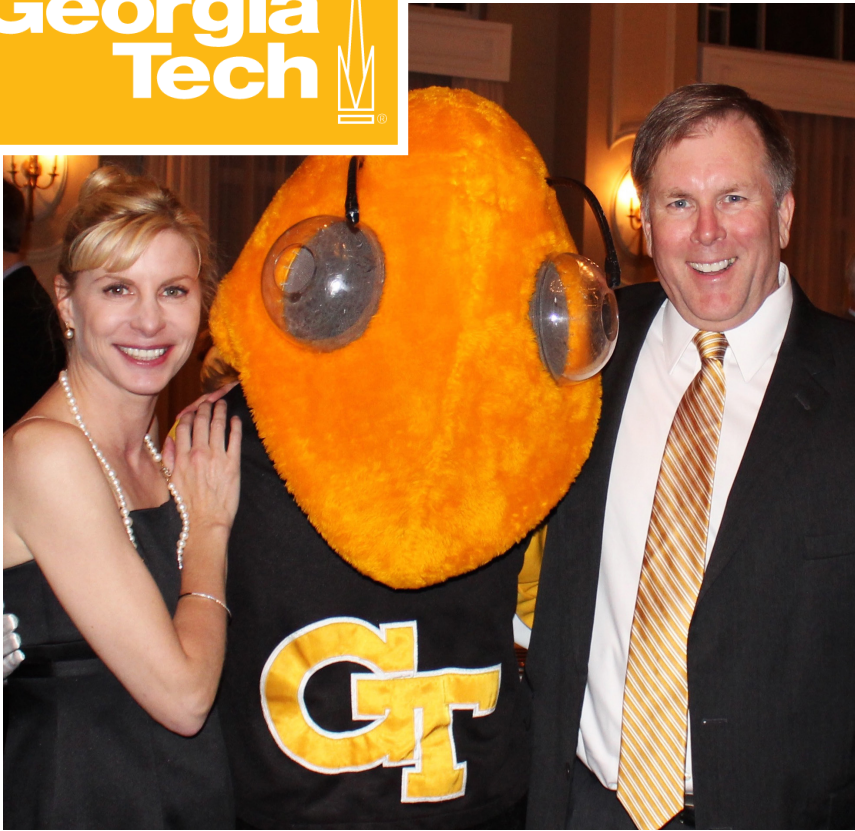


School of Economics



annual alumni reception recap and pictures

Each fall, the School of Economics hosts an Annual Alumni Reception. Our 2015 Alumni Reception was held on Friday, October 23rd at the Georgian Terrace Hotel on Peachtree Street. We had nearly 100 people attend the reception, including more than forty alumni of the School of Economics. We hope that all of you who were able to attend had an excellent evening celebrating the School of Economics with us! For those of you unable to attend this year, please mark your calendars for the 2016 Alumni Reception, which will be held on the Friday evening of Homecoming Weekend. Official details will be announced once the 2016 Football Schedule is released.



letter from the chair

dr. david laband

For those of you who have not yet heard, Georgia Tech's undergraduate program in Economics was recently ranked as the fourth best in the United States by College Choice. Their ranking criteria were tuition cost (low) and average starting salary of graduates (high). We are one of only four universities in the country with a mean starting salary above \$60,000 per year. In addition, our Master's program in Economics was ranked #24 by College Choice, based on tuition cost and program reputation. Increasingly, the SOE is becoming more widely recognized and as a result, we are being approached by major firms who seek to target-recruit our students. We are connecting our undergraduate and M.S. students to these prospective employers through our newly-launched "Lunch and Learn" initiative, in which representatives from an organization host lunch and discuss internship and employment opportunities.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a spotlight on my colleague, Vivek Ghosal. Vivek is an internationally-prominent scholar and the Director of Graduate Programs. He now enjoys the well-deserved distinction of being our first holder of the Mary S. and Richard B. Inman Jr. Professorship in Economics. This is a landmark moment for us as the Inman Professorship is the first endowed professorship in the SOE. Professorships, both endowed and termed, provide us with critically important resources to attract and retain the high-caliber faculty that enable us to earn national recognition for our academic programs and contributions to science. This is one important way that you can make a significant, positive, long-term impact on the School. I hope you will consider creating a professorship as your circumstances permit. I would be delighted to discuss this at any time.

Finally, every five years, each academic program at Georgia Tech undergoes a formal review to assess direction and effectiveness and to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. This year it is our turn; we will be visited by an external review team from November 29 through December 1. In the next newsletter I plan to share the findings of the report issued by the review team. In the meantime, I hope you all have a safe and joyful holiday season!

