



THIS ISSUE

*Important Dates**Faculty Spotlight**EC Alumni Spotlight**EC UA Applications Due March 22nd**Campus & CSN Events**Alumni Internship/Job Search Advice*

IMPORTANT DATES

- MARCH 10TH
LAST DAY TO
DROP COURSES
WITHOUT A
GRADE
REPORTED FOR
MOST FULL
SEMESTER
COURSES
- SUMMER 2021
ENROLLMENT BY
APPOINTMENT
BEGINS MARCH
15TH
- ENROLLMENT BY
APPOINTMENT
BEGINS APRIL
2ND FOR FALL
2021, SPRING
2022, AND
SUMMER 2022

ADVISING
APPOINTMENT SYSTEM

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

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: PATRICIA WILSON

My intermediate macroeconomics course, EC 302, provides students with a framework for understanding the economy as a whole, including such topics as economic growth, monetary and fiscal policy, and their effects on business cycles, inflation and employment. Politicians make claims about the effects of their proposed policies. My hope is that students will learn to rationally evaluate the claims made about different policy alternatives. For example, what are the short-term and long-term effects of the current Covid relief bill.

I also help Economics faculty to obtain grants that will help provide useful funding for their research. By reading and helping to edit the proposals for these research projects, I have learned about the exciting and worthwhile research activities being conducted within the Economics Department. I have also learned about extensive collaborative research being conducted not only by different faculty members within the Department, but also with faculty in different departments, and with researchers at other universities.

Teaching in a virtual setting is something I could not have imagined before the pandemic. It is surprising how well both students and faculty have adapted. I try to keep as much of what I liked about the in-person setting in the new remote setting. I think it is important for students to work through problems as they learn the models and concepts in the course. In the in-person classes, I asked “clicker-type” questions during my large Intro Macro classes, and the students in my smaller Intermediate Macro classes worked in groups to solve problems. I really like seeing students learn material in a collaborative setting. I think there is a loss of faculty-student interaction, but maybe more important is the loss of student-student interaction. I now run polling questions, but this does not fully substitute for in-person questions. I worry that Zoom chats are less effective than talking to the person next to you. But there are some things we have learned from the remote experience that we can use and improve upon when we get back to teaching in the physical classroom. For example, the use of remote office hours makes it easier for students to meet with faculty and TAs, which can increase these valuable interactions.

One silver lining from the pandemic is that both of my daughters were able to spend a couple of months living with my husband and me. In fact, there were days when we were all involved in our separate Zoom sessions. Since one daughter recently graduated from college and the other attends graduate school, I could ask them questions about best practices for Zoom teaching. I learned, for example, that 5 pm is the best time of day for a problem set deadline, particularly on Friday.

EC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL WATSON

I am a Managing Director at Citadel in charge of our proprietary technology and data used by our equities strategy within the hedge fund. The technology is used to derive insight, manage portfolio risk, and run our research processes. Our team currently consists of 65 engineers and analysts across New York, Chicago, London, Hong Kong, and San Francisco.

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

- It comes in most helpful with our risk systems and some forecasting engines. Although ML and AI are all the hype, more often than not we come back to linear regression and OLS that I first learned in EC 420 and 421.

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

- First, working with some of the most talented engineers, investment professionals, quants, medical experts, meteorologists, geologists, economists, and ML researchers in the world. I learn just by being surrounded by them.
- Second I get to lead at the intersection of two of my passions, technology and financial markets. Coach junior colleagues, ideating about how we can use data and software to understand equity markets, and then materializing those ideas into software is incredibly rewarding.
- Lastly, being on the ground floor during Covid and now through the upcoming recovery gives me the opportunity to see how some of the greatest minds think about markets during uncertainty. I graduated in 2010 and much of my undergrad revolved around understanding the 2008 financial crisis from the outside. Now I am in the middle of the action and understand how we can navigate through uncertainty to seize opportunities quickly.

What is a challenging part of your job and how do you handle it?

- It is an intense environment. Being a successful hedge fund requires focus, precision, and hard work from everyone. However the comradery you build within teams and the shared thrill of success is incredible.

