summa cum laude) from Boston College in 2001. Matt is a mainstay of our undergraduate Microeconomic Theory and Statistics offerings, required of all Economics majors and minors. He has taught courses in the Economics of Aging and Public Policy in an Aging Society, as well as a foreign study course on Work, Life and Retirement in Ireland and the US in Dublin. He has also been very active in senior thesis advisement, with multiple students per year, and has served on several PhD dissertation committees. His publications have appeared in *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, *Journal of Retirement*, *Journal of Labor Research* and *Monthly Labor Review*, as well as many Center for Retirement Research Working Papers and Issues in Brief. Matt’s major contribution to the common good among BC faculty is his role as co-founder and co-coordinator of the monthly BC Faculty Pub series.



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Yuval Lidany (PhD'25) won the prestigious Young Economists' Essay Award (YEEA), by The European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE) for his job market paper, "Cross-Product Compatibility, Lock-In, and Market Power: The Case of Smartphones and Laptops".

Shoghik Hovhannisyan (PhD'15) and coauthors published "Job quality in the developing world," *Review of Development Economics*, 2025.

Maria Laura Parisi (PhD'01) is visiting Hunter College for the academic year, on leave from University of Brescia.

Serhan Ciftcioglu (PhD'90) presented "Macroeconomic stability in the presence of shocks to risk premium, supply-side effects of interest rates and accommodative monetary policy" at the 32nd Conference of the Turkish Economic Association at Eastern Mediterranean University.

Ethan Struby (PhD'17) coauthored "Inflation expectations and political polarization: Evidence from the cooperative election study", *Journal of Macroeconomics*, March 2026. He is an Assistant Prof of Economics, Carleton College.

Zhu Zhu (PhD'23) is Lead Data Scientist at PGIM, the asset management business of Prudential Financial.

Gwyneth Miner (MCAS'19) received her PhD in Economics from Berkeley, specializing in development and labor economics. Gwyneth is an Assistant Professor at Brigham Young University.

Norihiro Komura (PhD'24) has a paper forthcoming in *AER:Insights*.

Sylvia Hristakeva, PhD'16 (Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell) published "The Effect of Price Caps on Advertising to Physicians: Evidence from the 340b Drug Pricing Program", coauthored with Julie Mortimer and Eric Yule, in *Management Science*, as well as "Bad-Drug Ads or Killer Ads: The Effects of Drug Injury Advertising on Public Health" in that journal.

John Lindner (PhD'18) is deputy associate director at the US Office of Management and Budget.

Marco Macchiavelli (PhD'15) and coauthors published "Securing technological leadership? The cost of export controls on firms" in *Journal of Financial Economics*.

Asli Leblebicioglu (PhD'05) and Tanseli Savaser published "The Not-So-Uniform Effects of Trade Secret Protection on Business Entry" in *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

Ivan Petkov (PhD'15) and Francesc Ortega published "To improve is to change: The effects of Risk Rating 2.0 on flood insurance demand" in *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.

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.

In April, Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international Economics honors society, inducted 90 new members into its ranks. Assistant Professor of the Practice Peter Devine spoke to the inductees, urging them to differentiate themselves by majoring in "magic," i.e., the things that others find difficult. In addition, the Senior Honors Thesis Program had 27 students complete a thesis. Of this group, Hannah Fuller earned Scholar of the College Honors from the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences for her dose-response analysis on the role of postnatal testing for fatty acid oxidation disorders in reducing child mortality. The department also awarded four Giffuni Award prizes for an outstanding thesis to the following students (advisor in parentheses): Denis Mulcahy (Venator), Hannah Fuller (Sanzenbacher), Marco Luo (Grubb), and Jane Guirl (Venator). Finally, the Bourneuf award for the best thesis of the year went to Katherine (Katie) McCaffrey (Cichello).

