The summer sure did go by fast! This past year has been filled with learning experiences for me, as I have learned the ins- and-outs of UNC Greensboro, the Economics Department, the Bryan School, and Greensboro itself. It was such a busy year, but I have come to appreciate the faculty and staff in the department a great deal and am thankful to be in such a collegial place. We in the Economics Department were excited to be getting back to more face-to-face teaching this past spring, after two long years of online courses during the pandemic. We missed interacting with our students in the classroom, and hope that they were just as eager to return as we were. I look forward to what the next academic year brings us and can only hope that it will be a tad less busy!

Among last year’s flurry of activities was the department’s hosting of the UNCG Harriet Elliott Lecture Series. The Harriet Elliott Lecture Series is one of UNCG’s oldest and most established lecture programs and focuses on amplifying the voices of those who can offer fresh insights and perspectives on key issues in the social and behavioral sciences. For this year’s lecture series, the Economics Department chose the theme of diversity, inclusion, and the economy. We were honored to host all our speakers, but in particular we extend a warm thank you to our keynote, Dr. Lisa Cook. Dr. Cook’s keynote address titled “Can Addressing Gender and Racial Disparities in Innovation Unleash Economic Growth?” garnered an engaged audience made up of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, and members of the local community. Since joining us on campus in March, Dr. Cook has been confirmed as a new member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Many congratulations to her!

In addition to everyone’s hard work on the Harriet Elliott Lecture Series, the department also made great progress on several strategic initiatives. Led by Dr. Dora Gicheva, we have revised the PhD curriculum with the aim of reducing the time to completion for students and the accommodation of online students. In an effort spearheaded by Dr. Martijn van Hasselt, we have developed a junior faculty mentoring program, which will add more structure and intentionality to the guidance we give to junior faculty as they develop in their careers.

Additionally, we have taken full advantage of our newly fleshed out faculty in macroeconomics to create a macroeconomic version of our undergraduate capstone course, ECO 498. This fall, the macroeconomic section of ECO 498 will participate in the annual College Fed Challenge, which is a team competition for undergraduate students hosted by the Federal Reserve. The competition provides students with the chance to use and hone their analytical skills as the teams analyze current economic and financial conditions. Teams then make a recommendation of monetary policy action which is judged by a panel of experts. Last fall, 74 schools competed from across the country, and we are excited to add UNCG to the mix!

We have also made significant strides with our Advisory Board. In the last year we have added two new members: Dr. Monica Schmidt of Cone Health, and Mr. Bob Pugh of Insight Wealth Management. We have also benefited from Advisory Board member John Quigley taking up the role of Executive in Residence. Please be sure to take a look at the letter from the Advisory Board to read the exciting news of John’s work coaching students on their job searches and what Monica is doing with our first MA intern at Cone Health.

Last year was a whirlwind of activity here in the Economics Department, and we are excited to see what the coming year has in store for us. We look forward to forging ahead in our continued effort to best serve our students, faculty, and our community.
Like all high school students in the Netherlands, Dr. Martijn van Hasselt had to choose a major before entering college. He enjoyed math but was intimidated by the abstract nature of pure math, so when he discovered the field of econometrics – a blend of math, statistics, and economics – he signed up. This was the first step in his non-linear career path which contributes to the richness of his research and teaching at the Bryan School of Business and Economics. Next, his one-year undergraduate exchange at Brown University led him to fulfilling a Ph.D. there. His first job out of graduate school was Assistant Professor at the University of Western Ontario, where he started in 2006. The following year, his wife Amy Vines, Associate Professor of Medieval English literature, accepted a position in UNCG’s Department of English. The couple lived apart for several years but their career paths converged again in 2010 when he was hired as a research economist at RTI International in Research Triangle Park.

RTI is a nonprofit institute providing research and services to governmental and commercial clients. “Much of their work is quantitative and data-driven. My background in economics and statistics put me in a good position to use my skills and contribute in a different kind of way.”

