



THIS ISSUE

*Important Dates**EC Award Winners & EC Scholars**Faculty Spotlight**New Course: EC 422**Advice & Congratulations from EC**Faculty & Staff*

IMPORTANT DATES

- GRADES ARE POSTED MAY 5TH
- FIRST AND FULL SUMMER SESSION CLASSES BEGIN MAY 17TH
- S/NS GRADES DUE MAY 18TH BY 11:59 PM
- SUMMER SESSION TWO CLASSES BEGIN JULY 6TH

Congratulations

THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS CONGRATULATES

ALL 2021 GRADUATES

THE 2021 UNDERGRADUATE ECONOMICS AWARD WINNERS:

Nicholas DiTommaso
Matthew Donahue
Alison Ferer
Maura Glynn
Cooper Luce

Daniel Moore
Jack Mueller
Elizabeth Price
Philip Valtadoros

OUR GRADUATING ECON SCHOLARS:

Nick Andolino
Nicholas DiTommaso
Matthew Donahue
Alison Ferer
Jeremy Frazee
Maura Glynn

Ian Hawthorne
Cooper Luce
Anthony Luongo
Jack Mueller
Mike Pastoria
Jordan Polk

Elizabeth Price
Isaac Updike
Philip Valtadoros
Peyton Wyatt
Hanshi Zuo

ADVISING APPOINTMENT

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

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: SCOTT IMBERMAN

EC 485, "Economics of Education," provides a broad overview of the different issues in education that economists study. Through readings and discussion, we will study the various aspects of the intersection of economics and education with a focus on US education policy. The goal of this course is to provide you with a broad understanding of the issues that arise at the intersection of education and economic policy, to be able to make judgments about the effectiveness of various education policies based on current research, and to be able to make effective arguments about what you feel are appropriate policy recommendations. Topics include the economic returns to education, the effectiveness of inputs into education production (including spending and teachers), peer effects, school accountability, school choice, financial incentives for teachers, college financial aid, college mismatch, community, and for-profit charters, and more.

EC 422, "Advanced Data Analysis in Economics," is a new course that teaches how to do microeconomic data analysis that can be applied to economic research. The "credibility revolution" has brought the analysis of data with an eye towards causal methods to the forefront of empirical microeconomics. At the same time, the availability of many new sources of data - government surveys, large administrative databases, data collected from mobile devices and the internet - has made the ability to analyze data in credible and informative ways essential to many jobs. This course will add to your data analysis toolkits through instruction in causal inference methods, hands-on data analyses using statistical programs, and replications of existing research from applied microeconomics.

My research focuses on the economics of education and education policy. Currently I am working on how the COVID epidemic has affected schools. Our recent study looked at schools in Michigan to assess the extent to which in-person instruction contributes to COVID spread. Our findings show that if existing cases in a community are relatively low, schools can open safely without increasing COVID rates, but more caution is warranted if case rates are high. This research was used by Governor Whitmer to help make decisions about reopening schools in Michigan, highlighting a direct line from research to policy implementation in the midst of an emergency. You can find a summary of the study here <https://theconversation.com/does-reopening-schools-cause-covid-19-to-spread-its-complicated-152793>.

I have learned to appreciate how modern technology has made the pandemic more bearable and gave us the ability to continue educating and doing research. While in-person classes are preferable to remote in most circumstances, think about what would have happened if the pandemic occurred 10 or 20 years ago when remote options were in their infancy or entirely unavailable. We would have been faced with the stark choice of risking our health or closing the university for a year. That is a decision that I am very glad we did not need to make thanks to remote learning technology.

ADVICE & CONGRATULATIONS FROM YOUR ECON

FACULTY AND STAFF

"Congratulations, graduates! I'd call it a historic accomplishment. As Shakespeare said, "Some choose solitude and computer screens, others have solitude and computer screens thrust upon them" (or something like that). I trust that there will be many positives to take forward from your undergraduate experiences, even if some were unexpected or challenging. Keep pursuing wisdom, honing your skills, and slowing down sometimes."

-Chris Ahlin

"Congratulations!!! Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind."

-Charley Ballard

"You did it!!! CONGRATULATIONS! With all the completely unique, historic, virtual and unexpected challenges you've maneuvered through during your final year at MSU, I'm especially impressed by your persistence and dedication! Did all this make EC301 seem easy :-)?! I hope you look back on this time and realize how strong you were and carry that strength with you onto your post-MSU adventures. Go Green! Many congratulations!"

-Stacy Dickert-Conlin

"Congratulations Class of 2021!!! You have overcome more obstacles than most in your MSU journeys. Take that attitude of success with you on your path. Work hard and be kind. I'm proud of you and so happy to have been a small (hopefully positive) part of your MSU experience."

-Carey Elder

"Congratulations on your outstanding achievements and resilience! I hope you continue exploring, learning, and challenging yourself! I wish you the best in your next adventure!"

-Nicole Gekeler

"Congratulations! While I have little doubt that your final 3 semesters were not what you planned, I hope it can give you even more pride in all that you accomplished. We wish you the very best for the next stage of your journey."

-Steven Haider

"Congratulations for making it through the COVID year. Take your economics with you, live long and prosper."

-Lawrence Martin