

# The Stockbridge Dispatch

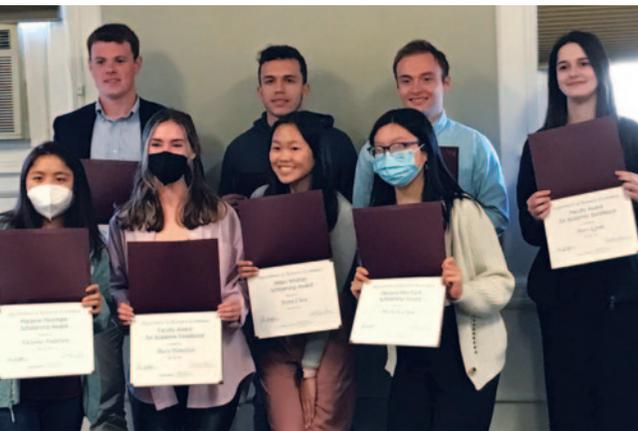
May 2022

Department of Resource Economics Newsletter

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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**The Department of Resource Economics is proud to award Bachelor of Science degrees to 96 graduating students! This hard-working group includes 13 resource economics majors, 71 managerial economics majors, and 12 minors. ResEcon faculty and staff wish them all good luck (even though we are confident that their skills, knowledge, and dedication will carry them in their future careers)!**



## Letter from Department Chair John Spraggon

Thank you for reading our newsletter! These are interesting times for the Department of Resource Economics. We have experienced incredible growth in undergrads and faculty over the last several years. The Department of Resource Economics is now home to almost 400 undergraduate majors.

We have also recently opened a new major in managerial economics. We expect that this will result in our majors continuing to grow. We have said goodbye to a number of department stalwarts—Alesia Brennan, Julie Caswell, Gail Fleischaker, Eileen Keegan, Dan Lass, and Sheila Mammen, who led the department for years and are deeply missed. We have also hired some new faculty including Tina Andarge (environmental economics, University of Maryland) and Brandyn Churchill (health economics, Vanderbilt) who will both join us in fall of 2022, Lucy Wang (health economics, Cornell) who joined us in 2021, Yongjoon Park (industrial organization, University of Maryland) and Vini Singh (health economics, Emory University) in 2020, and David Keiser (environmental economics, Yale) and Matt Woerman (environmental economics, University of California Berkeley) in 2019. These researchers bring expertise in water pollution, energy, the airline industry, physician decision-making, and healthcare markets. Additionally, we have hired Amy Crysel (spring 2020) as our director of human resources and finance, Colby Gray (fall 2019) as a lecturer and student support specialist, and Dorise Heller as our director of undergraduate advising.

Our faculty and staff have received numerous recognitions recently including David Keiser winning the SBS Outstanding Research Award in 2022, Nathan Chan winning the SBS Outstanding Teaching Award in 2021, and Angela de Oliveira winning an ADVANCE Faculty Peer Mentoring Award in 2020. Sophie Williamson has recently won a

distinguished graduate staff award, and Alesia Brennan won an outstanding advising award in 2021. This is much deserved recognition for our faculty and staff.

This year we are graduating 96 undergraduates and three MS and PhD students. Our undergraduates are going on to exciting careers including events manager for the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority in the Boston Seaport, business development associate at Oracle, and securities operations associate at FIS:Fintech. One of our PhD graduates accepted an economist position at Amazon and another is starting at

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“These are interesting times for the Department of Resource Economics.”



