

SPRING 2024

ST. OLAF COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS &
BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES



FOR ECONOMICS AND QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS MAJORS & BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES CONCENTRATORS

This newsletter will update you on new faces and courses, upcoming events, and other developments in the Economics Department and Business and Management Studies Program.



DEPARTMENT NEWS



Professor Hodgson, Chair of the Economics Department

Welcome new and continuing Economics Department majors and concentrators. We hope you enjoy the spring newsletter, where you will find lots of useful and interesting information for majors. I know you will enjoy reading about accomplished senior, Miriam Clapp, in the student profile and about upcoming events.

In faculty news: there are many exciting changes. See pp. 5-6 for news of new, incoming, and departing faculty. Professor Luedtke will take over as department chair in June, and Professor Harris and I will both be on full year sabbaticals for the 2024-2025 academic year. Additionally, Professor Christie will be on a professional leave next spring.

Finally, I encourage students to apply for the Economics Research Fellows Program (ERF) in the fall. These are great opportunities to get hands-on research experience working with Economics Department faculty on a variety of economic subjects. Watch for the application in the fall and sign up for consideration.



Professor Christie, Business and Management Studies Program Director

Happy Spring! I was lucky enough to be able to travel the length of New Zealand with twenty three students over J-Term to study aspects of the country's innovation ecosystem in BUS 260 Innovation in New Zealand.

This will again be offered during J-Term 2026.

"New Zealand was a once in a lifetime experience that I will absolutely cherish with so much insight and learning that I will remember forever."

-Collin Swan '24 Economics



Visiting Hobbiton, January 2024

STUDENT PROFILE

Miriam Clapp '24 Quantitative Economics and Chinese



Senior Miriam Clapp grew up in Chicago, Illinois with her parents, sister, two dogs and a cat.

Miriam studied Chinese in high school where she had a very positive language and culture experience. She also traveled to China in high school and wanted to continue to learn the language in college, which was a predominant factor in choosing St. Olaf for her undergraduate studies.

Music is a serious interest outside of academics, and St. Olaf provided many opportunities to explore music further. Miriam has many hobbies and interests in this arena, including playing violin and serving as president of the St. Olaf Orchestra. She also has participated in several different

chamber music groups throughout her time at St. Olaf. Miriam is currently learning to play Hardanger fiddle, a Norwegian folk instrument similar to the violin. Her senior recital will take place on Friday, April 12.

Her non-musical interests are many. Miriam is a member of the Swing Dancing Club, and she enjoys participating in the activities of the Economics Honor Society, Omicron Delta Epsilon. She worked on campus as an SI leader during her junior year, and currently is a TA for Prof. Luedtke's macroeconomics course. She enjoys cooking and trying new foods, which works well with a love of travel. In addition, she is trying out something new this term: intramural volleyball.

Later in the summer Miriam will embark upon her next grand adventure. After being accepted to several postgrad programs, Miriam recently decided to pursue a one-year Princeton in Asia fellowship at "Startup Island Taiwan," a startup incubator sponsored by the Taiwan development council. Among many duties, she will help with startup landscape reporting with data from the Taiwanese bureau of economic affairs, organize product and technology workshops, and work on a new initiative to help Taiwanese startups with U.S. expansion. She is most excited that the company has a bilingual workplace so she will be able to use her Chinese skills in a relatively low-stakes professional environment.

Continued with Q & A with Miriam on the next page.

Q & A WITH MIRIAM CLAPP '24



Why St. Olaf?

- A small Midwest liberal arts school away-but-not-too-far-away from home
- A good Chinese program
- Strong international study abroad opportunities
- Great support from faculty and relationships between students and faculty
- Support from the Piper Center for Vocation and Career

Why Economics?

Miriam enjoys math. She was initially interested in business but likes that economics provides an interesting way to think about the world: i.e., why/how people think about the world and make decisions.

Favorite St. Olaf class?

- Behavioral Economics with Prof. Hodgson
- Network Economics with Prof. Luedtke
- Human Rights in Asian Context

Favorite St. Olaf Memory?

- Orchestra tour of South Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska, and Iowa
- Christmas Festival at Orchestra Hall

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

- Miriam hopes to be in Chicago, still speaking Chinese and using the language in her work
- Have a connection to Asia and traveling back and forth
- Be part of a good community



FACULTY NEWS

NEW FACES



Ling Yao, Visiting Instructor in Economics

Research Areas: Agriculture economics, Development economics, Applied econometrics

Teaching: ECON 121 A & B: Principles of Economics (spring)

Professor Yao will complete a Ph.D. in applied economics in May 2025 at the University of Minnesota.

Joining St. Olaf in 2024-2025

Kulsoom Hisam, Assistant Professor of Economics

Research Areas: Labor economics, Transportation economics

Teaching: ECON 200: Topic: Urban economics (fall), ECON 384: Cross-Sectional Econometrics (fall and spring), and ECON 260: Intro to Econometrics (spring)

Kulsoom will complete her Ph.D. in economics at Clark University in Massachusetts in May. Her hobbies include watching old movies, listening to 80's music, and reading 20th century literature because "they have an unexplainable charm about them."

Noah Braun, Institute for Freedom and Community Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics

Research Areas: Public economics, urban economics, political economy

Teaching: ECON 260: Intro to Econometrics (fall) and ECON 373: Economics of Public Policy (spring).



FACULTY NEWS

FAREWELLS



Rick Goedde, Associate Professor of Economics

Professor Goedde, who joined St. Olaf College in 1988, is retiring at the end of May.

