



Letter from the Chair

Hello and greetings, Students and Alumni!

This is the first annual letter from the Chair of UCCS's Economics department. It's been a great year for us! Most excitingly, we are back to in-person classes after being almost completely remote during Covid. I, for one, can say that returning to teaching in-person has been a breath of fresh air.

In other big news, we are hosting our first annual Economics Mixer on October 27th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in UCCS's Berger Hall. Hopefully, you have all received a save the date, and RSVP instructions. This year, we've received permission to have alcohol at the event, and we'd like to send a special thanks to our Alumni from Guaranteed Rate: Chris Franquemont (Class of 2014) for supporting us, and Isaac Hanes (Class of 2021) for setting it all up. We're hoping to see you all there to talk to your favorite teachers and meet our current economics students.

We also began teaching outreach courses for District 20 in Colorado Springs; Introduction to Microeconomics and Introduction to Macroeconomics courses are now available to students in D20 as well as throughout Colorado as part of the CU Succeed program. It's a terrific opportunity for those of you with high school-aged children to get some college credit before they even attend.

This year also brought us the retirement of Mike Lucchesi who has been with us for over 20 years. Mike - you will be sorely missed. We were able, however, to hire Jeff Cook, who has been working for us as a lecturer these past 10 years, as a part-time instructor; we couldn't be more excited to bring him fully onboard.

Our program assistant, shared with Political Science, Tim McDonnell was named Outstanding Staff member for the year. Those of us who work with Tim know there isn't a more deserving person. We hope you all get a chance at the mixer to meet Tim who himself is a UCCS economics alum! Of course, the department continued the business of educating young minds and managed all the internal, and mind numbing, administration to go along with it, but you don't want to hear anything about that!

The last big piece of news is that I've been named the Interim Faculty Director of the UCCS Economics Forum. I'm hopeful that this position, which is in the College of Business, will help the Economics department form closer ties with the Forum.

Please see below for other department, alumni, and current student highlights. Finally, remember there's no such thing as a free lunch (beer), and remember us when you're thinking of donating/hiring/internships for our current students.

Sincerely,

Joe Craig
Associate Professor and Department Chair



Economics Department

Highlights

Faculty

Daphne Greenwood is finishing her book “Work, Pay and Sustainability: The Three Faces of Labor,” the first complete guide to labor economics from a pluralist perspective. It includes feminist, institutionalist, and stratification theories of occupational choice, wages, and working conditions. One face of labor is an input to production, and a second provides for a living. The third face reflects unpaid services (citizen, parent, neighbor, volunteer) and the preparation of the next generation for work, membership in society, and future parenting.

Farida Khan is working on the remote hills of Southeast Bangladesh, where there are large numbers of Indigenous communities. With her colleague from this region, she is studying the changes in the subsistence economies in this area by looking at water use by households and farmers in the area. The focus is on water availability, collection, and use – through which we mark changes in farming practice, occupations, and migration. A second project that is under review in a journal is on nonfatal injury risk in the workplace and the estimation of the compensating differential in wages that arise from such risk. Using 2013-15 data from the US, this study looks at differences in worker characteristics and how they affect both wages and estimates of the value of injury.

Ed Hoang has a forthcoming paper in International Regional Science Review titled "Adoption of Technological Change in the Public Sector: Evidence from US States" that explores the broad influences that stimulate technological change in governmental service delivery. It finds that governors of either political party in their term-limited term--when compromise with bureaucrats is less important--save 4% in administrative costs, finding that technology adoption can be delayed but not prevented by bureaucratic interests.

Larry Eubanks has been studying 19th century institutions, or rules, governing water pollution in riparian states. One research paper, “Pollution in Economics”, challenges economists’ explanation of water pollution as a consequence of the rule of open access to streams as well as the idea of water pollution as a negative externality market failure. He is also working on "The Institutional Structure of Water Pollution", which examines riparian reasonable use institutions, arguing that allowing some sources of manufacturing pollution mostly meant that lawsuits by other riparian owners harmed by water pollution could be used to stop said pollution.

Dale DeBoer presented three public seminars on (1) Digital Currencies, (2) The Role of the Dollar as the

International Reserve Currency, and (3) The Causes and Consequences of the Current Inflation. He is also giving a professional seminar this October on the Equity Implication of DeFi. And he is working on an OER macroeconomics text tentative titled “The Imperfect Market.”

Anna Faria has a forthcoming article in The Independent Review in which she argues there’s nothing wrong or special about the Millennial generation. In “Comrade Snowflake? Why Millennials Won’t Be Socialists Forever,” she argues why Millennial support for socialism has been overblown. She is also working on two projects related to gender gaps in pay (for US lawyers) and in performance review (for student evaluations of teaching). Her passion for soccer means two working papers on the subject: one on referee bias and the other on the effects of altitude on match outcomes.

