



Department of Economics Newsletter

June 2020

(R.Moffitt, Editor)

GENERAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

They say that every year is unique, but this one has been more “unique” than most. The University has been under lockdown since mid-March, with only essential personnel allowed on campus. All classes went online and almost all undergraduates returned home, often to their countries of origin. The State of Maryland enacted a stay-at-home order which has only recently been modified to a safer-at-home order, although not in Baltimore City. The University undergraduate Commencement as well as the Ph.D. award ceremony were both held virtually. The University is facing a major financial crisis and does not know what form the Fall semester will take. Of particular concern for our graduate students who will be on the market next year is whether there will be many universities doing any hiring, since many are facing revenue shortfalls.

Closer to home, the Economics Department has had to cancel several conferences that are ordinarily held in the Spring. All visiting speaker seminars were cancelled. However, graduate student presentations continued in virtual format. Graduate courses were all conducted online.

Several of the faculty have contributed to writing on the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic crisis, including Professors **Barbera, Kahn, Moffitt, Norris, Papageorge, and Wright**. Their writings can be found on the Economics website at <https://econ.jhu.edu/2020/04/23/economics-faculty-offer-expertise-on-the-economic-implications-of-covid-19-pandemic/>. The Economics Department also co-sponsored a lecture on Triage Protocol Design by Tayfun Sonmez, which was held in virtual format in early May. Professor **Papageorge** engaged with a JHU epidemiologist, David Dowdy, on the different perspectives each brought to the COVID-19 crisis as well. **Jonathan**

Wright gave a Zoom Lecture on “The Macroeconomics of COVID-19.”

Before the March shutdown, the Department enjoyed its normal research, instructional, and social activity. In September, we welcomed two new faculty members: **Lixiong Li**, Assistant Professor coming from Penn State, and **Matthew Kahn**, arriving from USC as a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor. Professor Kahn was also appointed as Director of the 21st Century City Initiative, a JHU-wide effort to bring the expertise of JHU faculty to the problems of cities in general and Baltimore in particular. Also joining us in September was Brendan Daley as the Ralph S. O’Connor Associate Professor, arriving from the University of Colorado. New Assistant Professor Yujung Hwang arrived in the Department in January, from Yale.

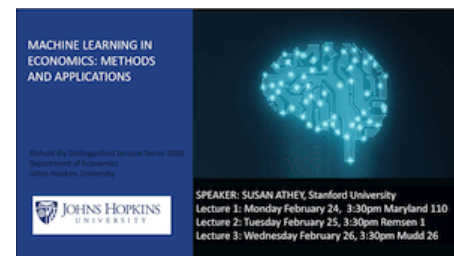
A goodbye reception was held at the Faculty Club in September for our retiring IT administrator, Nina Agopian, with many testimonials and happy memories recited.

Below: Nina with Donna and former JHU faculty member Joe Harrington.



The Department was well represented at the AEA Meetings in January, 2020 in San Diego. Among the faculty, **Greg Duffee, Olivier Jeanne, Yingyao Hu, Matthew Kahn, Robert Moffitt, and Richard Spady** were on the program and **Nick Papageorge** and **Jonathan Wright** were in attendance. The traditional cocktail party and alumni reception also drew more than 50 current and former graduate students and faculty, with those attending having the opportunity to say hello to old friends and to make new ones. We will be having another in January, 2021 in Chicago (inshallah). Mark it on your calendars.

Our annual Richard T. Ely Lecture this year was given in February by **Susan Athey** (poster below) from Stanford University, who gave three stimulating lectures on “Machine Learning in Economics: Methods and Applications.” For more details, including the Lectures themselves, see <https://econ.jhu.edu/research-areas/ely-lectures/>.



A new development in our undergraduate program was the formation of an Economics Club, supervised by faculty coordinator **Somasree Dasgupta**. Here is a photo of their first meeting in March, a networking session with Economics graduate students:



For the second year, the Department sponsored a series of lunch seminars for undergraduates introducing them to the world of economic research. The seminars were given by faculty and graduate students, speaking about their research, and the series is coordinated by **Barbara Morgan** and **Nick Papageorge**.