Econometrics can be a difficult field for students to learn,” he said. Sometimes we have to go the extra mile to show students its value, especially when they are just starting out with basic statistics and formulas. We help to cultivate the idea that econometrics is more than a skill – it’s like solving a puzzle or a mystery. It can be very challenging but also very rewarding.”

Econometrics expert Dr. van Hasselt focuses on analyzing and solving real-world problems. After four years of commuting to RTI, an Assistant Professor spot came open at the Bryan School of Business and Economics for an econometrics specialist. He applied and was delighted to be offered a position in 2014. “I feel so lucky because UNC-Greensboro was open to looking at someone who had been outside of academia for a while. The atmosphere here is so supportive and collegial. This welcoming philosophy aligns with the student population which is very non-traditional (commuters, part time, older adults, returning professionals, racial and background diversity, etc.),” he said.

Dr. Van Hasselt, Associate Professor, finds teaching to be challenging and rewarding, and after two years of mostly teaching online and hybrid classes, he is thrilled to be back in the classroom. “The field of econometrics is thriving, and we hear from our alumni and employers how happy folks are to have these skills. Data is everywhere, and econometrics plays a role in equipping students with the ability to do things with data and explain what it means.

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Dr. Van Hasselt’s research has evolved to be more application oriented because of his experience in the research environment at RTI. “My collaborations and connections with people put the applications of econometrics front and center. We aren’t trying to find an application that suits the method; instead, we focus on a real problem in, for example, healthcare or policy. Our starting point is then: how can we leverage and adapt the right econometric tools to analyze and solve this problem?”

He is broadly interested in problems that involve misclassification errors, which, he says, are abundant in survey data. Currently he is collaborating on a project with Dr. Christian Gregory at United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and an alumni from UNCG’s Ph.D. program in economics. Their work aims to shed some light on the impact, if any, of participating in SNAP (food stamps) on diet quality. They are using data from the CDC’s National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES). “There is actually substantial, well-documented misreporting (underreporting mostly) of SNAP participation in surveys,” he said. Accounting for such errors is critical for obtaining a more accurate picture of the impact of SNAP.

In the early days of COVID-19 he collaborated on a short paper about COVID-19 prevalence, data reliability and measurement error. He’s still interested in COVID-19 and has an ongoing project to examine health disparities in COVID-19 prevalence, hospitalizations, and mortality, while accounting for data shortcomings such as misreporting or underreporting of cases, limited accuracy of the COVID-19 tests, and the non-random application of testing in the population.

He’s also working in collaboration with folks at RTI on an ongoing project to evaluate the burden of disease of alcohol use. The burden is typically quantified by calculating a fraction of disease cases, such as liver cirrhosis, that can be attributed to alcohol use in the population. A critical input in this calculation is the prevalence of different levels of alcohol consumption. Estimates of prevalence are based on responses to large, national surveys; however, alcohol use, and especially heavy use, is notoriously underreported. Says Dr. Van Hasselt, “My collaborators at RTI bring a tremendous amount of knowledge to the table about the epidemiology of alcohol use and its impact on society and healthcare. Econometric tools can be adapted to get a better handle on the impact, and I am excited to be able to contribute to the project in this way.

“I enjoy having a portfolio of different areas where I can contribute, versus being more narrowly focused on methodology only, like I was early in my career. Now I’m more comfortable collaborating in several areas, and the only reason I can work in these areas is really because of the team effort. We all bring our skills and knowledge together and turn it into something bigger.”

He and Amy have twin 11-year-old boys who adore playing soccer. I started playing the piano again during the pandemic, and it was a great escape.”

I foresee many weekends on the soccer sidelines – and we’ll encourage them to play as long as they are having fun.”
The intersections between the workplace and human health behavior, behavioral interventions and data, academic disciplines and the public/private research realm are research hot spots for Dr. Jeremy Bray, Jefferson-Pilot Excellence Professor in Economics – and it’s these intersections that have shaped his research agendas, and which fall under the emerging field called transdisciplinary economics. He works in the world of behavioral health interventions, including workplace substance abuse programs, alcohol screening, and brief interventions for at-risk drinking.

