

**THIS ISSUE***Important Dates**Faculty Spotlight**EC Alumni Spotlight**EC Scholarship Due March 10th**Student Affairs Scholarships Due March 14th**EC UA Applications Due March 18th Noon**Campus & CSN Events***IMPORTANT DATES**

- 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 AND [UTILIZE THE SHOPPING CART FUNCTION](#) WHICH IS LIVE NOW

ADVISING**APPOINTMENTS**

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

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: LEONIDAS MUREMBYA

I am Leonidas Murembya. After graduating from the MSU Economics Department in 1998, I took a full-time job as an economist for the state of Michigan and taught, mostly online, introductory courses in Economics, Math, and Statistics for a variety of colleges and universities. I joined the MSU Economics Department as a fixed-term assistant professor in 2015 and have taught several courses in development economics, including EC412 (Economic Analysis of Latin America), EC413 (Economic Analysis of Asia), and EC414 (Economic Analysis of sub-Saharan Africa). This summer, I will start teaching, EC410 (Issues in the Economics of Developing Countries), and this fall, I will facilitate EC202.

In EC410, I go beyond the simple review of development economics theories and models, to provide enough knowledge to entice the undergraduate student to engage in further study or to venture out into the real world with an appreciation for the essential concepts and tools of economic development. What can be done to lessen poverty and spur economic growth? Governments, international development agencies, non-profit organizations, development banks bring about a variety of development projects and policies. What are the best methods of evaluating the impact of these projects on the livelihoods of households and individuals in the developing world? Students who take this course understand better my other courses in applied development such as EC412, EC413, and EC414 where these methods are put into practice across the different developing continents.

The impact of COVID-19 on my teaching has been minimal. My extended experience in online teaching allowed me to quickly move my lectures to this platform when the university required us to do so during the pandemic. In fact, I was then asked to help out with the American Economic Association Summer Program by developing and delivering within two months, two courses, one in Mathematics Foundations (AEASP405) and the other in Microeconomics Foundations (AEASP401). On the other hand, international travel restrictions imposed during the pandemic severely impacted my research. Only last year in September was I able to travel to Senegal and Ghana to jumpstart my research. Even then, I had to take four PCR tests in three different countries, within just 10 days. My advice, carry a lot of cash and be very familiar with the restrictions in place in every country you go to.

Speaking of research, I recently teamed with colleagues in the Agriculture, Food, and Resources Economics Department in using data from phone surveys to understand the pandemic's impact on food security in Mali. I am currently working on a report on how to engage youth in the coffee value chain for the sector's long-term sustainability, with the support of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Communication technologies that the pandemic forced us to use for almost two years (e.g., Zoom) are proving to be very handy here as I am able to conduct virtual interviews around the globe, and record and transcribe them at the same time.

EC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TYLER KRAMER

I am a Career Rewards Senior Analyst at Mercer. I advise companies on a variety of Human Resources functions, with my primary focus being on compensation of both the general workforce and executive-level employees.

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

- I double-majored in Finance and Economics at Michigan State. I would say my Finance education helps me more on a day-to-day basis (working in Excel, reading through proxy statements, etc.) whereas my Economics education helps me understand some of the more high-level factors influencing labor markets and the driving factors behind the data we are using to make client recommendations.

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

- Don't be afraid to broaden your search for opportunities beyond some of the more traditional jobs Economics student gravitate towards. I never imagined I would go into HR, but I came across Mercer as I was looking at other consulting jobs, interned here for a summer, accepted a full-time position, and have never looked back!

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

- I would recommend identifying some kind of technical skill that is used frequently in the field you are pursuing and try to get ahead of the curve with learning it. Such skills might include Excel, Python, R, or Tableau. This can set you apart in job interviews and will also be one less thing to learn once you do get the job.

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

- I wish I had studied abroad. I'm not sure what this landscape currently looks like at Michigan State given the COVID situation, but if it's possible, I recommend looking into some of these programs in your first couple years of school. By the time I started looking into it, I had such specific course requirements left to complete, that I couldn't find applicable coursework in the study abroad programs I wanted to do and it would have taken me an extra semester to graduate.

DEPARTMENT OF EC SCHOLARSHIPS DUE MARCH 10TH AT 5:00 PM



MSU STUDENT LIFE & ENGAGEMENT

SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline to apply to most scholarships is 11:55 PM Monday March 14th. However, please read scholarship details because some deadlines vary.

EC UA APPLICATION DUE MARCH 18TH AT NOON JOB#6042177

To be eligible a student must be enrolled as an undergraduate for 2022-2023 and meet the following criteria by the end of Spring 2022 (not Summer 2022):

- 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 28th - April 8th, 2022)
- Please email nicolac@msu.edu with any questions.

EC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM (EPDP)

- Are you interested in participating in an informational interview with an employer? If so, please email me (nicoleac@msu.edu) with one-two weeks of availability and I will connect you with an employer to explore their industry.
 - Unsure about what an [informational interview](#) is please look at this article or google more info.

CAREER SERVICES NETWORK

OPPORTUNITIES

- Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab Info Session March 1st 5:00-6:00 PM
- Packaging Career Fair March 1st-2nd 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
- MSU Teacher & Administration Fair March 14th 3:00-6:00 PM
- Changing the Game for Student Athletes March 15th 6:00-7:00 PM
- Pursing Graduate School March 23rd 8:00-9:00 PM
- Summer Job and Internship Fair March 23rd-24th 2:00-5:00 PM
- LinkedIn Photo Booth & Resume Reviews March 25th Noon-3:00 PM

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER

- [Workshop Schedule](#)

COUNSELING & PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

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

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

OFFICE OF CULTURAL & ACADEMIC

TRANSITIONS (OCAT)

- [Spring 2022 Events](#)
- [OCAT Fridays 1:00-4:00 PM](#)