



FARMER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
Department of Economics

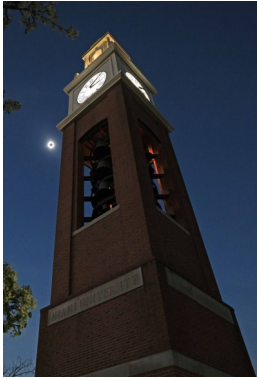
# Economics Newsletter

## Issue 13: Summer 2024

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Greetings from Oxford!

Summer is pretty quiet in Oxford, although we're working on research, presenting at conferences, and preparing for our fall classes. We always love to hear about what our alums are up to, so reach out or stop by if you're in town!



The spring semester was busy, as usual. A highlight occurred in April, when Oxford was in the path of totality for the solar eclipse—it was even better than we expected! Ten students earned departmental honors, and a team from Miami placed first at the Econ Games in only our second year competing—[see story here](#) (great work by advisors **Carla Nietfeld** and **Peter Nencka**!). Fifteen students completed their M.A. degrees, so spring and summer were busy with theses defenses and finalizing the project, which was with Cincinnati Metro. I recently returned from a month in Colombia, where I participated in a Fulbright-Hays seminar with 15 faculty members from other universities. I learned so much about sustainability and higher education in Colombia, and look forward to integrating it into my classes.

Several faculty received university and business school awards this spring. **John Bowblis** received the University Faculty Scholar Award and **Peter Nencka** received the University Junior Faculty Scholar Award—only three of each were awarded, so it was exciting that Economics faculty were so well represented. Farmer School of Business awards this year included **Peter Nencka** receiving the Gifford Junior Faculty Teaching Innovation award for his work



in our econometrics course (ECO 311), **Carla Nietfeld** receiving the Richard K. Smucker Teaching Excellence award in recognition of her engaging, popular large sections of principles of microeconomics (ECO 201), and **Greg Niemesh** receiving the FSB Award for Service Excellence for his exceptional service to the department in recruiting, mentoring, and representing the department on numerous faculty committees. Congratulations, all!



Peter Nencka



Carla Nietfeld



Greg Niemesh

In March, Miami celebrated the "[RedHawk50](#)" fastest-growing companies founded or led by Miami alums with a gala at Cincinnati's Music Hall. Two economics alums were recognized: Mac Anderson (Economics '14) of Cleveland Kitchen and Richard Palmer (Business Economics '92) of Eleeo Brands. Yiyang Fu (Business Economics, Finance, and Music Performance '24) was named one of Poets & Quants "[Best and Brightest](#)," and Payton Smith (Business Economics '24) received a University Diversity and Inclusion Undergraduate Student award. Congratulations!

We're delighted to welcome **Jiee Zhong**, who joins us as an Assistant Professor after finishing her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. Jiee is an applied microeconomist who does very policy-relevant work relating to topics including education, health, and the environment. She'll be teaching microeconomic theory in the fall.



Jiee Zhong

Stay in touch! Love and Honor,

Jenny Minier, Department Chair & Julian Lange Professor

## Student Spotlight: Callaway Chapman '24

*Callaway graduated in 2024 with majors in Economics and Political Science.*

To be completely honest, I stumbled my way into the Economics department. I entered Miami as a Political Science major but quickly realized that I wanted to add something else, specifically something to do with numbers (I missed them). I was briefly interested in Finance as a minor. However, after taking a required Economics 300s course, I ditched the minor and went all in with an Economics major. For many reasons, I am so happy that I did. Starting in the fall, I will be attending law school at Washington University in St. Louis, and I believe that my major in Economics played an important role in getting me there. My courses taught me how to apply logic and facts, mixed in with the realities of human nature to find optimal outcomes. While I gained useful knowledge from my courses, without a doubt, the most valuable impact came from the relationships I made with other students and professors. It was during the countless hours of notetaking, studying, and office hours that I found the necessary support, advice, and even a letter of recommendation (thanks Dr. Moul) to help me get where I am today. I'm looking forward to my future and I appreciate support from the department.



## Alumni Spotlight: Michelle Girard



My study of economics at Miami University paved the way for my 30-year career on Wall Street. It was during Professor Dennis Sullivan's Econ 201 class that I decided to pursue a major in Economics. In Money and Banking with Professor Nick Noble, I discovered my passion for financial markets and policy analysis. And the rigor of the graduate program under Professor Mark McBride enabled me to develop the advanced mathematic skills that proved invaluable in every role I held.