INTERSECTION ONE: PSYCHOLOGY AND ECONOMICS
A self-described accidental economist, Bray began his academic career at UNC Greensboro as a music major playing the euphonium. Realizing the career limitations in this field, he followed his curiosity about human behavior and switched to a Psychology major. Meanwhile, his roommate talked him into taking a macroeconomics class where he met Dr. Stuart Allen. This intersection of psychology and economics sparked the beginning of a lifelong passion.

Discovering a passion for economics too late in the game to change his major, Dr. Bray took Dr. Allen’s encouragement to apply for the M.A. program in Applied Economics. Who would have imagined that in 2013 Bray would eventually follow in Allen’s footsteps to become Chair for the Department of Economics (for eight years!)?

“I needed a year to decompress before starting on my master’s degree, and during this year I met my wife, who is also a UNC Greensboro alumna. Meeting her shifted my focus and I knew I wanted to pursue a Ph.D. My mother-in-law worked at RTI International and told me about the company’s tuition reimbursement program for Ph.D. programs, so I decided to go for it.”

INTERSECTION TWO: ACADEMIA, NON-PROFIT RESEARCH, AND FUNDING AGENCIES
He began working fulltime at RTI as a research assistant working on topics that fit with his psychology background and in the realm of workplace Employee Assistance Programs (EAP). At the same time, he pursued his Ph.D. at UNC in Economics.

He explains that the EAP grew out of occupational alcoholism programs to help employees work through issues. In the 1980s it expanded to cover anything that impacts employee performance, and now it includes mental health, alcohol, and substance use.

HAPPY ACCIDENTS, OPEN DOORS

“I’ve had a lot of happy accidents throughout my career that have propelled me deeper into my research, and I’m very thankful to get to collaborate with experts in the field to seek to understand and find methods for effective interventions.”

Among these happy accidents are collaborations with the likes of Dr. Thomas Babor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine who was one of the investigators funded by the World Health Organization to develop brief interventions for excessive alcohol use. Babor and Dr. John Higges-Biddle in UC’s Department of Community Medicine and Healthcare, had a grant to study alcohol screening and interventions, and they needed an economist for their Cutting Back study.

“They brought me into this study at a pivotal moment – Dr. Babor was the biggest name in the field and I got connected to him and the study, and that led me to being project director for the cross-site evaluation of SAMSHA’s Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral (SBIRT) grant programs. This propelled me into SBIRT studies, which is where my research continues.”

TRANSDISCIPLINARY ECONOMICS
Being an economist on a multidisciplinary team has changed over the decades. “We’ve evolved from each team member on a study only focusing on their own work. It expanded in the 1990s to become interdisciplinary, where different disciplines working on the same topic in parallel, but seldom working together. This was the model for the Cutting Back Study with Dr. Babor – we all still were doing our own thing.”

Transdisciplinary teams come together to create new frameworks that span disciplines. This was the model for Bray’s approach on the Work, Family and Health Network.
Bray said transdisciplinary teams can be challenging for new folks who are trained to work within ‘disciplinarian silos’. “But I was trained at RTI where we always worked in teams. I became an economist being part of multidisciplinary teams so I’ve always seen the value. When I came to academics, I saw that we often are more siloed with more emphasis put strictly on our disciplinary viewpoint. This said, I’ve found a very good home at the Bryan School and the Economics Department at UNCG. They are very good at valuing and recognizing the transdisciplinary contribution – you bring the strengths of your discipline to bear to help solve the bigger issue.”

**RESEARCH TODAY**

In late 2019, Bray landed a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) for his research project “Alcohol consumption and related comorbid conditions: health state utilities for economic evaluation.”

This quality of life study had a strong undergraduate component, and in January 2020 had just launched with the first in-person, all-hands meeting with collaborators from RTI and the Harvard School of Public Health. A few weeks later everything shut down due to COVID and everything switched to Zoom. Bray was familiar with working remotely with teams across the country – yet there was a training element for the students – and Bray as he learned how to work with undergraduate research assistants over Zoom.