In other news, I was honored to assume the Chairmanship of the Department this academic year, which has been a rewarding experience.

To keep up with developments in the Department as they happen, keep track on the department website, <http://www.econ.jhu.edu/>.

FACULTY NEWS

Larry Ball was the Wim Duisenberg Fellow at the European Central Bank in the Fall of 2019.

Bob Barbera wrote a blog on the oil market, OPEC, and related issues. <https://cfe.econ.jhu.edu/saudis-russians-chineseand-greens-four-dimensional-chess-time-corona/>

Filipe Campante, Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor joint with SAIS, has been appointed Vice Dean for Education and Academic Affairs at SAIS.

Chris Carroll gave the keynote address at the 6th Conference on Household Finance and Consumption in Dublin in December.

Ying Chen presented her work on vote buying at the Wallis Conference in Political Economy at University of Rochester and at a Columbia University Political Economy Conference. She became an Associate Editor at Journal of Mathematical Economics.

Brendan Daley, the Ralph S. O'Connor Associate Professor of Economics, enjoyed

his first year at Johns Hopkins. In addition to his research, he developed new courses on the economics of real estate (undergraduate) and on information in large markets (graduate).

Somasree Dasgupta was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer this year. She taught International Trade as well as courses on "Rich Countries, Poor Countries" and "The Economics of the BRIC Countries." Soma also organized the first undergraduate Economics Club for the Department this year.

Greg Duffee, the Carl Christ Professor of Economics, gave talks at American University and the University of Guelph this year.

Marcelo Fernandez gave talks at the Match-Up conference in Switzerland, the Conference on Economic Design in Hungary, and the North American Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society.

Yingyao Hu gave talks at Ohio State University and University of Southern California, and particularly enjoyed coaching his daughter in the annual North America Table Tennis Teams Tournament during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Muhammad Husain was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer this year. He taught Microeconomic Theory, Econometrics and Labor Economics to over 200 undergraduate students and also advised 30 juniors and worked as co-supervisor on a senior thesis. One of his working papers, collaborating with the CDC and the WHO, received a R&R in Tobacco Control. And his second child, Saheem Husain, was born on December 6.

Yujung Hwang did a post-doc at the University of Geneva and was awarded a HCEO dissertation prize from the University of Chicago. She gave talks at Chicago, UCL, University of Lausanne, ASREC European Conference, HCEO Conference, and the OECD Annual Conference on Immigration. She is scheduled to give virtual talks at the SOLE meeting and Econometric Society World Congress this summer. She was awarded two research grants from the Hopkins HBHI initiative and the Hopkins Population Center to conduct research on anti-Asian racism.

Olivier Jeanne organized a visit of the International Monetary Fund for graduate students in October. He also presented at paper, "Currency and Trade Wars" at the NBER-CCER Conference in China and the

World Economy at Peking University in Beijing last May.

Edi Karni, the Scott and Barbara Black Professor of Economics, presented "Probabilistic Sophistication without Completeness" at two conferences last summer, the D-TEA 2019 conference in Paris and the Inaugural Conference on Behavioral, Biological and Experimental Economics in Chengdu, China. He also presented joint work with graduate student **Yen-lin (Eric) Chiu**, "Competitive Equilibrium Fraud in the Markets for Credence Goods," at the Paris Game Theory seminar and at SHUFE in Shanghai.

Matthew Kahn, the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Economics and Business, gave a keynote address at the World Bank in September and the Rice Lecture at the NYU Wagner School in October. He also published an Amazon Kindle Book, *Price Theory Problems*, in January.

Ali Khan was a plenary speaker at the Positivity X conference in Pretoria where he reported results obtained by Niccolo Urbinati and JHU grad **Metin Uyanik**. He also participated in the 19th Annual SAET Conference last summer and introduced John Geanakoplos for his "Lionel McKenzie Lecture."