Grad student news

Yang Liu has an AEJ Macroeconomics forthcoming: "Optimal Taxation of Inflation", co-authored with Damien Capelle (IMF). • Gabrielle Penrose was awarded a student fellowship at the American Institute for Boys and Men to study the declining labor force participation of American men. • Elena Pellegrini won the Econ JM Best Paper award for "Wealth Inequality and Labor Mobility: The Job Trap" and received a AEA-CSWEP Summer Economics Fellowship at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. • Yuzhi Yao was accepted to present her paper at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 2025 conference. • Mustafa Runyun attended the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp last summer. • Liang Zhang worked as a PhD Research Fellow Intern at the Chicago Fed last summer. • Yufeng Shi was accepted to the Asian School in Economic Theory held in Seoul last August. • Yuval Lidany attended three conferences: International Industrial Organization Conference (IIOC), European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE), and National Bureau of Economic Research seminar for Digital Economics and AI. • Federico Rodari received the "Young Economist Award" at FIW - Research Center International Economics conference on International Economics for the paper "Oligopolies in Trade and Transportation: Implications for the Gains from Trade".

Grad student awards

Yuzhi Yao and Ryan Faulkner were awarded one-semester Dissertation Fellowships by the Graduate School. The department's Summer Dissertation Awards were granted to Ira Abraham, Giada Bozzelli, Shengtao Dai, and Federico Rodari. The Donald J. White Teaching Awards were granted to Teaching Assistants Ira Lilian Abraham, Jaorod Maxwell Coulter, and Fangxu Duan, with the Teaching Fellow award to Sanjay Moorjani.

Professor **Hideo Konishi** published “Nonemptiness of the f-Core Without Comprehensiveness,” (with Dimitar Simeonov, PhD’21), forthcoming in the *Journal of Public Economic Theory* special issue in honor of Myrna Wooders; “Equilibrium Land Use with Collective Housing Developments: Voting with Feet and Entrepreneurship,” forthcoming in *Japanese Economic Review* special issue in honor of Masahisa Fujita; “Disclosing Effort in Dynamic Team Contests with Effort Complementarity,” (with Maria Arbatskaya), forthcoming in *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, and “Prize-Allocation Rules in Generalized Team Contests,” (with Katsuya Kobayashi and Kaoru Ueda), *Economic Theory* 79, 2025.

Millennium Prof. **Jim Anderson** published “Gravity in Transition,” with Yoto Yotov (PhD’07), *Review of International Economics*, forthcoming. He also presented “Non-parametric Spatial Price Equilibrium: Non-price Friction Implications” at the Society for Advancement of Economic Theory, July 2025, Ischia, Italy.

Barbara A. and Patrick E. Roche Professor **Arthur Lewbel** was chosen as the only outside member of the fellows nominating committee of the International Association of Applied Econometricians. Lewbel published “Direct Utility Functions for Rank Two and Quadratic Logarithmic Demand Systems” in the *Journal of Productivity Analysis*. He presented invited sessions at: the Warwick Venice Econometric Workshop in Venice, Italy; the 2nd Welfare & Policy Conference in Bordeaux, France; the New Advances in Family Economics conference in Bruges, Belgium; and the Econometric Study Group Conference in Bristol, UK. He also gave invited seminars at the University of Glasgow, UK; the University of Bristol, UK; Duke University and the University of Georgia, GA. Lewbel was a discussant for the Econometric Society session on Causes and Consequences of Group Disparities and for the Society of the Economics of the Household sessions at the Allied Social Sciences Association annual meetings. He also served as a member of the program committee for the annual Society of the Economics of the Household conference in Zaragoza, Spain.

Assistant Professor **Lukas Freund** presented “Job Transformation, Specialization, and the Labor Market Effects of AI” at several seminar venues (Boston University, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard) and conferences (Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE) Conference, NBER EFG Fall Meeting).

Jointly with **Pablo Guerron**, Lukas organized a workshop at BC on “The Macro & Labor Market Consequences of AI”, which took place in early October. He was awarded a grant by the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation for research into “Firm Growth: Understanding the Role of Skill and Teams” (\$320,000 over four years) with co-PI joint with Tomer Ifergane.

Assistant Professor **David Hughes’** article “A jackknife bias correction for nonlinear network data models with fixed effects” is forthcoming at the *Journal of Econometrics*. Last spring, David gave seminars at Georgetown, Brown, and the Paris School of Economics. This fall he will be presenting at the Center for Econometrics and Mathematical Economics (CEME) Conference and the Southern Economics Association (SEA) conference.