## **Undergraduate Awards**

Resource Economics

Field Scholar Award:

**Nicole Ojugbana**

Scanlon Student Employee  
of the Year Award:

**Ajay Dawani**

Helen Knowlton Award:

**John Hendrikson**

**Vincent Chen**

**Kaila Nelson**

Marjorie Merchant Award:

**Victoria Anderson**

**Michelle Chen**

Oreana Merriam Award:

**Leo Massoc Do Nascimento**

Helen Whittier Award:

**Annie Chen**

Faculty Award for

Academic Excellence:

**Mary Gjoni**

**Mary Hamilton**

Outstanding Leadership  
and Service Award:

**Colin Johnston**

Academic Achievement Award:

**Demetra Papadopoulos**

## **Nominated**

Beinecke Scholarship:

**Kaleigh Hill**

Rising Researcher Scholarship:

**Kaleigh Hill**

21st Century

Leadership Award:

**Mary Hamilton**

**Amaya Chinai**

**Ajay Dawani**

Senior Leader:

**Casey White**

## **Undergraduate Speakers**

**Ajay Dawani**

**Elizabeth Parsek**

*More information about our  
undergraduate program can  
be found at [umass.edu/resec/](http://umass.edu/resec/)  
undergraduate-program.*



## Undergraduate Researcher: Kaleigh Hill

Resource Economics junior Kaleigh Hill presented her research on “The Impacts of Net Metering Policies on Households in Massachusetts: Inequalities, Inefficiencies, and the True Value of Solar” at the Massachusetts Undergraduate Research Conference, held April 22, 2022, and at the Energy Transition Symposium, held May 3, 2022. Kaleigh’s research was supported by the SBS LeBovidge Undergraduate Research Award, which Kaleigh received in Spring 2021. Kaleigh has been involved in research since her first year at UMass, when she volunteered to work as a research assistant for Professor Christine Crago. Since then, she has been involved in several research projects related to renewable

energy. In Summer 2021, as part of the CAFE Summer Scholars Program, Kaleigh conducted research on drivers of and barriers to adoption of solar PV including the choice to lease or own solar panels. Asked about what she finds exciting about conducting research, Kaleigh notes that “The research process is an opportunity to apply what I learn in the classroom, while also expanding beyond what has been explored before. Every project is challenging, rewarding, and contributes something unique to the existing body of knowledge.” After graduation, Kaleigh plans to travel and work in the environmental policy field before pursuing a graduate degree in environmental economics and public policy.

**“Every project is challenging, rewarding, and contributes something unique to the existing body of knowledge.”**



## Resource Economics and Economics Departments Co-Sponsor Women in Economics Event

Our undergraduates participated in a Women in Economics event featuring Professor Jayati Ghosh, award-winning scholar and professor of economics at UMass. Professor Ghosh gave a presentation on “Why Economics Is Too Important To Be Left Only To Men.” In her talk, Professor Ghosh discussed how economics is too important to just be left to men, and how economics is also too important to be left to only economists. She emphasized the need to have marginalized and non-traditional voices heard when designing economic policy. Otherwise, economic policy can be inherently biased. For example, economic analysis often fails to account for the kind of labor that falls on women (unpaid housework/childcare), even though economic markets depend on

that labor. She also discussed how economic policy can be presented in very formal and official language, which makes it inaccessible to the populations that are negatively affected by the policy. This keeps the people who have been in economics (traditionally white, wealthy males) in a position to continue to be the policy shapers, which reinforces their place of privilege. The students and faculty who attended the event engaged in lively conversation after the lecture. As our first in-person event since the pandemic began, the event also provided an opportunity for students to network, build connections, and reconnect. The department is planning future Women in Economics events, including a networking event and less formal gathering opportunities.

## Student Employee of the Year Award — Ajay Dawani



The Department of Resource Economics is proud to recognize graduating senior Ajay Dawani for receiving the Scanlon Student Employee of the Year Award. As a TA for RESECON 112 “Computing: Foundations to Frontiers,” Ajay demonstrated leadership, initiative, and an excellent work ethic while working with Dr. Miah Tran to successfully facilitate this course in the early days of the pandemic. We congratulate Ajay for his inspiring effort in the department as a student and a role model for his peers.

### Letter *continued from page 1*

North Carolina State University as an assistant professor (*read more in the Graduate News pages*).

The Department of Resource Economics is doing great things. We have excellent undergraduate students engaged with internships, studying abroad, and getting great jobs. We have award-winning staff and faculty doing impactful, cutting-edge work. We look forward to the department continuing to grow and becoming one of the top places for applied economics research in the nation!