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

- Take CSE 231 and learn beginner Python. I don't care what it does to your GPA, learn it and embrace it. Being dexterous when working with data will be the most important skill for any entry level job you are going into.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER [Workshop Schedule & Registration](#)

INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT MINOR INFO SESSION (ADDITIONAL MINOR

OPPORTUNITY) [March 30th 6:00-7:00 PM Zoom Meeting ID:949 7833 9347](#)
[Passcode: 155915](#)

OCAT: SUCCESS SERIES

[Mondays 7:00-8:00 PM Zoom Meeting ID: ocatmsu Passcode: ocat](#)

ECONOMICS UNDERGRADUATE

ASSISTANTSHIP DUE MARCH 22ND

AT 5:00 PM EASTERN TIME

[Handshake job posting.](#)

[#4459093](#)

To be eligible a student must be enrolled as an undergraduate for 2021-2022 and meet the following criteria by the end of Spring 2021 (not Summer 2021):

- have earned a minimum of 56 credits
- have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- have earned a minimum EC GPA of 3.25 (EC Satisfactory (S) Grades will be viewed)
- have completed/will complete a minimum of: EC 201 and EC 301 or 251H, and EC 202 or 252H
- be available for a remote interview in late March or early April, (between March 29th - April 9th, 2021)

Job Description

- Help staff the EC 201 and EC 202 Help rooms. (requires some evening commitments between 3:00-9:00 PM Eastern Time)
- You might be required to attend lectures (please keep this in mind when scheduling your courses for the next academic year)
- Assist faculty members with relevant tasks including but not limited to assisting with research, proctoring tests, creating study materials, and resources
- Collaborate with 19 UA's in a team environment
- Use creative problem-solving to adapt and help students

CAREER SERVICES NETWORK EVENTS:

[HTTPS://CAREERNETWORK.MSU.EDU](https://careernetwork.msu.edu)

/EVENTS/

- CSN Career Exposure Series: Careers in Helping Professions March 9th 5:00-6:00 PM
- CSN Scoring a Job During a Pandemic March 10th 4:00-5:00 PM
- MSU x American Universities' China Association AUCA Spring 2021 Career Fairs: Job Searching in China March 15th-April 30th 1:00-1:00 AM
- Career Conversations Series: Grad & Law School Perspectives March 18th 5:00-6:00 PM
- International Students, Market Yourself! Interview Strategies Workshop March 19th 12:00-1:30 PM
- College to CEO: Executive Speaker Series -Margaret Trimer March 22nd 7:00-8:00 PM
- Running Start: Finding a Niche in a Crowded Market March 23rd 6:00-7:00 PM
- Nailing the Online Interview March 24th 1:00-3:00 PM
- CSN Taking a Gap Year: What to Consider, and Where to Look March 24th 4:00-4:30 PM
- Career Conversations Series: Relocating for your Career April 1st 4:30-5:30 PM
- Burgess New Venture Challenge April 1st 5:00-8:00 PM
- College to CEO: Executive Speaker Series -Kevin Conroy April 5th 7:00-8:00 PM
- CSN Sharing your Story Resumes & Cover Letters April 6th 3:00-4:00 PM
- CSN You Majored in What? April 7th 7:00-8:00 PM

MICHAEL WATSON'S INTERNSHIP/JOB SEARCH ADVICE

What recommendations do you have for current EC students on the job or internship search?

- First, polish your resume. There are workshops at MSU to help with this, use them.
- Second, polish your LinkedIn. Everyone will look you up on LinkedIn and it is pervasive in corporate recruiting.
- Third, start networking on LinkedIn. Start searching every company with over 500 people, not just names you are familiar with. Find ind employees in those companies with 'Director', 'Vice President', 'Manager', etc in their title and connect with them. Include a message like "Hi my name is Michael and I am just starting my career and passionate about <SOMETHING RELEVANT TO WHAT THEY DO>. Hopefully after hard work I can be as successful as you. Is there any advice for someone trying to get into <THEIR FIELD>?". After their reply ask to chat for 15 minutes over a zoom call. In the meeting, ask if they have any openings at their company or anyone in their network does that would be a good fit? Converting this person into an advocate for your career is the goal of this meeting.
 - Bonus tip, filter for MSU graduates and include an intro like 'GO GREEN!'
- Fourth, leverage on campus career fairs and job postings. A company has to pay money to go to a career fair and they are not there for fun, they are there to hire. Identify companies you want to work for and make explicit statements like, "I researched <COMPANY NAME>. <Say something about your research>. This is the exact place I want to start my career, what do we need to do to make that happen?" Be bold.
- Two important items to understand in your first job search:
 - What you are going to experience through this process is called adversity, and how you choose to respond to it will dictate how successful you will become. Many people will not reply to you nor give you the time of day. That is their problem not yours. If you keep networking, putting yourself out there, and believing you can do anything through hard work then you will not only get a great first job/internship, but learn a valuable lesson that some people never figure out.
 - Your second job is more important than your first one. With that in mind, lower your expectations on brand name companies and be OK working somewhere you have never heard of. The most important thing is that you start building your career story by being wildly successful in your first job. This enables you to make a big move 2-5 years after your first one.