Professor **Zhijie Xiao** published “A Nonparametric Test for Instantaneous Causality with Time-varying Variances”, *Econometric Theory*, 2025 (with Wu, Wu); “Spread Regression, Skewness Regression and Kurtosis Regression with an Application to the U.S. Wage Structure”, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 2025 (with Chen); “Shrinkage Estimation of Censored Quantile Regression for Panel Data Models with Grouped Latent Heterogeneity”, *Econometrics Reviews*, 2025 (with Chen, Li); Zhang, F., Xie, R., & Xiao, Z. (2025). Time series quantile regression kink with an unknown threshold. *Econometric Reviews*, 2025 (with Zhang, Xie); “Distribution estimation for time series via DNN-based GANs with an application to change-point estimation”, *Machine Learning*, 2025 (with Lu, Mo, Xu and Yao). Xiao also gave presentations at several universities and conferences.

Felter Family Professor **Theodore Papageorgiou** was elected Fellow of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory. He also received an NBER Grant on Supply Chain Resilience and Its Determinants. “Rigidities in Transportation and Supply Chain Disruptions,” with Giulia Brancaccio and Myrto Kalouptsi, was published in *AEA Papers and Proceedings*. He also gave talks at the Harvard Kennedy School, the Cambridge Transport, Economic Geography and Trade Workshop, SAET, SED, SEM and Rochester Dynamic Quantitative Trade Conference.

Associate Professor **Farid Farrokhi** published “Can Trade Policy Mitigate Climate Change?” in *Econometrica*. He presented seminars at Ohio State, KU Leuven, Toulouse School of Economics, Boston University, Dart-

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Faculty News... from p. 4

mouth, and the University of Chicago, and was an Invited Lecturer at the Paris School of Economics - Summer School, and Chinese University of Hong Kong - Summer School. He was the keynote speaker at ITSG Bologna-Rimini "Globalization, environmental challenges and the evolving economic geography."

Assistant Professor **Hanno Foerster's** article "Structural Empirical Analysis of Vacancy Referrals with Imperfect Monitoring and the Strategic Use of Sickness Absence," joint with Gerard van den Berg and Arne Uhlenborff, was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Labor Economics*. Hanno presented at the Society for Economic Dynamics (SED) meetings in Copenhagen and the Search and Matching (SaM) Network in Vilnius.

Professor of the Practice **Can Erbil** has continued to advance Boston College's leadership in the integration of artificial intelligence and economics education. He served as a member of the Advisory Board for the AI in Education Summit (AIxEd) held in Boston in November and was an invited speaker for "AI and the Economy" at the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) Board of Directors meeting at Harvard University in October. At Boston College, Erbil participated in two CDIL-led AI workshops—NotebookLM Sandbox and AI Test Kitchen—and in the Teaching with AI Seminar at Harvard Business School, each resulting in certification for innovative pedagogical integration of AI tools. He also served as Faculty Advisor for the Boston College Fed Challenge Team and as a member of the Boston Fed Challenge Leadership Council, mentoring students in applied macroeconomic analysis at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Internationally, Erbil chaired a plenary session at the EcoMod2025 International Conference on Economic Modeling in Stuttgart, Germany, and delivered the opening keynote at the Inspire Türkiye Creative Economy Summit in Istanbul. He also taught the graduate course "Economic Modeling using CGE" at the EcoMod Modeling School Europe in Prague. Additional engagements included invited talks such as "AI and Your Future" at the Turkish Consulate General Residence in Boston and "Economic Inequality", an Aspire Leaders Institute Masterclass attended by over 800 first-generation university students from 75 countries. Erbil also continued his work promoting global education and interdisciplinary learning through his course "Global Horizons Beyond Boston College: Integrating Ethics, Economics, and the Common Good."

Professor **Uzi Segal** published "Allocation Mechanisms with Mixture-Averse Preferences," with David Dillenberger, *American Economic Review*, 2025.

