

2024-2025

Economics Newsletter

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH



**ECONOMICS
DEPARTMENT**
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY-LONG BEACH

75TH 
ANNIVERSARY

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Did you know the SSPA Building was once brown?

GREETING FROM THE CHAIR

We are moving further out of the shadow of the pandemic, as testified by the return of our department newsletter. I want to thank our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and family for their dedication to academic excellence and community engagement. From classrooms to the community, the Economics Department remains a hub of intellectual curiosity and extensive collaboration. While we build upon this foundation to advance our journey of enriching students' experiences and strengthening academic excellence, I thank everyone for being an essential part of this vibrant community.

Dr. Yutian Chen

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT CHAIR



THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

To our students, faculty, alumni, and friends, hello again!

The Economics Department saw many changes in the 2024 – 25 academic year and even more so since our last newsletter in 2019! From faculty, to staff, and even curriculum, our department has continued to evolve for the better. And in hopes of continuing the tradition (and reimagining it a little), the department saw it fit to reintroduce our newsletter to document the journey. The newsletter's goal is to highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of our community students, alumni, and faculty alike.

For the 2024-25 newsletter we invited students, faculty, and alumni submissions to showcase the incredible work of the CSULB Economics Network. We celebrate our scholarship recipients and department awardees, and student employees. And we highlight various department events to demonstrate the hard work of the Economics Student Association. But the real main highlight is you, your stories inspire and connect the department; we would love to feature you in our next edition, please fill out this form to submit your personal academic or professional achievements.

A digital version of the newsletter will be released at the end of each academic year.

Without further ado, here's what's new in the Department of Economics!



NEW STEM PROGRAM COMING 2025-2026

We are pleased to announce that beginning next academic year, our programs for Economics and Mathematical Economics & Economics Theory will officially transition from a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. This important change reflects the evolving nature of our curriculum and better aligns with the quantitative and analytical training our students receive.

The transition to a B.S. degree includes two key curricular updates: the addition of Calculus I as a required course and the inclusion of an additional core course, either Game Theory, Forecasting, or Intro to Econometrics. Each additional core course is designed to strengthen foundational skills in economic analysis. Current students who have not yet completed these courses will have the opportunity to do so and, upon completion, will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree.

This change required a rigorous review and approval process and is part of our broader efforts to ensure our program remains both competitive and responsive to the demands of today's job market. With the new STEM designation, our graduates will be well-positioned for careers in industries such as finance, consulting, and data analytics, where employers increasingly seek candidates with strong quantitative skills. Additionally, the technology sector has increasingly recognized the value of economists, creating new opportunities for graduates with strong technical and analytical expertise to take on senior and strategic roles.

We are excited about this milestone and confident that it represents a meaningful step forward for our students and the program.

CONFERENCE ROOM UPDATE



This is an AI-generated image illustrating the final results of the update.

The Economics conference room has been an integral part of our campus success, providing a dedicated space for student club meetings, study groups, faculty discussions, and even smaller departmental gatherings. Given its importance, it is only natural that we give it the update it deserves.

Thanks to funding approved through the Instructional Equipment Funds, the room will be upgraded with an interactive screen, enhancing its ability to host small seminars, facilitate meetings, and support engaging presentations. We are excited for this project's completion and look forward to seeing students and faculty make full use of the improved space in the upcoming academic years.

NEW DEPARTMENT LOGO



With the launch of our new STEM program, we felt it was the perfect opportunity to align our visual identity with the exciting changes taking place within our department. We would like to thank Roselyn Ithiratanasoonthorn, the Graphic Coordinator from ATLAS. Her creative vision, attention to detail, and patience were vital in this redesign.

The waves in our new logo pay homage to our roots in the Beach community, while retaining a bit of continuity by using the original color palette. This ensures a sense of continuity and connection to our current students and Alumni. At the heart of the design is a shark fin, a nod to the iconic spirit of Elbee, the CSU Long Beach mascot. Additionally, the upward-pointing arrow embodies the ideals of progress and ambition. It signifies both the economic mobility we strive to foster in our community and the ongoing achievements of our students as they reach new heights in their academic and personal journeys.

We are incredibly proud of this new look and all that it represents: a dynamic future, a commitment to excellence, and a celebration of our shared journey. Thank you for being a part of our story as we continue to evolve and grow together!

RETURN OF THE POSTER BOARD COMPETITION



Research Poster Competition circa 2019.

