



THIS ISSUE

*Important Dates**Faculty Spotlight**EC Alumni Spotlight**EC London Study Abroad App. Due Feb. 25th**EC Professional Development Program (New)**EC Scholarships Due March 1st**Campus & CSN Events*

IMPORTANT DATES

- IF YOU PLAN TO GRADUATE SPRING OR SUMMER 2022 AND HAVE NOT APPLIED TO GRADUATE PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY
- [EC LONDON STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION DUE FEBRUARY 25TH](#)
- LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES WITH NO GRADE REPORTED IS MARCH 2ND
- SPRING BREAK MARCH 7TH-11TH
- ENROLLMENT BY APPOINTMENT BEGINS APRIL 11TH PLEASE PLAN YOUR SCHEDULE AHEAD OF YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME

ADVISING

APPOINTMENTS

If you have questions about enrollment, please schedule an Advising Appointment student.msu.edu

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: EMILIE JACKSON

I'm Emilie Jackson. I joined MSU this fall (2021) as an assistant professor after finishing my PhD in Economics at Stanford University. I was born in Chicago and am thrilled to be back in the Midwest!

I am currently teaching EC201 this spring semester. I am really excited to meet so many students and share my excitement for the field of economics. Everyone has their own vision of what economics is before taking their first class on economics, and so principles of microeconomics is all about learning that economics is more than just money and stocks. It's about choices and decisions, and how individuals make those decisions. Throughout the semester we learn fundamental economic tools like costs and benefits, opportunity costs, and how supply and demand work. My favorite aspect of the course is how closely it relates to decisions that are all around us, that many are not aware they were already evaluating. The best way to be successful in the course is to connect the material back to real life examples that can help you remember and relate to the material. And of course, practice, practice, practice – which is advice I would give for any economics course, the more practice problems you do the more deeply you'll understand the material!

A lot of my research focuses on the Gig Economy, think of platforms such as Uber, Lyft, and TaskRabbit. These online platforms offer workers with new flexible arrangements and low barriers to entry. In my work, I quantify how the availability of these platforms affects individuals' decisions to work and their earnings when they face an unemployment shock. Among prime-age workers, individuals are better able to recover lost earnings from their job loss through work on online platforms in the short run (first year). However, their earnings begin to lag behind their counterparts several years later as they become less likely to return to traditional wage jobs.

During COVID, I've learned a lot about how to focus and prioritize my work in otherwise distracting environments. At first it was a struggle to focus while sitting at the same desk, in the same room, and having no casual conversations with others as a break. I missed the casual interactions that broke up the day. Over time, I learned to fill the otherwise missing breaks with new hobbies (or old ones) – making homemade cinnamon rolls, finishing a puzzle a day, raising a high energy puppy. This gave me the opportunity to find new interests and restore the energy and concentration I needed as a break from work.

EC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JACK WEYHRICH

After I graduated in December 2018, I worked in France as an English language teacher for a year before returning to start my career as a software engineer. My first six months consisted of a “Developer Academy” hosted by my current employer, Capital One, which helped me to improve my coding skills and transition into a software development role. Fortunately, I had already picked up some Python experience thanks to a Computer Science elective in the Economics degree track. Although I worked through the Economics program at MSU with the goal of pursuing a career in Economics, I always particularly enjoyed my CSE and Math coursework. I think that exposure is ultimately what led me to pursue the career direction that I did.

How does your Economics Education help you succeed in your job?

- While I would recommend additional Computer Science and Mathematics courses to any current Econ students (whether they are interested in an Econ-oriented career or not), I think the foundations provided by the core curriculum in this program have been a great asset for me even in a non-Economics role. The idea was suggested to me many times, but I can see now how true it is that there’s a real value to the analytical perspective that someone with an Econ background can provide. A holistic approach to problem-solving, with an appreciation for the true cost and benefit of a given solution, is something that is recognized and rewarded in the working world regardless of job description or rank.

What is the most rewarding or enjoyable part of your job?

- One of the most rewarding parts of my job is that I am always learning new skills and solving new problems. There is always something to do which is unlike what I’ve done before, something that requires me to learn a new tool, a new platform, or a new language. While the need to keep learning never ceases, it does become easier over time: A big part of a job like this is “learning how to learn,” effectively and efficiently, and that is a really gratifying process.

What would you encourage all EC students to do before finishing their program?

- The biggest piece of advice I have for current students, beyond completing additional Math and CSE coursework, is to pursue an internship that is truly meaningful to you rather than applying for an internship solely for the prestige it may appear to carry. If an internship that interests you happens to be unpaid or underpaid, I believe there are still avenues in the department through which to apply for supplemental funding. In my experience, it’s much less convincing to tell an interviewer about an impressive job that you didn’t have any genuine passion for than it is to describe work that you really cared about - even when the subject of that work may not be obviously related to the position you’re applying for.

Is there anything you would do differently if you had the chance?

- One thing I would do differently with my time as an Econ student, given the opportunity, would be to take more Statistics coursework. It is an undoubtedly valuable skill within Economics, and it seems to be increasingly sought after in a great number of other contexts as well.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS SCHOLARSHIPS DUE MARCH 1ST

[NEW] EC PROFESSIONAL

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (EPDP)

The goal of the program is to provide Economics Spartans the skills to succeed at MSU and beyond.

- 1st Event: Internship/Career Search Strategies Feb. 16th 4:30-5:30 PM
- Location Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/7395886071> (No password)

C3 EXPO:

- Feb. 21st Noon-2:00 PM Virtual
- Feb. 22nd Noon-4:00 PM STEM Teaching and Learning Facility

CAREER SERVICES NETWORK

OPPORTUNITIES

- Software, IT, and Consulting Career Fair Feb. 15th 3:00-7:00 PM
- Criminal Justice Fair Feb. 16th 3:00-6:00 PM
- Broad Corporate Mixer Feb. 21st-23rd 2:00-6:00 PM
- MSU Virtual Spring Career Fair Feb. 24th 3:00-6:00 PM
- Engineering Expo: Civil, Energy, Environmental Services Career Fair Feb. 24th 3:00-7:00 PM
- Packaging Career Fair March 1st-2nd 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER

- [Workshop Schedule](#)

COUNSELING & PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

(CAPS) [HTTPS://CAPS.MSU.EDU/](https://caps.msu.edu/)

- [CAPS Connect \(brief consultation\)](#)
- [Crisis Services](#)

MATTER OF FACT PANEL

- Feb. 9th 4:00 PM Bessey Hall RM 312

OFFICE OF CULTURAL & ACADEMIC

TRANSITIONS (OCAT)

- [Spring 2022 Events](#)