Wieler Family Sesquicentennial Assistant Professor **Jonna Venator** along with co-investigators Prof. Summer Hawkins (School of Social Work) and Prof. **Kit Baum** received a three-year NIH R01 grant of \$986,623 for a project on "State differences in the effects of policy change on maternal health." She presented her research at a number of seminars and conferences including University of Connecticut, Johns Hopkins University, St. Louis Fed-WashU-LAEF Macro Labor Conference, and Society of Labor Economics.

Associate Professor **Michael Grubb** and co-authors Darragh Kelly, Jeroen Nieboer, Matthew Osborne, and Jonathan Shaw published their work "Sending Out an SMS: Automatic Enrollment Experiments for Overdraft Alerts" in the *Journal of Finance*, which Nobel Prize winner Richard Thaler tweeted as "a great paper with a fantastic title!" They also published a shorter version for practitioners in the *Capco Institute Journal of Financial Transformation*. Michael submitted public comments citing the work to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regarding U.S. overdraft fees. Relatedly, on December 12, 2024, the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced the finalization of its rule addressing overdraft fees, which was unfortunately overturned by the current administration. Michael Grubb and former BC student and current Brandeis faculty member Ryan Westphal (PhD'23) continued to present their joint work, "The Illusion of Competition" at seminars conferences and released a new companion working paper "Evidence for the Illusion of Competition". Michael also gave discussions at the Quantitative Marketing and Economics conference and the NBER Behavioral Finance Conference, continued to serve as Associate Editor at *RAND Journal of Economics* and *Journal of Industrial Economics*, and accepted a new Associate Editor position at *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*. Michael has become an assistant Scoutmaster in local Newton Troop 205 and ran a sprint triathlon in the fall.

Associate Professor **Jaromir Nosal's** articles "Consumer Default After the 2005 Bankruptcy Reform", with Stefania Albanesi, was published in *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, while "Global Volatility and Firm-Level Capital Flows", with Marcin Kacperczyk and Tianyu Wang, was published in *Journal of Financial Economics*.

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Professor **Bob Murphy** continued this year to serve as chair in the Economics Department and co-director of the Economics Honors Program. His role as Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA and Atlantic Coast Conference includes serving as the chair of the ACC FARs. Bob also continues as a member of the Board of Directors for 1A FAR, serving as vice president of this national organization of faculty athletics representatives at Football Bowl Subdivision schools. At the 1A FAR Annual Conference this November, Bob organized and participated in a panel entitled, “In the Age of NIL Millions and Transfer Portals, the FAR Remains Essential to College Athletics” that explored the challenges facing faculty athletics representatives including implications of student-athletes monetizing their name, image, and likeness and the ability of student-athletes to transfer among schools multiple times. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Master’s in Applied Economics in the Woods College of Advancing Studies.

Associate Professor **Richard Sweeney** and Joseph Wilske published “Excess Variance in Decentralized Renewable Energy Investment,” forthcoming in *Environmental and Energy Policy and the Economy*. His article with Ryan Kellogg, “Impacts of the Jones Act on U.S. Petroleum Markets,” appeared in *Journal of Law and Economics*. Rich presented at the 7th Annual NBER Environmental and Energy Policy and the Economy Conference (DC) and the ISO-New England Market Design Workshop.

Professor **Fabio Schiantarelli** presented the paper (joint with Scott Fulford) “Still Growing Together? The Spatial Distribution and Industrial Composition of U.S. County GDP since 1870” at the joint Harvard-BU Economic History Seminar in the spring and at the NBER Summer Institute session on the Development of the American Economy. He also gave an invited plenary lecture at the International Association of Applied Econometrics (IAAE) annual conference in Turin in June, in memory of Alessandro Sembenelli (University of Turin). Alessandro played an important role in the growth of applied econometrics in Italy and was a friend and frequent co-author. The lecture, developed jointly with Marco Brianti (PhD’21, now Assistant Professor at the University of Bologna), critically reviews the literature on financial constraints and financial shocks and their effects on firms’ decisions.

Professor **Joe Quinn** published “To what extent are older career workers’ hourly wages reduced when work hours are scaled back?” with Kevin Cahill (PhD’00), Michael

Giandrea (PhD’02) and Loretta Platts in *Work, Aging and Retirement*, 2025.