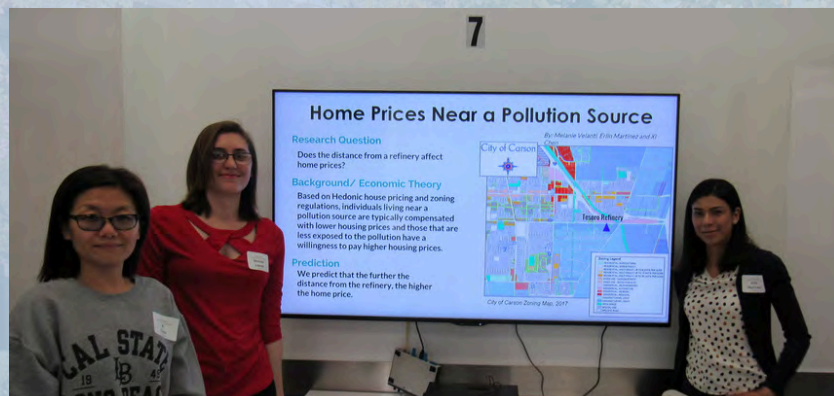
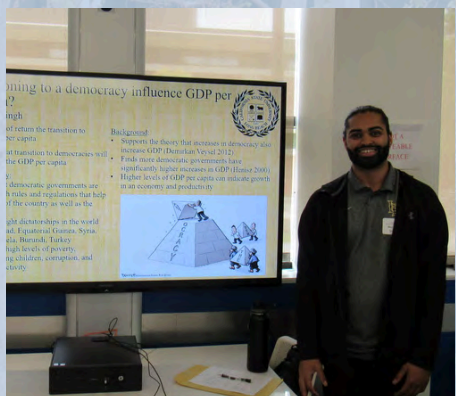
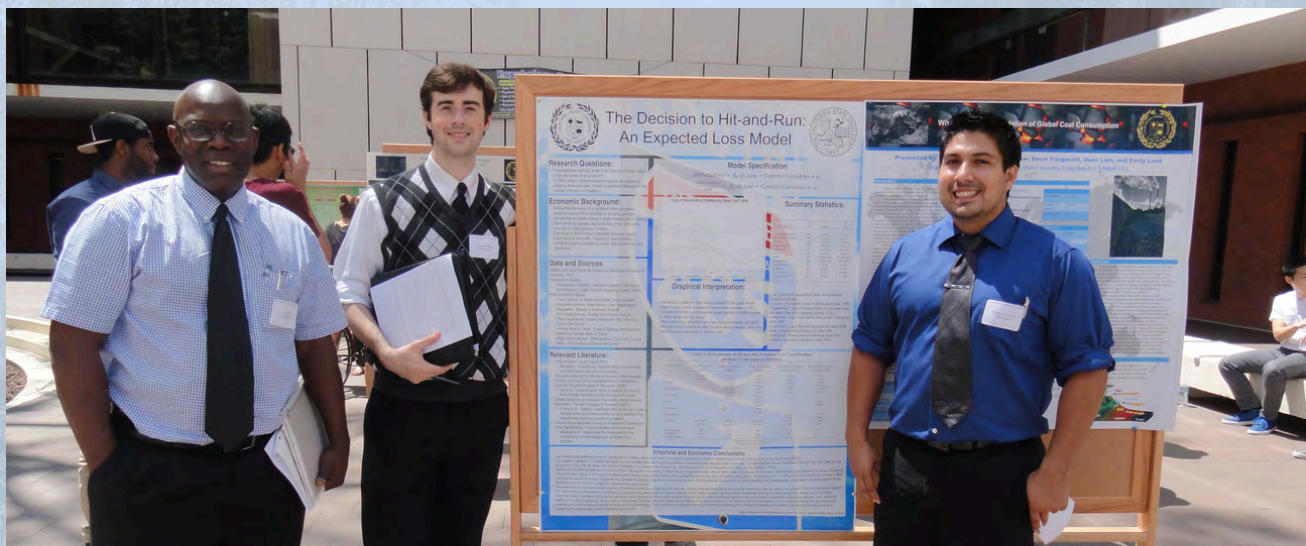
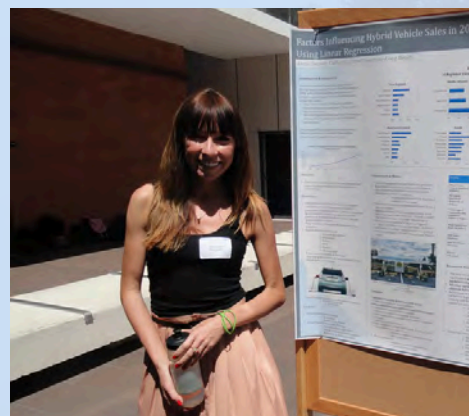
We are very excited to announce the return of the Economics Department Research Poster Competition. The competition was run annually from 2012 until the COVID pandemic in 2020, and we believe the program's transition from a Bachelor of Arts to a Bachelor of Science creates the perfect backdrop for its return.

Competitors will showcase their efforts in economic research, practice defending their research, collaborate with peers, and have work to feature in their portfolio.

We encourage undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the Fall 2025 Poster Competition, and we invite Alumni and friends of the community to visit our showcase in the Fall. Winning posters will be featured in our hallways. Further details will be shared on our website and social media pages, so stay tuned!



Research Poster Competition circa 2018.



All images from previous Research Poster Competitions.

WELCOME TY YIM



We are deeply grateful to welcome our new department analyst, Ty Yim, whose arrival has made a significant and positive impact on our team. From the moment she stepped into the role, her ambition and drive were evident. She brings with her not only a wealth of insight, but her forward-thinking mindset has energized our department. In a short time, she has initiated and is actively developing strategic plans to enhance the Economics Department.

Her efforts have already borne fruit, securing funds for key department initiatives such as upgrading the conference room. These improvements position us to meet future challenges with greater confidence and agility.

Her dedication, resourcefulness, and collaborative spirit have made her a valued member of our team. On behalf of the department, we extend our sincere thanks for her hard work and unwavering commitment. We are excited for the path ahead and look forward to the continued progress she will no doubt help us achieve.

STAFF PROMOTION



Please join us in congratulating Mayra on her well-deserved promotion from Administrative Support Assistant I to Administrative Support Assistant II! Since joining the Economics Department in Fall 2023, Mayra has become an essential part of our team. She brought a wealth of experience and insight from the Dean's Office and has continued to go above and beyond in every aspect of her work.

From leading the charge on our website transition and communications to supporting student initiatives and alumni engagement, Mayra consistently demonstrates reliability, enthusiasm, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. One of her most recent accomplishments includes taking the lead in reviving the department's student research poster board competition, an event that fosters academic engagement and highlights the incredible work of our students.

Her dedication has not gone unnoticed; she was recently recognized as a Best of the Beach honoree thanks to an outpouring of nominations from colleagues who praised her work ethic, positivity, and the many ways she elevates our department. In addition to her professional achievements, Mayra is pursuing a Master of Science in Educational Technology & Media Leadership; this is proof of her drive to grow and lead by example.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to Mayra for serving as the Editor in Chief of this newsletter! Her attention to detail, creativity, and thoughtful organization have helped shape this publication into a meaningful reflection of our department's work and community.

We're incredibly fortunate to have her—congratulations, Mayra!

COMMUNITY UPDATES

STUDENT NEWS

Lucy Baker (M.A. Economics) recently contributed to the Long Beach Recovery Act report and is currently preparing to support the upcoming Long Beach Transit Economic Impact Analysis along side the Office of Economic Research.

Min Soo Jee is a US ARMY Veteran and graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Business Economics this spring. He is working toward becoming a Chartered Financial Analyst and is currently working to pass the first exam.

Keanu Hua (Applied Statistics B.S. & Math Econ & Econ Theory BA) won the judge's award for his short story, "Spicy," in the Western Regional Honors Council magazine, Scribendi, and presented it at the Denver conference. He has also been accepted to the American Economic Association Summer Program.

Jasmine Forbes (B.A. Economics) As part of the Beach Pluralism Fellowship, Jasmine and her team are developing a certificate for students to receive upon completing their workshop, making interfaith pluralism more accessible and recognized on campus. She has also accepted an offer to serve as an Escrow Assistant Intern at First American for Summer 2025.

Sergio Cervantes (Economics B.A.) is the recipient of the Settlemyer Family Endowed Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic school year.

Carter Thompson (Business Economics B.A.) is a recipient of the Gene Simonson Endowed Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year.

Benjamin Maldonado (Economics B.A.) is a recipient of the Gene Simonson Endowed Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year.

Alondra Hernandez (M.A. Economics) is a recipient of the Powell Endowed Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year.

