
ECONOMIC ENDEAVORS

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The Haverford College Economics Department Newsletter

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David Owens~

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Greetings from the Haverford Economics Department!

It was another busy year in the Economics Department, with arrivals, departures, and many other happenings. Giri and Jeremy welcomed their first child, daughter Divya Marie Jones, on September 14, and Dave and Brittany welcomed Henry Erwin Owens a few weeks later on October 9. Anne was welcomed back after a year-long sabbatical, but as Carola embarked on one of her own, we once again relied on support from an exceptional group of visiting faculty. Tim Lambie-Hanson returned for his fifth year as a full-time visitor, and Julie Becher, Maria Olivero, Eric Gaus, and Neal Grabell continued to contribute key courses that broadened our students' options. We are grateful for all of their contributions, and hope that they will remain part of our community moving forward. We congratulate professor Saleha Jilani, who received her well-earned reappointment. We thank her for all of her hard work and dedication.

The Economics Colloquium seminar series continued to thrive and expand under Giri's leadership, this year with thirteen talks from external speakers, including alumni Sonia Gilbukh ('09), Robert Eisinger ('87) and Mark Melitz ('89). We also welcomed tri-co colleagues Lauren Velasco of Bryn Mawr and Erin Todd Bronchetti of Swarthmore for talks, followed by dinner and socializing with both departments. We plan to continue this tradition, using our seminar series to build bridges to tri-co and other local Economics Departments.

The 11th annual Economics Alumni Forum was held, on Thursday, November 1, 2018 with the title "Tariffs-Trump-Trade." Jenna Kowalski ('17) moderated a lively discussion featuring Marc Melitz ('89) of Harvard and Bruce Andrews ('90) of SoftBank Group. Issues discussed included the complexity of international supply chains, the role of China in world trade, and the likely effect of recent changes in US trade policy.

The Economics Department continues to look for ways to build bridges to the world of policymaking. In partnership with the Zach Oberfield of Political Science and Bruce Andrews ('90), we helped organize the first "Haverford Hill Day," which took place on Friday, February 8, 2019. Roughly thirty students from the two departments participated in a day-long trip to Washington, DC with the purpose of engaging with alumni who work in public-policy related fields. The department also continues to be heavily involved in the annual Public Policy Forum, sponsored by the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship (CPGC). The event brings alumni, faculty and students together for a day of panel discussions, networking, research poster presentations by students, and a keynote event. This year, the Keynote event was a conversation between David P. Hackett ('76), a partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP, and Ann Marie Baldonado ('94), a Senior Producer at WNYC studios and former producer of National Public Radio (NPR)'s "Fresh Air."

Matthew Rabin, a former recipient of the John Bates Clark Medal and the Pershing Square Professor of Behavioral Economics of Technology Professor at Harvard University, joined us on April 11 as the honored speaker for the tenth annual William Comanor '59 Event. In a private lecture for our Economics majors, Matthew (he dislikes

formal titles) highlighted a myriad of ways that people either ignore or misinterpret information available in the choices that others make. In his public lecture, he focused on a topic that most of us can relate to: procrastination. He spoke not only about the effect of procrastination on economic decision-making, but how it can be incorporated into rigorous models thereof. On a personal note, it was wonderful to welcome an old friend and one of my earliest mentors to Haverford.

It is time to welcome a new class to the department, and say a fond goodbye to our graduating seniors. The Economics major continues to be among the largest at Haverford. The recently-declared class of 2021 is the fifth consecutive class of at least 35 majors, a threshold the department had never previously reached. The class includes 21 women, another all-time high, and will be the first majority female class in the department's history. It is as always a bittersweet time of year, as we say goodbye to the wonderful senior class of 2019. Once again, several of them have you, our alumni network, to thank for their successful placements. We had an excellent crop of senior theses to choose from, leaving the department with a difficult task in awarding the Holland Hunter 1943 Economics Department Thesis Prize. The winner was Christopher Goings, for his excellent and innovative thesis titled "Federal Credit Market Intervention as Fiscal Policy."

We want to thank our alumni for all that you do for the department, and want you to continue to be involved in departmental life. Please look for notices of our happenings, and reach out to us if you would like to be involved in any of the events mentioned in this letter. We will keep you abreast about the Alumni Forum, Haverford Hill Day and the Public Policy Forum, (all dates TBD). We do have a date for the eleventh annual Comanor ('59) event, as we are excited to host David Card of the University of California at Berkeley on March 26, 2020.

We organize Happy Hours for Economics Alumni in New York each summer (tentatively Thursday, July 25th), and in Philadelphia each Fall, so keep an eye out for updates. If you have information on jobs, internships or programs that might be of interest to our students and other alums, please let me know. I will be working with the Center for Career and Professional Advising (CCPA) to spread the word.

Finally, a special note of thanks to Norm Medeiros of the library, and our assistant, Kim Minor. The department could not function without them.

David Owens, Associate Professor and Chair
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Alumni News!

Bill Comanor '59 My only news is that as of July 1, 2018, I retired from UCSB, having been on the faculty there since 1975; and gained Emeritus status. But then after waiting the obligatory one month, was rehired at UCLA in the Fielding School of Public Health, where I teach a full load of four courses. My specialty is pharmaceutical economics, and look forward to offering a snapshot of what I teach at my 60th class reunion in June.