Visiting Professor **Paul McNelis, S.J.** published “Financial contagion among the GSIBs and regulatory interventions,” in *Journal of Financial Stability* with Jennifer Lai of the School of Finance of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. He has been a member of the Research Experts Panel of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas during the past summer, with a week of guidance to the central bank research staff. He also presented a paper after that on Forecasting Post-Covid Inflation with Machine Learning at a BSP Conference in Cebu.

Professor of the Practice **Geoff Sanzenbacher** is now a monthly contributor to *MarketWatch* about issues surrounding retirement, personal finance, and policy.

In Fall 2024, Professor of the Practice **Matt Rutledge** and three students (Brendan McLaughlin ’25, Andrew White ’25, and Zhanshen Weng ’25) started the Econ Help Desk, allowing undergrads to get help from their peers on developing their empirical research questions, setting up their model, and programming in Stata. The Help Desk has continued into 2025-26 with the department’s support, with Finn Regan ’26 and Lauren Russell ’27 joining Andrew on the staff. Matt was elected to the University’s Athletics Advisory Board for a three-year term through 2028, after previously serving on the Capstone working group. He also presented pedagogical research at the CTREE conference in Denver, and gave a presentation on the causes and consequences of early retirement to the Financial Planners Association New England chapter.

Associate Professor **Edson Severnini** published “The Social Lifecycle Impacts of Power Plant Siting in the Historical United States,” joint with Karen Clay, Danae Hernandez-Cortes, Akshaya Jha, Joshua Lewis, and Noah Miller, *Environmental and Energy Policy and the Economy*, forthcoming; “HIStory of LAND Transformation by Humans in South America (HISLAND-SA): Annual and 1-km Crop-Specific Gridded Data (1950–2020),” joint with Xu Binyuan, Hanqin Tian, Shufen Pan, et al., *Earth System Science Data*, forthcoming; “New Frontiers in Research on Industrial Decarbonization,” joint with Kenneth Gillingham, Lint Barrage et al., *Science* 390: 338-340, 2025; “Carbon Rollercoaster: A Historical Analysis of Decarbonization in the United States,” joint with Karen Clay, Akshaya Jha, and Joshua Lewis, *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 39(3): 171-192, 2025; “Measuring
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PhD Placements 2025

Anshuman Bhakri, Assistant Professor, Indian School of Business • Yuanchen Cai, IMF • Rodrigo Gonzalez Valdenegro, Charles River Associates • Yuval Lidany, Assistant Professor, Tel Aviv University • Sanjay Moorjani, Visiting Assistant Professor, Hamilton College • Han Sanghyun, Research Assistant Professor, North Dakota State University • Emine Tasci, post-doc, Istanbul Technical University • Ying Wang, post-doc, Higher School of Economics, Moscow • Lavia Alessandro, post-doc, Turin University and Collegio Carlo Alberto

Criticism of the Police in Local News Media Using Large Language Models,” joint with Logan Crowl, Sujan Duttac, Ashiqur R. KhudaBukhsh, and Daniel Nagin, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 2025; and “Air Pollution and Adult Cognition: Evidence from Brain Training,” joint with Andrea La Nauze, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 2025. Edson also gave numerous talks at universities and conference presentations, including Harvard University, Nova School of Business and Economics (Lisbon), University College Dublin, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Department of Resource Economics), Brandeis University, Clark University, NBER Children and Families Spring Meetings, Annual Summer Conference of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, International Workshop on Empirical Methods in Energy Economics (EMEE), UNU-WIDER Development Conference: Safeguarding Tomorrow – Innovative Approaches to Growth and Equity (Helsinki, Finland),