Andy Gregorio Silvero (M.A. Economics) is a recipient of the Powell Endowed Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year.

Brianna Maximo (Business Economics B.A.) is a recipient of the Ray and Marge Lancaster Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year.

Marilyn Nguyen (Business Economics B.A.) is a recipient of the Ray and Marge Lancaster Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year.



ALUMNI NEWS

Jatin Subramanian

(B.A. '16) has achieved 2 million in annual sales.

Herman Singh (B.A. '17 & M.A. '18) is three years into the four-year tenure process at Golden West College. He is an Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Research and a Board Member of Khalsa Aid assisting with community service for the greater LA County and Orange County.

Jeremy Viele (M.A. '23) has officially committed to the Political Science Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley beginning in Fall 2025, which means, sadly, he will no longer be teaching at CSULB after Spring 2025. His specific research areas during the Ph.D. program will be political economy and formal theory.

Nick Roy (B.A. '20) was cited in this year's annual report from the Council of Economic Advisors.

Ashley Wong (B.A. '23) graduated from USC with a Master's in Economics and will begin teaching at CSULB as a Lecturer in Fall 2025.

It was wonderful to hear from everyone! We congratulate all our students and alumni on all their successes!

This newsletter is for you! This newsletter is to recognize the hard work and achievements of the Economics Community. We had many great submissions this year and hope our students' achievements encourage future students to contribute to the next edition of our newsletter.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

Welcoming New Faculty, Kairon Shayne Garcia

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Dr. Kairon Shayne Garcia, our newest tenure-track Assistant Professor. Dr. Garcia brings a strong research background and fresh perspectives to the department. She recently completed her Ph.D. at Washington State University. Her work examines policy issues such as the impacts of the labor market during the pandemic, the evolving nature of remote work, and water rights management, giving her a diverse and forward-thinking approach to economics.

Her recent presentations at national conferences and active research demonstrate a deep engagement with the field that will undoubtedly enrich our scholarly community and our students' learning experiences. Welcome to The Beach! Dr. Garcia.

Learn more about her recent work under Faculty Spotlight.

Dr. Chen introducing Dr. Kairon Shayne Garcia at Convocation Fall 2024.





Dr. Hou and Prof Mays receiving their Years of Service Awards

Years of Service Awards

This academic year, we celebrated Dr. Jack Hou and Andrea Mays for their recognition of 35 and 40 Years, respectively of Faculty Service Awards by the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Jack Hou has dedicated over three decades to CSULB. He is our most senior tenure-track faculty member and a guiding force in our department. His impact has been felt far beyond the classroom. His steadfast commitment to teaching, research, and service has shaped generations of students and brought global recognition to our campus.

Andrea Mays has made lasting contributions through her passionate scholarship and public engagement. From publishing in Smithsonian

magazine to delivering talks across the country, her work brings history and literature to life for students and lifelong learners alike.

*Over prepare, and then
go with the flow.*

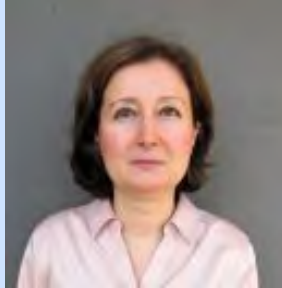
- Dr. Jack Hou

We thank both Dr. Hou and Professor Mays for their time, talent, and unwavering dedication to this university community.

Read more about their current work in Faculty Spotlight.

Full Time Status

This academic year, two long-standing members of the department became full-time faculty: Shirin Lakpour and Ahmad Saboori Memar.



Professor Lakpour earned her Master's in Economics here at Cal State Long Beach and has been teaching since Fall 2015. She brings energy and expertise to a wide

range of courses, such as Micro and Macro Economics, and Money and Banking; she is well regarded by students.

Dr. Ahmad-Reza Saboori-Memar also joined the department in Fall 2015. With a rich international background and a Ph.D. from Germany, he has taught nearly 25 courses across economics, finance, and management. His research spans market structures, welfare economics, and business strategy, and he brings real-world insight through his work in finance and real estate.

Read more about Dr. Saboori-Memar's work in Faculty Spotlight.



Congratulations to Professor Lakpour and Dr. Saboori-Memar!

Research and Publications

Our faculty continues to push the boundaries of knowledge in Economics. The following showcases their accomplishments and the meaningful developments emerging from their research. This section highlights recent publications, ongoing research projects, conference presentations, and notable achievements that reflect the depth and impact of our department's work.



Dr. Yutian (Kate) Chen received her Ph.D. in Economics from SUNY Stony Brook in 2007. Her research interests focus on the application of Game Theory in multiple fields, including Industrial Organization and Reinforcement

Learning. She has recently published in academic journals such as ACM Transactions on Sensor Networks, International Journal of Production Research, and Journal of Economics. Dr. Chen was granted an NSF grant 2022-2024 based on her research on applying game theory to data storage in sensor networks, with which she was able to support undergraduate as well as graduate students' research at CSULB. Currently, Dr. Chen's research centers on multiple agents learning a dynamic environment while they engage in strategic interaction. In 2024, Dr. Chen participated in the 99th Western Economic Association International Conference (WEAI 2024). She looks forward to another academic conference trip in the summer of 2025.



Dr. Kairon Shayne D. Garcia is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, with a Ph.D. in Economics from Washington State University (2024). Dr. Garcia's research focuses on applied

microeconomics and econometrics, with a particular emphasis on causal inference in labor economics, economics of education, and development. Her work on the effects of COVID-19 school closures on parental labor market outcomes was recently published in the *Journal of Labor Research*. She is currently working on a paper examining the factors affecting remote work in the U.S., available through the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), and another project on water rights forfeiture in Washington State, which d. Dr. Garcia has recently presented her research work at the 7th Annual Pacific Northwest Labor Day Workshop (PNWLD 2024) and the 50th Annual Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference (AEFP 2025) and is scheduled to present at the upcoming 100th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference (WEAI 2025).



Dr. Andre Harrison is an Assistant Professor who received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Alabama in 2020. His research applies Time Series Econometric techniques to topical issues in International Economics and

Monetary Economics. Specifically, he studies the interplay between global capital flows and monetary policy. He has recently published work in notable economic journals such as the *Journal of International Money and Finance*, *Economic Inquiry*, and *Energy Economics*. Dr. Harrison has also actively been involved in student research, which includes recently published work with a former CSULB Economics student in *Empirical Economics*. He also has ongoing work with another former economics student and several coauthors. In 2024, Dr. Harrison participated in the 58th annual staging of the Canadian Economic Association Conference (CEA 2024).

