

# DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

## Message from our Chair

by **Hugo Benítez-Silva**

Greetings from the Department of Economics in the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University! Saying that the last 13 months have been challenging is clearly an understatement, as we all have had to deal with the unprecedented health crisis brought up by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the ensuing Economic recession, the hopes brought by the vaccination rollout, and now the long and winding road towards normalcy. At the University level we had to change to online Zoom-based instruction in a hurry and move online our always festive Commencement celebrations of late-May of last year.

This academic year we had to continue with mostly online instruction, but now the planning for Fall 2021 brings the hope of seeing students and colleagues face to face again. We in Economics have weathered the storm by focusing our efforts on helping our students, our families, and whenever possible, the community at large. I am happy to announce that we will be participating in Stony Brook's third annual **Giving Day**, after the great success of our first participation back in October of 2020. This fundraising drive, set for **Wednesday, April 21**, will focus on supporting **Undergraduate Research**. We hope you'll join us in supporting our Department and our students!

Warm regards,  
Hugo Benítez-Silva

- \* *Giving Day on April 21<sup>st</sup>*
- \* *Alumni Recognition*
- \* *Student Scholarships*
- \* *International Conference on Game Theory: July 5-8, 2021*
- \* *Commencement May 19<sup>th</sup>*



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## Meet our Faculty



*Economics Faculty*



Stony Brook University  
College of Arts and Sciences

## Graduate Program PhD & MA

### FAST FACTS

# #49

- U.S. News Ranks 2021 *Stony Brook #49 "Best Graduate" Track in Economics! Up from #63 in 2017*
- Despite the pandemic, seven of our PhD students graduated during 2020, and now have jobs in academia and in research institutions.
- Thanks to the generosity of one of our alumni, the Department of Economics has started a Graduate Fellowship Program for qualified underrepresented students whose immediate academic plans include obtaining a **doctoral degree in Economics**. The mission of these fellowships is to substantially increase the diversity and representation of students traditionally underrepresented in Economics. We recruited our first fellow, Maryam Ahmed, for Fall of 2020, and this year we are on track to attract other excellent Fellows.

## Undergraduates in Economics

- This year's Commencement ceremony will be held on **May 19, 2021**. We will celebrate more than **300** undergraduate students who will complete their BA degrees in Economics!
- The 2020 Economics Scholarship Fund was awarded to:
  - \* **Olga Aristova**
  - \* **Lillian Ehrlich**
- The 2020 Robert S. Roth Scholarship was awarded to:
  - \* **Brett Indelicato**
  - \* **Emily Hamm**
  - \* **Taras Vorobets**
- Congrats to **Lillian Ehrlich**, who received the 2020 Provost Award for Academic Excellence!

### ACTIVITIES



### Seminar Series

Seminars also had to move online this past year, but are usually held in the Social & Behavioral Sciences Building on campus in Room N-603. For more information visit the Economics webpage: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/economics>

### Economics Honor Society

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) is a national economics honor society that students must satisfy grade point and service requirements. Honor Society meetings are held in the Economics department library. For additional information, contact [ugeconomics@stonybrook.edu](mailto:ugeconomics@stonybrook.edu)

### Center for Game Theory

SUMMER FESTIVAL: **Save the Dates!**  
The 32nd Stony Brook International Conference on Game Theory will be held **JULY 5th to 8th, 2021**.

### FAST FACTS

# Top 34

*Top 100 among US colleges and universities (No. 88) and ranks as **No. 34** among public universities, according to US News and World Report. News & World Report's 2021 Best Colleges.*

## GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

### TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY IN ECONOMICS

Stony Brook University and the Department of Economics are deeply committed to the recruitment, retention, and success of a diverse graduate student community.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our alumnae, the Department of Economics has started a Graduate Fellowship Program for qualified underrepresented students whose immediate academic plans include obtaining a doctoral degree in Economics.



The mission of these fellowships is to substantially increase the diversity and representation of students traditionally underrepresented in Economics. The long-range goal of the Fellowship is to encourage Fellows to assume their responsibilities as future leaders, educators, and researchers here in the United States.

The Fellowships offer an additional \$75,000 of support over five years and a reduced teaching load after Advancement to Candidacy. This support includes summer research funding, moving expenses, computers, and books.

For more information:

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/economics/graduate/fellowships>

Email: [graduate\\_economics@stonybrook.edu](mailto:graduate_economics@stonybrook.edu)



# Alumni in the Spotlight

## Congratulations to. . .

- ❖ Stony Brook Alum **Ann Lin** '18 (BA Biochemistry/Economics) made **Forbes Under 30** list!! Congratulations Ann! Ann is now a PhD candidate at Stanford University, is using gene-editing technology to develop new procedures that can better confirm on-target activity of proposed cancer treatments.



## 2019 HONOREES



- ❖ Congratulations to Stony Brook alum **Thomas Birmingham IV** '12 (BS Business Management, BA Economics) named to the **2019 SBU 40UnderForty class!** Thomas is Vice President - Not-for-Profit Healthcare Investment Banking at Citigroup.



- ❖ Another **2019 SBU 40UnderForty** honoree, **Jie Chen** '06, '08 (MA Economics, PhD Economics) is an Associate Professor at University of Maryland, School of Public Health, and she established the Hospital and Public health interdisciplinary research (HAPPY) Lab.



# Alumni news and updates

## Further Congratulations!

Our alumni, Misbah Nauman'17, who received one of the 2021 prestigious Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowships.

## Thank you. . .

Our first participation in SBU's Giving Day, which happened in October 2020 was a resounding success. Thanks to you, we raised more than \$11,000 from almost 60 alumni and friends. Like this year, we highlighted Undergraduate Research, resources we are already using to promote research experiences with our faculty this Summer. We are also grateful to our alumni who have made generous contributions to our department over the years, including **Marty Weinbaum '87**, **Robert S. Roth '77** and our newest contributor **Steven J. McGarry '80**. We thank you and hope other alumni will consider making a gift to support both our students and Department. For Giving information, please visit our webpage at [www.stonybrook.edu/economics](http://www.stonybrook.edu/economics)

## We appreciate your support!

Resources for faculty and students support and strengthen our diverse educational experience. The Department of Economics depends on our alumni and friends to support its weekly seminar series, where our students benefit from direct interaction with some of the best researchers in the world; to support the international visibility of our students and faculty alike through conferences, summer school, and stays at other institutions, and a system of prizes to support our most talented students. We hope you will join us on **April 21** (Giving Day) in support of our Department in general and Undergraduate Research in particular!

Your generosity, whether it's the renewal of your support or the decision to give for the first time, allows us to do what we do best – innovative, creative research and teaching that's the hallmark of a great public research university. I hope you will consider investing in our students and faculty by making a **gift** today or speaking with our College's advancement representative, Hodan Hassan, Assistant Dean of Advancement, at [hodan.hassan@stonybrook.edu](mailto:hodan.hassan@stonybrook.edu).

## Stay in touch. . .

We encourage you to reach out to your professors directly, they would be thrilled to hear from you. If you wish to receive additional information about the Department, please contact us at [economics\\_alumni@stonybrook.edu](mailto:economics_alumni@stonybrook.edu)

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