Professor of Economics and Social Work **Kit Baum** was invited to participate in the Economics Summer Seminar Series, July 2025 at Pamukkale University in Denizli, Türkiye. He gave a three-day short course in applied econometrics with Stata to graduate students and faculty. In late September, he gave a three-day course on “Econometrics for Macroeconomists using Stata” at the IMF’s Institute for Capacity Development, then off to Ottawa to give one of the keynote presentations at the Canadian Stata Conference. During the fall’s research leave, Kit spent a month at KTH (Royal Institute of Technology), Stockholm, followed by a week visiting the University of Montenegro, where he gave an undergraduate lecture in econometrics and an applied econometrics workshop for the UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development. His work with coauthors, “Drivers of COVID-19 in U.S. counties: A wave-level analysis”, was published in *Economics and Human Biology*, while “The dynamics of U.S. industrial production: A time-varying Granger causality perspective” appeared in *Econometrics and Statistics*. Five of his coauthored articles with Prof. Summer Hawkins (Social Work) and others appeared in public health journals this year, including one with Jenny Cui (PhD’24) and another with former senior thesis student Yiqing Kuang, who is in a public health Master’s program at Johns Hopkins.

Cheney Fellowship Awards AY 2025-26

Thanks to the continued generous financial support from the many friends of the late Professor Robert Cheney, S.J., we were able to make twelve 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.

Alex Amaral is an Economics major with minors in Finance and Studio Art. On campus, Alex works as a facility supervisor and a member of the hiring committee for Boston College Campus Recreation. He is currently completing an economics thesis with Professor Ulusoy examining linkages between within-industry international trade, technology transfers, and economic growth. In his free time, Alex enjoys playing and watching basketball, attending concerts, and spending time with friends and family. This past summer, Alex interned for Dell Technologies in the CFO division and will be returning to their Hopkinton office after graduation.

Luis Diaz Giron is an Economics and Hispanic Studies double major with a minor in Finance. On campus, Luis serves as treasurer for the Central American Student Organization and is on the Upperclassmen Programming Council for the Residence Hall Association. He works part-time as an Administrative Assistant in the Finance Department at the Boston College Center for Corporate Citizenship. This past summer Luis interned at Interactive Brokers on the Institutional Services team in Greenwich, CT. His interests within economics include macroeconomics and applied econometrics. In his free time, he likes to play soccer, go to the gym, and spend time with friends and family. After graduation, Luis plans to pursue a career in the financial services industry.

Abigail Foote is an Economics major, with a minor in Religion and Public Life. She is writing a senior thesis, advised by Professor Rutledge, examining how the price of rental housing in Boston responds to an increase in the supply of on-campus housing at local universities. Abigail has greatly enjoyed having her sister, a current sophomore, at BC as well. On campus, Abigail is the Co-President of the Joseph E. Corcoran Center for Real Estate and Urban Action. She is also a TA for the Corcoran Center’s Real Estate Colloquium I class and is in the Entrepreneurs for Social Impact club, where she is the co-lead of the Affordable Housing team. Additionally, Abigail and a few others started the club ski racing team. This past summer, Abigail interned with Citizens Bank in Boston on the Community Development team, working on affordable housing initiatives. She will be returning to Citizens Bank for the Corporate Banking Analyst program after graduation. In her free time, Abigail enjoys skiing, running, going to concerts, sailing, and exploring with her friends and family.

Aimee Hong is an Economics and Computer Science double major with a minor in finance. Aimee is an alumna of the Break Through Tech program which helps promote underrepresented demographics in machine learning and data analytics. At Boston College, she was a teaching assistant for five semesters, helping with Computer Science 1, Data Analytics

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Cheney Scholarships...from page 7

I (MBA level), Swift iOS programming, and Web Application Development. She was also on the executive boards for both the Student Martial Arts Club (SMAC) and the Boston College Computer Science Society. She previously attended a Christian fellowship on campus and lately has been more involved in her church's college outreach initiatives. Her interests include reading, sports, weightlifting, trying different restaurants, and escape rooms. Aimee recently interned at Fidelity Investments as a mobile engineering intern and will be returning after graduation as an associate software engineer.

Joowon Im is an Economics major with a minor in finance at Carroll School of Management. On campus, she works as an intramural official and at the circulation desk in the O'Neill Library. This summer, she interned with Citizens Bank in the Boston office, supporting credit analysts and extending credit to more than 10+ businesses, non-profits, and real estate clients. During her semester abroad in London, Joowon enjoyed traveling across Europe, watching Arsenal FC at the Emirates Stadium, and taking digital and film photography. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in finance or economic consulting.