The project has worked out well and is near completion. “We got funding for one more year, as well as a COVID supplement to survey people about drinking patterns and their quality of life during the pandemic.”

Bray’s collaborator on this study, Carolina Barbosa, a health economist in RTI International’s Behavioral Health Financing Economics, and Evaluation Program, had done a survey showing that during COVID sales of alcohol increased and people started drinking much more heavily. “Based on the strength of her study, our team got a COVID supplement resulting in two more undergraduate assistants. One is planning to use our survey data for his senior honor’s project. We are wrapping up this project with one more paper in the works.”

**GENETIC DATA AND HISTORY OF DRINKING PROBLEMS**

The national survey for the heart of the project, the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC-111), is the main data source for his study. Part of the study includes genetic profiles and histories of drinking problems.

“Previously we only have correlations based on our data. But the genetic component may offer an ability to strengthen causal statements. We may be able to show that individuals have higher/lower quality of life because they drink this way. We are still waiting for the genetic data – there’s a separate application process. The folks at RTI are ahead of me on this – they will be doing most of the econometric work for the paper.”

**STATE AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT FOR WORKPLACE WELLBEING**

In the meantime, Bray is circling back to his roots in workplace wellbeing through several projects with Carolina Center for Total Worker Health® and Well-Being. “This is a joint effort with Dan Bibeau and GracieLee Weaver here at UNC Greensboro and friends at RTI and led by Dr. Laura Linnan at UNC’s Gillings School of Global Public Health. We are looking at workplace wellbeing and bringing together traditional occupational health and safety with health promotion and wellness efforts to understand and improve work and working conditions for everyone.” Bray is on the Planning and Evaluation Core Team for The Carolina Center for Total Worker Health® and Well-Being. He’s working with employee assistance programs and to understand how what they do improves people’s work life and overall life.

Bringing all the research back to Greensboro and to the workplace environment, Bray is now working with the MetroLab Network project, a national consortium of partnerships with local municipalities and universities that share data to improve social services, mobility options, urban spaces, public health, and more. Guilford County and UNC Greensboro are a Metrolab site.

“We’ve got some data on emergency response times within the Guilford County’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS), including the Guilford County Sheriff and Guilford County Fire. We are in the preliminary stages of working with Guilford County EMS to look into work around alcohol use (in the field as well as in the workplace) and wellness messaging. We’re hoping to get some more data as part of Metrolab. We see Guilford County as a workplace where we can have a real, meaningful impact.”
Two months before Will Queen graduated with a PhD in Economics from UNC Greensboro in May, he was already working as an Economist on the Central Science Team within the People Experience and Technology Organization (Human Resources) at Amazon.

In graduate school, Queen looked into organizations and larger companies that provide the opportunity to do impactful and interesting research. “Data is a big issue – it’s hard to get data on things I’m interested in, and hard to get an audience. This is one reason I looked into industry; it has a huge potential for labor related research. I knew Amazon was hiring economists so I applied there as well as casting a wide net over the private sector with my job search. Because Amazon has more than one million employees, there are opportunities to try so many things. I didn’t expect to be at Amazon, and I’m so happy I am here. I feel that my career path is well launched and that it won’t ever be boring.”

In the few months that Queen has been at Amazon, he already sees his research and work directly impacting a lot of people’s lives. “It’s exciting to see that our policies, benefits, programs, offerings, everything we research applies to a lot of people.” Prior to his role at Amazon, Queen worked for the Center for Housing and Community Studies at UNC Greensboro on issues surrounding adolescent mental health.

“Amazon is larger than many U.S. states. With the work I did in graduate school, it was sometimes hard to see whether my research was making an impact. But at Amazon, leaders and executives are asking for help in understanding issues related to employees. We know that our reports and efforts will go to someone who can make changes.”

Queen enjoys working remotely as part of an innovative interdisciplinary team. “I get to contribute what I learned in the PhD program, and I also enjoy sitting back and learning as others contribute their expertise in sociology, psychology, data engineering and so on. It’s a supportive team – if someone on the team in Washington notices I’m online at 8 pm Eastern time, I’ll get a message saying something like, ‘What are you doing? Don’t work too much!’.”