David Wessel '75, with classmate Bruce Agins '75, have been active supporters of Haverford's annual Public Policy Forum, which brings alums who are working in public policy (broadly defined) to talk both about their career paths and current issues in their fields with students. (See <https://www.haverford.edu/peace-and-global-citizenship/news-events/public-policy-forum>) David and Bruce are working with the College to build a list of alums working in health, education, government, NGOs, criminal justice, immigration and all other aspects of public policy from which to draw panelists in the future. (David is at dwessel@brookings.edu)

David Spitulnik '76 In last year's edition, I mentioned that I was about to be published. I did an interview with Haverford that was published in the last Alumni Magazine. The article was on page 38 and can be found at https://www.bluetoad.com/publication/?i=574239&ver=html5&p=40#%22page%22:40,%22issue_id%22:574239

Bert Seager '77 I was a double major in Music and Economics. But music was what really lit a fire for me once I got out of school in 1977. I teach jazz piano - and jazz ensemble at the New England Conservatory in Boston where I live. That has been going on for 10 years now - and I am so grateful to be in a musical community like that. I am leaving for China with my trio to play in 14 cities - over 20 days. Then I will stay for the month of June in Shanghai and teach a summer course on the History of Jazz at the University of Shanghai at their Finance and Economics campus for Chinese students who study in the US and speak English. (Watch videos and/or listen to some of my music on my website.)

Yours in harmony, bert
www.bertseager.com

Eric W. Sedlak '80, a corporate and energy partner at K&L Gates in Tokyo, returned to Hanoi (where he worked in 1994) for close to two months last year for client work. Eric was re-elected as a Vice President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, where he works on the bilateral trade and investment discussions, renewable energy policy, competition policy and residence-based taxation. Perhaps more interestingly, his twin daughters, Hana and Rita, 13, have begun singing professionally, including with Japanese folk singer Keiko Kobayashi and YMC. Hana received a favorable review in the music section of Yahoo News, in relation to her performance at the Yellow Magic Children Concert on March 14 (with the Yellow Magic Orchestra producer).

https://news.yahoo.co.jp/byline/tanakahisakatsu/20190328-00119960/?fbclid=IwAR1IPsoOvxxw97Sx_kofHB5-MXKYpw3A3hXEdFHjG3bZCYDUQv_JFay100

YMC Concert Overview

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3K2rDe0CclxH4yOB03zIftVxg3B4N8G0bgmDDxuq1xGrsEKNVEmffeK5A&v=bjyObzDsEH0>

Hana's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/hoshijun>

<http://keke-kobayashi.com/schedule-details/小林啓子渋谷伝承ホールコンサート>
<https://youtu.be/bjyObzDsEH0>

Jose Bernas '82 My daughter Alex graduated from Haverford in May '19! She majored in music and pre health (pre med is now a major, it seems). This is the link to the spring orchestra where she performed a solo <https://ems-web.quaker.haverford.edu/MasterCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?data=hHr80o3M7J6x0Z2uOlsbqr57g24FYhaMOJU/uTophdxPed4RcqEFQye8/ROyxQKp>

Alumni News!

Lee (Smith) Gleiser '85 I still do not formally work in economics yet use that knowledge every day. I'm still working at SMU as the Director of Audience Development for the Meadows School of the Arts but I also teach Sports Law in the Sports Management Program and here is what they posted about me on facebook: The actual link is <https://www.facebook.com/SMUSportManagement/photos/a.325120507668404/1132976663549447/?type=3&theater>

Alex Russin '86 was recently assigned to be the Resident Country Director for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in Mongolia where he is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the \$350 million MCC-Mongolia Water Compact. MCC's investment, combined with contributions from the Government of Mongolia, will support the construction of new groundwater wells and a state-of-the-art plant for purifying drinking water, the construction of a new plant for treating and reusing wastewater, and the development and implementation of policy, legal, regulatory and institutional reforms that enhance the long-term sustainability of Ulaanbaatar's water supply. Anyone is welcome to visit.

Peter Cecchini '90 I am pleased to report that I've been at Cantor Fitzgerald now for about 8 years. Since November 2017, I've served as a Senior Managing Director running our cross asset business. Since 2015, I have also served as the firm's global chief market strategist. I frequently have the pleasure of opining on financial markets, as I did recently on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#). More information about my current role and career path may be found on my [LinkedIn profile](#). I encourage students and alums to contact me regarding careers in the financial industry.

Ted Cleary '04 I lead an investment on behalf of my family into a former colleague and former NYC roommate's venture and wound up being the largest equity investor in the largest seed round ever raised in the UAE! Pretty neat to be helping solve food and water security while hopefully also providing a great example of how such Investments can also be highly profitable.

<https://www.wamda.com/memakersge/2018/12/smart-farming-food-security>

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.thenational.ae/business/technology/generation-start-up-the-mission-to-grow-tasty-produce-in-the-desert-1.782559>

Iris Colon '06 I started at a new role as Manager, Transformation & Growth for BDO USA, which is an internal strategy role supporting our Advisory business line. I am doing the daily commute into NYC from CT, but get to do so with my husband, Anthony. Our son, Justin, is now two years old.

Ryan Frankel '06 My wife and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our first child, Cora Avery Frankel!

Charles Griffith '06 and his wife Florence are celebrating the birth of their second daughter, Annabelle. On top of that, Charles and his growing family are relocating from New York to Singapore to serve as Director of Business Development at Savills Investment Management, a global real estate investment manager.

Jon Kelman '06 I am still living in Chicago and working for ZS Associates as a management consultant. I've been focused on developing growth strategies for private-equity owned portfolio companies. More excitingly I got married in September! We had such a great time that we forgot to take a Haverford alumni photo, but **Ben Reed ('06), Matt Keller ('06), Lee Herron ('06), Olivia Herron ('07), and Laura Zoltan ('07)** were in attendance. My wife and I also took an amazing 3-week honeymoon to the Greek islands and the Champagne region of France.

Brian Ventura '07 Starting as a hobby in early 2017 my business partners and I began mining cryptocurrencies. I've since left the energy/emissions trading world and now operate Atlantic Crypto, one of the world's largest Ethereum miners and GPU compute providers. We are currently deploying our first "Pipe to Crypto" projects where we site Bitcoin miners at natural gas/oil wells that are currently flaring natural gas, convert it to electricity and monetize the electricity through the sale of BTC. It's the intersection of all three of my careers so far: emission reduction investments, natural gas trading and now cryptocurrency mining. Outside of work, **Heather Shafi ('07)**, our son Leo and I welcomed baby Elizabeth into our family on July 4th, 2018 - Leo and Lizzie are obsessed with impressing each other - it's exhausting.