John Brock spent the summer teaching two one-week Economics for Leaders courses (Econ 1320) for incoming high school seniors. Sponsored by the Foundation for Teaching Economics, and in cooperation with the UCCS Center for Economic Education and LAS, the courses were taught at Cornell University and UCLA, and each class included 40 bright and enthusiastic high schoolers from throughout the country. He also presented “Experimental Economics in the Classroom” to the Charter Oaks Leadership Program in Norwalk, Connecticut and “Free Market Principles in Action” to the Leadership Program of the Rockies in Aurora, Colorado.

David Mullin has been working with Frederick Malmstrom on book manuscript with Oxford University Press titled “*Lying, Cheating, Stealing & Whistleblowing: Our Never-ending Pursuit of Honesty*” which examines the human condition’s history of deception and dishonesty with a particular emphasis on the scientific examination of political tradeoffs of honesty versus loyalty.

Alumni

Max Matthias is a 2013 UCCS Economics Graduate who recently finished his PhD in Economics from University of California, Davis. He is in his first year as an Assistant Professor of Economics at the United States Air Force Academy, after time as a Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Nevada-Reno. He studies Applied Microeconomics, Public Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, and Higher Education Finance. His current research is on how Universities prefer out-of-state residents and how this “crowds out” or pushes out in-state students.

Chris Franquemont graduated in 2014 and is currently the Senior Vice President of Mortgage Lending at Guaranteed Rate. He established the “Franka Endowed Fund for Economics” this year and will be generously supporting this year’s Economics Mixer!

Matthew Gonzales is a 2015 Economics and Math Dual Major who recently completed his MBA at UCCS in 2020. He now acts as the Chief Financial Officer of St. Stephens Indian School on the Wind River Reservation in Riverton, Wyoming, managing grants and government disbursements of over \$6 million which impact the lives of 300 students, most of whom are Native American. Prior to that, he worked as a Cost Analyst for the US Air Force at Peterson AFB where he performed economic and statistical analysis to estimate the cost of multi-million-dollar defense systems.

Joanna Galaska is a 2018 UCCS Economics Graduate and is a data analyst for the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia. Her work as a data analyst supports the Public Defender Service’s mission to provide and promote quality legal representation to indigent adults and children facing a loss of liberty in the District of Columbia. She uses her data and research skills gained from studying economics in a meaningful way.

Lily Cosgrave is a 2017 UCCS Economics Graduate who currently works as a faculty program planning specialist, examining the schedule and universities catalog, which is the document of authority for all students in our 19 departments & programs. She works with large data sets and a variety of software throughout her day. She uses her skills and knowledge from her undergraduate degree to complete tasks and projects for the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Glenn Furton graduated from UCCS in May 2013 with a B.S. in Business, received a B.S. in Applied Econ from Texas Tech University in 2017, and his PhD in 2019. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the Classical Liberal Institute and in the Foundations of the Market Economy

Program from 2019-2021, he began teaching at MSU Denver as a full-time faculty in the Fall 2021, where he researches the political economy of the environment and public health. His other interests include the economics of institutional reform, more generally, as well as the rule of law, constitutional drift, monetary institutions, marijuana legalization and health, and institutional change and public health crises.

Current Students/ Awards

Our 2022 Outstanding Graduate was Richard Mills, a Colorado native who, after two decades in the debt collection industry, returned to UCCS to finish his bachelor’s degree. Richard is a double major in Economics and Communication with an emphasis in Digital Filmmaking. In addition to his contributions on student films as graphics designer, editor, and producer, Richard works in the Excel Writing Center as a writing consultant, the Office of Innovation at the CU System Office as a Coursera script editor, and with UCCS Media Services as a crew member for sports and events. He is planning to pursue his MBA in Marketing at UCCS in the fall while continuing with his on-campus positions, as well as pursuing freelance opportunities in filmmaking. His goal is to work in advertising and marketing for local food and alcoholic beverage producers, as well as produce documentary and educational media about the agricultural economics, history, and culture of his home state.

Our Bruni scholarship winners for the 2021-2022 academic year were:

Emily Gregory – Outstanding Student Intro to Microeconomics, Fall 2022

Tyrese Tolbert – Outstanding Student Intro to Microeconomics, Fall 2022

Alexandra Riser – Outstanding Student Intro to Microeconomics, Spring 2022

Madison Wright – Outstanding Student Intro to Microeconomics, Spring 2022

Drew Braden – Outstanding Student Intro to Macroeconomics, Spring 2022

Brendan Bradfield – Outstanding Student Intro to Macroeconomics, Spring 2022

As team president of UCCS’s High Altitude Race Engineering club, Economics student Aiden Westbrook proved that economics applies anywhere one might find passion. The club recently competed in the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) event in Brooklyn, Michigan in June 2022. Check out their [Gazette interview!](#)