APPRECIATING UNC GREENSBORO Queen reflects on how his experience at UNC Greensboro set him up for success as a professional. “The professors were wonderful, and because the program was small, I had access to them. It was easy to set up meetings, and having access to the experts, in teaching and advising, was really important.

“Also, the applied nature of the program is invaluable. A lot of education is useful, but sometimes it’s hard to apply what you learned to a job. In economics, what we learn will actually warrant a company hiring me. We learn how to code, how to clean the data, how to use statistics and econometrics to understand how the world works. It’s a practical program, and companies know that UNC Greensboro graduates know how to apply tools.”

For students going to graduate school, Queen advises them to explore options in technology or in the private sector. “There are a lot of jobs and great opportunities that may be advantageous to the traditional routes – especially if you don’t want to teach. Don’t limit yourself. Look into the private sector. You may be just as surprised as I was!”

ON THE HORIZON Queen says, “As a new economist my long term goals are to grow the scope of my work. Perhaps as a researcher who manages other researchers – we can help positively change the direction of a business and help it set priorities based on how we collect and use data to answer questions. I plan to stay in the fields of economics, research, science, and technology. Maybe in 10 or 20 years I’ll have a larger scope of influence. I’m already on this path – Amazon is a great spot.”

In his free time, Queen enjoys rock climbing. “I enjoy problem solving, so climbing provides a three-dimensional way to do this.” Queen and his fiancée, Leeanna, will be reunited this fall when she relocates from Boston to Greensboro to launch her piano tuning business.
Dr. Lorissa Pagán can hardly believe it’s been nearly two years since she received her Ph.D. in Economics from the Bryan School of Business and Economics. With Ph.D. in hand, she immediately embarked on her new career as a senior consultant, also known as a healthcare economist, with the Lewin Group, a consulting business unit within OptumServe, the federal health services business of Optum and UnitedHealth Group.

She is charged with evaluating alternative payment models for Medicare. “Most of us know someone who is on Medicare – it touches so many lives. It’s an honor to be part of a team to understand the real-life impacts of these payment models.”

She explains there are many ways that Medicare may pay doctors. Pay-per-service is typical, but there are different ways of paying providers that could lower costs and improve quality.

Earlier in life Pagán wanted to be a meteorologist or an engineer. “I was fascinated by data, models, and math.” As she approached college, she took an economics class to try to understand how the world worked – a lofty goal she admits. As a freshman in college she took Principles of Microeconomics, and something just clicked. “It drew me in – I was most excited about diminishing marginal utility: hungry, the first bite is great, and becoming full the interest decreases. I remember telling my mom about this.”

She was hooked and became an economics major with a minor in math. While an undergraduate, UNC Greensboro introduced an accelerated master’s program, which allowed her to take graduate level courses as an undergraduate and have those courses count toward both her undergraduate degree and master’s degree in Applied Economics. “It was very challenging, and I learned so many skills.”

Pagán soon realized she wanted to go even deeper in her applied studies – and that many jobs require a Ph.D., so she shifted and became a doctoral student.

She views her dissertation process as an apprenticeship, learning skills under experts. Her dissertation focused on long-acting reversible contraception. “I appreciated working with my wonderful committee and learning how to take something from a question through the process of refining, collecting data, evaluating it, and writing it up. The topics, classes, and coursework at UNC Greensboro gave me a great foundation. It’s nice to have had such an education that prepared me to move into my work role.”

She appreciates the support and connection she received from her UNCG professors. And she felt so much bonding and support within her fellow students.

Just now settling into her new career, Pagán says in her current role she has a lot of room to grow. “As long as I’m continuously learning, growing, developing new skills, and moving forward, I’m happy.”

In her time off, she enjoys the beauty of nature and spends as much time outside as possible.

“I apply the same applied economics toolbox that I used on my dissertation to seek alternate payment models – these tools can be used to understand and solve many problems.”