"Rick is a passionate educator and an expert in team-based learning pedagogy, and founder of the Management Studies Program at St. Olaf. He will be sorely missed." -Sian Christie

Professor Goedde has held many roles during his time at St. Olaf. Within the department, he served as chair of the Department of Economics, director of the Management Studies Program. He was faculty advisor for the International Business option of the Denmark program (D.I.S.), the London School of Economics, and for International Study/Service.

"Rick has been an important teaching mentor to both me and many other faculty. He is the king of team-based learning on campus, and the techniques from team-based learning are now used by so many faculty across campus in ways that really go back to Rick. His passion for teaching has always been apparent and his willingness to invest in other people along the way has been so helpful in bringing the newer generation of faculty into a good teaching culture in the department and more broadly. He will be missed!"
-Ashley Hodgson

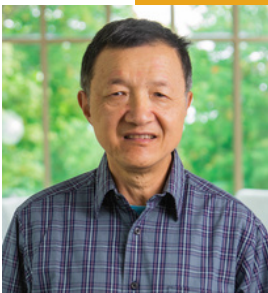
In his retirement he plans to volunteer for a local food shelf and immerse himself more in one of his many hobbies as a country square dancing caller, backgammon player, and tea aficionado.

Zhenhu Jin, Visiting Professor of Economics

The Business and Management Studies Program says farewell to Professor Jin, who will be leaving St. Olaf after this year.

Business students have enjoyed his Investments, Personal Finance, and Corporate Finance courses these past two year.

We wish him well with his next position at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Business.



COURSES

MATH 220 Linear Algebra Offered Online Summer Session 1

Quantitative Economics majors may enroll in MATH 220: Elementary Linear Algebra with Prof. Mainellis during Summer Session 1. Class will meet MWF, 9 - 10:30 a.m. Prerequisite: MATH 119, MATH 120 or CSCI 221.



Summer Business Fundamentals

- Been wanting to start off your business curriculum, but just not sure how to fit it into your fall schedule? Join us this summer for Business Fundamentals ONLINE!
- Summer Session 1: June 3-July 12 ONLINE from 8-9:30 am
- Contact Kelsey Baumann (bauman5@stolaf.edu) if you have questions!

Business and Management Studies Concentrators: Senior Capstone Project

The Business and Management Studies Capstone is a requirement for all rising seniors. Students complete requirements on the Management Studies 2024-25 Moodle site.

A video and step-by-step instruction sheet are now available to guide you in completing the capstone project.

Please contact Professor Christie (christis@stolaf.edu) with questions.

REGISTRATION

Economics and Business Courses

Find courses at the links below.

Summer Session I (June 3 to July 12)

<https://sis.stolaf.edu/sis/static-classlab/20234.html>

Summer Session II (July 15 to August 21)

<https://sis.stolaf.edu/sis/static-classlab/20235.html>

Fall 2024

<https://sis.stolaf.edu/sis/static-classlab/20241.html>

Pre Registration for rising Juniors & Seniors is April 8-12

Reserved seating for fall semester 2024 opens Monday, April 8 at 8 a.m. and closes Friday, April 12 at 12 p.m.

Watch your inbox for details!

Registration dates

Fall Semester

- Classes of 2024 & 2025 on Tuesday, April 16
- Class of 2026 on Wednesday, April 17
- Class of 2027 on Thursday, April 18

*Summer registration opened March 4 and is ongoing.

Registrar's Office Registration site

Find everything related to registration!

<https://wp.stolaf.edu/registrar/current-students/>

EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT



Economics Honor Society (ODE) & Women in Economics & Allies (WEA)

Economics Journal Submissions Due April 12
ODE is collecting submissions for this year's edition of the Emerging Economist.

Co-hosted ODE and WEA Registration Event
April 10, HH 3rd Floor Commons, 7 - 8 p.m.
Questions about classes, professors, and all things economics answered by ODE & WEA members!

Learn more about ODE
<https://wp.stolaf.edu/economics/omicron-delta-epsilon/>

Learn more about the WEA
<https://wp.stolaf.edu/economics/undergraduate-women-in-economics/>



Kleber-Gery Lecture

April 18 at 7 p.m. in TOM 280

The Departments of Economics and Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science co-sponsor an annual event. See Aleszu Bajac, director of data visualization at the Urban Institute present his talk, Telling Your Story with Data on April 18 at 7 p.m. with Data on April 18 at

Seeking Teaching Assistants for 2024-2025

Juniors and Seniors with work study awards and strong academic standing in the department may wish to apply for positions as teaching assistants for professors in Economics and Business and Management Studies courses.

Watch your inbox for directions on how to apply later in April.

2024 Kleber-Gery Lecture:
Telling Your Story with Data

- How to tell insightful stories from mountains of data
- How to apply a critical lens to data and data science methods
- How to seek out expert guidance on a topic
- How to weave together visuals, narrative and code to present your findings

ALESZU BAJAK
Director of data visualization at the Urban Institute and former investigative data journalist at *USA TODAY*



THURSDAY APRIL 18 7 P.M.
TOM 280

Sponsored by the Departments of Economics and Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science with the generous support of the Kleber-Gery Lecture fund.

SENIORS

Watch your email for details about senior events!

Senior Picnic

A Potluck with faculty for the Class of 2024

Wednesday, May 15

5 to 6:30 p.m.

Odd Fellows Park

Department Reception

Graduates and their guests mingle with faculty prior to Commencement

Saturday, May 25

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Holland Hall

Commencement

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

Saturday, May 25

1 p.m.



Check out the Commencement website!

<https://wp.stolaf.edu/commencement/schedule-of-events/>