- David Laband



contact us

CHAIR

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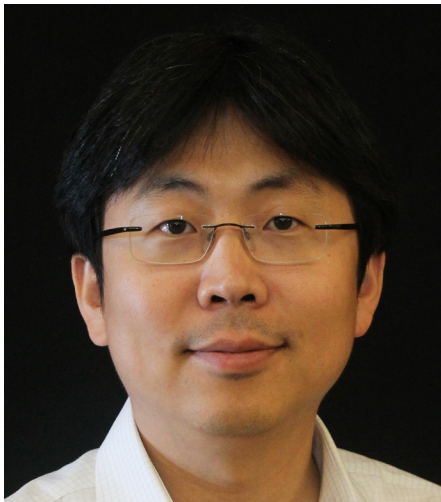
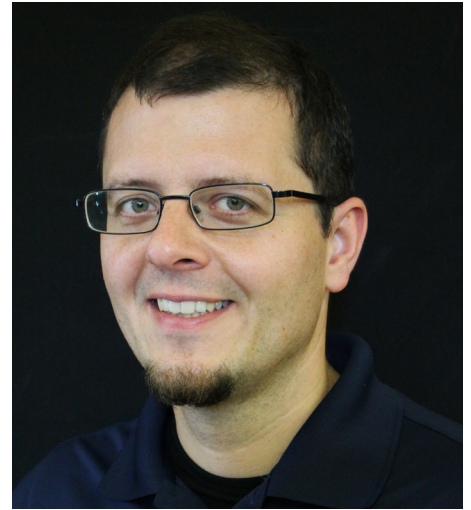
404.894.1363

new faculty in the soe michael kummer and seunghoon lee

Michael Kummer, Ph.D.

Dr. Michael Kummer joined Georgia Tech as an Assistant Professor of Economics in August 2015. His research interests focus on the generation of user generated content in networks, the structure of online markets, as well as the interaction of firms and consumers online. He is also interested in industrial organization and applied econometrics.

Previously, Dr. Kummer was a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim, Germany. Joining ZEW in 2009, he was in the ZEW Doctoral Studies Network Program (DocNet) and obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Mannheim in 2014. Prior to earning his Ph.D., Kummer studied Economics at the University of Vienna, obtained his M.S. in Mathematical Economics from the Toulouse School of Economics, and was a research assistant at the Johannes Kepler University, Linz.



Seunghoon Lee, Ph.D.

Dr. Seunghoon Lee joined the School of Economics at Georgia Tech in August 2015 as an Assistant Professor. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University in June 2015 and his B.S. in Economics from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in 2008. His research is in the field of international economics with particular interest in trade policy and trade finance. In order to clearly interpret various economic mechanisms, he builds a model, derives its theoretical implications, and tests these implications with data.

While at Stanford, he received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award in both 2013 and 2014 and is currently teaching ECON 7004: Mathematics for Economists to the Ph.D. students at Georgia Tech.

introducing lunch & learn a new career program for economics students

THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

LUNCH



LEARN

MEET. EAT. DISCOVER NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

In Fall 2015, the School of Economics launched a new program titled Lunch & Learn for undergraduate and M.S. students. This career-focused initiative is intended to help the School of Economics establish relationships with employers in the Atlanta area and allow interested companies to target recruit our best students.

The premise is simple: the company provides the lunch and the information, and the School of Economics provides an interested audience for the message. This allows businesses the opportunity to showcase what they have to offer students and gives students a chance to learn about available internship and career opportunities.

Thus far, we have partnered with Capital One, Capgemini Consulting, and Deloitte, and look forward to working with many more companies throughout the year. Interested parties should contact Jade Hill for further information and/or to schedule a Lunch & Learn in Spring 2016.

student spotlights

lindsay purcell & jasper narvil

Lindsay Purcell, B.S. Economics

Currently a fourth-year student, Lindsay is the President of Omicron Delta Epsilon and the Vice President of the Ivan Allen Student Advisory Board. She is also an Ivan Allen Ambassador and a tutor through the Georgia Tech Athletic Association. Some of her responsibilities include giving tours to potential students, planning new events like the first ever Ivan Allen College Freshmen Kickoff, and working to develop and grow the Georgia Tech chapter of ODE. Lindsay is also involved in the classroom; one of her projects was presented last spring at the Undergraduate Research Symposium and she is planning to start her independent research this spring on how education affects Congressional voting patterns. Following graduation in May 2016, Lindsay plans to attend graduate school in either Management or Finance before beginning a career as a financial analyst. When asked about her education, Lindsay said, "I think being an Economics major at Tech is the perfect balance of everything that GT has to offer. We take all the difficult math and computer science classes, but then we also get to take entire classes on things like global development which reminds students of the human side of sciences. Our school is small enough to have a close community, but we get to go to a giant research institution like Georgia Tech."