Lixiong Li gave talks last Fall at UW-Madison, University of Pennsylvania, University of Maryland, and at the Greater New York Metropolitan Area Econometrics Colloquium.

Robert Moffitt, the Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Economics, published a paper in *Quantitative Economics* in November with **Yingyao Hu** and Yuya Sasaki. He is co-organizing a virtual conference in June in Berlin for the Society of Labor Economists.

Barbara Morgan continued as faculty advisor for the popular EPIC (Economic Policy Issues Colloquium), an undergraduate policy workshop that introduces students to diverse perspectives in the discipline. Topics presented this year included mechanisms for allocating public school slots, incentives in U.S. Welfare programs, perspectives on Medicare for All, and the urban economics of Baltimore.

Nicholas Papageorge, the Broadus Mitchell Associate Professor of Economics, will deliver a plenary address at the virtual World Congress of the Econometric Society this summer.

Ludmila Poliakov, in addition to continuing teaching Macroeconomic Theory and Monetary Analysis, has designed and taught a new course this year, Economics of Transition and Institutional Change. The course introduced students to the comparative analysis of institutions of the existing economic systems and to the historical evolution of those institutions. The course was successful with 15 students (the cap for this course).

John Quah helped to organize the 2019 NSF/NBER/CEME Conference on Mathematical Economics at Berkeley. It was held in honor of his advisor, Robert M Anderson. He also presented a paper at that conference on extensions of stochastic dominance. A paper of his on testing procedures for models of decision making under uncertainty was accepted at the American Economic Review, after a decade-long gestation. Elephants are known to take less time.

Richard Spady gave two talks at Oxford this Fall, one in the Nuffield Econometrics Seminar and one at the Institute of Quantitative Finance.

Jonathan Wright was an invited speaker at several conferences this year, including the University of Southern California, the Federal Bank of Chicago, and the IMF annual research conference.

I would also like to update you on news about **Louis Maccini**, Professor Emeritus, retired from the Hopkins in 2013 who spent his entire career in the Department. He and his wife moved to Ann Arbor, MI to be closer to their grandchildren as they are growing up. He is no longer teaching--an activity that he thoroughly enjoyed--and he is no longer serving on committees. However, he is still very active in research. Last Fall, he published a paper in the Journal of Money, Credit and Banking. And he is now actively working on a research project that incorporates time-to-build into the supply-side of investment decisions on plant and equipment. He is very much enjoying this work. However, he very much misses Hopkins! In particular, he misses the collegiality that he enjoyed with students and faculty both in the Economics department and in University as a whole.

We also enjoyed having three visiting faculty who taught courses for us this year. **Kevin Heerdt** taught courses on "History and Future of the Hedge Fund Industry" and "Information and Investing." **Floyd Norris**, retired from Chief Financial Correspondent

at the New York Times, taught "Rethinking Economics After the Great Recession" and "Financial Writing and Analysis." **Giovanna Maria Dora Dore** taught courses for us on "The Informal Economy" and "Migrating Opportunity." And I would also like to thank **Barclay Knapp** for his long-taught course for us on Managerial Economics and Business Strategies.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The Department welcomed the incoming first-year students in September with a party which faculty and other graduate students attended. A photo gallery from the party is available at

<https://econ.jhu.edu/2019/09/23/new-doctoral-students-welcome-party-6/> and one photo is included here:

Below: Professor Li with several students.



In November, a group of our graduate students visited the IMF in Washington for a day, talking about research and career opportunities. Photos can be seen at <https://econ.jhu.edu/2019/11/01/jhu-phd-students-visit-the-imf-in-washington-dc-to-learn-about-careers-opportunities-and-jobs/>. The occasional student broke down and wore a tie or formal dress.

As noted in previous newsletters, the Department has several funded awards to honor some of our most accomplished graduate students. The Eugenio and Patricia Castillo Award is given to the student or students who displayed the best performance in their first two years in the graduate program. The 2019-2020 recipient is **Mateo Velasquez-Giraldo**.