Alumni News!

Linus Marco '13: This January my wife (**Kayla Marco HC '12**) and I had our first child, Joel Sampson Marco. I'm also now working as a Senior Software Engineer at Wellington Management.

Zachary Werrell '13 After sending my 3rd and 4th clients to Congress this past election cycle, I've decided to change careers, and will be attending the University of Texas School of Law as a member of the class of 2022.

Jeanna Kenney '16 After a two year stint as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, I decided to pursue my doctorate degree. I am finishing up my first year of a PhD in Applied Economics at Wharton, and after finishing my prelim exams this summer I am looking forward to getting started on my own research, likely in the fields of real estate/urban economics and consumer finance. I am incredibly grateful for all of the help from the faculty who offered great advice and support throughout the application process and this past year, and I'm always eager to hear about the experiences of those of you who have also weathered this trying grad school process! Congratulations to the class of 2019.

Jennifer Kowalski '17 Since graduating I have held a pre-doctoral position within the Economics Department at Princeton University. Here, I have assisted Professors Anne Case and Angus Deaton with their research into the "deaths of despair" crisis of middle-aged Americans. I am very excited to share that this fall I will begin pursuing my Ph.D. in Economics at Stanford University!

**ALUMS, PLEASE CONSIDER VISITING THIS SITE: [HTTPS://FORDS.HAVERFORD.EDU/](https://fords.haverford.edu/)
TO KEEP HAVERFORD UP TO DATE ON YOUR WHEREABOUTS!**



Professors Shannon Mudd and Anne Preston at Commencement
with Reiss Berger '19

Alumni News!



Alex Russin '86 with the Eagle Hunter



Zach Werrell '13 with U.S. Representatives
Denver Riggleman and Ben Cline



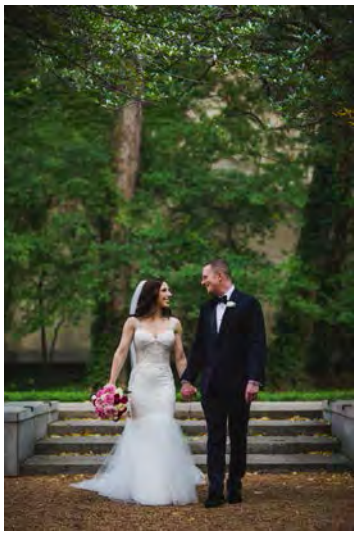
Alex Bernas '19 and her father Jose Bernas '82
outside Lloyd Hall



Kayla '12, Linus '13 and son Joel Sampson Marco



Alumni News!



Jon Kelman '06 and Sherri DeVito on their wedding day



Ryan Frankel '06 and wife Erika welcome Cora Avery Frankel



Florence, Charles '06, Annabelle and Victoria Griffith



Justin Colon, 2 year old son of Iris Colon '06



Peter Cecchini '90 CNBC Closing Bell



SMU Sport Management

FB 01 Does Professor Gleiser have one of the kindest souls ever? Yes, yes she does. Professor Gleiser is not only a beast at tackling a tough subject, Sport Law, but she is for sure a fan-favorite and...

www.facebook.com

Class of 2019 Thesis Topics

Reiss Berger: My thesis is currently titled "Corporate Sponsorship in Professional Soccer: Does it Pay to Support a Winner?" I examine whether corporate jersey sponsors, who pay up to \$80 million per year, get concrete returns on their investment in the form of their stock price. Does winning or losing in sports have direct impacts in markets, and do teams get greater returns if a team is better? Do these shocks prompt fans to take significant action? I look at game results in the Champions League, one of the highest stages in professional soccer with the best teams and players across Europe. I run regressions on the effect of game results, blowouts, pregame odds, and whether the sponsor company is located within the country of the club it sponsors, examining how these factors affect daily closing stock price. In the end, I did not find significant results, though I learned a lot throughout the thesis process.

Kelly Brown: My thesis examines the impact of NAFTA on Mexico by analyzing disaggregated employment trends at the state level. We conduct this analysis by computing and then controlling for each individual state's change in exposure to net-import competition from the combined U.S./Canada over the 20-year period, 1990-2010. Then we use this change in net import variable to predict a state's change in trade sensitive employment. In our main specification, we cannot make any conclusions regarding the effect of a state's change in net-import competition, but we do find that states with a 1% higher start of period share of workers in trade sensitive sectors leads to an over one percent decline in the share of these sectors over the period of analysis. We also discover that a top ten corn producing state in Mexico experiences a 6.97% larger decline in the share of trade sensitive sectors during this time period compared to other Mexican States.

Alexander Clark: My paper investigates whether or not there is racial bias and own-race bias in the National Football League (NFL). Data from the past ten seasons are examined in order to investigate this question. By examining "roughing the passer" and "personal foul" penalties that quarterbacks are the beneficiary of and using team and referee characteristics and other fixed effects, we see evidence of racial discrimination amongst officials, with white quarterbacks being awarded 0.45-0.55 more calls per game than their non-white counterparts. We also see evidence of own-race bias amongst NFL officials. When officiating crews become more non-white dominant, white quarterbacks earn drastically less calls, with non-white quarterbacks also earning more calls. We therefore do see both evidence of racial discrimination and own-race bias amongst officials within the league, and also see other important evidence that shows advantages for more mobile players.

Benjamin Clark: My thesis was called "Keeping Fans In the Game: An Examination of How Competitive Balance in Major League Baseball Affects Fan Attendance." Using data at both the game-level and the season-level for regular season games from 1969-2018, I found that fans seem to be more interested in the success of their home-town team, rather than the overall competitive balance of the league.

