

GINTHER NAMED REGENTS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Dr. Donna Ginther has been named a Kansas Board of Regents Distinguished Professor.

The Kansas Board of Regents in February, at the request of Chancellor Douglas A. Girod, named Dr. Donna Ginther a Regents Distinguished Professor. Prior to the appointment, KU's only Regents Distinguished Professorship had been in the field of medicinal chemistry since 1967.

The historic achievement represents just the latest KU milestone in the career of Dr. Ginther, who in 2020 had been named the Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Economics after having been previously named a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Professor of Economics. She also serves as Director of KU's Institute for Policy and Social Research.

Dr. Ginther has made national news in recent years, including providing groundbreaking research indicating how mask mandates had worked to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in those Kansas counties which had maintained them. That research – "Association of Mask Mandates and COVID-19 Case Rates, Hospitalizations, and Deaths in Kansas" (with Carlos Zambrana) in *Jama Network Open* – was cited in the *New York Times* and multiple other sources and resulted in a national TV appearance on MSNBC's *The Rachel Maddow Show*.

KU last year announced that as a result of that work, and her efforts in quickly adjusting her research during 2020 to help better understand the pandemic and provide valuable information to the public and policymakers, she received a special one-time COVID Research Pivot Award from the university.

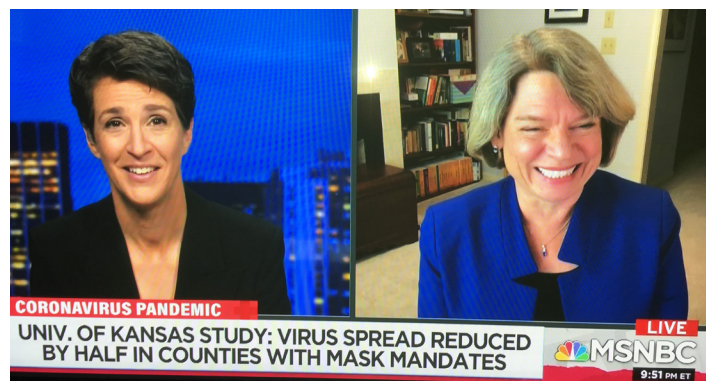
The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) also announced last fall Dr. Ginther had been named recipient of the group's prestigious Public Service Award, which recognizes outstanding public service in support of biomedical research or advocacy of sound research policies. ASCB noted that she had received the award in acknowledgment of her work of over a decade on identifying a need for more diversity and inclusiveness within the scientific community, which was especially important given many of the divisions in the nation in recent years underlining the ongoing lack of equity and inclusion. Dr. Anthony Fauci received the organization's honor in 2020.

Chancellor Girod told the *Lawrence Journal World* that switching KU's sole Regents Distinguished Professorship to the field of economics dovetails with the university's growing mission of being a catalyst for the state's economic development efforts. Moreover, the mission of the Regents Distinguished Professorship program specifically cites the ability of the state to attract and retain established scholars whose research projects augment the state's economic and industrial development.

"Professor Ginther's research findings help build a healthier and more equitable society," Chancellor Douglas Girod told *KU News*. "These are keys to the economic growth of our state and nation, and this professorship signals the importance of her work to the economic development of our state and recognizes her service to Kansas and our nation."

Her wide-ranging research in fact has led to more than \$7 million in grant funding and focuses on topics as diverse as scientific labor markets, gender differences in employment outcomes, wage inequality and child educational attainment. Since 2019 also she has served as Chief Academic Advisor for Governor Laura Kelly's Council on Tax Reform.

"I am honored by this distinction," Dr. Ginther told *KU News*. "Kansas has been my home for the last twenty years. Over that time, I have worked with students, colleagues at KU, and leaders throughout the state on research to help us understand what policies best strengthen the Kansas economy. I am proud to serve the state in this way."



Dr. Donna Ginther appeared on MSNBC to discuss her groundbreaking research on the effectiveness of mask mandates.



Dr. David Slusky has been selected as the Executive Director of the American Society of Health Economists.

RENOWNED KU HEALTH ECONOMIST SELECTED TO DIRECT NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) announced in January that KU's own Dr. David Slusky had been selected as the prestigious group's Executive Director. The largest US professional organization for health economics research features more than 1,000 member economists, hosts

an annual research conference, publishes the *American Journal of Health Economics*, and organizes multiple webinars and e-seminars.

Dr. Slusky, who also continues to serve as KU's De-Min and Chin-Sha Wu Associate Professor of Economics during the ASHEcon appointment, said that he felt especially honored to lead the organization he has been affiliated with for since 2013 in a number of capacities, including as a member, program chair, conference participant, session organizer and newsletter editor.

He follows Deborah Freund, President Emerita of Claremont Graduate University and former Provost of Syracuse University.

Beyond working on enhancement of the group's core programs, he said that he was "excited to help ASHEcon be a vehicle for social change, supporting and expanding its numerous initiatives - including its diversity scholarships and its economics of health equity interest group."

KU News reported that his wide-ranging duties would include conference planning, leadership and administration, budget and finance, communications, staff supervision, program development and at times overseeing day-to-day operations of ASHEcon.

"I love ASHEcon. It is an integral part of my professional life and has been ever since I became a member since 2013," Dr. Slusky said. "It is the greatest concentration of my friends, collaborators and role models. It is an honor and privilege to be able to serve the organization in a senior capacity".

Dr. Slusky joined KU's Economics Department in 2015, specializing in health economics and labor economics. He also holds a courtesy appointment in the Department of Population Health at KU Medical Center. His groundbreaking research has spanned topics

ranging from marginal hospital admission and women's preventative health to Uber's effect on ambulance use and the Flint water crisis.