Below: Photo of Mateo Velasquez-Giraldo



The Bruce Hamilton Research Seminar Award is given to the advanced graduate student who has demonstrated the best performance in one of the department's research workshops. Again funded by Eugenio and Patricia Castillo, it is named in honor of Professor Emeritus Bruce Hamilton who was well-known for his insightful and clever comments at seminars. This Spring's award went to **Perna Rakheja** for her remarks, comments, and questions at our workshops.

Below: Photo of Perna Rakheja.



Below: Photo of Sahan Yildiz.



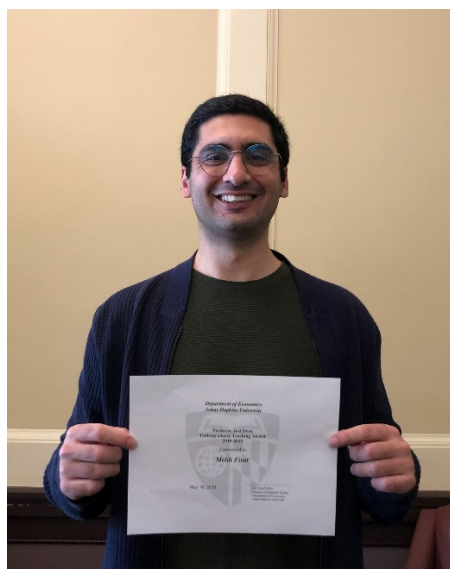
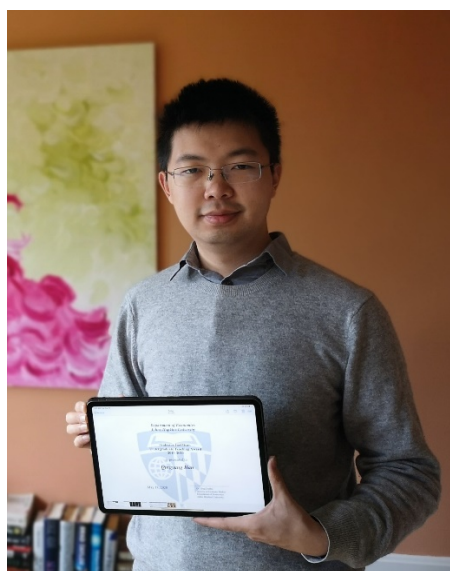
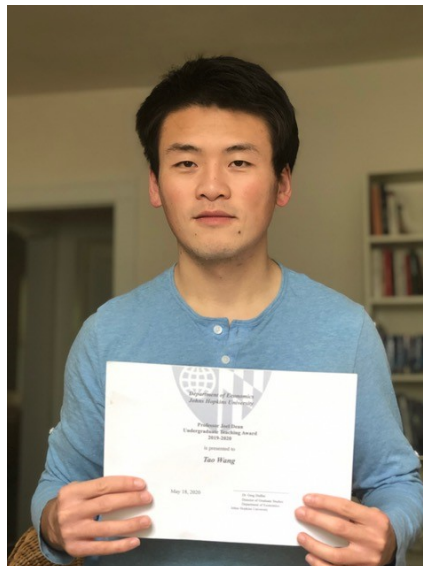
Two other awards were also given this year. **Sahan Yildiz** received the Carl Christ award, given to an outstanding student at the dissertation level in the program, and **Emma Kalish** received the Guggenheimer Award, given to a student who has exhibited exceptional performance in his or her Ph.D. research.

Below: Photo of Emma Kalish.



The Professor Joel Dean Undergraduate Teaching Award was established in 2009 to recognize graduate students who exhibited extraordinary performance in teaching Hopkins undergraduates. This award was creatively conceived by Professor Dean's son Joel and his wife Monia. Professor Dean received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1936 and was a pioneer in applying economics to business decision-making. The 2019-2020 recipients are **Melih Firat**, **Qingyang Han**, and **Tao Wang**.

