

Northwestern | Economics

The Department of Economics Semiannual Newsletter

Summer 2018

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Department,

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the Department's updates since January. For current news stories and more information, please visit our [website](#). We hope you have a wonderful Summer! We will be back in touch this Winter!

Sincerely,
The Department of Economics

Congratulations 2018 Graduates & Award Winners!

Over 300 Economics Major and Minor students graduated this past June. Obama speechwriter Cody Keenan '02 encouraged the Class of 2018 to stay hopeful and engaged, no matter the path they pursue. Read more about Keenan's [talk](#) and view photos from WCAS [Convocation](#).

Additionally, the department welcomed over 200 students and their guests to our Annual Graduation Lunch and Awards Ceremony. Department Chair [Lawrence Christiano](#) and Professor [James Hornsten](#) awarded our distinguished students the Frederick S. Deibler Awards for Excellence in Economics, the Robert Eisner Award for Undergraduate Research, the Frederick S. Deibler Awards for Distinguished Honors Thesis, and Departmental Honors. The award winners were given a book personally selected by Professor [Mark Witte](#), along with each student's Thesis Advisor. The Department is extremely proud of all its graduates! [Read more](#) about the Award Winners.

Welcome New Faculty Members

The Department is delighted to welcome aboard two new faculty members this Fall:



[Harry Pei](#) received his Ph.D. from MIT with interests in Game Theory, Political Economy, and Organizational Economics. Harry will teach Microeconomics II in the Spring Quarter.



[Piotr Dworczak](#) completed his Ph.D. at Stanford University Graduate School of Business and works on Mechanism and Information Design, trying to combine research in Pure Theory with more applied interests in financial over-the-counter markets. Piotr will teach Advanced Microeconomics in the Winter Quarter.

Congratulations to our Ph.D. Graduates

We wish all our job market candidates well as they continue their teaching and research pursuits at fine institutions and firms throughout the world:

Titan Alon: University of California, San Diego (first year: postdoc at Princeton)

Arjada Bardhi: Duke University

David Benson: Federal Reserve Board

Enrico Berkes: Ohio State (postdoc)

Janjala Chirakijja: Monash University

Sena Coskun: University of Mannheim (postdoc)

Husnu Dalgic: University of Mannheim (postdoc)

Daniel Fershtman: Tel Aviv University

Mariano Irace: Cornerstone Research

Vishal Kamat: Toulouse School of Economics (first year: postdoc at Chicago)
Rene Leal Vizcaino: Banco de Mexico
Eric Mbakop: University of Calgary
Paul Mohnen: University of Michigan (postdoc)
James Myatt: Cornerstone Research
Natalya Naumenko: Brown University (postdoc)
Abdoulaye Ndiaye: NYU Stern School of Business (first year: postdoc at Chicago Fed)
Sam Norris: University of Chicago (Harris School)
Susan Ou: Analysis Group (Boston)
Kym Pram: University of Nevada, Reno
Mikhail Safranov: University of Nottingham
Lola Segura: Analysis Group (Boston)
Felipe Shalders: Universidade de São Paulo (postdoc)
Bela Szabadi: Charles River Associates (Oakland)
Yuta Takahashi: Hitotsubashi University (postdoc)
Yuta Toyama: Waseda University

Faculty Spotlight: Matthew Notowidigdo

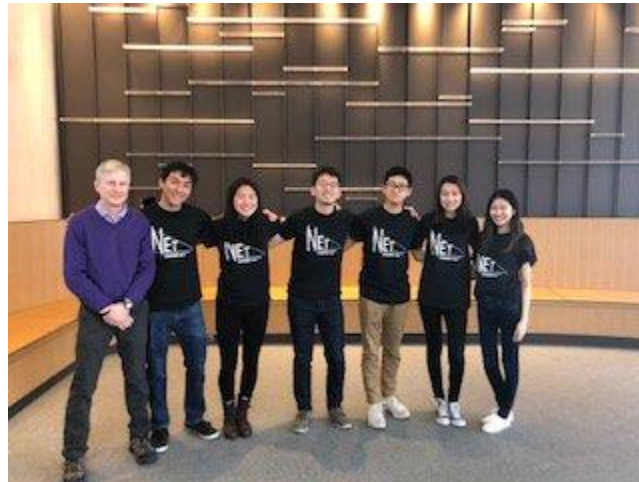


Professor [Matthew Notowidigdo](#) studies a broad set of topics in labor and health economics. Elizabeth Bloom's recent article, "[The Pirates have one of MLB's steepest attendance declines - and that's saying something](#)" highlights Notowidigdo's experience working with sport analytics. When asked to comment on the article, Notowidigdo shares: "I started working with the Boston Red Sox as a graduate student back in 2004. Back then, we analyzed data by "scraping" data from eBay; today most of the data we use for our analysis comes directly from Stubhub.com. Our goal was to analyze the demand for tickets in the "secondary market" to be able to give advice to the team about how to effectively increase revenue and/or attendance. We have presented some of the results of our work at the MIT Sports Analytics conference, and we have worked

with a number of other MLB teams on ticket pricing, marketing, and revenue sharing."

Read more about Professor Notowidigdo's working and published papers on his [website](#).

Student-Led Northwestern Economics Tournament



The Undergraduate Economic Society (UES) successfully planned and produced the second annual Northwestern Economics Tournament (NET) on April 7, 2018. NET welcomed 16 high school teams from Chicago and the surrounding suburbs to the Kellogg Global Hub to participate in a day filled with quiz bowls and lectures from our distinguished graduate students and faculty members.

The winning team was The Lyons of Wall Street from Lyons Township High School, La Grange, IL.

The NU NET Planning team members (pictured above) were:

- William Ho
- Jacqueline Wu
- Peter Nam
- Hongrui He
- Clarissa Qian
- Tyler Huang

(Also pictured: Director of Undergraduate Studies Mark Witte)

Learn more about [NET](#).

Alumni: We want to hear from you!

Please post your professional achievements and job postings on our [LinkedIn group](#). For general NU alumni services, please visit the [Alumni Association](#).

Additionally, if you are interested in speaking to our students about your career (any field) or being featured in our E-Newsletter, please reach out to [Christy Anderson](#), Assistant Director of Administration & Undergraduate Student Services.

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