She explained, “We test the alternative pay models and evaluate how they work. It is evaluators like me that provide independent evaluations to see the impact each model has on reducing payments, changes in quality, utilization, and more.” She says the analyzed data is posted publicly so anyone can see how the model is working.

Pagán loves three aspects of her job: “I’m constantly learning. This is really important to me to always learn and develop new skills. Every week I’m learning something new – from coding skills to presentations to institutional knowledge, and more. Next, I love the work itself, and that I’m using the tool sets I got at UNCG. I use them constantly and can build on them. Finally, I am part of a great team, and I have wonderful co-workers.”
The field of applied economics excites Thomas Grissom because it creates the opportunity to use data and statistical and economic analysis to help people make decisions – and to contribute something positive to the world.

Grissom recently graduated with his Master’s in Applied Economics from UNCG and is still adjusting to having more free time than he’s had in years. “I was working and in school fulltime up until recently, so it’s an adjustment!”

While seeking a position as a professional economist, Grissom continues working as a Financial Aid Counselor at Vance-Granville Community College where he enjoys helping students with a lot of potential find opportunities to pursue higher education. Vance-Granville Community College services an impoverished, and what was a tobacco-dependent community.

“I got my start in higher education here at Vance-Granville Community College, and I’ve greatly benefitted from it. I’m so happy to be in a position where I can give these kids every opportunity to succeed and achieve their dreams. I get to interact with students every day, and award scholarships, including the Golden Leaf Scholarship. Some of these students are coming from extreme circumstances, so we find ways to give them a chance, or a second chance. These are real people with real problems and I enjoy helping them overcome obstacles to find their success.”

Grissom’s intellectual curiosity led him to get his master’s in Economics from UNC Greensboro. “While at Vance-Granville Community College I was very good at History and English, but economics just didn’t make sense to me. I kept hearing about the economy, and inflation on the news and I knew I needed to study it so I could understand things.”

After his first economics class, he knew he wanted to pursue this path. He transferred to UNC to major in Economics with minors in Public Policy (to see the broader picture) and Philosophy (to get a break from the math). After graduating he took a two-year break, and then started looking at master’s programs.

The Bryan School’s website attracted me because the programs were not only focused on data science and analytics; they focused on the intersection of economic theory, data science, and real world decision making. I knew right away that this is where I wanted to get my master’s degree.”
He started out with the Quantitative Economics Business Certificate and became very interested in the analytical aspect of decision making.

“The real excitement is taking data, statistics, and economic analysis to help people. Even though it’s a quantitative field, the applied aspect helps people make decisions.”

“After my first semester in the certificate program I was invited to become a Bryan School Student Ambassador. It was so valuable – we had monthly meetings including professional development, meeting with alumni, and participating in virtual information sessions. We also got to share our experience with potential students. I feel I made a positive contribution to the Bryan School.”

Even though the program was 100% online, he felt a sense of community and belonging. “The professors frequently sent messages and followed up. I was so warmly welcomed into the community and given the opportunity to engage with professors and other students.”

While Grissom likes the whole field of economics, it’s the sub fields within the discipline that really call him. “The first time I heard about health economics was at UNCG. I took a class called Empirical Health Analytics with Dr. Martin Anderson. I had never thought about health this way. We used programming languages to look at how healthcare spending and utilization is impacted by educational attainment. I enjoyed this so much. And at this time I had a serious health situation and I could see how what we studied was applied.”

He’s also interested in looking at the analytics of education because up to this point, he has spent his professional career in education. “In several UNCG classes we looked at how education affects other variables, for example, looking at how education affected income.”

The next step for Grissom is to secure a position where he is able to use his technical skills and translate them to help make positive contributions in the real world. “There are many positions that align with this ambition. I’m not fixed on a particular career – I’m interested in multiple fields in economics – they all have something to offer.”