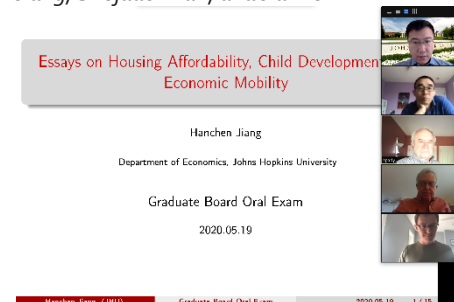
Below: Photos of Tao Wang, Qingyang Han and Melih Firat.



Hearty congratulations to all these graduate students, who exemplify the best of the Johns Hopkins graduate program.

Three students have successfully defended their dissertations in oral examinations since our last Newsletter. They are **Hanchen Jiang**, **Shujaat Khan**, and **Jianhui Li**. A few pictures of the students and their examining committees are shown below (the first one shown was by Zoom).

Below: Photos of Committees for Hanchen Jiang, Shujaat Khan, and Jianhui Li.



This is visual proof that it is possible to successfully complete a dissertation.

The Department placed three students on the job market this year, including **Sue Bahk**, **Hanchen Jiang**, and **Osama Khan**. They have accepted positions at American University, the University of North Texas, and the University of Rochester (post-doc). I wish them the best in their future careers.

Many of our other graduate students had notable activities this academic year. **Julien Acalin** attended a 3-day seminar, the Princeton Initiative: Macro, Money, and Finance, in September. **Derin Aksit**

attended the ASSA Annual Meeting in San Diego with the American Finance Association's PhD Student Travel Grant and had papers accepted in the Western Economic Association's Annual Conference, the Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference of the London Business School, the APPAM Regional Student Conference, and the annual Congress of the European Economic Association. He also presented a paper at the JHU Carey Business School. **Aniruddha Ghosh** attended a summer Institute at Duke as a fully-funded Institute Scholar and attended a fully-funded open-source macro camp at the University of Chicago with 24 other students from leading universities. **Emma Kalish** coauthored a research brief with Nick Papageorge on the COVID-19 pandemic. **Yusuf Kulu** is the proud father of his baby girl, Ayse Betul Kulu, born on 17th of November, 2019. **Pavel Solis** worked as a Ph.D. intern in the Financial Stability Division at the Bank of Mexico last summer. **Tao Wang** supervised a biweekly Macro/Finance Brownbag Lunch Seminar with the goal of fostering semi-formal academic discussions and improving presentation skills of graduate students, and had papers accepted at two conferences.

Several other students attended the January 2020 meetings of the AEA in San Diego and came to the Departmental Reception.

But the really big graduate program news this year: the Department Intramural Basketball Team won the JHU Intramural 3-on-3 basketball championship! The second time in the last 4 years. Check out photos: <https://econ.jhu.edu/2019/12/18/congratulations-to-our-department-basketball-team/>.

ALUMNI NEWS

Margaret Elaine Wache Greenbaum and **Stuart Greenbaum**, PhD students at JHU's Department of Political Economy in the early 1960's, remain in retirement in St. Louis MO. Stuart served as dean of The Olin School of business at Washington University from 1995-2005 and retired in 2007. A 20-year stint at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University preceded their joining Washington University in STL. They would be interested in hearing from JHU contemporaries inclined to write, greenbaum@wustl.edu, or phone, 314 882 7834. They are open to Facetime, ZOOM or alternative modern communications technologies.

Alan Sorkin (Ph.D., 1966) received the Heritage Award from John Hopkins University for "exceptional and devoted service" in October. The award was presented at the B&O Railroad Museum.

John Hartwick (Ph.D., 1969) reports that, within weeks of retiring after 50 years at Queen's in Ontario, in the summer of 2019, Elgar urged him to write a book on national accounting, and then months later the Queen's department became aware of his forthcoming article on global warming with Tapan Mitra and asked him to remount his graduate course that has much on sustainability. Suddenly the virus, presaging a huge retrenchment no doubt in the econ. department... a re-retirement in the works, presumably.