## Alumni Event: Boston



Resource Economics undergraduates, faculty and staff, and alumni at the UMass Center in Boston in fall 2019.



## Carolyn Harper and Vijay Bhagavan Awards

**Emma Grazier** and **Ming Ge** received the Carolyn Harper Award, and **Dhiroj Koirala** received the Vijay Bhagavan Teaching Assistant of Distinction Award. The awards were given during a ceremony attended by graduate students and faculty on April 20, 2022. The Carolyn Harper Award was established in 1993 and is given in memory of Dr. Carolyn Harper who was an MS student and later a tenured professor in the department. Awardees exemplify scholarly achievement

and concern for social and environmental issues and social justice. The Vijay Bhagavan Award is given in memory of Vijay Bhagavan, who was an MS student in the department from 1992 to 1994. Vijay was known for his generosity, good humor, and exceptional dedication to students as a teaching assistant for a large statistics course. The award is given to teaching assistants who (like Vijay) show exceptional dedication to helping students succeed.

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*More information about our graduate program can be found at [umass.edu/resec/academics/graduate-program](https://umass.edu/resec/academics/graduate-program).*



## Graduate Student Profiles: Jeronimo Callejas and Ezgi Cengiz

This year, the Department of Resource Economics will say farewell to two spectacular graduate students, Ezgi Cengiz and Jeronimo Callejas, who have completed their PhDs and will begin careers that draw on the hard work to which they dedicated themselves at UMass.

After an extremely successful job market search, Ezgi secured multiple tenure track and post doc offers and will join the faculty at North Carolina State University as an assistant professor in the ARE Department. Likewise, Jeronimo had numerous offers to choose from and has accepted a position on the economics team at Amazon, a choice he weighed

against many great possibilities. It is an immense credit to Ezgi and Jeronimo and their time in the department as researchers and teachers. North Carolina State and Amazon are receiving dedicated, hard-working and brilliant new additions to their faculty and team. We wish Ezgi and Jeronimo the best of luck!

## Graduate Student Publications

**Kaushik, Mehak**, Varsha Singh, and Sujoy Chakravarty. “Experimental evidence of the effect of financial incentives and detection on dishonesty.” *Scientific Reports* 12, no. 1 (2022): 1–18.

**Koirala, Dhiroj Prasad**, and Bikram Acharya. “Households’ fuel choices in the context of a decade-long load-shedding problem in Nepal.” *Energy Policy* 162 (2022): 112795.

Hsiao, Cody Yu-Ling, **Dan Ai**, Xinyang Wei, and Ni Sheng. “The contagious effect of China’s energy policy on stock markets: The case of the solar photovoltaic industry.” *Renewable Energy* 164 (2021): 74–86.

Wamburu, John, **Emma Grazier**, David Irwin, Christine Crago, and Prashant Shenoy. “Towards equity in energy efficiency analyses.” In *Proceedings of the 8th ACM International Conference on Systems for Energy-Efficient Buildings, Cities, and Transportation*, pp. 259–263. 2021.

Yang, Lisha, **Yutianhao Li**, and Hongxun Liu. “Did carbon trade improve green production performance? Evidence from China.” *Energy Economics* 96 (2021): 105185.

## Conference Presentations

“Income and Racial Disparities in Financial Returns from Solar PV Deployment,” **Emma Grazier**, NAREA Annual Conference, Virtual (Summer 2021)

“Is Traditional Advertising Effective? New Evidence from Mass-Produced Lager Beer in the U.S.” **Ezgi Cengiz**, AAEA Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas (Summer 2021)

“Is Traditional Advertising Effective? New Evidence from Mass-Produced Lager Beer in the U.S.” **Ezgi Cengiz**, AAEA Graduate Student Section Webinar, Virtual (Fall 2021)

## New Faculty and Staff



### Lucy Xiaolu Wang

The Department of Resource Economics welcomes new Assistant Professor Dr. Lucy Xiaolu Wang. Dr. Wang received her PhD from Cornell University, with a focus in health economics and innovation economics. Prior to that she earned her Master's degree from Duke University. Dr. Wang brings extensive research experience and a passion for understanding how economic principles can solve some of the world's most pressing health related problems. She believes that it is through economics that we can positively affect the lives of others. Dr. Wang's particular research interests concern the economics of innovation and digitization within healthcare markets, with a particular emphasis

on the biopharmaceutical and digital health industries. Her research touches on topics such as the possible consequences of the diffusion of medical technology, effects of the digitization of healthcare, and the role of artificial intelligence in the future of healthcare.