Jasper Narvil, B.S. Economics and International Affairs

A few weeks ago, second-year EIA student Jasper Narvil was awarded the President's Undergraduate Research Award (PURA). These competitive awards include a \$1,500 stipend to undergraduate students who are conducting research with a Georgia Tech faculty member. Jasper will be spending the spring semester developing "An Evaluation and Analysis of Potential Linkages Between Income Inequality, Environmental Health, and Sustainability" under the guidance of Dr. Shatakshee Dhongde. Throughout the term, Jasper hopes to compile global data and analyze the relation between income distribution trends and patterns in environmental degradation across countries. He says that he is extremely excited about the award because it gives "the opportunity to immerse myself in a topic that I'm absolutely fascinated with, and doing so with the mentorship of a professor as accomplished as Dr. Dhongde." In addition to his research activities, Jasper is a Peer Leader at Fitten Residence Hall, a member of the External Relations team for AIESEC GT, works with the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, and is active in Sigma Iota Rho Honor Society. He is also an avid traveler and is currently planning a trip over winter break to Brazil and Peru.

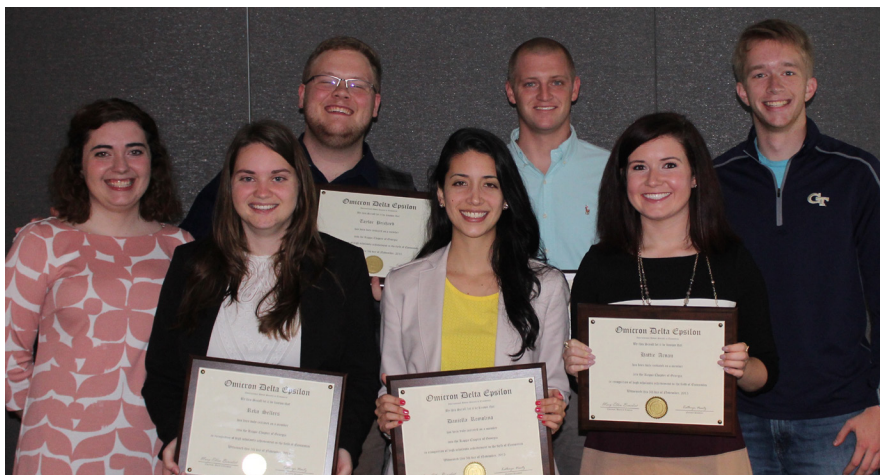


omicron delta epsilon honor society induction

Each semester, Omicron Delta Epsilon inducts new students into the Georgia Kappa chapter at Georgia Institute of Technology. In order to be eligible, students must obtain all A's and B's in twelve hours of Economics coursework.

Students inducted this year include:

- Jonathan Applegate
- Anna (Hattie) Arnau
- James Baker
- Mianfeng Liu
- Taylor Prichard
- Daniella Remolina
- Reba Sellers
- Zachary Wade



Pictured Above: ODE President Lindsay Purcell, Reba Sellers, Taylor Prichard, Daniella Remolina, Jonathan Applegate, Hattie Arnau, and Current Member Sam Norris

faculty updates

publications, presentations, and more

Publications

JUAN MORENO-CRUZ

"A New Approach for Optimal Electricity Planning and Dispatching with Hourly Time-Scale Air Quality and Health Considerations." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 112(35): 10884-10889.

"Does Atlanta Value MARTA? Selecting an Autoregressive Model to Recover Willingness to Pay." *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* 78: 214-230.

"Mitigation and the Geoengineering Threat." *Resource and Energy Economics* 41: 248-263.

"Regional Energy Rebound Effect: The Impact of Economy-Wide and Sector Level Energy Improvement in Georgia, USA." *Energy Policy* 87: 250-259.

"The Alternatives to Unconstrained Climate Change: Emission Reductions Versus Carbon and Solar Geoengineering." *Towards a Workable and Effective Climate Regime*. Vox eBook.

USHA NAIR-REICHERT

"Access to Higher Public Education and Location Choices of Undocumented

Migrants: An Exploratory Analysis." *International Advances in Economic Research* 21(2): 189-199.

MATTHEW OLIVER

"Contests, Common Agency, and Corruption: Why the Green Candidate Seldom Wins." *Strategic Behavior and Environment* 5(2): 87-109.

Conference Presentations

TIBOR BESEDES

"Experimenting with Ash: The Trade Effects of Airspace Closures in the Aftermath of Eyjafjallajökull," Empirical Investigations in International Trade Conference, Bali.

BYUNG-CHEOL KIM

"The Economics of the Right-to-be Forgotten," NET Institute Conference, New York City.