After the recommendation of his peers, it is also anticipated that Dr. Harrison will receive an early promotion to a tenured associate professor.



Dr. Jack Hou, the most senior tenure-track faculty member in the Economics Department, has been at CSULB since 1989 following the completion of his Ph.D. at Yale. Dr. Hou is deeply committed to the traditional Chinese philosophy of teaching—

to impart knowledge, clarify confusion, and guide the way—Dr. Hou has left a profound mark on countless students, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in academia, public service, and the private sector. Known for his high standards and heartfelt dedication, he considers his students his legacy, and their growth his greatest reward.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Hou has made significant contributions to the profession through extensive service and leadership in several academic associations, including WSSA, CES, and WEAI. He has delivered keynote speeches around

the world and served as editor for multiple high-ranking journals.

Dr. Jack Hou's recent research has focused on media sentiment analysis surrounding China's Belt and Road Initiative, with two papers currently under review at top-tier journals. He is also developing a political economy analysis of U.S. trade policy and a new project titled "Balancing Sips and Spirits," which explores global trends in coffee and alcohol consumption. His work continues to attract growing academic interest, with his highest citation counts coming in the last three years—an uncommon trajectory for a scholar approaching retirement.



Andrea Mays published an insightful article in the June 2024 issue of Smithsonian Magazine. The article delves into the renovation of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. This library is renowned

for housing the world's largest collection of the Shakespeare First Folio, a subject that Professor Mays has explored extensively in their first book, *The Millionaire and the Bard*, published by Simon & Schuster.

In addition to this publication, Andrea Mays continues to share her expertise and passion for Shakespeare and Gilded Age collecting through various speaking engagements. She has been busy lecturing to diverse groups, including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), donors to the UC Irvine libraries, book clubs, and donors to the Shakespeare Theater Center in Washington, DC.

Andrea Mays continues to research her next book, which will be about the friendship between two figures from the Enlightenment, French satirist Voltaire, and Frederick the Great of Prussia.



Dr. Mariya Mileva obtained her PhD in Economics from UC Santa Cruz. Prior to joining the Economics Department, she worked as a research economist at the European Central Bank, the Bank of England, and the Kiel

Institute for the World Economy. She specializes in macroeconomic theory with a focus on labor markets and globalization. Her research applies dynamic macroeconomic models to a range of topics including international trade, experimental economics, optimal monetary policy, and international financial spillovers. She is particularly interested in how trade integration shapes inequality, employment, and business cycle dynamics.

Dr. Mileva is also actively involved in the Long Beach Pledge Pilot Study, a randomized controlled trial evaluating the impact of guaranteed income on single-parent households in the Long Beach area.

Her two most recent publications explore these intersections:

"Inter-industry Trade and Business Cycle Dynamics" (Macroeconomic Dynamics, 2024) introduces a dynamic model capturing both inter- and intra-industry trade to study the impact of productivity shocks. The research shows that import-competing sectors are more sensitive to domestic demand, contributing to stronger international business cycle co-movement.

“Trade Liberalization, Wage Inequality, and Monetary Policy” (Journal of International Money and Finance, 2024) develops a two-country, two-sector model with heterogeneous firms and sticky prices to examine the effects of trade liberalization. The study finds that price rigidity can slow wage adjustment and that monetary policy plays a crucial role in shaping real wages and GDP during the transition.



Dr. Ahmad-Reza Saboori-Memar has been a member of the Economics Department since 2015. Originally from Persia, he spent his formative years in Germany, where he studied economics. His academic

background includes international experiences in Portugal as an exchange student, then a return to Germany for his Ph.D., and finally to the United States, where he served as a visiting graduate researcher at UC San Diego.

Dr. Saboori-Memar has taught nearly 25 courses across economics, finance, business, and management, five of them in German! His teaching portfolio includes international finance, microeconomics, macroeconomics, game theory, and environmental economics. His global experiences extend beyond academia.

His research focuses on market structures, welfare economics, and business strategy. In addition to his academic work, he is involved in the financial sector, particularly in options trading, and has experience as a real estate investor in Southern California.



Dr. Xuemei Liu continues to make outstanding contributions to the department through exceptional teaching, dedicated service, and a strong commitment to student success. Her professionalism

and commitment makes her a valued and respected member of the academic community. We are grateful for her continued dedication and the meaningful impact she has had on students, colleagues, and the broader community.



Herman Singh is a Tenure Track Professor of Economics at Golden West College and a Lecturer at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 2017 and his Master's in Economics in 2018,

both from CSULB. In addition to his teaching roles, Professor Singh serves as a Research Economist with the Office of Economic Research at CSULB, where he contributes to interdisciplinary projects utilizing econometric modeling, data visualization, and advanced statistical techniques. His work bridges academic research and practical application, offering data-driven insights to support institutional and community-based decision-making.

Professor Singh teaches a range of undergraduate and graduate-level courses, including Micro and Macroeconomics, Economic Statistics, and Development Economics. His academic approach emphasizes critical thinking, applied learning, and the integration of real-world data into the classroom. He continues to expand his research portfolio and actively participates in professional conferences to support the broader mission of advancing economic education and applied research.



Dr. Steve Yamarik received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1996. His research focuses on the role of culture in international exchange, the impact of monetary policy on

inequality, and economic growth in U.S. states. He has published three papers recently in peer-reviewed journals: “IMF Conditionality and Capital Controls: Capital Account Liberalization to Capital Inflow Management?” with Makram El Shagi in the *Review of International Economics*, “Cultural Institutes: Networks and Determinants” with Maria Mileva in *The World Economy*, and “The Impact of Cultural Diplomacy on the Eurovision Song Contest” with Jarko El Shaga and Ionna Mar in the *Journal of Cultural Economics*. Steve presented his research at the Enterprise and Competitive Environment Conference (ECOS) in Brno, Czechia in spring 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025 and at the Slovak Economic Association meetings in Slovakia in fall 2021 and 2023.

In addition, he presented at the Western Economic Association meetings in San Diego in summer 2023 and the International Conference on Macroeconomic Analysis and International Finance in summer 2024 in Crete, Greece. Steve was awarded a Ludovika Fellowship and spent a month at Ludovika University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary, in spring 2024.

Dr. Guy Yamashiro continues to make outstanding contributions to the department through exceptional teaching, dedicated service, and a strong commitment to student success. His professionalism and commitment make him a valued and respected member of the academic community. We are grateful for his continued dedication and the meaningful impact he has on students, colleagues, and the broader community.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Our students are the foundation of our academic community, and we extend our sincere gratitude to the student employees and members of the Economics Student Association for their vital contributions. Their dedication helps foster a welcoming and supportive environment while creating and promoting valuable opportunities for economics students. We commend their outstanding efforts throughout the year and are proud to collaborate with each of them.