Grissom makes it a priority to get outside every day, whether riding his bike or walking trails. He also enjoys reading for fun (something he didn’t do in graduate school) and playing the piano. “Playing the piano is kind of like being in grad school… I’m using a technical skill to make a positive contribution to the world.”
As a child growing up in rural China, Ruiyi Ouyang was aware of poverty and the threat of starvation. This awareness fueled his desire to pursue an education and to study the phenomena of starvation in rural economies around the world, particularly China and Africa.

His deep aspiration to understand all of the conditions leading to starvation – and to hopefully find applicable solutions – is what inspired him to pursue his career path as a college professor and researcher.

Ouyang came to UNC Greensboro in 2017 as an international student with the goals to learn English and to pursue college studies.

Ouyang recently graduated from UNC Greensboro with a double major in economics and mathematics. His stellar academic achievements led to his induction into the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the oldest and most prestigious liberal arts honors society recognizing such achievements.

This fall he begins the next chapter in his career journey as a graduate student at Cornell University where he will study Applied Economics and Management with a concentration in Agricultural Economics and International Development.

As Ouyang prepares to move to Ithaca, New York, he reflects on how much he has enjoyed living in Greensboro. “I really enjoy going to the coffee shop to talk with classmates, professors, and all kinds of people.”

He says he received invaluable support from his Bryan School professors. “They have helped me identify my career goals and all along the way have been so patient and encouraging. Dr. Holland’s expertise in Agriculture and Environmental Economics have inspired me to pursue my graduate studies.”

“I chose to be an Economics major because it involves the study of multiple subjects, including math, psychology, statistics, economics and more. I learned so many practical things at one time.”
### Incoming Fall 2022 Graduate Cohort

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<td>Avery Bradley</td>
<td>Master of Arts (MA)</td>
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<td>Joshua White</td>
<td>Master of Arts (MA)</td>
<td>in Applied Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler James Whiting</td>
<td>Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in Economics of Health Analytics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney Valentine</td>
<td>Visiting Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler James Whiting</td>
<td>Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in Quantitative Business Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Milana Martinez</td>
<td>Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in Quantitative Business Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zohra Akhtarhusein Tayebali</td>
<td>Master of Arts (MA)</td>
<td>in Applied Economics</td>
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</table>
As we begin the new academic year, your UNC Greensboro Department of Economics Board of Advisors wishes to take this opportunity to reinforce our role as advocates for the Economics Department. We want each of you to know how much we appreciate the accomplishments, perseverance, and aspirations of the entire Bryan School Economics Family. Much of what many of us have achieved in our professional careers is due to our association with the economics department of the Bryan School of Business and Economics, and we hope to continue to cultivate new opportunities for our students and partners. Our mission is to support the career goals and educational aspirations of our students. In support of this goal, we offer our mentorship. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Over the past year, we added two new members to the Board. Mr. Bob Pugh joined us in the Fall of 2021. Bob is President of Insight Wealth Management in Gainesville, VA and has both a BS and a Master’s degree from UNCG Economics. In the Spring of 2022, we brought on Dr. Monica Schmidt. Monica is Executive Director of Health Economics at Cone Health here in Greensboro. Both Bob and Monica are excellent additions to our Board and are already contributing to our mission.

We would also like to take this opportunity to update our community on several strategic initiatives that your Board of Advisors has been pursuing. First, we would like to welcome Cone Health as our inaugural Community Partner Employer in our Community Partners Program. We extend our gratitude to board member Monica Schmidt for her hard work in making this partnership possible and seeing it through to fruition. We are happy to report that we have already been able to place one of our graduate students into an internship with Cone Health, and we plan to build this partnership out further in the future.

Secondly, our board member and Executive in Residence Mr. John Quigley has been acting as an economics-specific career coach, supporting our students at every level but with a special focus on undergraduates. In Fall 2021, John coached five students, generating 16 interviews, 15 job offers, and garnering a 100% placement rate. Students are encouraged to reach out to John (jquigley@uncg.edu) for assistance with all manner of career preparation, including resume design and redesign, skill presentation, and assistance with professional communication.

Thanks to all of you; we look forward to watching and supporting your growth as you embark on your journey here at the Bryan School.