Dr. Wang's interest in healthcare began at a young age. Despite having family members who worked in the healthcare field, healthcare access was still limited

in her home country, China. The nearest facility was some distance away, requiring extensive travel. Dr. Wang internalized this access barrier to healthcare and made it her academic focus.

As part of her undergraduate extracurricular activities, she had the opportunity to engage in a research project in Henan province. In a village that had an exceptionally high rate of HIV Dr. Wang observed firsthand the horrible effects of the disease and the extent to which the disease derailed other aspects of the community. The orphan rate of this region was particularly high because of parent mortality. Still worse, many of the children had also inherited the disease. This experience inspired Dr. Wang to focus her education on healthcare economics as a means to helping others.

Dr. Wang's passion for helping others also extends to the classroom. She believes in the importance of the diffusion of knowledge. The ability to have a positive effect on students' lives through building meaningful connections and providing newfound knowledge is another way of positively impacting society. It is this, in conjunction with her freedom to pursue research, that led to Dr. Wang's choice regarding a career in academia. Furthermore, the University of Massachusetts Amherst appeared to be the perfect fit for Dr. Wang due to its good reputation and proximity to the Boston area, the healthcare capital of the world.

Outside of Dr. Wang's work, she engages in a variety of hobbies. She is fond of acrylic painting; she is an avid musician who practices both the keyboard piano and kalimba; and she stays active through water-biking.

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### **Manasvini Singh**

The Department of Resource Economics is pleased to welcome new Assistant Professor Dr. Manasvini Singh. Dr. Singh received her PhD in health economics/policy from Emory University. She also holds a Master's degree in international health (health systems) from Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Science in ecology and evolutionary biology from Rice University.

Dr. Singh began her academic journey as pre-med. However, after a research

experience involving tadpoles, she realized that “bench science” could be too isolating. Shortly after this revelation, Dr. Singh traveled to Switzerland, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua as part of a year-long program offered by Rice. The program centered around different healthcare policies and work at public health clinics. Ultimately, this experience inspired Dr. Singh to pursue her Master's degree in international health from Johns Hopkins University.

While at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Singh was a research coordinator for the JHU School of Medicine's Department of Infectious Diseases. She was involved in several research projects aimed at improving medication adherence among patients for the ground-breaking but expensive new hepatitis C antiviral. This was Dr. Singh's first insight into how behavioral economics and microeconomics could be utilized to make a difference in healthcare policy. Moreover, with the recent passing of the Affordable Care Act, health policy had become a rapidly growing field. Dr. Singh was inspired by her experiences to learn more about how the principles of economics could help make a better healthcare system for all.

After completing her education, Dr. Singh chose to pursue a career in academia as a means to continue her research. The freedom to explore her own interests coupled with her natural curiosity were main factors in her decision to become a researcher. The ability to share her knowledge with undergraduate students was a bonus. Dr. Singh's particular research interests lie in the intersection between decision theory and health policy. She utilizes principles from behavioral economics and microeconomics to understand how physicians make decisions, and the effects these decisions have on the organizational and policy environments.

When she is not teaching or conducting research, Dr. Singh enjoys traveling to new cities. On her travels, she loves to explore the underground coffee culture. Outside of travel, Dr. Singh is a passionate fan of anything fantasy-related, which can take the form of books, movies, or video games.

## Yongjoon Park

The Department of Resource Economics welcomes new Assistant Professor Yongjoon Park. Dr. Park earned his PhD from the University of Maryland graduate program in economics. He also holds a Master of Arts in economics from Seoul National University and a Bachelor of Science in math and electrical engineering from Pohang University of Science and Technology.