Zachary Cohen: My thesis focuses on k-12 public education in the U.S. I use data from the Illinois State Board of Education to investigate the relationship between educational expenditures per pupil and student achievement on standardized tests. I also look at different expenditure functions and examine whether allocating more funds for instructional purposes positively impacts student achievement.

Aditya Dias: For my Senior Thesis, I designed an experiment to test the effect of inducing dishonest behaviour in people on their generosity. Specifically, generosity resulting from guilt as a result of active dishonesty versus passive dishonesty was measured. Subjects in my experiment completed a multiple-choice quiz for which they were compensated based on performance. They were then given the opportunity to donate to a charity or keep their earnings. The way people reported their earnings was manipulated to discern those who actively engage in dishonest behaviour, those who passively engage in dishonest behaviour, and those who earn their income fairly. By comparing average donations between groups, the results seem to indicate that the actively dishonest may be less willing to donate than the passively dishonest and those in the control.

Ryan Dukarm: My thesis looks to test the prevalence of the theory of thinking fast and thinking slow through the lens of the NFL Draft and NFL Combine. I look to find whether there is a relationship between the athletic testing events taking place at the Combine just before the Draft and eventual draft position. Furthermore, I examine whether these athletic tests predict success at the NFL level or whether NFL decision makers are overreacting to high visibility events that don't actually translate to on field performance.

Student theses are electronically archived in the College's online library.

<https://scholarship.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/handle/10066/105>

Class of 2019 Thesis Topics

Luke Duris: The consolidation of corporations has brought monopsony power to many labor markets in America. As labor exploitation is a known and potential outcome connected to monopsony power, unions are essential for protecting workers' bargaining power. As worker production is often challenging to quantify, this research uses the National Basketball Association as a field of study to examine the trends in player compensation and exploitation relative to changes made through the 2011 collective bargaining agreement and recent union movements to increase salaries and team salary cap. With the NBA as a monopsony power, and the players' union bargaining for better compensation, the study aims to discover the success of unions when faced with monopsony power. Using player statistics, team statistics, and revenue data, the research generates a player's marginal revenue product and compares it with the player's salary. This study hypothesizes that newly negotiated collective bargaining agreements and other players' union movements, will result in a decrease in exploitation, as the players would presumably bargain to decrease the exploitation upon themselves. Some of the results back this hypothesis while other instances do not, as variability in league revenue generation outweighed salary increases over a time span. The research concludes with a more in depth dissection of player compensation, as it analyzes exploitation of three different groups of player; superstar players, star players, and non-star players. The results also agreed and disagreed with the hypothesis, depending on which years are examined.

Kahlil Garnes: In 2005, the NBA rolled out a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) raising NBA eligibility to 19 years old. This essentially ensured that NBA prospects had to attend college for at least one year before joining the NBA. Previously, draft prospects could enter the NBA directly from high school. My study primarily is on the impact this rule has on the players effected (those who could have went to the NBA straight from high school) – they are called the “one and done players” for the purpose of my study. I go on to analyze how and if the rule has affected performance and salary over the lengths of these players' careers. And I end my thesis by detailing the controversy behind the rule, a high school prospect's decision-making process should the rule be eliminated, and what is ultimately going to be done regarding the rule. The study aims to give monetary and social context for the rule's effect on the basketball world and insight as to what could and should be done about it.

Christopher Glazer: *Are Consumers Rational? A look at NBA teams' end of game shot selection*

Christopher Goings: This research demonstrates empirical evidence of a bank lending channel of fiscal policy through federal credit market interventions in the form of direct lending and loan guarantees. Using a two-step multivariate regression approach, exogenous federal intervention in credit markets can be separated from increased bank lending. The methodology is executed using author compiled bank balance sheet data (call reports) from the Federal Reserve and federal credit data from the Department of Treasury from 1976Q1 to 2018Q4. The results demonstrate a positive and statistically significant effect of federal credit increases on commercial bank liquidity. This federal credit policy effect is most present in smaller banks with less liquid balance sheets. Alternative specifications of federal credit measures and controls for periods of banking panic and party majority in government reinforce the empirical findings of this research.

Batia Katz: My thesis explores the gender pay gap in science and engineering fields, how that gap is affected by family responsibility, and how that effect has changed over time. I find that men benefit more in terms of salary from partnership (being married or divorced) than do women, and they also benefit more from having children than do women. However, these effects have changed over time, with men now earning even more from having children than they used to, whereas women now earn more than men from being married with a spouse who works full-time.

Max Kauderer: *How Equitable is Direct Trade? Exploring Markets and Innovation in the Global Coffee Value Chain*

Hannah Krapes: My thesis attempts to bring clarity to the mixed evidence as to whether men or women change their behavior when faced with a high-stakes competition. Using the environment of highly-anticipated professional tennis tournaments, I exploit the difference in pressure between the early stage of a given match and the final stage of a given match to observe whether men or women perform differently when an environment's intensity is heightened. I also explore the role of financial incentives as well as the role of high expectations on gender differences in performance. I observe some risk aversion amongst female players in high-stakes moments, which I connect to the labor market by claiming that this behavioral response perpetuates the glass ceiling.

Class of 2019 Thesis Topics

Anna Kullnigg: *The Online Clinic: Using Google Trends to Measure the Effect of Abortion Restrictions on Illegal Abortion Rates*

Ethan Lee-Tyson: My paper quantifies MLB managerial performance and then examines whether background characteristics of those managers are related to this measure of productivity. Ultimately, I find that they are not – there is essentially no correlation between my measure of managerial performance and their background traits.

