

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023/ SPRING 2024

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT



STUDENT NEWS

Chair's Message

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Economics Department at Queens College achieved significant milestones. Our Economics majors experienced remarkable growth, completing a rigorous academic curriculum. Our Queens College Fed Challenge team achieved region finalist status, ranking among the top 18 out of 107 college teams nationwide and the top 3 on the East Coast.

We hosted many events, including a BBA Open House, Business Breakfasts, and an Economics seminar series. The Blackstone LaunchPad entrepreneurship program, under the leadership of Luc Marest, organized various events for our students, including the QC Pitch Competition, Career Workshops, and the Trading Competition.

Our faculty have engaged in important research, including extensive work on immigration by Francesc Ortega and Kevin Shih, who were named Immigration Fellow by the FWD.us, a bipartisan political organization. Nuria Rodriguez-Planas served as a Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar. Her research focused on the coping mechanisms of low-income and minority college students during the pandemic, utilizing surveys from the City University of New York.

We are looking forward to hearing about alum news!

Always appreciate your continued support.

Yours Truly,

Dr. Zadia Feliciano
Acting Chair, Economics Department



The QC Fed Challenge team achieved Region Finalist status in New York Region.

They ranked among the top 18 out of 107 college teams nationwide and secured a spot in the **top 3 on the East Coast.**



Team members: **Sujal Kumar, Abhinandan Gaba, Andreia Duarte, Pavel Tchigirinski, Aviel Seltzer, John Eliscu, and Prof. Dorian Abreu**, Faculty Advisor.



FACULTY NEWS

Francesc Ortega received funding from the **National Science Foundation** for his project on *Coastal Flood Resilience for Economically Disadvantaged Communities on Long Island*. He also achieved Top 5% IDEAS ranking based on most cited economists (based on publications in the last 10 years). He was nominated as a **2024 Immigration Fellow at FWD.us**, highlighting his significant contributions to economics and immigration issues.

Nuria Rodriguez, a 2023 recipient of a **5-year ERC Advanced Grant** for "*The Causal Effect of Motherhood, Gender Norms, and Cash Transfers to Women on Intimate Partner Violence (WomEmpower)*," serving as a **Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar**. Her research delves into the coping mechanisms of low-income and minority urban college students during the pandemic, utilizing surveys with over 24,000 students, City University of New York academic records, and New York City COVID data.

Kevin Shih was selected as an **Immigration Fellow** by **FWD.us** due to his extensive research on immigration. The Department of Homeland Security has cited him for his work on *the benefits of DACA on educational attainment*. His research shows the significant role of *foreign STEM workers in U.S. productivity growth* and was featured in **Forbes**.

Bieu B. Tran was selected for the **CUNY Queens College President's Award for Excellence in Teaching-Adjunct Faculty** this Spring 2024!! The Award includes a \$2000 prize. Prof. Tran teaches ECON 101 Intro to Macroeconomics.

EVENTS



QC Blackstone LaunchPad Faculty Entrepreneurial Fellow, from left to right: **Luc Marest** (Campus Director of QC Blackstone LaunchPad), President **Frank Wu**, **Tashifa Farooq**, **Nicoel Haller**, **Emily Haller**, **Ming Lei** and **Karl Mitchell**, Faculty Advisor.

The Blackstone LaunchPad Entrepreneurship Program organized various events, including the QC Pitch Competition, Cybersecurity Workshops, Career Planning Workshops, and Trading Competitions.



Economics Department Seminar

The economics seminars provided a platform for faculty and students to stay current in economics. One of our seminars featured **Prof. Dan Hamermesh** from the **University of Texas**, who discussed the mismeasurement of work time and its implications for wage discrimination and inequality. Another seminar was a practice session by our Fed Challenge Team.



Queens College Business Breakfast

Prof. Joan Nix, Econ faculty member and QC alumnus, presented at a QC Business Breakfast titled "**Reflections on a Life in Queens**." She helped develop the Fintech concentration for BBA finance majors in 2020. Prof. Nix introduced new courses: Economics of Crypto Assets, Blockchain and Money. This event was co-sponsored by QC Blackstone LaunchPad.

BBA OPEN HOUSE

The Bachelor of Business Administration Open House was hosted in Spring and Fall for students interested in majoring in Corporate Finance, FinTech, International Business, or Actuarial Studies.

ALUMNI NEWS

- **Leah Azizian** ('19) founder of **Mission**, a real estate-tech company, was a panelist in the Students & Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD): Real Estate Meet & Greet in Fall 2023.
- **Adam Behlman** ('90) **President at STARWOOD MORTGAGE CAPITAL LLC** was a panelist in the Students & Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD): Real Estate Meet & Greet in Fall 2023.
- **Patryk Perkowski** ('14), a QC Economics and Math graduate, started as an **Assistant Professor of Strategy** at Yeshiva University in Fall 2023.
- **Erick Solis Rivas** ('21) began the Johns Hopkins **Applied Math and Statistics doctorate program** in Spring 2024.
- **Stephanie Szpylla** ('23) is an **Innovation Development Analyst** at **JPMorgan Chase** and is attending Stanford University's MS program in Management Science and Engineering (MS&E) in Spring 2024.
- **Michael Wechsler** ('90) was appointed Education Ambassador to the **Global Blockchain Business Council** (GBBC) in Spring 2024.