G.S.Gupta (Ph.D., 1971) graduated in 1970/1971 with the Ph.D. from the Dept. During June 1970 to April 2003, he was a tenured Faculty (Asst. Professor for first four years and Professor/ Bank of Baroda Chair Professor subsequently) at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA). Also, he had the honor of rejoining IIMA on invitation as a Professor on contract for full-time during Oct 2006 through March 2010. In between, while on leave from IIMA, he was a full-time Visiting Professor at Illinois State University for five semesters at varying terms during 1982-1990 and Professor at University Sains Malaysia for a total of about two and a half years during 1993-94 and 1997-99. Post superannuation from IIMA, he was Dean/ Professor of Eminence at Institute of Management, Nirma University for about first 20 months, and subsequently he has been an Independent Management Consultant, wherein he has rendered services at six IIMs, a couple of IITs, several other educational institutions and a public sector corporation as an Independent Director for 10 years, and has revised his books on Macro Economics and Managerial Economics. His wife, Lalita, and he are blessed with three children and six grandchildren. They are settled in USA, Switzerland and UAE. The children are all are doing well and they are proud of them. His wife and he continue living in Ahmedabad and, like everyone else in the world, are currently under lockdown and praying for the early exit of coronavirus.

Jaime de Melo (Ph.D., 1975) has been living mostly in Mauritius for the past 2 years and decided to stay there since early March. The government there played it very safely with a hard lockdown for 7—going to 10—weeks where they have spared their weak hospital facilities. His 3 daughters – in NY, Madrid, London—made it back to Geneva at the last

minute. They have cocktails on zoom once a week from Mauritius. So they are very fortunate for the family and to be in confinement there ---and he should add to have avoided the truly deplorable handling, most notably in the US---there, during lockdown, doctors would often give chloroquine + antibiotic for a few days by phone to patients staying at home (they have a total of 332 cases, 10 deaths and all 316 recovered). Arguably, good old chloroquine for malaria has a part in the better stats in Africa so far. He wishes the best to all, and invites anyone to email him about his research at Jaime.DeMelo@unige.ch.

Susan Vroman (Ph.D., 1977) is still at Georgetown and, like everyone else, has had to move her classes to Zoom since March and to administer her exams online. In March when Georgetown went to remote learning, she and her spouse, Jim Albrecht (also in the Econ Dept at Georgetown) moved to coastal Downeast Maine where they have a summer house, which fortunately is insulated and heated. It is quiet and productive. They are on an island and haven't seen too many people.

Craig Thornton (Ph.D., 1978) is retired from Mathematica but is the president of the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis this year. He put together a webpage that lists a lot of the material about using benefit-cost analysis to assess various ways to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: http://host8.viethwebhosting.com/~sbca/redesign/covid-19_benefit_cost_analysis.php. In October the Society is going to try to deliver a micro-conference online. They had to cancel their European conference due to the virus, but the keynote speakers, Jason Shogren and John Hassler, agreed to give online talks. Jason did one of the first benefit-cost analyses of social distancing. He is going to talk about that study and about the challenges of trying to inform decisionmakers when you don't have nearly all the data you would like.

Mohamad Elhage (Ph.D., 1992) retired from the IMF at the end of May after 27 years, and in June started a new position as the Strategic Advisor for the Central Bank of Somalia (CBS). In that capacity, he has been advising the CBS governor and senior staff on macroeconomic and monetary issues and helping the CBS move to a functional-based organizational structure. Since retirement, he has been able to spend more time with his family and in travel.

Ugo Panizza (Ph.D., 1997) has been appointed vice-president of CEPR in London,

mostly in charge of CEPR policy-related research activities and Director of the International Centre for Monetary and Banking Studies in Geneva (Larry Ball once wrote a report for ICMB, when the director was Charles Wyplosz).

Yang Zhao (Ph.D., 1998) lives in New Jersey. She has been in the healthcare industry for over 21 years, in the pharmaceutical industry since 2003, and has worked for Eli Lilly and Company, Novartis, and San Pharma. She is a Senior Director of Health Economics & Outcomes Research (HE&OR) with Kyowa Kirin Pharmaceutical Development, Inc. She is building the HE&OR capabilities to support product development and commercialization in nephrology, immunology, oncology, and central nerve system.