Eleen Malhotra: *The Impact of Sanctions on Inequality in Target States - Focus on Aid, Trade, Targeted, and Comprehensive Sanctions*

Tomas Matias: *To One's Art's Content: Pricing Models for Valuations of High-Value Paintings at Auctions.* Using data collected from paintings sold over \$500,000 at auction in 2016 and 2017, I investigate the determinants of painting prices and their pre-sale estimates, hoping to get a better understanding of what drives bidder/auction house preferences for a painting's given characteristics such as size, painting age, and location of sale. The thesis looks primarily at hypotheses regarding the undervaluation of paintings made by women and a painting's position in an auction (i.e. whether it is towards the start or end of the auction). Controlling for a number of factors, I find that while bidders do not undervalue paintings made by women, auction houses systematically undervalue women's work by over half a million dollars. I also find that lot position is a credible price signal that is sent by auction houses and received by bidders. Paintings at the end of the auction are sold and valued less by a little over half a million dollars. These findings are robust to a number of specifications.

Rob McLallen: *A Study of Moral Hazard: Evidence from NFL Free Agency.* One of the most widely studied labor markets in economics is NFL Free Agency. With a sport as physically demanding as football, players must be incentivized properly to compete at the highest level, especially with a high risk of injury. Players protect against injury risk by negotiating for guaranteed money, which is the portion of their contract that must be paid regardless of injuries. Using Free Agent contract data and weekly injury reports, this research aims to determine if there is a change in injury rates after a contract is acquired, and whether injury history is an important factor in contract negotiations. This study incorporates different regression methods, including Poisson fixed effects, probability, and ordinary least squares models. Overall, I provide evidence of a moral hazard problem exhibited in NFL Free Agency since the rate of injuries per season increases when players receive a larger percentage of guaranteed money in their Free Agent contract. I also show injury history is not a significant variable in contract negotiations. This research adds to past literature on moral hazard and is the first to use injury rates and guaranteed contracts as evidence of a moral hazard problem.

Josh Moskovitz: When making a decision that involves information acquisition, people can be defined along a spectrum of maximizing and satisficing decision making behavior. This thesis aims to predict effective leadership qualities from an individual's propensity for maximizer/satisficer behavior. Using an experimental methodology, participants were recruited from Amazon Mechanical Turk and completed a delegation game, dictator game, ultimatum game, and honesty game. Maximizer/satisficer decision making strategy was assessed through an adaptation of the Schwartz et al. (2002) scale. Results indicate that a greater propensity to maximize predicts a greater preference for control, which could pose problems when delegating tasks. However, maximizing behavior is found to be unrelated to altruistic preferences, fairness preferences, and honest behavior. This thesis has implications across leadership roles, ranging from athletics to corporate managers.

Anna Neuhardt: *Psychiatric Professionals in the Emergency Room: Do Psychiatric Professionals Affect Efficiency and Thoroughness of Care for Psychiatric Patients in U.S. Emergency Rooms?*

David Newman: "Delayed Rewards and Dynamic States in the Multi-Armed Bandit Problem" This paper explores a variation of the multi-armed bandit problem and proposes a new strategy, the Pure Unknown strategy, to optimally maximize payoffs. In this game, the player chooses between two arms—one with known probability distributions and the other with unknown probability distributions—and does not realize the payoff of the arm she chooses until the next time period, where the probabilities of each time period are state dependent and those states are determined by a stochastic process. Additionally, elements of ambiguity aversion are incorporated into the model to reflect individuals' preferences for choices with known probabilities over those with unknown probabilities. Four strategies, including the Pure Unknown strategy, play this game to see which strategy produces the highest average payoff, and the other three strategies are inspired by previous multi-armed bandit literature. Results find that the Pure Unknown strategy is the most optimal strategy when the Normality assumption, which ultimately represents ambiguity averse preferences, is not present.

Class of 2019 Thesis Topics

Tai Nguyen: My thesis studies the impact of home sharing in New York City. Using web-scraped Airbnb data, I assess how the platform's growth affects the incumbent hotel industry and rental housing. Contrary to previous literature, little substitution effect was found between Airbnb and hotel, though I find evidence of strong competitive pressure. In the short-term, OLS regression finds an increase in Airbnb to be associated with a decrease in both hotel price and revenue. A deadweight loss strategy is also used to quantify long-term welfare. For rental, I find Airbnb to raise rent prices across units considered, making rental less affordable. Through a hedonic regression, I also uncover important price determinants of Airbnb in NYC.

Sehyeok Park: *Performance of IMF Borrowers Against Future Banking Crises*

Nicholas Perez: Previous economic literature exists on both amenities and the effects of sports-related influences on local economies. However, the literature on the economic impacts of sports has not only struggled to find sports-related influences which help local communities realize economic benefit(s), but also focuses primarily on teams rather than looking at individual players and/or superstars. Using a sample of 223 professional basketball and baseball “superstars” treated as mobile lifestyle amenities, my paper quantifies their levels of stardom through the development of amenity scores and uses these scores to analyze the impact(s) of their movements on local economies. The study is unique and provides a good baseline for further research into the topic. The study does, however, struggle in that it fails to utilize enough data to develop control variables which prove necessary in order to observe the true impacts of these superstars and their movement. Ultimately, this study does not find any correlation between the movements of “superstar” athletes and the growth rates of total employment, employment in the goods-producing sector, employment in the service-producing sector, or real per capita personal income, but does provide a clear vision for ways future research can build upon this study.

Thomas Phillips: The focus of my thesis is to assess which factors MLB teams view to be most important when making draft decisions and analyze if teams are correctly valuing the factors that ultimately lead to production at the MLB level. I find that MLB teams are most influenced by regular season performance and player exposure in the college baseball playoffs when making draft decisions, and this is justified, as scouts’ valuation of college playoff performance aligns with performance at the MLB level. This result is found following the methodological framework laid out in Ichniowski & Preston (2017), as I utilize tobit, probit, and OLS models to reach my conclusion.

