The department features its Career Services Coordinator and the Tom Kniesner and Debbie Freund Fund for Student Support is established.
This newsletter provides news and updates on the state of the Department of Economics and its activities. Contained in this edition are highlights of the research and other accomplishments of faculty and students, and some useful facts about the department.

The quality of our faculty, students and programs is high. We have a winner of the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching and several Distinguished Scholar Award winners on our faculty. We are publishing in the economics profession’s top journals and receiving research grants from the NSF, NIH and other prestigious sources. This past fall, one of our graduate students started as a postdoc at Stanford, and she has accepted an assistant professor position at Caltech starting after her postdoc is complete. Demand for economics courses is healthy. We continue to provide almost 40,000 credit hours per year, and our number of majors has skyrocketed from 856 in Autumn 2017 to 1049 in Autumn 2018.

Our main goal over the next several years is to attract and retain the best and brightest faculty and graduate students, ensuring that we be a top-tier department for years to come. Our newest addition to the department is Meta Brown (PhD, New York University, 2001), who will join us as an associate professor this autumn. Increasingly, though, we are reliant on private philanthropy to support the teaching, research and service of our faculty and graduate students. For example, we are very fortunate to have opened our search for the inaugural Eric Byron Fix-Monda Endowed Professor in behavioral finance, thanks to a transformative gift from Keith and Linda Monda. You can learn more about opportunities to support the department on page 13.

As part of the ongoing revitalization of The Ohio State University campus, our department will be moving to a new space within the next five years or so. Although there will be some upheaval, planning for the move is giving us an opportunity to reimagine and influence the space we will be occupying for decades to come. I am grateful to the Economics Advisory Board for their support and leadership in this process.

A key source of support for the department is gifts from alumni and friends. These have become quite important for activities that help the department improve: funding undergraduate scholarships and prizes, graduate research scholarships, support for graduate students to travel to conferences to present their research, and seminar programs that bring scholars to campus to discuss their research. We now have a coordinated effort thanks to the hard work of our Economics Advisory Board, who have provided key leadership in reaching out to our alumni and encouraging faculty engagement. Within the past year, we awarded the inaugural winners of the Burton Adams Dissertation in Economics Endowed Grant Fund and the Tom Knesner and Debbie Freund Fund for Student Support. You can read about the inspiring story of Tom Knesner in this issue.

I hope you enjoy reading about our new faculty member, Matt Weinberg, graduate student, Minhae Kim, undergraduate student, Rachel Williams, and our staff member in charge of career services, Tracy Hanson. The issue also features a Young Alumni Spotlight story about Alex Ritchie, an alumni profile about sports law expert Matthew Mitten and an Economics Advisory Board Spotlight story about member Richard Hobbie.

Cordially,

James Peck
Interim Department Chair
Rachel Williams is a fourth-year honors student majoring in economics and world politics and minoring in mathematics. Her research thesis, advised by Dr. Dan Levin, explores the spillover effects of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on state-level electricity generation in the U.S. More specifically, she asks if states who adopted RECs earlier than their neighboring states are seeing disproportionate benefits. Her reasoning is that RECs are substitute goods for actual renewable generation. Companies in later-adopting states may choose to buy RECs from companies in early-adopting states instead of generating renewable energy themselves because of high fixed costs. She found this reasoning proved correct—every time a new state adopts an REC policy, the early-adopting states in that region see an uptick in their renewable generation.

Rachel became interested in this topic after learning about Ohio’s REC policy while interning at the Statehouse her freshman year. Rachel presented her research at the 24th Annual Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, where she placed second in the Analyzing Impacts and Solutions to Capital Flow category. After graduation, Rachel plans to be a research fellow at a university for a couple of years before pursuing a PhD in economics.

Minhae Kim is a third-year graduate student in the Department of Economics at Ohio State. She joined the economics PhD program in 2016 after working as an economist at the Bank of Korea. Previously, she studied economics at Seoul National University, where she graduated summa cum laude and later received her master’s degree in economics. Her research before joining Ohio State focuses on applying econometric models using macroeconomic data, including her master’s thesis presenting a vector error correction model on the North Korean economy.