After receiving his Bachelor's degree, Dr. Park had the opportunity to participate in a program that involved volunteering and working in Ecuador over the span of two years. During this period, Dr.

Park became fascinated with the concept of how regions develop their economies. This fascination led to Dr. Park returning to school to obtain his advanced degrees in economics.

While Dr. Park's original journey in economics began with an interest in development economics, his interests have evolved to include industrial organization. In his second year as a PhD candidate, Dr. Park worked with one of his advisors to study the airline industry. This experience led him to focus on industrial organization with a human behavior and business theory emphasis.

Dr. Park's current research is focused on market structure and market outcomes, such as the reasoning behind a firm charging specific prices and the nature of firm competition. These topics are increasingly relevant today as they pertain to the implementation of government policies and regulation. Dr. Park's most recent paper focuses on merger analysis within the airline industry.

Dr. Park is also passionate about education. The opportunity to share knowledge is an important factor that brought Dr. Park to the University of Massachusetts. He enjoys connecting with the diverse range of students this institution attracts. In particular, Dr. Park encourages all students to take advantage of opportunities to study abroad, which can introduce new interests and passions, just as his trip to Ecuador did for him.

Dr. Park also believes in living a balanced life and finding activities that refresh and relax him. This primarily means running and spending time outdoors. He especially enjoys trail running and visiting beautiful parks.



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*Learn more about our faculty at [umass.edu/resec/faculty](https://umass.edu/resec/faculty).*

## Meet our new Director of Advising: Dorise Heller

The Department of Resource Economics is honored to welcome its new Director of Undergraduate Advising, Dorise Heller. Ms. Heller brings over fifteen years of advising experience in higher education. She spent the last fourteen years working in student services at Boston University, the first nine at the Questrom School of Business as the assistant director for freshman affairs, and then the last five years as the associate director of student services at Boston University's Metropolitan College, their part-time and evening program. Ms. Heller has her Master's degree in applied educational psychology with a specialization in college student development and counseling from Northeastern University.

Ms. Heller's career aspirations began as many dreams do, with a mentor. In high school she had a wonderful guidance counselor who inspired her to become a high school guidance counselor herself. This was her intent when she declared as a sociology major at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. However, as her

education continued, she realized that she would be better-suited to work with burgeoning adults. Working with college students, she has discovered what intrigues her the most is helping guide students through difficult decisions. How do I structure my time? What should I major in? Should I go to graduate school? What career path should I choose? College is an environment that is filled with some of the biggest decisions in a young adult's life and has ultimately served as the best place to fulfill Ms. Heller's passion for helping students navigate difficult life decisions. Moreover, she believes that every student should take one course each semester that sounds interesting to them regardless of whether it fits with their major. Who knows? It could be that course that leads to an unforeseen opportunity.

Outside of work, Ms. Heller has quite a few hobbies. She has been the host of a weekly card night for over a decade where they play a German game called Sheepshead, which is a more complicated version of Euchre. She's



also an avid walker, and prior to the births of her young children, walked at least three miles a day (not a day missed!) for seven years. She still loves to walk and finds it soothing for the body and mood. It's this love that has inspired her to begin the ResEcon Walk Break from 11am to 12pm on Mondays! Feel free to stop by to say hello!



David Keiser



Sophie Williamson

## Faculty Research Highlights and Staff Awards

The Resource Economics Department is proud to be home to the following award-winning faculty and staff!

**David Keiser**, SBS Outstanding Research Award

**Manasvini Singh** and **Lucy Xiaolu Wang**, Institute of Social Science Research (ISSR) Scholars Program

**Lucy Xiaolu Wang**, Public Interest Technology (PIT) Faculty Fellowship

**Sophie Williamson**, SBS Distinguished Graduate Staff Award



# Professor Bernie Morzuch Retires After 44 Years

Bernie Morzuch, perhaps the finest teacher the Department of Resource Economics has ever known, is retiring after this semester. His numbers are out of this world: 44 years, more than 13,000 students, more than 110 dissertations, more than 60 Master's theses, scores of teaching assistants, and many awards and fellowships for teaching excellence and mentorship, including the university's Distinguished Teaching Award. Bernie's excitement for teaching, his investment in his craft, and his care for and devotion to students has never wavered. He remains the model for sustained teaching excellence, innovation and creativity, and student engagement in and out of the classroom. And he has been the most generous and caring colleague. We consider ourselves very lucky to have such a wonderful teacher in our lives.