Diane Previlon: Using country-level panel data from 18 countries, I first study the joint impact of legal action and legitimate streaming services on stream-ripping activity (an evolved form of piracy). Then, I estimate the effect of streaming services on streaming activity by individually observing shocks in available licensed content and shocks to stream-ripping sites following government enforcement action. I do so by looking at the degree to which people switch to stream-ripping or licensed streaming services following a shock in stream-ripping activity and in licensed streaming content. I find that licensed streaming and stream ripping are complements. Both are affected by stream-ripping shocks. Using a difference in difference approach, I find that an interruption in licensed content yields mixed results; it both increases and decreases streaming at a statistically significant level depending on the particular context. Overall, my results complement the existing literature, finding a similar relationship between streaming and piracy despite using Google trends rather than survey data. Lastly, the implications of the results for the future of the recorded music industry are further explored.

Naomi Rufino: Naomi Rufino: my paper examines the impact of sanctuary policies on Hispanic WIC enrollment. Sanctuary policies are defined as city or state policies that forbid public officials from inquiring about immigration status and or limits cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Specifically, I focus on large cities with sanctuary policies prior to 2017 and California’s Trust Act of 2013. I hypothesized that these sanctuary policies increase Hispanic WIC enrollment and mitigate deportation worries after the 2016 presidential election. The National Immunization Survey from 2003 to 2017 is used for this analysis. In the end, I find a positive association between sanctuary policies and Hispanic WIC uptake. Hispanic WIC eligible children living in a state with a large sanctuary city were more likely to enroll in WIC than children living in states without sanctuary cities. This effect was much stronger for Hispanic WIC eligible children from households that were interviewed in Spanish. Additionally, I find that Hispanic WIC eligible children from Spanish-interviewed households were more likely to enroll in WIC after implementation of the 2013 Trust Act in California. No significant relationship was found between living in a state with a large sanctuary city and Hispanic WIC enrollment post the 2016 presidential election. Overall, findings from my study seem to suggest that sanctuary policies influence Hispanic families’ decision to enroll in WIC.

Class of 2019 Thesis Topics

Max Krieg: This paper uses county-level data from 2008 to 2017 to explore the relationship between religion and mortgage delinquency across the United States. Religiosity is hypothesized to affect mortgage repayment because this kind of household financial planning tests several economic attitudes shown to be influenced by religious belief. Controls for mainstream economic indicators of delinquency are utilized to isolate the effect of religious adherence rates on delinquency. The results show that county religious adherence rates have a slightly positive and significant effect on delinquency at both the county and state level. It is also found that religiosity was less influential during the fallout of the 2008 Financial Crisis in comparison to the post-crisis years as well as insignificant in predicting delinquency in counties with below average income. Lastly, this effect is found to be larger and highly significant in counties belonging to metropolitan areas of one million people or more, suggesting that the availability of financial assistance and support networks may augment the influence of religiosity.

Max Schwartz: The number of household-level solar photovoltaic installations has been increasing rapidly in the U.S., especially in the past five years. This thesis examines what policy and demographic drivers affect the number and size of household photovoltaic (PV) adoptions. We utilize household-level cross section and panel data in combination with controls on a wide range of policy and demographic determinants. Our results reveal that demographic and spatial drivers such as average income, race, solar insolation, and electricity price influence solar PV adoption greatly, but do not explain all variation. Regulatory and financial policies, such as access to low-interest and low-down payment financing, public benefits, better permitting standards, and high rebates, grants, net metering rates, and other performance-based incentives can drastically improve adoption rates. We conclude by identifying the need for future research into disaggregating more solar policies and estimating the effectiveness of solar PV units as a positive externality.

Joseph Scibelli: My thesis looks at the relationship between tournament outcomes and promotion via professional sports. Many sports teams host a tournament prior to their drafts to evaluate potential employees and select the best possible candidates for promotion. This paper adds to previous literature by proposing a game theoretic model where employers have prior expectations about the capability of each participant. I find that if these prior expectations are close enough then it will encourage full participation in the tournament. If there is sufficient distance between these prior expectations, then some players will choose to not participate and separate based on expectation rather than type.

Qwajarik Sims: In my thesis *The Evolution of Pace's Role in NBA Revenue Generation: Analyzing the Effect of One of the NBA's Most Trending Components*, I investigate the methods of generating revenue in the NBA and I hypothesize that pace will be the driving factor in team performance statistics that stimulate increases to team revenue. The results of my analysis provide evidence that suggests that pace may not be so important in generating revenue for teams in the NBA. Offensive rating, another team performance indicator is shown to be much more statistically significant in a team's ability to increase revenue.

Mehendi Siraj: *Migration and Bilateral Trade: Analyzing Trade Patterns in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region*

Hubert Skertchly: Healthcare coverage and utilization is an ever growing problem in both Latin America and the United States. The effects of Seguro Popular on preventive healthcare for Mexican adults can demonstrate the effectiveness of government-funded health insurance for people in the informal sector in Mexico. Using data from the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS) and difference-in-difference propensity score matching, we can quantify the effects of this program compared to other forms of insurance in Mexico. The results show that Seguro Popular has a significant positive effect on preventive health screening, especially when it comes to rural areas.

Maryanna Solecki: *The Effect of Major US Sporting Events on Sex Crimes: Evidence from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle* This paper investigates the effect of major US sporting events on sex crimes. Using daily crime data from [DATA.GOV](https://data.gov) and game day information for NBA, MLB, and NFL teams in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, the analyses focus on sex crime count on days of championship and non-championship game days as well as non-game days. The location and result of games are included in the analysis to provide a well-defined indication of specific game day conditions that effect sex crimes. The results suggest varying effects for different leagues across cities. The most significant effects are seen in Los Angeles on days of Dodgers home championship games and in San Francisco on days the 49ers win a non-championship game. This study is unique in its focus on the effect of American sports on solely sex crimes. Overall, this paper proposes multiple avenues for continued research that could lead to the creation of a safer environment for everyone on game days.