Kim’s current main research areas are econometrics and empirical industrial organization. She is particularly interested in estimating dynamic structural models and developing estimation methods. As a former central banker, she is currently working on applying dynamic discrete choice models in banking industry. Specifically, she is writing a paper on how online banking affects banks’ decision to open a new branch and close an existing branch using dynamic discrete choice models in continuous time. Another ongoing research with her advisor, Professor Jason Blevins, focuses on introducing a new estimator for continuous time models and presenting its distinct features. She is also interested in extending her work using high-dimensional methods in the future.

Last year, she was honored to be selected as the inaugural recipient of Tom Kniesner and Debbie Freund award, which was great motivation for her to strive for her academic goal. “The most difficult part of pursuing a PhD is that you have to proceed with your research even if there is no visible progress. So, this scholarship gives me the confidence that I am on the right track and that I am heading straight towards my goal,” Kim said.

Kim has also been teaching introductory microeconomics and macroeconomic undergraduate classes since 2017. Her students agree that her teaching is “well-organized and well-prepared,” commenting “she explains everything as thoroughly as possible.” As an international student who always dreamed of studying abroad, she likes the fact that Ohio State offers a lot of opportunities to meet people from various cultures, and she enjoys every moment on campus.
I became interested in pursuing graduate studies in economics my senior year in 1966-67. My favorite courses that year were econometrics, mathematics for economists, economic theory, economic history and economic development. My studies were cut short after the first year of graduate school when I was drafted into the U.S. Army.

After serving in the Vietnam War — where I earned the Army Commendation Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster — I returned to Ohio State to resume my studies in economics and earned an MA degree in 1971. That year, I was awarded the National Tax Association’s Mattersdorf Scholar Award by the association’s president and professor of economics Arthur Lynn. I wanted to find a way to pursue more public service. Several public finance professors in Ohio State’s economics department decided to organize a new graduate program, “public administration,” in which I could emphasize public economics. I transferred into it and earned a PhD in 1975.

In June 1975, I became one of the first employees of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) after my advisor recommended me to its director, Alice Rivlin. That started a very interesting career for me in Washington, D.C.

### Advisory Board Spotlight: Richard Hobbie

I joined the CBO at the end of the 1973-1975 recession known for stagflation — high unemployment and high inflation. I helped develop labor programs for the government to stimulate the economy out of the recession. In 1979, I accepted a position as an analyst for the Congressional Research Service (CRS), where I worked on welfare reform legislation.

I worked for the CRS for eight years in the income maintenance section. I covered a broad array of topics, including welfare reform, unemployment insurance, trade adjustment assistance, capital accumulation pension plans, tax treatment of retirement savings and civil service retirement reform. For these efforts, I received a number of awards, including one for my contributions to civil service retirement reform and the creation of the new Federal Employee Retirement System.

Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld wrote a book about “Rumsfeld’s Rules” he accumulated over his years of government service. A rule I liked was: “Never confuse yourself with your job, it might be important, you are not.” This was a good reminder for anyone filling an “important” position not to become too full of himself or herself.

### When I went to work at CBO.

I became staff director of a subcommittee of the House Committee on Ways and Means in 1988. I drafted legislation that restored solvency to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance program and was editor of the committee’s publication that reviewed and summarized its programs. I also was elected to the National Academy of Social Insurance and later served eight years on its board of directors and six years as its treasurer. My tenure at the House Ways and Means Committee ended in 1994 when much of the staff was terminated after congressional elections changed the body of the majority party. As a result, I became a dislocated worker.

Fortunately, I received a political appointment as associate assistant secretary for congressional affairs at the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training area in 1995, and I received recognition for my work on legislation. I retired from the federal government in 1996 to pursue other work.

I tried stints with the American Enterprise Institute, the University of Maryland, independent consulting and The Lewin Group, none of which worked well for me. I learned from experience what it was like to be a dislocated worker and a hungry independent contractor. I accepted a position as unemployment insurance director for the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) in 1998.

