

ECONMATTERS



Fall 2024 Newsletter- Department of Economics

Message from the Chair

Hello, alumni and friends!

Autumn has again brought a set of fresh faces to the Dalhousie Economics Department: new undergraduate students, new graduate students, and, we are pleased to announce, two new faculty members! **Nicholas Lawson**'s profile appears in this issue of EconMatters, and **Álvaro Parra** will be profiled in our Winter 2025 issue.

One of our outstanding alumni is profiled in this issue: **Sarah Burns** (BA (Honours) 2019). Thank you to Sarah for sharing her career experiences.

This issue also includes profiles of our three Economics staff members: our administrator, **Jodi Lawrence**; our graduate administrative assistant, **Gina Harnish**; and our department secretary, **Marilyn Peña Pupo**. I hope you enjoy getting to know them.

Our Research Spotlight shines some light on the work of **Álvaro Parra** and **Lars Osberg**.

I would like to recognize several recent Economics award winners.

- **Ruth Forsdyke** received the Department of Economics Teaching Award for 2024. The nomination letters recognized her as an innovative, thoughtful instructor with "legendary" PowerPoint slides.

Meet our Staff

Jodi Lawrence

Gina Harnish

Marilín Peña Pupo

Alumni Profile

Sarah Burns concluded her PhD at the University of Oxford studying as a 2016 Rhodes Scholar. Her research focused on how to contribute to private sector development ethically and sustainably in frontier and fragile markets. She specialized in both the contributions of FDI as well as local SMEs/ventures to this process. Throughout her PhD, Sarah lived and worked in Liberia and Sierra Leone, two of the most challenging countries in the world to conduct business in.

Research Spotlight -

Álvaro Parra

Parra, Á. and Marshall, G. (2024), "Monopsony Power and Upstream Innovation," *Journal of Industrial Economics*, (72), pp: 1005-1020

- **Carlos Arango** and **Nicolle Jaramillo** were awarded the U.L.G. Rao Memorial Prize in Economics for writing the best master's theses of the 2023-24 academic year.

- **Stivi Canka** was awarded the University Medal in Economics for 2024 as recognition for being the top honours student graduating in 2024.

- **Stella Edney** and **Sareh Rahmati** were awarded the Economics Teaching Assistant Award for 2023-24.

- Economics student prizes for 2023-24 were awarded to: **Jaegar Laird** (Principles of Economics Prize), **Ilaria Di Matteo** (Economic Theory Prize), **Owen Bisal** (Econometrics Prize), **Stella Edney** (Anonymous Prize), **Aitong Wu** (International Student Essay Prize), and **Gabby Sorensen** (Economics Honours Thesis Award).

Recent government policy changes regarding international students have had a financial impact on Dalhousie, and we are, as always, concerned with supporting our hard-working students. We very much appreciate the alumni, families, and friends who have donated to our scholarship and bursary funds (through giving.dal.ca) to help us support student excellence as well as financial need.

All the best,

Tess Cyrus

Associate Professor and Chair

In this issue:

Faculty Profile - Nicholas Lawson

In a way, my path to a career in economics started as a consequence of the events of September 11, 2001. I was a high school student in Guelph, Ontario, with an interest in math and science, expecting that I might follow in the footsteps of my father, who was a

In my paper, "Monopsony Power and Upstream Innovation" (joint with Guillermo Marshall), I explore how a monopsonist—a firm that is the sole buyer of inputs from suppliers—can influence its suppliers' incentives to innovate. The motivation for this study comes from real-world examples where companies like Apple and Boeing are known to "squeeze" their suppliers by cutting input prices and reducing order volumes, all in an effort to drive innovation within their supply chains.

Research Spotlight – Lars Osberg

The Scandalous Rise of Inequality in Canada, James Lorimer Publishers, Toronto, 2024, 286 pages.

In his latest book, Lars Osberg documents how unbalanced economic growth in Canada has, since the early 1980s, produced rapidly increasing income and wealth at the top, income stagnation among the middle class and greater deprivation for the disadvantaged, with implications that permeate Canadian society.

mechanical engineer at Ontario Hydro. The events of September 11 made me start to take a greater interest in the world around me, in the hopes of better understanding the geopolitical events of the time and their impacts on people's lives.



Dalhousie University EconMatters is distributed twice a year to faculty, staff, students and alumni. Suggestions for future issues? Contact economics@dal.ca.