In this section, we also recognize the recipients of departmental scholarships and awards, as selected by the Graduate and Undergraduate Committees for their academic excellence. We look forward to staying connected with our students as alumni and hope to welcome them back to future events.

Thank You, Student Employess

As we conclude this academic year, we extend our sincere appreciation to our exceptional student employees. Whether serving as Teaching Assistants, Graduate Assistants, or Instructional Student Assistants, your contributions as graders, proctors, office hour leaders, and tutors have been integral to the department's continued success.

We hope these roles have provided meaningful opportunities for academic and professional growth. Your dedication, professionalism, and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for your commitment. It is a privilege to have you as members of our academic community, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the semesters to come.

Lucy Baker

Tristan Bandong

Shane Chung

Michael Doll

Vespan Falamarzian Sharifabadi

Andrew Flores

Alondra Hernandez

Ryan Hernandez

Keanu Hua

Christina Lopez

Lilian Mcgoldrick

Juan Mercado Peralta

Joseph Moore-Raygoza

Yuvi Pannu

Daniel Perez

Juan Perez

Nathan Perish

Christopher Reyes Miranda

Alejandro Ruelas

Katie Snyder

Venus Versher



Photography by Emily Chen

Scholarship Recipients

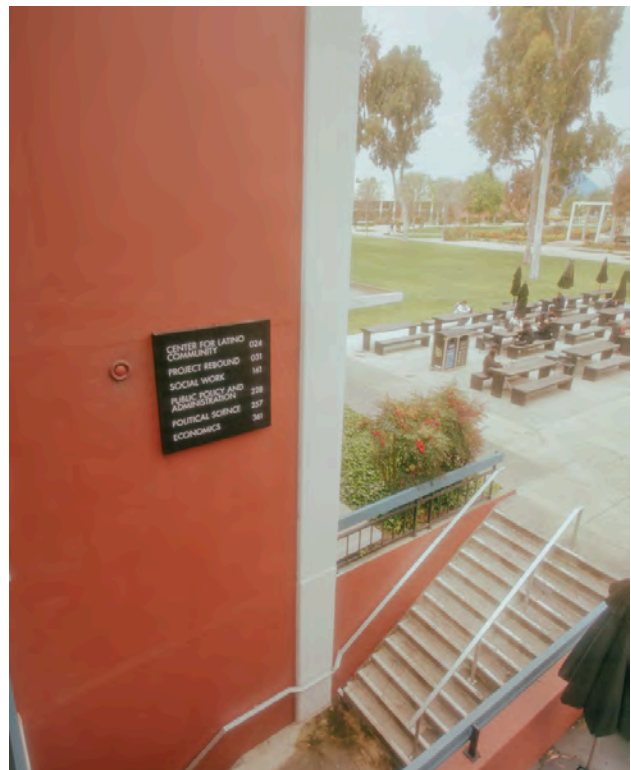
We are proud to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of this year's scholarship recipients. During the 2024-2025 academic year, economics students received a total of \$11,000 from department scholarships. We thank our supportive alumni and faculty for recognizing these deserving students' merit.

We grant four scholarships every year: the Ray and Marge Lancaster Endowment, the Powell Endowed Scholarship, the Gene R. Simonson Scholarship, and the Settlemyer Family Scholarship.

The Ray and Marge Lancaster Endowment is awarded to undergraduate students majoring in Economics who have demonstrated strong academic performance, maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. This year, Marc Geren Masana was awarded \$2,000, and Keanu Hua was awarded \$1,000 in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement and continued intellectual growth. We congratulate both recipients on this well-deserved honor.

The Powell Endowed Scholarship is awarded to a continuing full-time undergraduate or graduate student with a minimum of 3.0 GPA. This year, Diego Diaz and Noah Scott-Metoyer were awarded \$1,500 each for their pursuit of academic excellence. We congratulate both recipients on this well-deserved honor.

The Gene R. Simonson Scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior economics major or minor who maintains a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and is enrolled in 12 units. This year, two students were awarded a \$1,500 scholarship for their academic excellence. Congratulations, Zoey Burns and Alice Malin Melo, for your pursuit of academic excellence.



Photography by Emily Chen

The Settlemyer Family Scholarship is awarded to an Economics major Junior or Senior with a 3.0 GPA who is enrolled in 9 units. This year, Jeannette Faris was awarded the \$1,000 Settlemyer Family Scholarship for her outstanding academic achievement.

These individuals have demonstrated exceptional dedication, academic excellence, and a commitment to personal and professional growth. Their hard work, perseverance, and contributions to their communities embody the values and spirit of the Economics Department.

We are pleased to introduce the recipients of the 2025–2026 Economics Department scholarships, recognizing their exceptional academic achievements and commitment to growth. Thank you to the generous support of our alumni and faculty, the department awarded \$11,000 in scholarships to outstanding students during the 2024–2025 academic year.

Each year, four scholarships are granted: the Ray and Marge Lancaster Endowment, the Powell Endowed Scholarship, the Gene R. Simonson Scholarship, and the Settlemyer Family Scholarship.

The 2025 – 2026 scholarship recipients are,

Settlemyer Family Endowed Scholarship:
Sergio Cervantes

Gene Simonson Endowed Scholarship:
Carter Thomson
Benjamin Maldonado

Powell Endowed Scholarship:
Alondra Hernandez
Andy Gregorio Silvero

Ray and Marge Lancaster Scholarship:
Brianna Maximo
Marilyn Nguyen
Bruce Nunez

These students have demonstrated academic excellence, maintaining GPAs of 3.0 or higher while actively engaging in their coursework and broader academic communities during the 2024-25 school year. These scholarships not only honor their accomplishments but also encourage their continued success. We congratulate each of them on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to their continued contributions to the field of economics.

We applaud their accomplishments and are confident they will continue to make a meaningful impact in their future endeavors. Congratulations to each recipient on this well-deserved honor!



Photography by Emily Chen

Departmental Awards

Every year, the Undergraduate and Graduate Committees recognize students for their academic excellence and performance in Economics courses. The departmental awards include the J. Richard Powell Award of Merit, Wallace Atherton Memorial Award, and Outstanding Undergraduates in each of the three majors, Economics, Business Economics, and Mathematical Economics and Economic Theory.