HAIZHENG LI

Served as Local Organizing Committee Co-Chair, 2015 Asian Finance Association Annual Meeting, Changsha.

JUAN MORENO-CRUZ

"Climate Tipping Points and Solar Geoengineering," Harvard Seminar in Environmental Economics and Policy, Cambridge.

"New World Crops and the African Slave Trade," Southern Economics Association Meeting, New Orleans.

"Solar Geoengineering and the Social Cost of Carbon," NBER Environmental and Energy Economics Conference, Boston.

USHA NAIR-REICHERT

"Determinants of the Recovery Margin of Trade," European Economics and Finance Society Conference, Brussels.

"Success After Failure: The Recovery Margin of Trade and Quality Upgrading in U.S. Imports," European Economics and Finance Society Conference, Orléans.

OLGA SHEMYAKINA

"Domestic Violence and Armed Conflict: Attitudes and Experiences" and Session Chair, "Women Empowerment and Domestic Violence," The 11th Households in Conflict Network Workshop, Toronto.

"Political Violence, Land Reform, and Child Health: Results from Zimbabwe," Confronting

Fragility and Conflict: Annual World Bank Conference on Africa, Berkeley.

Invited Talks

TIBOR BESEDES

"Trade Agreements and the Fragility of Trade Relationships: Theory and Evidence," Indiana University, Bloomington.

VIVEK GHOSAL

"Policy Innovations, Political Preferences, and Cartel Enforcement," Social Sciences Korea International Conference on Competition Law Enforcement, Seoul.

"Competition and Innovation in Automobile Markets," Conference on "Overcoming the Crisis: How to Foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship in a Diverging European Economy?" Mannheim.

HAIZHENG LI

"Human Capital and Pre-College Education," Fifth Changqing Foundation Public Lecture, Beijing.

"Rural Human Capital in China and Future Economic Growth," The International Symposium: Human Capital and Challenge of Economic Growth in China, Xi'an.

USHA NAIR-REICHERT

Keynote Speaker: "Evolution of the Innovation Ecosystem in the U.S." Conference of New Forms of Innovation and Competitiveness: Enterprise, Industry, and Country Perspective, Warsaw.

Awards & Grants

JUAN MORENO-CRUZ

National Science Foundation Grant for "Regional Industrial Structure, Economic Resilience and Energy Consumption: Comparative Evaluation, Historical Analysis, and Pathway towards a More Sustainable Economy," \$300,000.

HAIZHENG LI

National Natural Science Foundation of China Director's Grant for "Large Data Project Management and Mid-Term Review," RMB 133,000 (\$21,100).

USHA NAIR-REICHERT

Fulbright Specialist Award, Warsaw School of Economics.

OLGA SHEMYAKINA

IZA Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor.

attention alumni!



In the next SOE newsletter, we would like to share your personal and professional achievements. Please let us know what is happening in your life at:

<http://econ.gatech.edu/alumni/update>

We're thinking about implementing a Young Alumni Board for the SOE, and we want you to be involved! If you graduated in the last seven years (2008-2015) and would be interested in serving a three-year term as a member of our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Board, let us know! We are looking for interested alumni from all over the world - you do not have to live in the Atlanta area! Please contact Jade Hill if you would like more information or if you are interested in joining the Board.

Our Spring Alumni Event will be held in April or May in Atlanta, with Alumni Meetups with Dr. Laband taking place throughout the country this summer. If you would like to suggest an alumni event or if you would like Dr. Laband to meet you in your city, please let us know.

inman professorship

vivek ghosal



This semester, Dr. Vivek Ghosal was appointed as the inaugural Mary S. and Richard B. Inman Jr. Professor in Economics. Professor Ghosal joined the School of Economics in 2001. His research interests include firm strategy related to innovation, environmental regulations, and business strategy; firms' decision-making under uncertainty; antitrust enforcement; and regulatory reform to enhance competition and innovation. He is currently focusing on industries such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical devices. Dr. Ghosal has published two edited books, *The Political Economy of Antitrust* (Elsevier, 2007) and *Reforming Rules and Regulations: Laws, Institutions and Implementation* (MIT Press, 2010) and is a member of the editorial boards of *Review of Industrial Organization* and *Business Strategy and the Environment*. He has also published extensively in journals in economics, management, and law and economics.

"Mary and I are pleased to support the School of Economics through this endowment," said Richard Inman at a special reception honoring Dr. Ghosal's appointment. "As Chairman of the SOE Advisory Board, I hope this gift will play a role in shaping the future of the School and inspire others to make similar investments."

Congratulations to Dr. Vivek Ghosal, and thank you to Richard and Mary Inman. Your support of the School of Economics, our faculty members, and our students is very much appreciated.

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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