I was named executive director of the NASWA in 2003 and retired in 2014. I co-edited two books during my tenure: "Older and Out of Work, Jobs and Social Insurance for a Changing Economy and Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Workforce Development and Unemployment Insurance." In addition, I served two terms on the Health, Education and Labor Advisory Committee of the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank. I received the President’s Award from NASWA, the J. Eldrid Hill Award from UWC for outstanding service on unemployment insurance issues, and the WOW Award from Direct Employers Association for contributions to human resources technology innovation.

In 2014, I was appointed visiting scholar at the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University. In 2015, I co-authored a paper titled, "Reemploying Unemployment Insurance Claimants: A Good Government Investment," which was published in a book entitled Transforming U.S. Workforce Development Policies for the 21st Century. In 2018, the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank released a book for which I was a contributing editor and wrote a paper framing a chapter containing five papers on government investment in workforce development. Finally, I continue to work part time for IMPAQ International, Inc., as a consultant on a project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor helping workforce agencies conduct research and evaluations.

### Faculty Spotlight: Matthew Weinberg

My main area of specialization is industrial organization, which is the study of how markets work. My specific research interests are in the empirical analysis of consumer behavior and how firms respond to it, with a focus on understanding situations when a lack of competition allows firms to profit at the expense of their consumers by charging high prices relative to their costs. Much of my work studies how competition works in particular industries by studying the aftermath of mergers of competitors, and the role of enforcement in reducing the economic costs of monopoly power.

I’ve studied a wide range of markets, varying from packaged consumer products sold at traditional retailers such as grocery stores, to household appliances, to pharmaceuticals. Recently, I’ve been conducting joint research funded by the National Science Foundation with Nathan Miller at Georgetown University and Gloria Sheu at the Department of Justice that studies allegations of coordinated price changes by the major firms in the U.S. breeding industry and how changes in market structure caused by mergers may enable even more profitable price coordination.

Much of my academic research agenda was developed after spending a formative part of my career as a staff economist at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission’s Antitrust Division, which enforces the antitrust laws of the United States alongside the Department of Justice’s Economic Analysis Group. I’ve always found the interplay between business and government fascinating, and I’ve long been interested in whether public policy can improve the efficiency of markets. Working in the field of industrial organization is the best way to study these issues. Research in this area of economics is very detail-oriented, relying on a combination of data and theory to explain behavior and how markets work. It’s a great area of economics to study if you’re interested in connecting economic models to data and policy.

It’s with great pleasure that I join the department and the broader university community at Ohio State. A key part of the mission of Ohio State concerns the creation and discovery of knowledge that can have an impact beyond the university. I try to produce work that fits with this mission — all of my research questions are centered on applied problems that matter for actual people. For example, my research on mergers has led me to be invited to participate in upcoming hearings at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. The goal of the hearings is to help guide the FTC’s future program of studying past mergers to inform current antitrust policy. There are many challenging issues involved in this endeavor, and the hope of making progress on them forms a core part of my research agenda. This approach to economics also informs my teaching — I try hard to focus on contemporary, real-life examples to illustrate the importance of economics, and to help students develop the ability to apply economics.

I live with my wife, Shingdha, a neurologist with Ohio Health, and our two young children in Upper Arlington. In addition to economics, I enjoy spending time with them, playing the piano and the challenge of renovating our new home. We’re pleased to be here.
STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ECONOMICS CAREER SERVICES

Tracy Hanson joined the Department of Economics in fall of 2016 as the department’s first career services coordinator. Since her arrival on campus, Hanson has helped numerous students start their career in economics. She is a dedicated resource for economics students and alumni. Her services range from assisting with company and industry research to providing critiques of professional documents to mock interviews. Not only does she help with finding employment after graduation, she aids current students in internship searches. In Hanson’s short time with the department, she has worked to build relationships with numerous companies to provide economics students with more internship opportunities. Just this year, she has worked with Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute to have the university become part of their university affiliation program. Having this designation allows our students to participate in their research competitions, and our students become eligible to apply for their 17 scholarships.

