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## IMPORTANT DATES

- Last day to drop classes with no grade posted for semester long classes  
October 18th at 11:59 PM
- Break Days  
October 24-25th
- Priority Enrollment for Spring and Summer 2023 are October 31st-November 11th
  - Watch for RO Confidential Message with individual times

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ANTONIO DOBLAS-MADRID

The College Fed Challenge - EC 332 is an academic competition where teams from colleges and universities around the country present economic analysis and monetary policy recommendations to the Federal Reserve. MSU competes in the 7th District, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. District winners advance to National finals. Before COVID, team speakers traveled to Chicago for the district round, and to Washington DC if they advanced to the finals. However, since 2020 the Fed Challenge has been held remotely. Teams prepare a 15-minute presentation, followed by a 15-minute Q&A session. They are scored on knowledge of monetary policy and the Federal Reserve, responses to questions, quality of research and analysis, and evidence of teamwork and cooperation. Students research all aspects of monetary policy, think critically about economic theories and their application to current policy. In doing so, they learn a tremendous amount about the US and global economies and financial markets. Moreover, they develop public speaking skills and learn to answer challenging questions. The Fed Challenge is hands-on, experiential learning. It is demanding and rewarding, requiring from students a great deal of initiative and teamwork. Along with useful skills and cherished memories, participants leave with close friendships, and rich experiences that recruiters and interviewers for jobs, internships, and graduate programs, are often interested in. Fed Challenge Spartans have performed impressively, against tough competition, reaching the 2021 District Final and the 2020 National Final. Students joining the Fed Challenge may, if they wish, enroll in EC 332. This is a 2-credit course in Fall, 1 in Spring. After earning 3 credits, students may continue to participate without earning more credits. Are you interested in joining the 2022 team? Email me at [doblasma@msu.edu](mailto:doblasma@msu.edu) for more information.

**Research on Bubbles:** My main research area is asset price bubbles, a topic that for many years was in the sidelines, dismissed as a curiosity. Historical cases like the Dutch Tulip mania and the Crash of 1929 were seen as entertaining, but in serious writings, like textbooks or journal articles, bubbles were typically left out. It took the housing bust and Great Recession to really bring them back into the picture. Currently, bubble talk is loud again, especially regarding cryptocurrencies. Wildly volatile and without dividends, they certainly attract the attention of bubble theorists. My research endeavors to bring long-neglected bubble models up to speed, making them compatible with modern methodologies. I find the greater-fool model, where traders knowingly buy overvalued assets hoping to resell at a profit, especially intriguing. Interestingly, Bill Gates recently expressed a similar view about crypto, which he described as 100% based on greater-fool theory.

**Leveraging Technology:** A silver lining from the pandemic has been learning to leverage technology. I now co-organize a remote seminar series on bubbles, with researchers from many different countries and time zones. Although video call technology preceded the pandemic, we did not utilize it to full potential. I wonder how many other technologies we are underutilizing because we are not seeing all the possibilities.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT ENROLLMENT?

Schedule an Advising Appointment  
[student.msu.edu](http://student.msu.edu)

## EC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KELLY (CHRISTOPHERSON) WILCOX

What is your job title and what do you do?

- I am a Policy and Budget Analyst with Michigan's State Budget Office. I contribute to the development of the governor's budget recommendation. I project spending for Medicaid and Public Assistance programs, and I track spending and federal and state policy developments that affect my budget areas.

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

- My Economics Education helps me evaluate evidence that I use to justify policy recommendations. For example – I receive a report about a program that alters the way child-support and cash assistance interact. The report claims that the program is successful. I use my economics education to evaluate the quality of the evidence, often by checking for confounding variables, and to consider whether there are signs the program would have different chances of success if it expanded from the original location.

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

- An enjoyable part of my job is getting to understand the workings of programs that touch millions of lives, (Did you know that about a quarter of Michigan's population is covered by Medicaid?) and getting to work to improve these programs.

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

- A challenging part of my job is the other side of the same coin – it's no secret that there are many inefficiencies in government programs, and I can work to improve them in some way, but most of these issues are far out of my control. It helps me to focus on what I can control, which is the quality of my work, and avoid thinking about what I cannot control – usually others' decisions.

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

- Current EC students searching for jobs and internships could see how their coursework can support that search. If you know in the Fall that you will apply for an internship at X company in the Spring – see if you can use your coursework in advance to help with the application materials. If they need a writing sample, and you have flexibility on a writing assignment, tailor your choice to both fit within your course requirements and be effective for your application. (Econ students should be all about efficiency, after all).

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

- You should also ask multiple people to look at your materials, (one of these people should be someone in the career center) and have a checklist for yourself when reviewing your materials. I am convinced that "detail oriented" means "you have tools that you use to make sure you keep up with the details you need, natural inclination or not."

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

- When I was in undergrad, I was afraid of asking questions, of betraying some way I was hugely ignorant in something everyone knew. If I could go back, I would ask questions early and often, even if I could find the answer myself – it is better to both learn more from the professor, and they can help explain it to you again much faster than you can usually find it (again, efficiency). Even if you are asking a dumb question - it is almost certainly not uniquely dumb, and the stakes of asking for help are much lower than the stakes of not getting it.

Other Opportunities for  
Involvement in EC  
Involvement On-Campus

### ACADEMIC SUCCESS WORKSHOPS

### BIostatistics U OF M GRADUATE

### SCHOOL PRESENTATION

- October 13th 4:00-5:00 PM  
C517 Wells Hall

### CAREER SERVICES NETWORK

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Grad School: Preparing, Exploring, and Applying  
October 6th 9:15-9:45 AM
- Careers in Business  
VIRTUAL Supply Chain  
Management Fair October  
6th 4:00-7:00 PM
- Mock Mixer Workshop  
October 7th 1:00-2:00 PM
- Marketing Networking  
Mixer IN PERSON October  
10th 6:00-8:00 PM
- Negotiating Job Offers  
October 11th 11:30 AM-  
12:15 PM
- Navigating Career Fairs  
October 12th 4:00-4:45 PM
- In-Person Corporate  
Spotlight Mixer October  
13th 4:00-7:00 PM
- Careers in Business IN  
PERSON All Majors Fair  
October 19th 4:00-7:00 PM
- Careers in Business Virtual  
Majors Fair October 20th  
4:00-7:00 PM
- MSU Virtual Marketing  
Research and Analytics Fall  
2022 Fair October 21st  
10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

### COUNSELING & PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

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

### FALL 2022 TRANSFER PROGRAMS

### OFFICE OF CULTURAL & ACADEMIC

### TRANSITIONS (OCAT)

- Fall 2022 Events