For the 2024 – 2025 school year, the recipients are:

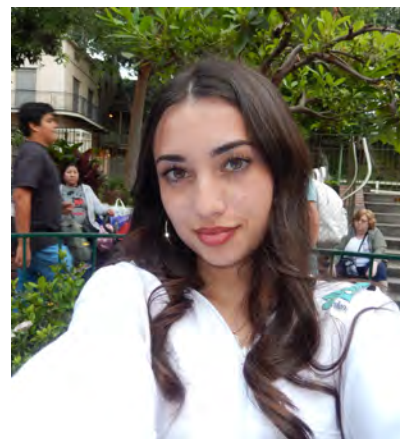
Vespan Falamarzian Sharifabadi,
Wallace Atherton Memorial Award

Nathan Perish,
Wallace Atherton Memorial Award

Michael Doll,
J. Richard Powell Award of Merit



Ethan Nguyen,
Outstanding Undergrad in Economics



Cristina Gomez,
Outstanding Undergrad in Mathematical
Economics & Economics Theory

Noah Scott-Metoyer,
Outstanding Undergrad in Economics

Moira Orr,
Outstanding Undergrad in Business Economics

Daniel Perez,
Outstanding Undergrad in Business Economics

Ava Balaguer,
Outstanding Undergrad in Mathematical
Economics & Economics Theory

**Congratulations to all of this years
recipients!**

Our department also awards Distinguished Undergraduate and Graduate awards to students who have demonstrated a dedication to academic excellence and achievement.

The 2024–2025 students awarded are:

Vespan Falamarzian Sharifabadi,
Distinguished Undergraduate Award

Nathan Perish,
Distinguished Undergraduate Award

Michael Doll,
Distinguished Graduate Award

Juan Peralta Mercado,
Distinguished Graduate Award



Congratulations, Beach EDGE Class of 2025

The 2024–2025 academic year marked the launch of the Economics Department’s Beach EDGE (Expedited Degrees in Graduate Education) program. Designed to streamline academic pathways, Beach EDGE merges existing baccalaureate and master’s programs into a single accelerated track. Students earn both degrees in just five years by applying during their junior year and begin taking graduate-level courses in their senior year, setting the stage for a seamless transition into graduate studies.

Now, as we wrap up the Spring 2025 semester, we are thrilled to celebrate a major milestone: the graduation of our first Beach EDGE cohort with their bachelor’s degrees.

This moment marks a unique point in their academic journey—it’s the end of their undergraduate chapter, the midpoint of their five-year path, and the exciting beginning of their graduate education.

Congratulations,

Diego Diaz, B.A. Business Economics

Christina Lopez, B.A. Business Economics

Marc Geren Masana, B.A. Business Economics

To our graduating students, we are immensely proud of your dedication, your perseverance, and your commitment to academic excellence. You have embraced the challenge of an accelerated program and shown that you are ready to take on even more. As you transition into graduate-level work, remember that you are not starting from scratch—you’re building on a strong foundation of knowledge, experience, and determination.

This is more than just a transition—it’s a launchpad for your future. We can’t wait to see all that you’ll accomplish next.



EVENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Our department aims to develop our students' awareness of career choices as undergraduate economics majors and the options for graduate study through events such as the Economic Seminar Series. Our student organizations also highlight our alumni's career paths and more through their career showcases and professor chats.

ECONOMICS SEMINAR SERIES

Every Fall and Spring semester, the Department of Economics invites guest speakers to present their research in our Economic Seminar Series. We aim to have a speaker every Friday present their research on various issues in the economy to keep students up to date with economic research, highlight the various applications of economics, and share local Ph.D. programs. Students have a chance to network with the speaker after the presentation, ask questions, discuss with peers, and listen to the discussion between our faculty and the guest speaker. This year, we also launched an Economics Seminar Series Archive on Canvas for students to view a recording of the session if they were unable to attend the live session.

This year we had a total of eleven guests; among them were local University Professors and Ph. D. candidates.

Fall 2024

On Friday, Oct. 4, Zheng Zhang, a Ph.D. candidate at UCS, assessed the relationship between intergenerational transfers, public pensions, and households' subjective expectations in her paper titled "Public Pensions and Private Transfers: Evidence from Rural China."

In our second Fall session, Peter Li, a Ph.D. candidate at UCI, discussed the connection between college roommates and academic performance in US public universities. He largely found a disconnect across gender groups and nationalities. For instance, his results indicated that domestic male students with foreign roommates are more likely to earn STEM

degree, while the probability is lower for domestic female students with foreign roommates. He explained the mechanisms behind these results and provided some recommendations for improving student outcomes. His paper is titled "Global Roommates, Local Outcomes: How Foreign Peers Influence Domestic Students in Higher Education."

On Friday, Nov. 1, Mark Van Orden, a Ph.D. candidate from UCI, explored the health tradeoffs associated with steel industry growth in Ohio during WWI in his paper "Pollution-Income

Tradeoffs of Industrialization: Evidence from World War I." He discussed how the increase of the steel industry in Ohio, induced by World War I, led to disproportionate wage growth in steel cities but exposed downstream cities to increased water pollution.

In our fourth session, Younghoon Kim, a UCLA Ph.D. candidate, analyzed the repercussions of the recent Japan-South Korea trade dispute. Specifically, he discussed how Japan's threat to reduce exports to South Korea actually provided a boost for the South Korean economy and a greater share of the global market. His paper is titled "When Export Controls Backfire: Evidence from 2019 Korea-Japan Trade Dispute."

On Friday, Nov. 15, Yasutaka Mori, a UCLA Ph.D. candidate, presented his paper, "Aggregating Distortions in Networks with Multi-Product Firms." Mori discussed the connection between multi-product firms, production networks, and productivity. Using Chile as an example, he explained how changes in demand for one product from a multi-product firm affect the production of all other products from the same firm. This leads to a misallocation of resources, which has broader implications for the nation's productivity.

Finally, in the last installment of the Fall 2025 Economics Seminar Series on Friday, Dec. 6, Erica Chuang, a Ph.D. candidate at UCSD, presented her paper "Stock-Generated Externalities: The Principle of Targeting and Foregone Environmental Benefits." Erica's talk explored how various policies targeted at firms influence the provision of social benefits from natural resources over time. She found that policies aimed at affecting companies' capital stock can lead to socially optimal levels of natural resources. However, policies designed to impact companies' production levels are ineffective in optimizing natural resources. She discussed possible mechanisms behind these results.



Spring 2025

The Spring Seminar Series kicked off with Yifei Ding, a Ph.D. candidate from UC Riverside presenting "Deep Learning for Individual Heterogeneity with Generated Regressors by Adversarial Training." Their framework integrates control functions and parameter functions seamlessly, enabling its adaptation to diverse econometric models extending the Double Machine Learning (DML) approach.