Hanson organizes economics career fairs in the fall and the spring of each academic year with the Undergraduate Economics Society. The most recent career fair was attended by 28 employers and over 150 students. These career fairs are open to any economics major or minor along with recent economics graduates. Some of the employers who have attended these career fairs include Nationwide Financial, Dawson Careers, People’s United Bank, Worldpay, Oracle and Quicken Loans/Rocket Mortgage, along with the Ohio Department of Commerce. In addition to organizing the career fairs, Hanson hosts various events that ensure students make the most of their time with potential employers. These events are geared toward critiquing resumes and helping students craft their personal branding.

Along with providing students guidance individually, Hanson is an advisor to two student organizations: the Undergraduate Economics Society and Women in Economics. She assists these organizations in hosting networking events where students make connections with potential employers and our alumni. Hanson has also created LinkedIn groups for students and alumni. She frequently posts to the groups’ pages to encourage conversation and connections between group members. She also hosts Ask An Alumni events where an alumnus of the department answers questions directly from students.

For more information about the career services that Tracy Hanson provides, check out the career services page: econometrics.osu.edu/career-services. If you or your company is interested in attending an upcoming career fair or would like to become a part of our internship program, feel free to email Tracy at hanson.399@osu.edu.  

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Tom Kniesner has conducted research and served on the faculty at more than half a dozen universities and institutions, he’s still a Buckeye through and through. With three degrees in economics, Kniesner has developed and honed his skillset in differing and exciting opportunities throughout his vast career — while also helping students succeed in their own professional endeavors.

Kniesner has taught at Indiana University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University and Syracuse University, among others, and he is now professor and chair of the Department of Economic Sciences at Claremont Graduate University in California. Throughout his career, Kniesner has been a visiting research fellow at top universities in Japan, Australia, the Netherlands and London, as well as American universities like Harvard and Cornell. Kniesner is also a research fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) and is Krisher Professor of Economics Emeritus at Syracuse University.

Before Kniesner earned his degrees from Ohio State, he began his first year of college at the University of Michigan. A first-generation college student, Kniesner’s parents were always insistent that he receive a college education.

“My parents never gave me another choice about going to college — they would always just say, ‘You’re going to college,’” Kniesner recalled. “My wife and I give our son Will, who is an economics and sport management major at Syracuse University, a lot of advice about what courses to take and how to deal with dorm life. My parents didn’t know anything about that, and neither did anyone else in my family, so I basically had to puzzle all these things out on my own.”

While he was figuring out how to maneuver college life, Kniesner was also searching for a major and what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. It was a chance encounter that made him realize his budding interest in economics.

“My roommate was taking economics, and I happened to look at his textbook,” Kniesner said. “I picked it up and said, ‘Oh, this is really cool stuff.’”

Kniesner then transferred to Ohio State and tried out several different classes and majors before returning to economics — his true passion. Labor economics, health economics and econometrics became his specialties. After earning his PhD, he embarked on his illustrious career in academia as a faculty member, department chair and research fellow at institutions around the globe.

Kniesner’s experience and expertise now extends to the corporate world — he spent time working at Eli Lilly, published countless journals, co-authored several books and he even earned a spot on the senior staff of former President Ronald Reagan’s Council of Economic Advisers. Working on the council’s senior staff proved to have a much different environment and pace than his previous positions.

“In research and academia you work on projects long term. In government, you have to turn work out really fast,” Kniesner said.

Looking back on all of his experiences, Kniesner also remembers the people and mentors during his years at Ohio State that influenced him and helped him along the way. One mentor in particular, professor emeritus of economics Belton Fleisher, took Kniesner under his wing after Kniesner took his undergraduate labor honors course. Kniesner then went on to become an undergraduate research assistant for Fleisher, who also helped him write his undergraduate honors thesis.

“Belton then trained me in the fine points of being a professional economist and I wrote my dissertation with him,” Kniesner recalled, adding that Fleisher’s mentorship extended beyond the classroom to include important life lessons such as how to eat an artichoke and the fundamentals of wine. “He was a full-service advisor, so to speak.”

Even after many high points in his career, Kniesner’s proudest accomplishment has been mentoring graduate students and helping them connect in the industry and flourish in their own careers.

“I’ve been able to place them in jobs and I try to keep up with them after they leave ... we try and get together and do things as much as possible,” Kniesner said.