As both an undergrad and graduate student, I supported Professor Noble with his research, including forecasting of the money supply. This type of experiential learning was far less common at that time and that work was key to landing my first job at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington DC, which subsequently led to a position at an investment bank in New York. For most of my career, I used the knowledge and skills gained in my macroeconomic classes at Miami to forecast economic trends and analyze the impact of both monetary and fiscal policy on the US economy and financial markets. Most recently, I have taken responsibility for running all of NatWest's US business. As CEO of NatWest Securities Inc, I am now applying many of the microeconomic principles introduced to me in that that first Econ 201 class. Over the years, I have stayed in touch with the Economics professors who supported me as a student (and beyond). The engagement between the faculty and students at Miami has always distinguished the University from its peers. In addition to all the lessons learned as an Economics student, I am forever grateful for the life-long relationships formed during my years at Miami.

## Faculty Spotlight: Josh Ederington



I joined the department in 2023. Previously, I was a professor at the University of Kentucky and, before that, the “other” Miami (University of Miami in Florida). I earned my PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and my BA from Macalester College. I was attracted to Miami University by the teacher-scholar model and Miami’s commitment to undergraduate education, and I’ve enjoyed getting to know my colleagues, the students, and alumni.

My research is primarily in international economics, including the structure of trade agreements, the relationship between environmental legislation and international trade, and how trade affects technology adoption. Currently, I’m working on projects related to the impact of international trade on regional environmental outcomes and cross-border business cycle co-movements.

Outside of work, I enjoy hiking and travel. I’ve lived in Romania and Russia, and was a Fulbright Scholar in Belgium. These international experiences have enhanced my research and teaching. I regularly teach international trade, international finance, and microeconomics, and often use examples from my experiences abroad in the classroom.

## Retired Faculty Spotlight: Deborah Fletcher

I retired in the summer of 2022. Since then, I’ve taught two sections of game theory each spring, and this coming spring will be my last semester in the retire-rehire program. Immediately after retirement, I moved with my husband Pete, dog Annabelle, and late cat Frankie to Adams County, Ohio. It’s just over a hundred miles from Oxford, in the foothills of Appalachia, and it feels *very* Appalachian! It’s a long commute on my teaching days, but I’m one of those odd people who enjoys driving, and I’ve listened to a lot of outstanding books on the drive.

I’ve visited my elderly parents in Florida regularly over the last few years. My mom passed away in February with late-stage dementia. As my parents were married for 63 years, my dad has had a rough time, so I’m trying to visit him at least every couple of months. Fortunately, my brother lives nearby, and he visits with my dad a couple of times a week.

Otherwise, I’ve spent a lot of time battling the poison ivy and wild rose all over our property, gardening, and planning our August road trip to Oregon. As a first-generation college graduate from a blue-collar family, I’m also trying to arrange a volunteer opportunity with high school kids here. Adams County is considered to be the poorest county in Ohio, and only 15% of people here have a bachelor’s degree or more. I want to help students who want to go to college with what is known as the hidden curriculum: things everyone but first-gen students know, like what office hours are and why you should attend them.

I love getting updates from former students and other friends! You can reach me at [fletchd@miamioh.edu](mailto:fletchd@miamioh.edu)



See our 2023-24 Departmental Honors recipients [here](#) and our 2023-24 M.A. students [here](#)

# 2023-24 SENIOR AWARDS

We had a wonderful time in April celebrating our senior award winners, with many faculty and retired faculty also in attendance. Congratulations, all!