Madison Sultan: This paper analyzes how the halo effect, loss aversion, and neglect of the strategic nature of information revelation are present in consumer's sequential learning and belief updating about the quality of products. The implications of these biases are analyzed to determine the circumstances under which producers will optimally engage in negative advertising. A theoretical model is developed and tested using an experiment conducted on Prolific Academic using data from Consumer Reports.

Faculty Updates

Richard Ball continues teaching Statistical Methods in Economics, Economic Statistics with Calculus, and Senior Seminar, advising theses. He continues his work with Project Tier, which promotes transparency and replicability in social science research-- check it out at www.projecttier.org.

Julie Becher, Ph.D. is a Research Associate in the HIV Prevention Research Division of the Department of Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and a Visiting Instructor in the Department of Economics at Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges. She completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Becher specializes in economic evaluation methods and has taught cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness, and cost-utility methodology at the CDC, professional conferences, and in her health economics courses. Her research and publications include economic and demographic analyses of issues involving sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. Economic analyses of STI issues include cost-effectiveness evaluations of providing various STI screening programs in correctional settings. A national-level analysis originally commissioned by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care for a report to the U.S. Congress on the Health Status of Soon-to-be-Released Inmates (May 2002), was developed into a manuscript and published. This publication was a finalist for CDC's Charles E. Shepherd Award in the Prevention category (2005). She has worked on grants examining the efficacy of a HIV vaccine and education interventions that include providing risk-reduction information to intravenous drug users in Philadelphia and their social network members, and providing HIV counseling to injection drug users at methadone clinics in Jakarta, Indonesia. Currently, Dr. Becher is working on a CDC grant addressing the opioid epidemic in Philadelphia. She enjoys teaching intro, statistics, econometrics, and health economics courses and sharing her research experiences with students.

Carola Binder has worked at Haverford since 2015. She has published in the Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of Macroeconomics, Economic Inquiry, Explorations in Economic History, Economics Letters, Southern Economic Journal, Social Indicators Research, and Journal of Media Economics. Current research focuses on inflation, central banking communication, and expectations. On her junior leave this year, she has presented research in Dallas, St. Louis, Chicago, and New York, and she has upcoming speaking events in Ukraine, Norway, Guatemala, and Italy. She recently accepted an invitation to join the CEPR Central Bank Communication Research and Policy Network. She is preparing to co-teach a new elective on Advanced Macroeconomics with Professor Parameswaran. She is excited about farming a 10 foot by 60 foot community garden plot on campus with her husband Joe and kids Ruby, Maria, and Paul this spring and summer.

Eric Gaus has enjoyed mentoring student's theses in the Spring. Eric currently works at Moody's Analytics in West Chester, and his primary research interests are macroeconomics and forecasting. Last year he published a paper in the Journal of Macroeconomics on expectations and the yield curve.

Saleha Jilani taught her usual introductory economics course (ECON 105) in the Fall 2018 semester, as well as the junior research seminar on international trade (*International Trade: Theory and Policy*), and the first half of the year-long senior thesis course (ECON 396A). In the Spring 2019 semester Saleha taught her course on development economics (*Economic Development and Transformation: China vs. India*) which is featured in Cool Classes on the Haverblog (<https://blogs.haverford.edu/haverblog/tag/cool-classes/>), and advised five seniors on their theses in the Senior Research Seminar. Saleha also taught a course on *Public Finance and Policy* at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in both the fall and spring semesters. Saleha's research interests include international trade, regional economic integration, and economic growth and development. Saleha is currently working on projects examining both the timing and persistence of incoming foreign direct investment (FDI), as well as the role of regional trade agreements in attracting FDI inflows to member countries. Other research projects include collaboration with Alec Koffer '13 and Jenna Kowalski '17 analyzing the effect of access to healthcare on educational outcomes in Kenya.

Vladimir Kontorovich continued teaching Law and Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, and the Soviet System. His book is being published by Oxford University Press this year.

Timothy Lambie-Hanson had a great time working with students this year in all of his courses. He looks forward to a continuing work on a couple of research projects this summer. First, he hopes to make progress on analysis of the impact of sanctuary cities on WIC enrollment that was started by one of his thesis students this year. Second, he would like to wrap up some ongoing research on the growing role of financial technology (Fintech) on mortgage lending. Last, he would like to begin in earnest a project evaluating the impact of the Community Reinvestment Act on bank lending over the credit cycle.

Faculty Updates

Shannon Mudd Professor Mudd continued his leadership of MI3, The Microfinance and Impact Investing Initiative. His teaching included classes in Microfinance and Impact Investing as well as Advanced Corporate Finance. The MI3/ORFL Impact Investing portfolio had its first two exits. One was a death (Papatel). The other exit, Code Monkey, a gamified way of teaching elementary school children to do text based coding, was acquired by TAL, a Chinese education company listed on the NYSE. We received a 2X return in less than two years on our \$18k investment. With expenses, we achieved approximately a 49% annualized return. The 2018 Impact Investing course students decided to invest in Vega Coffee, a company that helps coffee farmers in Nicaragua and Colombia, primarily women, capture more of the coffee value chain and increase income by enabling them to roast and package the coffee locally to sell directly to customers in the US. While in most cases our support of investees has been limited to the funds we invest, in this case, we were able to introduce them to our Dining Center staff. Because Vega Coffee's product was certified by the "Real Food Challenge" body, Haverford adopted the Vega Coffee in The COOP and it will also be in the coffee shop of the new library. Adoption allowed Haverford to achieve its Real Food Challenge goals this year, earlier than expected. MI3 hosted a variety of events and speakers, including Seungah Jeong, the CEO of another investee MPOWERED. We also invited in the ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) team from local wealth manager Glenmede to talk about their journey to support ESG investing after their own quants determined that ESG risk is material and returns are improved when they are taken into account. Kate Monahan '14, the Shareholder Engagement Associate at Friends Fiduciary spoke about shareholder activism and the achievements that activist, impact-oriented fund managers are having on firm policies and behaviors. Recognizing that students at Haverford struggle with low levels of financial literacy, are uncertain where to find resources to learn more and that personal finance and financial literacy are a source of stress Haverford MI3 launched the Finlit for the 99% series of workshops. Finally HMFC, the student microfinance group, continued to provide programming on microfinance and again raised funds through a bake sale to make zero-interest loans to both US and International borrowers on Kiva's platform. These loans engender discussions about access to finance difficulties, the challenges of lending in a situation of asymmetric information, the difficulties that small businesses face obtaining financing and issues of poverty. You can follow MI3's activities at its facebook page Haverford MI3.