Kniesner’s generosity also extends to his alma mater — along with serving on the Department of Economics Advisory Board, Kniesner and his wife, Deborah Freund, herself a distinguished health economist, established a scholarship fund within the department. The Tom Kniesner and Debbie Freund Scholarship was recently awarded for the first time to two economics students: Minhae Kim and Noah Gibson.

Kim is a PhD student with a focus on econometrics. She, too, strives for a career in academia after graduation, and sees the scholarship as motivation for reaching this goal.

“Receiving this scholarship is a great motivation for me to move forward and gives me confidence that I am on the right track and one step closer to my goal,” Kim said. “And as a graduate student [and a] mother, it is also a great help for my financial situation.”

Gibson, a senior majoring in economics and minoring in development studies, also plans to continue his education in economics.

“This scholarship will not only help me next semester, but will make it much easier to pursue my future goal of going to graduate school for economics,” Gibson said.

Kniesner has high hopes for the scholarship recipients, just as his parents had high hopes for him when they encouraged him to go to college and do something great.
WHY WEALTH EQUALITY REMAINS OUT OF REACH FOR BLACK AMERICANS

The Conversation, February 28, 2019

Except from an article authored by Treven Logan and Derrick Hamilton. Black History Month has become the time to reflect on all the progress black Americans have made, but the sobering reality is that when it comes to wealth – the paramount indicator of economic security – there has been virtually no progress in the last 50 years.

Based on data from the Federal Reserve’s Survey of Consumer Finance, the typical black family has only 10 cents for every dollar held by the typical white family.

While there is no magic bullet for racism, access to wealth, and the security to pass it down from one generation to the next, would go a long way toward changing the economic trajectory for blacks.

As researchers who study historical and contemporary racial inequality, we mostly conceive of wealth as a maker of success, but its true value is functional: the independence and economic security that it provides.

PABST BLUE RIBBON GETS A REPREVE, WILL CONTINUE TO BE BREWED BY MILLEROOCS

APR, November 29, 2018

Pabst Brewing and MillerCoors have ended a legal dispute that had put the fate of Pabst Blue Ribbon, Schlitz and other blue-collar beers in doubt, reaching a settlement as a panel of jurors deliberated for nearly two days. As it considered a potential decision, the jury asked to review more than 40 pieces of evidence, according to reports from the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court.

With a new deal reached, a Pabst spokesperson says the company “will continue to offer Pabst Blue Ribbon and the rest of our authentic, great tasting and affordable brews to all Americans for many, many years to come.”

The contract-brewing deal was made in the first place because Pabst and MillerCoors once viewed their customers as coming from very different parts of the market — but that dynamic has shifted since 2000, due to the beer industry’s being reshaped by consolidation, the surge of craft beer and other changes.

“Maybe there are more customers out there [now] that are kind of indifferent between buying, for example, Miller High Life and PBR,” Weinberg told Marketplace last week. “So I think it’s become more of an issue now than maybe it used to be.”

WHY DO MILLENNIALS DISLIKE CREDIT CARDS?

CMA Practice Advisor, August 1, 2018

Retirement-age Americans are most likely to appreciate the convenience and financing capabilities of credit cards, while young millennials tend to seek out rewards and are prone to having a negative opinion of credit cards overall, according to WalletHub’s 2018 Summer Credit Card Survey.

Why are millennials more likely to dislike credit cards? Well, bad experiences with debt — both first-hand and through family members — is likely a major contributor.

“Younger people charge (and carry a balance) at higher rates and pay off at lower rates than older people,” said Lucia Dunn, a professor of economics at The Ohio State University.

“So of course, younger people are having more trouble managing their credit card debt. That would give a person a negative opinion of cards.”

There is more to this interesting dynamic, too. What about the fact that 58% of baby boomers say low rates make for the best credit card offers, whereas 55% of millennials choose rewards?

Interestingly enough, things like online gaming and social media could have a lot to do with that, according to Dana Duguay, executive director of the Credit Builders Alliance.

“I think that the younger generation is more used to a reward culture,” Duguay said. “The advent of connecting rewards to social media and online offerings has become ubiquitous. For older Americans who are not avid users of social media, the interest rate has been a tried and true comparison tool.”