**George W. Thatcher Award** for outstanding economics major: Andrew Dirr and Mary Le

**William J. McKinstry Award** for business economics: Trevor Minyo and David Staub

**Delbert A. Snider Award** for international economics: Suzanne Ackley and Taylor Horn

**Gerald Flueckiger Award** for microeconomic theory: Ian Collins and Luke Evans

**Hart-Noble-Hall Award** for macroeconomics: Caydn Hillier and Joelah Marcum

**Paul M. Vail Award** for contributions to economics at Miami: Meaghan Cannon and Kailey Kraft



Andrew Dirr



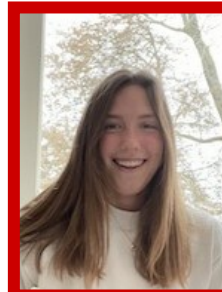
Mary Le



Trevor Minyo



David Staub



Suzanne Ackley



Taylor Horn



Ian Collins



Luke Evans



Joelah Marcum



Caydn Hillier

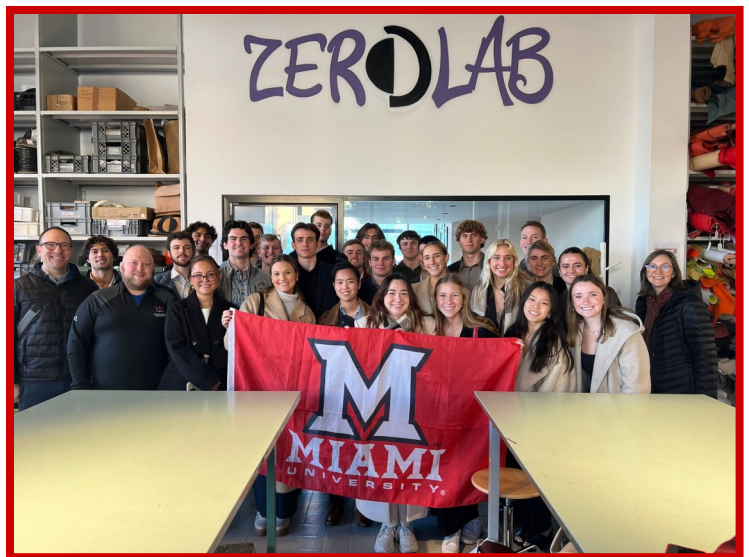


Meaghan Cannon



Kailey Kraft

## Postcards from Oxford and Beyond



Clockwise from top left: Econ Games team with Professor Nietfeld, M.A. students with Professors Moul, Wolff, and Li at Cincinnati Metro, Professor Kinghorn's January study abroad trip to Italy, Associate Dean Thomasson and Professor Minier with Swoop at the RedHawk50, honors students after their presentations at the Honors Conference.

## Placements

In May 2024, 95 students graduated with an undergraduate degree, bringing our twelve-month total of graduates to 149. According to our senior survey in Spring 2024, 60% of our May-graduating majors secured full-time employment before graduation, with the most common job titles being analyst and consultant. Geographically, 48% of these students will stay in Ohio, and 20% will go to Chicago, with other destinations including Austin, Charlotte, Minneapolis, New York, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. The median reported salary was \$73,500, and, for the 56% of the students reporting signing bonuses, the median bonus was \$7000. An additional 14% of our students reported that they would attend graduate or professional school, with fields spanning law, political science, business analytics, and economics at both the Master's and PhD levels. Our other students reported that they would be self-employed, entering military service, or seeking employment. We are proud of all of our graduates and wish them the very best!



Professors Lindequist, Acton, Niemesh, Minier, Nencka, and Granderson at Commencement 2024.

## Get involved!

We welcome your involvement! If you'd like to be involved in ways not listed here, please feel free to contact us ([economics@miamioh.edu](mailto:economics@miamioh.edu) or [jminier@miamioh.edu](mailto:jminier@miamioh.edu)).

**Financial Support:** Your financial support allows us to continue to offer engaging opportunities to our students.

**#MoveInMiami** Every year, Miami has a fundraising campaign to coincide with students moving in for the fall. Find out more and help us reach our goal [here](#) by August 22!!

**Our funds at [givetomiamioh.org/economics](http://givetomiamioh.org/economics)**

- The Student-Faculty Engagement fund supports activities including the Econ Games competition, Honors and MA thesis advising, and other opportunities for student-faculty interactions.
- The International Scholarship (established by Denny Sullivan) helps economics majors study abroad.
- The Economics Club and Women in Economics funds help these student organizations offset expenses as they explore economic concepts outside of the classroom.

Kirk Bogard (FSB, [bogardks@miamioh.edu](mailto:bogardks@miamioh.edu)) can also assist with giving questions.

**The Gift of Time:** Students love hearing from alums! Some possibilities include speaking to a class or student organization by Zoom or in person, sharing career advice (general or company-specific), student interviews, case competitions, site visits, and mentoring students. Feel free to reach out to any of us with ideas!

### Follow us on social media!

We're on [LinkedIn](#) and Twitter (@Miami\_Econ).



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