Inaugural recipients, Billiter Family and Bruce McCormick Awards

Congratulations to Esther Leme de Silva, the inaugural recipient of the Bruce McCormick Endowed Award for Excellence in Economics. Esther is a 4th year economics major who transferred to UCR from Riverside City College. The selection committee was impressed by her outstanding grades and demanding course load during the 2020-2021 school year. Esther has an interest in economic policy and hopes to pursue graduate studies.

Congratulations to Erik Chan, the inaugural recipient of the Billiter Family Endowed Internship Support Fund. Erik is a 4th year economics/administrative studies major who spent his summer interning with Founder Legacy Partners, a private equity firm. The experience provided valuable hands on experience, especially in the areas of executive outreach and company valuations. Erik is interested in a career in investment banking or private equity.
Department News

Undergraduate Economics News

Congratulations to Alyssa Fontaine and Lisa Onuselogu, the first recipients of the Economics Department Undergraduate Student Support Fund.

Alumni headed to graduate school

Katherine Cheng – UCR Master’s in Education
Adrian Cruz – M.A. in Economics at CSU Long Beach
Dylan Cruz – SDSU Master’s in Economics
Precious Fasakin - two-year predoctoral fellowship in economics with the Ph.D. Excellence Initiative at NYU.
Ruichong Huang – MSBA Program at University of Rochester
Amelia Mazer – Master’s Information Systems at Santa Clara
Xuexing Ong – Ph.D. Economics at Michigan State University
Edward Segura – M.A. in Economics at Claremont Graduate School
Suleyma Vergara-Tapia – Ph.D. Sociology at CUNY
Yanlin Wu – Master’s in Business Analytics at Northeastern University
Kenneth Zalke – MPP at the Harris School of Public Policy, the University of Chicago
Jiacheng Zheng – MPP at UCLA.

Graduate Student Honors

Saman Banafi
Graduate Research Mentorship Program Award
Tao Wang
Dissertation Year Program Award
Zhuozhen Zhao
Dissertation Year Program Award

Graduate Alumni News

Congratulations to Pallavi Panda (UCR 2015) for her promotion to Associate Professor of Economics at SUNY Geneseo!
Hanbyul Ryu (Ph.D. 2019) will join Hanyang University, ERICA campus, South Korea, as an assistant professor of economics.
Deepak Singhania (Ph.D. 2017) has accepted an Assistant Professor position at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar.
Anaka Aiyar (Ph.D. 2016) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Deepsheeka Batheja (Ph.D. 2020) received the Best Paper Award at the Indian Statistical Institute’s: 3rd Annual Women in the Economy Workshop for her paper “Gender Peer Effects in the Workplace: A Field Experiment in Indian Call Centers”. She also published a piece on her paper in the Hindustan Times. (link).

COVID-19 Research

Professor Gloria Gonzalez-Rivera, “Expecting the Unexpected: Economic Growth Under Stress.”
Assistant Professor Sarojini Hirshleifer, “Optimizing the Spread of Information on Social Platforms: A COVID-19 Field Experiment in Pakistan.”
Associate Professors Bree Lang and Matthew Lang, “Pandemics, Protests and Firearms.”
Distinguished Professor Aman Ullah, “Predicting COVID-19 using Nonlinear Modal Regression.”

2021 Ph.D. Student Placements

Chia-Lo Chen
Visiting Assistant Professor, Musashi University, Tokyo, Japan
Varlam Kutateladze
Economist, Amazon
Ali Mehrabani
Assistant Professor, Southern Illinois University
Mirewutl Muhataer
Senior Analyst, Citi Group
Ekaterina Seregina
Assistant Professor, Colby College
Xiaoli Zhu
Assistant Professor, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Professor Emeritus Stephen E. Cullenberg

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that Professor Emeritus Stephen E. Cullenberg passed away in February, 2021 at the age of 67. Professor Cullenberg served as Chair of Economics (1997-98, 1999-03) and Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (2006-14). He was an institution builder, and dedicated his life to making UCR a better, more inclusive and welcoming place. Professor Cullenberg was a Marxist economist with broad and multi-disciplinary research interests (CV). He served as Editor of the journal Rethinking Marxism: A Journal of Economics, Culture and Society, and wrote and co-edited numerous books. Professor Cullenberg was a highly valued and effective teacher, having been honored with UCR’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1998. An obituary written by his family can be read here, and many deeply moving memories written by friends and colleagues can be found here.

Bruce McCormick

We share the sad news that 1974 alumnus Bruce McCormick passed away in June, 2021. He had recently made a donation to UCR to create the McCormick Award for Excellence in the Study of Economics. Esther Leme da Silva will be the first recipient of the award in 2021-22.

Rockonomics

Created and taught by Carolyn Sloane, the Rockonomics class explores topics in microeconomics in the context of the music industry. Dr. Sloane would like to thank the AY 20-21 guest speakers: Rodvé Lewis, Rhett Miller (Old 97’s), Rev. Moose (NIVA), Ashley Joyce & Shannon Sorensen (NMPA), Cory Phare (publicist, Itchy-O), and Marcello Ambirzi (tour photographer, NKOTB).