Millennials might not consider credit cards to be as uniquely convenient as their older counterparts due to the rise of peer-to-peer payment platforms. The correlation between age and wealth — older people tend to be richer — also shapes what folks look for in a credit card, according to Eeshal Sharma, an associate professor of business administration in the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

“Younger individuals may be using credit cards as a financing tool (to get things they otherwise could not), while older individuals may be using them as a substitute for cash,” Sharma said. “This makes credit cards a very convenient alternative to cash, especially for those who can and do immediately (often automatically) repay their credit card bills.”

Some recent market developments also provide important context for these age-based dynamics. For starters, credit card debt is at near-record levels, with U.S. consumers owing more than $1 trillion to credit card companies, according to Federal Reserve data.

So it makes sense that older and wiser people are taking advantage of credit card interest rates while there are still deals to be had. And the best credit cards right now are just about as good as they’ve ever been. Even the averages are impressive.

The average 0% credit cards offer just under 11 months without interest on new purchases and slightly more than 12 months on balance transfers, according to WalletHub’s latest Credit Landscape Report. Both figures are records dating back to 2010. Similarly, the average initial rewards bonus is $139 cash back or 15,732 points/miles — has more than doubled since the beginning of the decade.

WHEN YOU’RE THE ONLY WOMAN: THE CHALLENGES FOR FEMALE PHD STUDENTS IN MALE-DOMINATED COHORTS

Science, October 24, 2018

When Carolyn Virca embarked on her chemistry PhD, she noticed a clear gender rift right from the start. The men would grab beers before seminars or arrange other social activities that didn’t include her — the lone woman in the cohort. “They bonded in ways that I was not privy to,” she says.

Virca, who is now a postdoc at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, got through her initial feelings of social isolation by bonding with women who had started the program a year or two ahead of her. But the experience made her appreciate how students could get lost if they feel like outsiders during graduate school. So she wasn’t shocked by the results of a new study, which found an association between female PhD students’ graduation rates and their cohorts’ gender ratios.

Women with no female peers were 12 percentage points less likely to complete their degrees within 6 years than men in the same cohort. But for each increase of 10% in the proportion of female students in a cohort, their graduation rate increased by 1 percentage point. That’s based on graduation data for 2541 students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) who entered 33 doctoral programs at six universities in Ohio between 2005 and 2009.

Because the programs’ gender ratios fluctuated from year to year, the researchers could look at how changes in gender composition within programs influenced completion rates.

As for the underlying reasons, there is no definitive answer— although the researchers did not find any evidence that academic performance or grant funding played a substantive role.

Senior author Bruce Weinberg, a professor of economics at The Ohio State University in Columbus, thinks that social climate is the most likely explanation. “We’re not suggesting necessarily that this takes the form of harassment or abuse, but even more subtly that gender composition may influence the friendliness of the environment,” he says.

That makes sense to Susan Gardner, director of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at the University of Maine in Orono, who has interviewed PhD students about their experiences in graduate school. Students usually drop out because of some other factor besides intellectual ability, such as poor advising, a toxic climate, or because they want to pursue other options. Gardner says, “Very few people drop out of educational programs because they got bad grades.”

Regardless of the reason, Gardner says, the study makes it clear that “there’s something systemic going on. And systemic problems have to be dealt with at the institutions level.” In a lot of disciplines, especially in STEM, there’s an attitude that “we’re here to separate the wheat from the chaff, and we’re proud of our attrition rates,” she says. Instead, faculty members should do more to think about how to make “our students feel like they belong.” The study’s lead author, Valerie Bertaud, a professor of economics at The Ohio State University, added that the findings will spur universities to develop policies that are more sensitive about creating an inclusive environment.

On an individual level, Weinberg notes, graduate school isn’t for everyone, and sometimes it’s best for students to drop out and pursue opportunities that better serve their long-term career goals. (Most of the students who dropped out did so within the first 3 years of their program.) “The point is not that we don’t want to have women ever dropping out of STEM, but of STEM programs; it’s that we don’t want to have women dropping out differently” based on how many women are in their cohort, he says. “In the ideal world that would not be affecting the outcome.”
DEPARTMENT NEWS

LOGAN FEATURED ON MASTERMINDS
Trevon Logan, Hazel C. Youngberg Distinguished Professor of Economics, was featured on Masterminds in fall of 2018 where he discussed “Finding Missing Economic Narratives.” Masterminds is a series of short, engaging talks made by brilliant faculty who hold endowed positions at The Ohio State University.