Abby Kontely is an Economics major with minors in Finance and International Studies. On campus, Abby has been a facility Supervisor at the Margot Connell Recreation Center, a member and treasurer of the Women's Club Ultimate team and a member and treasurer of the Club Sports Executive Board. She also studied abroad in Madrid at Universidad Carlos III. She enjoys running, cooking, and watching movies and sports. This past summer, Abby interned at UBS and will be returning after graduation as an Investment Banking Analyst.

Chloe Lee is an Economics major with a minor in Managing for Social Impact and the Public Good. On campus, Chloe is the Vice President of the BC Art Club and was previously the President of the AHANA Management Academy of BC. Chloe currently works as a CSOM Case Fellow, helping those interested in consulting prepare for interviews. Chloe is also part of the community leadership team for the Chinese Students Association and a member of other culture clubs on campus. She enjoys listening to music, trying new food, and spending time with friends. This past summer, Chloe interned at L.E.K. Consulting and will work in their New York office after graduation.

Julianna Manxhari is an Economics major with a minor in Global Public Health and the Common Good. On campus, she works as an Administrative Assistant for the Morrissey Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She has served as a volunteer for 4Boston and a mentor for the Boston College Economics Association. In the spring of 2025, she studied abroad in Parma, Italy, where she explored the intersection of culture and economics through her coursework and travels. This past summer, Julianna interned at Putnam, a life sciences consulting firm in Boston, where she contributed to projects focused on market access strategy and improving patient outcomes for biotech and pharmaceutical clients. She is excited to return to Putnam after graduation. In her free time, Julianna enjoys staying active outdoors and traveling with family and friends.

Lucy Michael is an Economics major with a minor in Finance. On campus, Lucy has been an active member in Best Buddies and has been involved in various intramural sports teams including volleyball, soccer and basketball. She studied abroad in Florence, Italy, where she took economics classes on the European Political and Banking Systems. In her free time, Lucy enjoys running, baking, and travelling. Last summer, Lucy worked for ING Bank in New York City as a Capital Markets Advisory Summer Analyst. After graduation, she will return to the Asset Securitization team for a full-time job.

Sophia Mannino is an Economics major with minors in Marketing and Film Studies. Last summer, she studied abroad in Lisbon, Portugal, where she participated in the Economic and Political Shaping of Europe program. On campus, Sophia is involved with Ascend for First-Year Women, serving as an intern during her sophomore year and as a lead during her junior year, where she mentored and supported incoming students. She also serves on the Residential Housing Association Upperclassmen Planning Committee, helping to organize events for the student community. This past summer, Sophia interned with Ophelia Dating, a startup founded by BC alum Bo Brainerd, where she focused on marketing and growth strategy. Her main interest in economics is international economics. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career at the intersection of analytics, strategy and media.

Trey Mullen is an Economics and Philosophy double major. He is currently finishing a research paper with Prof. George Mohler (and Alex Knorre of USF), studying economic decision-making under conditions with various degrees of uncertainty. This past summer he interned at WSFS (We Stand For Service) Bank in the Global Capital Markets division. Trey studied abroad in Quito, Ecuador. He is also the treasurer of the Music Production Club of Boston College. In his free time, he enjoys producing music electronically, weightlifting, and learning about behavioral economics. After graduation, he plans to begin a career in wealth or asset management.

Isabel Reichert is an Economics major with a minor in International Studies. On campus, Isabel serves as a Captain for Fuego del Corazón Latin Dance Team. She previously held leadership positions in the Philippine Society of Boston College, where she remains very active. She also works as a House Manager at Robsham Theater Arts Center and as an Administrative Assistant at the Theology Department. Isabel studied abroad in Madrid, a place she now considers her third home. In her free time, Isabel loves to play tennis, write Goodreads reviews, and host game nights with her friends. Isabel spent her summer at Wayfair as a Commercial Analyst Intern in its marketing division, an experience that helped solidify her data analytics skills. After graduation, she hopes to explore roles in the retail, technology, and non-profit industries.

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