Regards,
Your Board of Advisors
Mr. David Jolley,
Allen C. Ewing & Co., Managing Director,
757.585.1494
djolley@allenewing.com

BOARD OF ADVISORS
DR. MONICA SCHMIDT,
Cone Health, Executive Director-Health Economics, Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE)
DR. BRANT MOREFIELD,
L&M Policy Research, Senior Researcher
MR. KEITH BECKER,
Bank of America, SVP and Operations Research Manager
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Blueprint Investing Partners, President & Co-Founder
MR. BOB PUGH
Insight Wealth Management, President
Did you know that at UNCG 38% of students are first generation college students, and 51% are racial minorities? Out of nearly 29,000 alumni, 75% stay in North Carolina. Your contributions help to directly enrich our local community, as well as propel our graduates to an even higher level of excellence.

**ECONOMICS ENRICHMENT FUNDS**
The simplest way to support the Bryan School Economics Department: this fund supports student activities, course development, research activities, and alumni and employer outreach.

**BRYAN SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND**
The Bryan School Enrichment Fund is a straightforward way to support the Bryan School, and directs your contribution to the areas of highest need school-wide or by department.

**GLOBAL EXPERIENCES FUND**
Giving students exposure to global perspectives is vital to present-day international business culture. Students participating in XCulture, Export Odyssey and/or study abroad benefit from experiences that prepare them for life as global managers and global citizens.

Your investment in the Bryan School will have a positive impact on our students’ futures.

**Making your gift is fast and easy!**
Simply enter the following link into your preferred web browser:
www.alumni.uncg.edu/givetodepteconomics

If you have questions about making a gift or types of giving, please contact one of our development professionals or call Advancement Services at (336) 334-5644.
DEPARTMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AWARDS

BOYCE, MORGAN  
(Ph.D. in Economics, Class of 2021)  
2021 Outstanding Dissertation Award, The Graduate School, UNC Greensboro  
(April 2022)

GOODALL, ANNA  
(MA in Applied Economics, Class of 2021)  
Bryan Outstanding Student Award, The Bryan School of Business and Economics  
(December 2021)

FRAME, TYLER  
(MA in Applied Economics, Class of 2021)  
Bryan Outstanding Student Award, The Bryan School of Business and Economics  
(December 2021)

ROUSE, RACHEL  
(BA Economics, Class of 2021)  
Bryan Outstanding Student Award, The Bryan School of Business and Economics  
(May 2022)

WYETT, COOPER  
(BS Economics, Class of 2021)  
Bryan Outstanding Student Award, The Bryan School of Business and Economics  
(May 2022)

MARTIN, LOGAN  
(BS Economics, Class of 2021)  
Bryan Dean’s Service Award, The Bryan School of Business and Economics  
(May 2022)

LIU, YUTONG (THEA)  
(Ph.D. in Economics)  
2022 Economics Outstanding Graduate Teaching Associate, Department of Economics  
(April 2022)

TUCKER, DAVE  
(BA Economics, Class of 2021)  
Bryan Outstanding Student Award, The Bryan School of Business and Economics  
(May 2022)

PUBLICATIONS BY DOCTORAL STUDENTS

SARDAR, MD. RASHEDUR and Schaffer, Matthew “Monetary Spillovers to Developing Financial Markets: Evidence from Bangladesh” (forthcoming co-authorship with faculty)


QUEEN, JOHN (WILL) and Bray, Jeremy W. “The Cost Savings of Tiered Care Coordination: Evidence from North Carolina” (Working Paper)

Martin S. Andersen, PhD, Vincent Lorenz, MA, ANURAG PANT, MA, Jeremy W., Bray, PhD, G. Caleb Alexander, MD, MS “Effects of Utilization Management on Health Outcomes: Evidence from urinary tract infections and community-acquired pneumonia” (Under review at Expert Review of Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research)
M.A. in APPLIED ECONOMICS

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• Pursue an optional concentration in data analytics.
• Start with a stackable certification in:
  Economics of Health Analytics or Quantitative Business Economics

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