## A Farewell Note from Professor Bernie Morzuch

I retire officially on May 25, 2022. This has been one of the toughest decisions I have had to make because the people in this department and my 13,000+ students have occupied such a large part of my life for the past 44.5 years. Professionally, I am forever grateful to everybody and everything that has come my way.

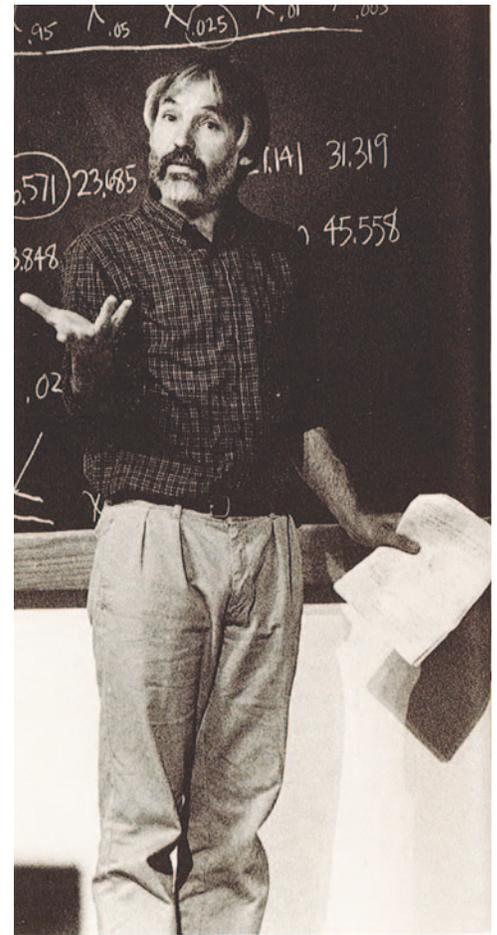
In my early years, I had been blessed with the influence of several gifted teachers who effectively set the stage for what was to become my life's work. Their clarity of expression, detail and sharpness when presenting class material, and care for their students had a powerful impact on me. I was awestruck that these people possessed such capabilities. This is when teaching became my passion. I wanted to do what they were doing because I wanted to have an impact on people the way that these teachers impacted me.

There is little doubt that this job has been demanding. However, I have never felt overwhelmed by its demands. Indeed, on numerous occasions I have been tired and exhausted, but resiliency always followed. Returning to full strength had been possible due not only to the flexible nature of the job itself but also and most importantly to the ever-present collegial support. The support in this department and at this university is stunning.

What lies ahead? First, I owe a lot of time, attention, and active listening to my Number 1 Hero — my wife Cheryl Smith. She has been my pillar of strength for 42+ years and has supported me in every professional endeavor. It will be good to be with her full time from here on. Next, and due to years of neglect, cleaning the basement and clearing the attic are absolutely necessary. Also, reading a lot with no technical material permitted; repairing a sail boat and finally getting it into the water after many years of no activity; fishing maybe; recapturing woodworking skills that have been dormant for at least 30 years; teaching grandson Michael some of the things above; showing Michael how to throw a curve ball and how to derive the generalized inverse needed for the GLS estimator when using panel data (and one day having Michael provide a guest lecture to the department illustrating every step in this process and that all econometrics texts so woefully neglect).

Thank you, Resource Economics for my years here. Thank you, Cleve Willis and Stan Johnson for making sure that I ended up here.

With much love,  
Bernie Morzuch



“Professionally, I am forever grateful to everybody and everything that has come my way.”

**We would love to hear from you!**

Contact [resec@resecon.umass.edu](mailto:resec@resecon.umass.edu) with questions about this newsletter, alumni news, and general inquiries.

## Department of Resource Economics

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