Message from the Department Chair

We are headed for a new academic year. Let us start by celebrating the success of our students! This newsletter features the Economics Department student Awards and Scholarships recipients; Honors Program economics graduates; and newly inducted Omicron Delta Epsilon members. The newsletter also features one of our alumni and two faculty members. Finally, please mark your calendars with the announced events.

I wish you productive and joyful months ahead!

Economics Students Awards

Congratulations once again to our undergraduate and graduate students who were recognized by the Department of Economics for their academic achievements during the 2018-2019 academic year!

2019 Continuing Scholarship Recipients

Austin Rex, BSB
Travis McConnell, BSB
Timothy Keathley, BSB
Molly Hendrickson, BA

Mark your Calendars!

Alumni are welcome to all events!

**Sept 5** Graduate Students, Alumni, and Faculty Welcome Reception, Lobby of Rike Hall @ 5:30

**Sept 18** Econ Club Kickoff
248 Rike Hall @ 4:30

**Sept 25** Regional Economy Seminar
Econ Alumni in the City of Hamilton
DAVE Lab, Rike Hall @ 2:00
Staying engaged in the Economics Club helps you excel in academics.

**Sept 18 Econ Club Kickoff**
248 Rike Hall @ 4:30

President: **Mark Stickford**
Treasurer: **Jason Utz**
Faculty Advisor: **Carol Herrick**
204 Rike Hall, (937) 775 - 4676

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**2019 Outstanding Student Awards Recipients**

Josh Pham, BSB
Jason Utz, BSB
Caleb Rose, MS
Nathan Kenny, MS

Anna Wilson, MS – Outstanding Graduate Assistant
Denise Rickard, MS
Wisnu Sugiarto, MS
Combined Undergraduate and Graduate Program

You need:

- at least 30 credit hours remaining until completion of your Bachelor’s degree in Economics
- a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2
- Take two graduate level economics electives during your senior year which will count both toward your Bachelor’s degree in Economics and toward a M.S. in Social and Applied Economics.

Nathan, Jason, and Josh took the Combined program path!

Contact Graduate Program Director Thomas Jenkins
(937) 775-2441
208 Rike Hall

https://business.wright.edu/economics

2019 Graduate School Excellence Award
Nathan Kenny, MS

2019 University Honors Program Economics Graduates
Jason Utz, BSB
Josh Pham, BSB
Omicron Delta Epsilon
International Economics Honor Society Requirements:

Undergraduate Students

completion of 12 credit hours of economics courses

GPA of 3.0 or better in economics courses and an overall GPA of at least 3.0

Graduate Students

Completion of one semester of full-time work, with a major or minor in economics

GPA of 3.0 or better

E-mail form from ODE website to faculty advisor, or bring it to 290 Rike Hall.

Omicron Delta Epsilon
Inductees – Spring 2019

Dennis Guhl, MS
James Harlow, MS
Molly Hendrickson, BA
Yunus Ibragim, BSB
Timothy Keathley, BSB
Ryan Kelley, BA
Joshua Pham, BSB
Jason Utz, BSB
Wisnu Sugiarto, MS

President: Joshua Pham
Treasurer: Jason Utz
Faculty Advisor: Zdravka Todorova
Featured Alumni

Aaron Hufford is a Chief of Staff at City of Hamilton, Ohio. Aaron graduated from WSU with his M.S. degree in Social and Applied Economics in 2013. He also holds a B.S. degree in Business Economics from WSU, and pursued the Combined undergraduate/graduate program. Aaron received an Outstanding Graduate Award in 2012 and a continuing undergraduate student scholarship from the Economics Department in 2011. You can watch Aaron’s testimony about our Economics programs here.

After his graduation from our M.S. program Aaron went on to work for the City of Hamilton’s Economic Development Department as an Earl Brush Fellow (2013-2014). Aaron continued there as a Business Development Specialist, later as an Assistant to the City Manager until 2016, and as a Senior Analyst until 2018. While in those positions, he developed the City’s first Labor Market Analysis in conjunction with the UC Economics Center. He led effort on application for Neighborhood Initiative Program and was awarded $2 million grant for the Butler County Land Bank. He also assisted with an application to the State of Ohio Capital Budget, and was awarded $100,000 for the development of an advanced manufacturing lab in conjunction with universities and the startup ecosystem. Finally, he helped with the envisioning and development of a green advanced manufacturing business incubator, the Hamilton Mill. In his current position as a Chief of Staff, Aaron develops and manages stakeholder relationships, and oversees projects on economic development and blight reduction strategies. He is also involved in budgeting, communications, policy research, and quality of life initiatives.

Outstanding Economics Teacher

Kerry Martin received the 2018 RSCoB Outstanding Teacher Award. She was also the 2018 recipient of the President’s teaching award for non-tenure faculty.

“"The effectiveness she has when it comes to building a relationship with her students on an academic level and on a personal level is outstanding." (a student)

Congratulations!
Featured Research

Dr. Kevin Willardsen, published his co-authored research “The Effects of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on Housing Markets” in Journal of Housing Economics.


When the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in 2010, it resulted in the largest off-shore oil spill in the United States history. The authors create a novel dataset by linking surveys of the location and severity of oil observed along over 4,3000 miles of the Gulf Coast to measures of local housing market outcomes.

Dr. Willardsen is the newest full-time faculty addition to the Department of Economics. He joined our department in 2017. Dr. Willardsen teaches Time Series Analyses and Economic Forecasting; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Regional and Urban Economics; Principles of Microeconomics; and Managerial Economics.

Meet our Office Student Workers!

Aaleah Bolton  
Psychology

Kimbre Wenrick  
HR Management

Davia Battles  
Rehabilitation Services