The following session on Friday, March 7, featured Dr. Sarah Bana, an assistant professor from Chapman University. Dr. Bana presented a paper entitled "AI-Enabled Job Markets & Market Participation: Jobseekers' 'Rational Expectations' About Competition vs 'AI Aversion'" that assessed the role of AI in shaping the expectations and participation of potential employees in the job market.



On Friday, March 21, Dr. Fan Liang presented "Digital Money and Payment Flow Competition." Dr. Liang's talk delved into how digital money services (like CashApp or Venmo) disrupt the efficacy of traditional banks by competing with them for customers' payment data and discussed the implications of this disruption for customers' access to credit.

On Friday, April 11, Dr. Konstantin Platonov an assistant professor from LMU presented "Post-

Pandemic Recovery: Search and Matching, Market Power, and Endogenous Labor Demand." Dr. Platonov's talk explained the reasons behind the quick recovery of output and labor productivity after the pandemic despite high unemployment.

On Friday, April 18, The last talk of the 2024 – 2025 Economic Seminar Series hosted Dr. Seth Benzell from Chapman University.

We owe special thanks to Dr. Andre Harrison for his commitment to the Economic Seminar Series. Thank you for all your hard work!



Department Recap

Convocation – At this year's College of Liberal Arts Convocation, the Economics Department had much to celebrate. We welcomed a new tenure-track faculty member and a new staff member and proudly congratulated staff promotion. In recognition of their long-standing commitment, two faculty members received 35-year service awards, while another was honored for 40 years of service. We also celebrated the retirement of a valued faculty member, marking the end of a remarkable chapter in their career.



Dean Thein, Dr. Kairon Shayne Garcia, and Dr. Chen



Dr. Chen presenting to ESA members.

ESA meets the Economics Department - Our very active Economics Student Association (ESA) recently invited the department to a meet-and-greet event aimed at strengthening connections between students and faculty. We were delighted to participate and grateful to see such enthusiasm from our students to engage more deeply with the department. Their eagerness to get involved truly reflects the vibrant community ESA is building. Read more about the events ESA hosts in the Economics Student Association section.

CLA Day - The Economics Department participated in CLA Day alongside all departments within the College of Liberal Arts. We showcased the many programs we offer, including our three majors, two minors, one master's program, and the newly added Beach EDGE initiative. We were excited to see strong interest in our minors and were thrilled with the great turnout at the event.



Mayra and Dr. Chen speaking to a student at CLA Day.

Long Beach Economic Forum - This year's Long Beach Economic Forum, hosted by the Long Beach Economic Partnership, offered a valuable opportunity for learning and connection. We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to the students who volunteered at the event. Their participation allowed them to gain insights into local economic trends, network with professionals in the field, and explore potential career opportunities. We're proud to see our students actively engaging with the broader economic community!



Students Volunteer at the Long Beach Economics Forum



Ty Yim, Dr. Yutian (Kate) Chen, Mayra Lopez

Staff Council Spooktacular Office Decorating Contest – The Economics Department staff proudly took third place in the small office decorating contest! We kept our spirits spooky and created a creepy carnival with popcorn giveaways to match!

Holiday Celebration and Service Recognition - After a long pause due to the pandemic, the Economics Department was thrilled to finally bring back our annual holiday party, graciously hosted at Dr. Yamarik's lovely home. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and celebrate as a community. We honored Dr. Jack Hou and Dr. Andrea Mays for their years of dedicated service, recognized Shirin and Ahmad for achieving full-time status, and simply enjoyed being together again in the spirit of the season.



Dr. Saboori Memar and Dr. Mileva



Prof. Herman Singh speaking to parents and students.



Prof. Singh, Dr. Garcia, Ty Yim, Dr. Chen, and ESA Members Ethen Lundquist, Ella Graves, Mike Aquino, and Hung Nguyen at Day at the Beach.

Day at the Beach - The Economics Department participated in the fourth annual Day at the Beach, an event where prospective students and their families visit campus to explore the university and connect with departments. Alongside the Economics Student Association (ESA), we had the pleasure of meeting many future economists and answering their questions as they considered making CSULB their home. We were thrilled with the turnout and excited to share what makes our department a great place to learn and grow.



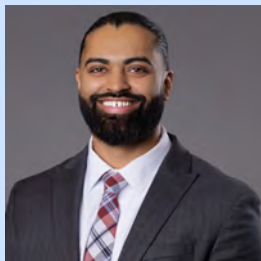
The Office of Economic Research



**Dr. Robert Kleinhenz,
Director**



**Megan Anaya,
Associate Director**



**Herman Singh,
Assistant Director & Research
Associate**

The CSULB Office of Economic Research (OER) conducts applied economic research and analysis on the economies of Long Beach and the Southern California region. Through its research, the OER connects CSULB to the City of Long Beach, its neighborhoods and residents, and its businesses. The OER produces economic forecasts, studies of local industries and the region's workforce, as well as the region's residents. It provides information and insights through its forecast presentations, reports, and media interviews.

Through strategic partnerships with local cities and public agencies, the OER bridges the gap between academic research and practical economic policymaking, ensuring that its work influences real-world outcomes. The OER also engages in sponsored research projects on behalf of private, nonprofit, and government entities.

A core component of their efforts is student involvement, providing students with hands-on research opportunities that not only contribute to impactful projects but also equip them with the skills necessary for future careers in economics and public policy.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

This year the OER had two student research assistants, Lucy Baker and Andrew Flores.

Lucy Baker is a second-semester master's student in Economics. She assists the OER with data collection and organization for research projects related to the local economy. She recently contributed to the Long Beach Recovery Act report and is currently preparing to support the upcoming Long Beach Transit Economic Impact Analysis.

She states, "My time with the OER has been an incredible opportunity to grow professionally and apply what I've learned in a real-world setting. I've enjoyed learning how to process and present data in a way that tells a story and can inform policy or business decisions. Collaborating with the team has also allowed me to observe and learn from people who are experienced, professional, and genuinely great at what they do. I feel lucky to be part of the work we're doing and to contribute to research in a subject I care about."

Andrew Flores is a master's student in Economics at California State University, Long Beach. He currently works as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Economic Statistics Lab section and has been actively involved with the Office of Economic Research. His academic interests include econometrics, public policy analysis, and economic development, with a particular focus on applied research using real-world data.