Maria Olivero joined our department again this year as a Visiting Associate Professor. She has been truly enjoying her time at Haverford, teaching a JSem in International Macroeconomics and a Fiscal Policy class. She feels super fortunate to have been able to work with our talented students again this year. Maria published a paper titled "Optimal Monetary Policy with Countercyclical Credit Spreads" in the *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, and she is also working on two other revisions for the *Journal of Monetary Economics* and the *IMF Economic Review*. She is looking forward to the summer with a visit to her home country of Argentina and a few college tours with her oldest son.

David Owens continued as department chair for 2018-2019 academic year. David's teaching interests include microeconomics, behavioral and experimental economics, and economic principles. A revision of his article "Cognitive load and mixed strategies: On brains and minimax" with Sean Duffy, JJ Nadeo and John Smith was requested by the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. David and his wife Brittany welcomed their second child, Henry Erwin Owens, on October 9, 2019.

Giri Parameswaran taught Mathematical Economics and Advanced Microeconomics this year. Additionally, Giri supervised an Independent study course in Political Economy with four students. The course explored advanced topics in game theory and political economy, and was structured as a graduate seminar, where the lectures were presented by the students rather than the professor. On the research front, Giri has a paper 'Stare Decisis and Judicial Log-rolls: A Gains-from-Trade Model' that is forthcoming in the *RAND Journal of Economics*. That paper use game theory to provide micro-foundations for the judicial norm of respecting prior precedent, and explores the conditions under which judges will abandon the norm. Giri has several other papers under review including 'Bargaining on Appellate Courts', 'Limit Equilibria of Unidimensional Bargaining Games: A Core Refinement' (with Jacob Murray '20) and 'Redistribution under General Decision Rules' (with Hunter Rendleman '18). All of these papers can be found on his website. In the Fall, Giri became the proud father of a baby girl, Divya.

Anne Preston has enjoyed her return to teaching. Several exciting senior theses came out of her class on Sports as an Economics Laboratory. Please read about them in the senior section. She has continued work on her Sloan grant on occupational exit of scientists and engineers from 1993 to 2013, finding that occupational exit has increased over the time period with the gap between men's and women's exit falling. Interestingly the men and women who exit science but stay in the labor market are increasingly finding jobs outside of science that require the skills they learned in their science education. Anne has teamed up with political science professor Anita Isaacs to start a new project called Migration Encounters. They have interviewed 250 men and women who were deported from the US and are currently living in Mexico. They are planning a multimedia platform in which the deportees tell their stories complete with audio and video effects.

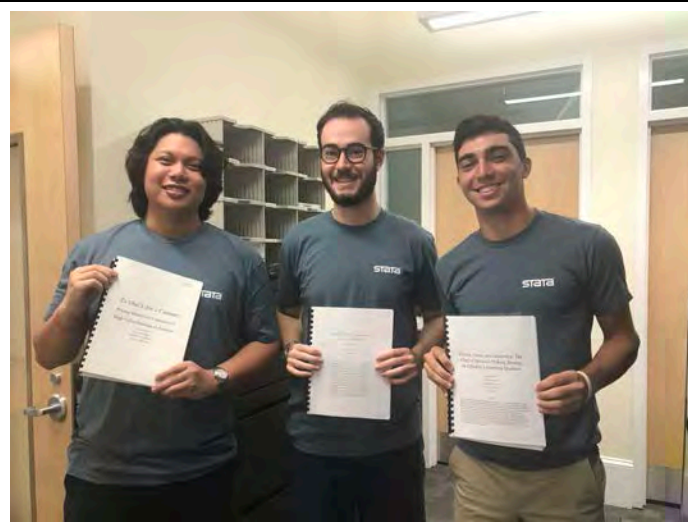
2018-2019 Events and Celebrations!



2019 Holland Hunter '43 Thesis Prize Winner



2018-2019 Events and Celebrations!



Tomas Matias '19, David Newman '19 and Josh Moskovitz '19 handing in these!



Professors Dave Owens & Tim Lambie-Hanson with Seniors Diane Previlon, Naomi Rufino and Anna Neuheardt.



Batia Katz '19 and Madison Sultan '19



Alex Clark, Reiss Berger '19, Aditya Dias '19, Max Krieg '19, Ben Clark



Prof. Saleha Jilani with husband Prof. Jim Krippner



Graduates Madison Sultan, Ryan Dukarm, Aditya Dias, Ben Clark, Max Krieg & Zach Cohen, with Prof. Anne Preston

2018-2019 Events and Celebrations!



Maryanna Solecki '19, Kelly Brown '19 & Hannah Krapes '19



Alex Liu '19, Jared Turner '19, Joe Scibelli '19 & Ethan Lee-Tyson '19



Far left Tai Nguyen '19, 2nd from left Anna Kullnigg '19, and far right Professor Anne Preston

STAY
CONNECTED



2018-2019 Events and Celebrations!



Dinner at the Senior Party



Far left Tomas Matias '19, 2nd from left David Newman '19, and far right Josh Moskovitz '19

2018-2019 Events and Celebrations!



Professors Shannon Mudd and Saleha Jilani chatting with Eelen Malhotra '19



David Newman '19 and Tomas Matias '19 with Chair Dave Owens

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019!



May 18, 2019 Commencement!