



THIS ISSUE

*Important Dates**Faculty Spotlight**EC Alumni Spotlight**Campus & CSN Events*

IMPORTANT DATES

- STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT ENROLLED IN COURSES BY NOVEMBER 12TH BY 8:00 PM ARE SUBJECT TO A \$50 LATE FEE
- THE UNIVERSITY IS CLOSED NOVEMBER 25TH-26TH
- REDUCED DINING HALL HOURS
- THANKSGIVING UNITY DINNER NOV. 25TH NOON-2:00 PM
- FINALS WEEK IS DECEMBER 13TH-17TH
- COMMENCEMENT DECEMBER 18TH 9:00 AM BRESLIN CENTER

ADVISING

APPOINTMENTS

Schedule an Advising Appointment here:
student.msu.edu

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: BEN ZOU

I'm Ben Zou. I joined MSU in 2015 and I'm currently an assistant professor in the Department.

I have been teaching EC438 (Urban Economics) the past four years. Urban economics is about the economics of cities, and its core question is why economic activities are distributed so unevenly in space. It's been fun teaching this course. One basic assumption in economics is the decreasing marginal returns: as you eat more apples, the marginal utility from another apple decreases; as firms hire more workers, the marginal product of an additional worker decreases. But urban economics is fundamentally about increasing returns. In order to explain why people choose to live in crowded cities while much of the country remains rural and sparsely populated, it must be true that having more people in the city increases everyone's marginal utility, at least until the city gets too big.

COVID-19 presents a unique challenge to cities. In the past 20 months, millions of workers were forced to experiment with remote working. With the help of modern information and communication technologies, many employers and employees have found that remote working is a viable alternative to office work. Many people have already left crowded and expensive cities for the suburbs and smaller towns, and employers have slashed office spaces in the downtown of big cities. The reduction in office work and city residents have in turn impacted sectors whose business relies on them, such as restaurants and other service industries. Cities will not become obsolete, but their functions may need to change. It is an interesting time to study urban economics!

My own research is about the economics of cities and how they affect the welfare of their residents. My recent work focuses on cities in developing countries. In the coming decade, most of the world's largest cities will be in developing countries. Cities like Lagos and Mumbai are far larger than NYC and London when the United States and Britain were at the same income level as Nigeria and India are today. This imposes unique challenges to the management of developing countries cities in multiple aspects, such as sanitation, transportation, housing, and public safety.

EC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: RUNZHI CHEN

I am a senior consultant at Deloitte, focusing on tax consulting and compliance.

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

- There is always something new and exciting at my job, especially given tax reforms and the ever-evolving market. For example, to effectively interpret the latest tax legislation and identify potential risks and opportunities for clients requires strong analytical and problem-solving skills, which I leverage towards my research projects. Studying Economics played an important role in helping cultivate those necessary skills along with providing a logical-thinking framework and a fundamental knowledge base.

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

- The early bird gets the worm. This applies to the job or internship research process. I would recommend starting early and making a game plan before you start. To successfully land a job or internship offer requires advice from others, time, and effort as you walk through and achieve each milestone of the process. It often involves preparation, application, and interviews. Starting early will help you be more familiar with the process and learn about the timeline and requirements so that you can plan ahead. When opportunities knock on your door, it will allow you to seize them. You got this!
- It is a game you will never lose. The job or internship search process is a self-discovery journey, like no other trip you would ever take, you will find yourself more confident after getting to learn your strengths, areas of improvement, and become more determined about your goals, as you keep getting out of your comfort zone to explore, learn, and network with people.

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

- I would recommend developing communication skills, which are common but also key skills at any workplace. Communication happens everywhere in various forms, such as in verbal or in written. To communicate in an effective and professional manner one needs some practice. I highly recommend reading as well.
- Another recommendation I have is to maintain a good attitude, act nice, and give back. We all are indivisible parts of our communities. Even small contributions can make a big difference. It is never too late to make a difference.

Last but not least:

- Shout out to Department of Economics, Econ Scholars Program, my mentors, Econ professors, advisors and peers, my parents, and friends! Thank you for your genuine accompany and support that made my memory about MSU so vivid and meaningful. Best wishes to current Econ students and I wish you bright futures ahead. Go Green!

CAREER SERVICES NETWORK EVENTS:

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

- CSN Fall Workshop Series Job Search Nov. 10th Noon-12:45 PM
- Students of Color in Undergraduate Research Nov. 10th 6:00-7:00 PM
- Autodesk Fusion 360 Workshop: Optimize your CAD Designs to make them Stronger Nov. 10th 6:00-8:00 PM
- Sports Industry Panel with the Detroit Red Wings Nov. 11th 5:00-10:00 PM
- College to CEO: Executive Speaker Series -Darren Person Nov. 15th 7:00-8:00 PM
- Innovate State: Technology & Emerging Trends Nov. 17th 6:00-8:00 PM
- AAUW Start Smart Salary Negotiation Nov. 17th 6:00-8:30 PM
- Finding a Summer Research Opportunity Nov. 18th 7:00-8:00 PM
- Navigating American Workplace Culture Nov. 19th Noon-1:00 PM
- College to CEO: Executive Speaker Series -Kevin Clark Nov. 22nd 7:00-8:00 PM
- Major Exploration Workshop Nov. 30th 6:00-7:00 PM
- Innovate State: Financial Wellness Dec. 1st 6:00-8:00 PM
- CSN Fall Series Writing Resumes and Cover Letters Dec. 2nd Noon-1:00 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)

- [Thanksgiving Unity Dinner](#)
- [Fall 2021 Events](#)