He states, "Working with the OER has been one of the highlights of my time at CSULB. It's given me the chance to take what I've learned in the classroom and apply it to real-world projects. This has included projects like analyzing the economic recovery in the local economy post-pandemic and analyzing the economic impact of Long Beach Transit investments in public transportation. Collaborating with faculty and fellow students in the OER has not only strengthened my technical skills in data analysis and economic modeling, but also deepened my understanding of the economic challenges and opportunities facing our region. I'm grateful for the opportunity and proud to contribute to the department's research mission at the OER."



Economics Student Association

The Economics Student Association (ESA) is an academic undergraduate student organization and an integral part of our community. Their goal is to strengthen the bridge between the classroom and the real world. ESA hosts resume workshops, invites guest speakers and alumni to discuss their experiences as post-graduates and professionals, and encourages student engagement and development. The executive board continues to cultivate new ideas for the growth of its members professionally and academically. This year, the club has seen an increase in engagement and participation.

We are extremely proud and grateful to our executive members for their work as presidents of ESA. The following is a recap of this years events.



ESA President, Alfonso Berumen and ESA VP, Mike Aquino

Meet the Economics Department - On Sept. 11, 2024, Dr. Yutian Chen and Dr. Mariya Mileva, and staff members Ty Yim and Mayra Lopez introduced themselves and discussed resources available to students to kick off the 2024-25 academic year.

Economics in Finance – On Sept. 18th, ESA invited CSULB Alum Danyelle Samudio ('21) to discuss how her economics degree prepared her for a career in finance with Paramount Network & Lionsgate Entertainment.

Professor Showcase: Economics of the Sports Industry – On Sept. 25th, Herman Singh discussed his professional journey and presented on economics in the world of sports.

Fall Board Members

Alfonso Berumen, President

Mike Aquino, Vice President

Juan Perez, Treasurer

Boheri Rivas, VP of Communications & Secretary

Adriana Ascencio, VP of Corporate Relations

Jasmine Forbes, VP of Academic Relations

Daisy Ortiz, VP of Public Marketing

Karla Sabeh, VP of Outreach and Finance

Hung Nguyen, Alumni

Daniel Perez, Community Service

Keanu Hua, CLASC Representative

Bonfire Night: On Sept. 27th, ESA partnered with the CSULB International Business Association and Public Relations Student Society for a relaxed end-of-the-summer social event.

Coffee with Professors (Fall) – On October 1st and 2nd, ESA hosted the semesterly Coffee with Professors, where students, faculty, and staff chat over a cup of coffee and discuss interests, courses, and network with each other.

Exploring Careers in Economics – On October 15th, ESA was invited to attend a virtual talk hosted by the United States Federal Reserve to learn about diversity in studying economics and working for the US Federal Reserve.

Being a Leader in Academia & the Future: Ashley Wong – On October 9th ESA invited former ESA President & USC Master's student Ashley Wong to help current CSULB students prepare for Graduate Programs.

Coding Workshop: R Studio with Dr. Harrison – On October 16th Dr. Harrison hosted an in-depth workshop to ESA to help students review coding with R & R Studio.

Professor Showcase: International Labor Economics by Dr. Jack Hou – On October 17th ESA invited Dr. Jack Hou to speak on his professional education & career, his interests and specialties, and his research on Labor Economics & International Economics.

Professor Showcase: Economics of Regulation with Andrea Mays – On October 23rd ESA invited Andrea Mays to discuss her knowledge in economic regulation, law, and literature.

Career Showcase: Transportation Economics with Kristen Monaco – On November 6th, ESA hosted Kristen Monaco, former CSULB Professor and decorated Federal to discuss her various career paths and experience with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, and Federal Maritime Commission.

Career Showcase: The Los Angeles Dodgers with Crystal Gonzalez – On November 13th, ESA invited 2023 Alumni Crystal Gonzalez to discuss her academic and professional journey. Crystal discussed her marketing degree and working for various sports clubs like LA Galaxy & the LA Dodgers.

Career Showcase: USAID Careers with Karen Klimowski – On November 14th ESA hosted a virtual meeting with West Coast Diplomat in Residence Karen Klimowski to discuss how students can use their Economics degree to impact their communities and more.



ESA President, Alfonso Beruman, Dr. Kairon Shayne Garcia, and Dr. Chen



ESA Members and Prof. Mays

SPRING BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Aquino, President

Karla Sabeh, Vice President

Hung Nguyen, VP of Communications

Ethen Lundquist, Head of Finance

Jasmine Forbes, Head of Academic Relations

Yuvi Pannu, Head of Social Media

Johnathan Herrera, Head of Community Service

Adriana Ascencio, VP Corporate Relations

Keanu Hua, CLASC Representative



Spring 2025 ESA Board Members

Meet the Economics Department - On Feb. 5, Dr. Yutian Chen and Dr. Mariya Mileva introduced themselves and discussed resources available to students to kick off the 2024-25 academic year.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) – On Feb. 12, ESA hosted the Bureau of Labor Statistics as they discussed market conditions, employment trends, and opportunities for students.

Coffee with Professors (Spring) – On Feb 18 and 19, ESA hosted the semesterly Coffee with Professors, where students, faculty, and staff chat over a cup of coffee and discuss interests, courses, and network with each other.

CESA Game Night – On March 5, ESA hosted a game night for students to unwind and have fun.

Eric Chiang Tariffs: The Winners and Losers of Trade – On March 12, ESA host Dr. Eric Chiang, an esteemed Economist, to analyze the effects of trade and tariffs on the consumer.

Career Showcase: Economics in Business with CSULB Alum Manuel Rubianes – On March 26, ESA invited Alum Manuel Rubianes to discuss his experience applying economics in business, working with startups, and his post-grad experience.

Economic Career Paths with Robert Kleinhenz – On April 6, ESA hosted Robert Kleinhenz, a former lecturer to share insights on career paths and discuss his own career in academia, private consulting, and public policy.



ESA Members, Students and Faculty at Coffee with Professors.



ESA Members and Prof. Singh.



ESA Members at the Bon Fire event.

Looking Ahead

We are excited to launch the Economics Student and Alumni Network on Beach Nexus!

Beach Nexus is CSULB's exclusive online mentoring and professional network that connects students, alumni, faculty, and staff to share insight and advice on educational and career options, best networking practices and goal-setting.

For department updates in real time, please join our Beach Nexus Network, follow us on Instagram, and connect with us on LinkedIn!

We remain committed to sharing the ongoing successes and developments within our community. We value our connection with alumni, students, and faculty, and we invite you to stay engaged with us.



Share your updates!
We look forward to
hearing from you!

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**Scan the QR code to give back to
the Economics Department**

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