Logan also delivered a talk at the TEDxColumbus: On The Edge event in November 2018. In the talk — “Urban Revitalization or Planned Extinction?” — Logan tracks the past of his home on the Near East Side of Columbus back to its former owners, placing this history onto the larger maps of the neighborhood and city. He then draws parallels between similar communities throughout the United States that have changed and evolved through segregation, redlining, urban decay and urban renewal, asking what these changes meant for the individuals living through them.

TOBIN RECEIVES ASC STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD
Rick Tobin, Graduate Program Coordinator, received the College of Arts and Sciences Staff Excellence Award. Tobin was recognized by the Executive Dean and the Divisional Dean for his exceptional work in the Department of Economics. Tobin received his bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University where he majored in economics. He has been working with the department for six years.

PECK FEATURED ON VOICES OF EXCELLENCE PODCAST
Jim Peck, Professor and Chair of Economics, was featured on Voices of Excellence from the College of Arts and Sciences. Peck described what causes bank runs, whether Federal Deposit Insurance works to prevent them, and what financial crises qualify as bank runs. Voices of Excellence from the College of Arts and Sciences is one of the most popular podcasts from The Ohio State University.

STECKEL IS CO-EDITOR, THE BACKBONE OF EUROPE: HEALTH, DIET, WORK, AND VIOLENCE OVER TWO MILLENNIA
Richard Steckel, Professor Emeritus, is co-editor, along with Clark Spencer Larsen, The Ohio State University, Charlotte A. Roberts, University of Durham, and Joerg Baten, Eberhard-Karls-Universitat Tubingen, Germany, of The Backbone of Europe: Health, Diet, Work and Violence over Two Millennia. This book traces health, workload and violence in the European population over the past 2,000 years using human skeletal remains.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACCEPTS POSITION
Kirby Nielsen, graduate student, started a post-doctoral position at Stanford University this past fall. Once her post-doctoral position is finished, Nielsen has accepted an assistant professor position at Caltech University. Nielsen’s research focuses on microeconomic theory, decision theory and game theory using experimental methodologies.

INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY...
Your support is critical to the Department of Economics’ continuing success. The research of our faculty and students extends worldwide. The faculty continues its research while maintaining teaching excellence. Although faculty and students continue to attract support from nationally recognized sponsors, this support only partially meets our needs. There are many opportunities to support our students and faculty. From scholarships to teaching awards, to student travel and research support, your donation will make a tangible difference in the lives of the students and faculty in our department. All gifts are tax deductible as permitted by law. Please consider a gift to the Department of Economics.

Alma Herbst Memorial Lecture Fund (603157)
Provides an annual lecture in labor economics.

The Edward J. Ray Commemorative Research Fund (605978)
Income supports scholarly graduate activities in the Department of Economics at the department chair’s discretion.

The Professor Paul G. Craig Graduate Student Assistance Fund (641472)
Income will be used to relieve one or more graduate students from one term’s teaching commitment to accelerate progress towards a PhD in Economics.

G.S. Maddala Memorial Fund (644415)
Provides awards to graduate students for excellence in quantitative research using econometrics, both theoretical and applied.

Economics Faculty Memorial Fund (301944)
This fund supports various department activities as identified by the chair to enhance the department, including seminar presentations, graduate student research and travel, and faculty teaching.

Economics Undergraduate Scholarship (309719)
To provide scholarships for undergraduates in the Department of Economics.

For questions or to learn about other opportunities for support, please contact the Arts and Sciences Advancement Office at ascadvance@osu.edu or (614) 292-9200. To make your gift online, visit osu.edu/giving.

The Economics Learning Center provides FREE peer tutoring in Economics 2001, 2002, 4001 and 4002 (and other courses, as available). The center is staffed by undergraduate student tutors.