

## ***Congratulations to Professor Silvia Prina for achieving tenure!***

Since her arrival at Case in 2007, Professor Prina's research has spanned a broad array of topics, from the savings behavior of the poor to the effects of workplace health assessments on health behavior. A unifying characteristic of her research is the use of field experiments, which Prina and her collaborators have conducted in Nepal, Mexico, Peru, Tanzania, and inner-city Chicago.



In order to study the willingness of low-income earners to save, for example, Prina offered free bank accounts to randomly selected households throughout 19 slums in Nepal. Following these households for two years, she learned that the poor are willing to save, and made greater investments in health and education when provided with a bank account.

On the other side of the globe, Prina studied the effects of social norms and information on childhood obesity in Mexico. By providing the families of schoolchildren with "weight report cards" and testing for changes in the children's body mass index, Prina and her coauthor learned that parents in areas with high rates of obesity were less responsive to the news that their child was overweight or obese.

Prina has also published papers on the effects of exposure to educated professionals on educational aspirations and the effect of social networks on the spread of technology. Her research is highly policy relevant, as it shows how factors such as access to banking, educated professionals, and information can aid in lifting people out of poverty.

Many Case students know Prina as the professor who first introduced them to economics (in Econ 102). Others have enjoyed the opportunity to learn about Prina's research area through her popular elective course "Economics of Developing Countries." The Economics Department and the Weatherhead School are proud to congratulate Dr. Prina on receiving tenure.

***The 2016 McMyler Lecture will feature the former Chair of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers Dr. Christina Romer***



***October 6: 4:30-6pm, Room 1413,  
Wolstein Research Building***



***"Reinventing Capitalism: Economic  
Policy for an Age of Upheaval"***

***Lecture will be followed by Q&A and a reception.***



# ***The DOs and DON'Ts of Emailing Your Professor***

Many undergraduates don't know the conventions of email etiquette in academic or professional settings. Here are a few key pieces of advice the Econ professors assembled for your benefit:

**DON'T** start an email to a professor with "Hey." That just never makes a good impression. Instead, use "Dear," "Hello," or "Good morning/afternoon." ("Hi" is okay if your professor uses it.)

**DON'T** address us as "Mr." or "Mrs." In the Case Econ department, all of your classes are taught by professors and most have doctorate degrees, so "Prof. Lastname" or "Dr. Lastname" is appropriate and appreciated.

**DON'T** use textspeak. *Srsly SMH.*

**DON'T** say "I really want/need/have to get an A in this class." If your intent is to convey how passionate you are about the course content, rethink how to convey that. If you are steamed about a bad grade, wait until you are able to construct a polite and effective email, and remember that "I need..." is not the same as courteously asking for assistance.

Here is a template, borrowed from Laura Portwood-Stacer's "[How to Email Your Professor \(without being annoying AF\).](#)" outlining the elements you should consider using:

*Dear Professor Last-Name,*

*This is a line that recognizes our common humanity [1].*

*I'm in your Class Name. This is the question/issue I have. I've looked in the syllabus and at my notes from class and on Blackboard and I asked someone else from the class [2], and I think This Is The Answer [3], but I'm still not sure. If you could Take This Action at your earliest convenience, I would very much appreciate it.*

*Thank You / Best / Sincerely,*

*Favorite Student*

Details on some elements we haven't yet mentioned (for more, [see the full blog post](#)):

[1] It never hurts to start off with something like "I hope you had a great weekend." It shows that you see your professor as a person who has a life outside of their classroom!

[2]-[3] This is where you prove that you're a wonderful person who respects others' busy schedules. Before sending the email, you should actually check these places to see if your question has indeed been answered. This shows that you did due diligence before deciding to take up your professor's email-reading time. Also, guessing what the answer might be can save your professor time in responding.

Lastly, **don't** be afraid to send a gentle follow-up if your professor has not responded and social cues tell you they probably meant to by now. The fact is, we're not perfect either... Use a similar/same email, adding in "Just following up on my previous email."

When is it safe to send this reminder? It depends how quickly they usually respond and how dire your need for a response truly is. If it can wait a week, let it wait a week (or until you see them in person).

*With utmost gratitude, and best wishes for our future communications,*

*Your Econ Profs*

## Summer 2016 Postcards from Students

Over the summer I had the fantastic opportunity of participating in the **American Economic Association Summer Training and Scholarship Program (AEASP)** at Michigan State University. The program included graduate level courses in mathematics, microeconomics and econometrics taught by Michigan State's supportive faculty. This experience convinced me that becoming a PhD economist is one of the most academically challenging (and rewarding) goals I can pursue.