Xue Song (Ph.D., 2000) enjoys conducting health economics and outcomes research at IBM Watson Health. She is happy to lead a real-world study on COVID-19 to help with clinical trials on treatment. Her husband, **Junfu Zhang** (Ph.D., 2001) was promoted to full professor at Clark University two years ago, and is currently serving as president of the Chinese Economists Society. They live with their two boys, 16 and 8 years old, in Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

Joseph (Joe) Gruber (Ph.D., 2001) has been appointed Research Director at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank.

Julie Smith (Ph.D., 2002) has been promoted to Full Professor at Lafayette College effective this July 1.

Robert Tchaidze (Ph.D., 2002) is finishing his three-year term as the IMF Resident Representative in the Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza). His daughter has recently turned three and his son was born there a year ago. A two-month lockdown with a very active toddler and a baby that wants to stick his nose into every corner of the house is tricky, but he and his wife are managing. They have enjoyed their stay in Jerusalem and appreciated being close to Georgia, their home country, and are now looking forward to going back to D.C. and reconnecting with their friends there.

Gergana Danailova-Trainor (Ph.D, 2004) I participated in a few human trafficking research panels at UNODC and the International Conference on Human Trafficking Research, published a paper with several co-authors in International Lawyer titled "Beyond Good Intentions: New Legislation on Foreign Aid Effectiveness", and participated in several GAO reports on international procurement agreements that

seemed to have impact on executive orders related to trade agreements. On the personal front, her daughter is graduating from the School of the Cathedral and starting her high school journey at Bryn Mawr in Baltimore.

Danny Gubits (Ph.D., 2005) was the lead author on an article in the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management called "What Interventions Work Best for Families Who Experience Homelessness? Impact Estimates from the Family Options Study". It was awarded APPAM's Vernon Memorial Award for best article in JPAM in 2018. He also reports that he and his family are doing well, with some emotional ups and downs, working and schooling from home. He had already been working from home two days a week, so was already set up for this. His wife, Sarah, has adjusted to giving therapy by Zoom. His daughter Natalie is just in first grade, so the academic stakes are low. She gets math class three times a week, and reading two times. Just 30-45 minutes of Zoom school per day for her.

Katheryn (Kadee) Russ (Ph.D., 2005) I received a university-wide award, the UC Davis 2020 Academic Senate Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award, for service at CEA and publicly engaged scholarship since returning (<https://katherynruss.weebly.com/media-mentions.html>).

Nicholas Hill (Ph.D., 2006) was nominated (the winner will be announced in October; COVID-19 delay) as a candidate for global competition economist of the year by Global Competition Review. The nomination statement said "after working as an economist at the US Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice's antitrust division – where he rose to assistant chief of the competition policy section - in 2017 became a principal in the competition practice at Bates White. Since then, he has quickly become one of the prominent and successful testifying economists in court matters involving the US antitrust agencies. In 2019, the FTC was able to wring concessions from the Tronox/Cristal merger after winning a preliminary injunction against the deal, for which the judge said Hill's conclusions were "more consistent with the business realities". Judge Richard Leon allowed the DOJ to complete its settlement of a challenge to CVS Health's acquisition of Aetna following an unprecedented Tunney Act hearing that included Hill's expert opinion in favor of the remedy. And when Evonik and PeroxyChem snapped the FTC's merger trial winning streak, Judge Timothy

Kelly said the merging companies' economic expert, Hill, persuasively testified that the strategic decision to sell more of certain products than others does not qualify as supply-side substitution."

Silvio Contessi (Ph.D., 2007) won a prestigious grant, the Australian Research Grant Discovery Project on "Gross Credit Flows and Credit Reallocation" with Raoul Minetti (MSU) and Mei Dong (Melbourne).

Sandeep Mazumder (Ph.D., 2009) was promoted to Full Professor at Wake Forest, effective this July 1.