Apart from the coursework, the program emphasized the importance of cultivating relationships. Both for surviving the rigor of a PhD program and for conducting research, we were taught that collaboration is one of the keys to success. In this vein, we were tasked with co-authoring a 25-page research paper. My partner and I wrote a paper analyzing how a state's implementation of the employment verification program *E-verify* affected the migration patterns of unauthorized immigrants who lived in that state. One of the highlights of the program, for me, was the opportunity to present this paper to academic economists from across the country at the AEA Pipeline Conference.

Another great component of the program was attending research seminars and panels where we met economists at different stages of their careers who worked within and outside of academia. I was particularly interested by the economists who had worked in research divisions of the Federal Reserve Banks. It was eye-opening to see the wide range of career paths that a PhD economist can choose from.

*- Ini -Abasi Umosen, '17*



Ini, second from right, and her AEASP peers

During my summer as a **data analyst intern the Cleveland Clinic**, I worked on the contract economics team within the finance department.



One of our many tasks was to analyze the effect that new and renewed contracts with health insurance providers have on revenue. To do this, I spent time applying econometrics and statistics skills I'd gained at Case to develop new modeling for the Clinic, using Monte Carlo simulation methods. Using patient-detail level data, I was able to co-develop an R program that can take in a proposed contract and a current contract, test the contracts against hundreds to thousands of simulated outcomes and return results detailing the differences in contract outcomes, such as revenue and profit, in user-friendly ways.

I also helped develop new risk stratification models, analyzed the growth of philanthropic funds over time, and learned (some of) the many nuances of the healthcare market. This was the best internship

I've ever had because it allowed me to really merge the two majors I'm pursuing at Case, Math and Economics, in order to develop models that were quite useful to the Clinic. I'm looking forward to continuing this work part-time throughout my senior year to expand upon these models and create new ones.

*- Jan Ferre, '17*

## Congratulations to 2016 Economics Student Award Winners!

The following students were recognized for their academic performance, dedication, and leadership at the annual Economics Awards Luncheon on April 4, 2016: **Ini-Abasi Umosen ('17), Yuhan Li ('17), Laura Mummey ('16), Aravind Nair ('17), Faaraz Hussain ('16), Adhithya Baskar ('16), Divya Desai ('16), David Hatchcock ('17), Hyerin Kwak ('16), Benjamin Marks ('16), Jay Patel ('16), Chenghao Peng ('16), Madonna Dibella ('16), Theodore Eisenberg ('16), Sarah Mattson ('16), and Shuyang Zhang ('16).**

## What's on deck for the Weatherhead Economics Society?

**September 27:** Four CWRU students who have participated in a **KeyBank internship** will discuss their experiences as interns, and a KeyBank Recruiter will discuss how applicants are assessed. Also, students can bring their resumes which will be reviewed for improvement, and snacks will be provided.

**Don't Miss!**

**The Weatherhead Economics Society** is a student organization focused on networking with CWRU alumni in a variety of business-related fields and providing a forum for students to explore current social and political issues from an economics perspective.

Events being planned for this fall include:

**Annual networking dinner** (early October) featuring alumni working in economics and financial professions.

**Marketwatch** stock-picking competition (October 1-31) in collaboration with CWRU Capital

**Economics & Politics Discussion** (October 26) in collaboration with the American Medical Students Association

To stay informed, email [kgh32@case.edu](mailto:kgh32@case.edu) to join our email list and follow us on Facebook!

## Job/ Internship/ Publication Opportunities for Students

- ◆ For graduating seniors: **Federal Reserve Board** applications for full-time work as a Research Assistant are due: **September 30** (Fall recruiting season) and/or **January 31** (Spring recruiting season). Learn more at: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/careers/ra.htm> Also, summer internships: [http://www.federalreserve.gov/careers/intern\\_project.htm](http://www.federalreserve.gov/careers/intern_project.htm).
- ◆ The **Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)** is a network of 136 affiliated professors from over forty universities. If you are interested in field research in development economics, project management or data analysis, check the job listings here: <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/careers>
- ◆ **Cuyahoga County** has a summer public policy fellowship program. Information on last year's program is here: <http://executive.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Public-Policy-Fellowship-Program.aspx>.
- ◆ The **Yale Undergraduate Journal of Economics and Politics** accepts submissions from students of any length, including research papers, essays, articles, and theses, written for either a class or an independent project. The deadline to submit a paper for our fall issue is **October 14**. See [YaleUJEP.com](http://YaleUJEP.com) for more info.
- ◆ Applications to the **American Economic Association's Summer Training Program** (read about Ini Umosen's experience on page 3!) are due **January 31**. Read more: <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/aeasp>
- ◆ For students interested in health services research, UPENN's **Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics (LDI)** and Wharton's Health Care Management Department co-sponsor the [Summer Undergraduate Minority Research Program](#).