Viplav Saini (Ph.D. 2009) has become a Clinical Research Professor in the Economics Department at NYU, and is glad to be in New York.

Guofang Huang (Ph.D., 2011) moved to the Krannert School of Management, Purdue University in the summer of 2018, as an assistant professor of management. He planned to go up for tenure promotion in the Fall but has postponed it by one year. He is glad to share that a chapter of his thesis on the structural estimation of production functions, coauthored with Prof. **Yingyao Hu** and Prof. Yuya Sasaki, has finally been published in the Journal of Econometrics: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0304407619302027?via%3Dihub>. His wife, Shuna, works for PNC Bank remotely. He has two daughters, Sophia (8) and Eloise (5). They both like playing chess and Sophia is also very good at gymnastics.

James Lake (Ph.D., 2012) reports that he and his wife, Nicole, had their second child on May 13 2019. His name is Owen James Lake.

Maia Linask (Ph.D., 2012) has been keeping busy. Son Olev Indrik joined their family in the summer of 2017, Maia was granted tenure at the University of Richmond in spring 2018, and daughter Maarika Kersti joined their family in the fall of 2018. The late spring of 2020 has been spent on some combination of research, referee reports, playing with toy cars, and reading books about animals. Maia is also helping to organize DivEc, a conference hosted by the Richmond Fed that supports undergraduates studying economics in the interests of promoting diversity in the discipline. If anyone in the fifth Fed district has interested students please contact Maia at mmlinask@richmond.edu.

Sangah Lee (Ph.D., 2017) is working at Kookmin University in Seoul, South Korea, as

an instructor. Sangah reports that she is eight-months pregnant, and expecting her first baby in mid-July. :) She and her husband hope that the Coronavirus pandemic settles down before she is born.

Shaiza Qayyum (Ph.D., 2019) has moved to San Francisco for a new job as a data scientist/economist at Uber. Last year she had a baby boy, Emaad.

STAFF NEWS

We welcomed a new IT Administrator this year, **Alan Fisher**. Welcome, Alan! And we have been fortunate to have our other three staff members continue this year. They are **Donna Althoff**, **Jennifer Miller**, and **Kasey Bocek**. Donna, our long-standing departmental administrator, began her 36th year with the Department in January. Jennifer reports on the current lockdown, saying that her daughter adopted a rescued greyhound, sweet and adored by the whole family, and that other family members will be adopting a dog now soon. She also reports missing working with everyone in the department after being home because of a medical leave as well as the COVID-19 lockdown. Jennifer is looking forward to doing more photography when things ease up. Kasey reports that she and her boyfriend bought a house in Belair in November, and that she has been enjoying the opportunity to paint and draw during the lockdown.

DEPARTMENT JACKET

The Department this year sponsored a handsome jacket with the logo "Johns Hopkins Economics". Faculty and students can be seen wearing them around the Department and at conferences, where others often remark on them favorably. Orders can still be made from https://www.logosoftware.com/mySavedDesign.php?c=b176c4a351edd681bc619c8a59173b13&utm_campaign=designlinks&utm_medium=send_design_desktop_new&utm_source=design_link.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Finally, I would like to thank those graduate alumni of the Department who have generously made gifts to the Department in the last year (in addition to those noted in last year's Newsletter). They include **Yonghong An, Cristian DeRitis, Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla, Julie and Steve Hudson, Bruce Jaffee, Catherine Schneider, Julie Smith, Xue Song, Ruli Xiao, Wei Xiao, Kevin Yuan, and Yang Zhao**. These donations go directly to graduate student support for Research Assistant supplements, lunches for the graduate student reading groups, and related activities. The Department seems never to have sufficient funds to support these activities, so donations by our graduate alumni are exceptionally valuable. Please consider a gift, which you can make either by sending a payment to Ms. Donna Althoff, Wyman Building 544E, Department of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore MD 21218, or by donating online at <http://krieger.jhu.edu/giving>, where you should click on "give now," then "secure online giving form" and designate that your gift be given to "Other" and then to "Economics Department."

Yingyao Hu, Chair