From 2019 to 2021, he served as an Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Economics Department, where he created new undergraduate certificates in microeconomics and macroeconomics and worked with the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science to create an economics track for their interdisciplinary computing bachelor's degree. He also participated in KU's 2019-2020 Senior Administrative Fellows cohort, a program for "tenured faculty who have an interest in or talent for administration."

Dr. Slusky has received many awards and honors while at KU, including the 2020 Byron T. Shutz Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Ekstein Prize for Best 2017-2018 article in the *Eastern Economic Journal*. He also delivered the Seaver Lecture for the Humanities Program at KU in 2020.

His growing reputation within the field of health economics made him an especially good fit for the ASHEcon position. As a co-founder and co-organizer of the Electronic Health Economics Colloquium (EHEC), he had recently successfully negotiated a partnership between EHEC and ASHEcon for the spring semester. He is also the founder and the lead organizer of the Kansas Health Economics Conference, for which he was awarded a multiyear National Science Foundation grant. He is also a co-editor at the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, serving in a managing editor capacity.

He explained that the new ASHEcon leadership role was ideal as a part-time administrative position that enabled tenured professors to continue serving, albeit at a slightly reduced capacity, at their teaching institutions. Dr. Slusky, who remains on sabbatical in Stockholm through August, said that when he returns to KU this fall he will reduce some of his other duties around campus for the near future.

"I am delighted that David is taking the position as Executive Director of ASHE," ASHEcon President and Harvard University's Otto Eckstein Professor of Applied Economics David Cutler said. "He brings enormous energy and talents to ASHE, and we are lucky to have him in this position."

Dr. Slusky encourages anyone working in the health care and interested in economics to consider attending ASHEcon's conference this June 26-30 in Austin, TX. Interested persons are asked to email him at david.slusky@ku.edu for more details.





Participants in a special computational macroeconomics workshop on November 29 listened to lectures by two experts from the Copenhagen Business School.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS IMPORTANT COMPUTATIONAL MACROECONOMIC WORKSHOP

The Economics Department in late November was pleased to host an important four-part workshop (Python and Macro Dynamic Modeling Workshop) as part of the ongoing Guest Speaker Seminar Series organized by Dr. Eungsik Kim. The workshop, presented by the Copenhagen Business School’s Dr. Tim Dominik Maurer and Dr. Frederik Bjorn Christensen, was designed as an intensive short course in computational macroeconomics for the benefit of both graduate and advanced undergraduate students.

The speakers said that the four lectures provided a practical introduction on how to implement macroeconomic life-cycle models using Python, a high-level, gen-

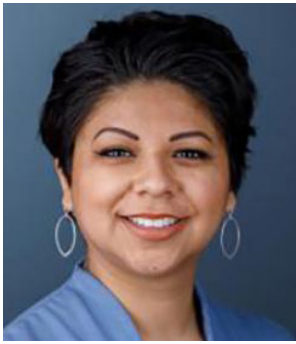
eral-purpose programming language. Lecture 1 showed step-by-step how to find the steady-state solution to a deterministic multi-period life-cycle model in general equilibrium. Lecture 2 subsequently demonstrated the use of an updating algorithm to compute the dynamic transition path between two such steady-state equilibria in response to an unexpected change in pension policy (MIT-shock). Lectures 3 and 4 then solved a partial-equilibrium life-cycle model with income risk using dynamic programming methods -- with Lecture 3 utilizing standard backward induction over the value function; and Lecture 4 showing how to implement the Endogenous Grid Method (EGM).

Dr. Kim said that the workshop, which was presented as an in-person event on November 29 at Snow Hall, was especially important in terms of teaching additional skills and applications to students who had some basic knowledge of macroeconomic theory and modeling.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>2 • Slusky Selected to Direct National Organization</p> <p>3 • Department Hosts Computational Workshop</p> <p>4 • From the Desk of the Director of Undergraduate Studies</p> | <p>5 • Barnett Ranked as Top Economics and Finance Scientist</p> <p>6 • Sabarwal Named Editor of Prestigious International Journal</p> <p>6 • Park Lands Post Doc Position at The Ohio State University</p> | <p>7 • Faculty News</p> <p>8 • Childers Granted Tenure, Promotion at Presbyterian College</p> |
|---|---|---|





FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES (DUS):

In an effort to encourage diversity and promote inclusion within the field, classes that facilitate these ambitions have been added to the undergraduate course schedule for this term and will continue to be into the future. Classes like Economic Development of Latin America (Econ 584) have not been offered in quite a few years despite student demand for courses that promote diversity of thought and culture. Additional courses like Sports Economics (Econ 609) and Income Inequality and Distribution (Econ 515) will also be offered in future terms. As DUS, I will personally be offering a course on Economic Demography in Fall 2022. This will be a 600-level course that is open to advanced undergraduate and masters level students who are interested in understanding the economics of age, race, and gender disparities in an approachable, yet modern fashion. Courses that focus on topics of diversity and inclusion tend to attract like-minded students, thereby providing some synergy we truly hope to capitalize upon going forward.

Along with diversity of course topics comes diversity in learning approaches. Students today do not embrace “traditional” lecture-based teaching formats and pedagogies in the same capacity as students of prior decades. Undergrads nowadays enjoy the flexibility that comes with technologically adept courses. Online classes, asynchronous formats, and multiple means of learning that incorporate several forms of media prove to be highly popular, particularly so in a post-pandemic world. I fully support these new modalities and incorporate as much into my own courses. Econ 584 is a completely asynchronous class online only this term. There are no class meetings either in-person nor online with pre-recorded lecture videos available. For “classroom” interaction students submit to discussion boards, available only on the virtual class course site, and complete weekly homework assignments requiring both full reading of the textbook and additional outside research. To encourage properly and timely progress throughout the course, there are weekly assignment due dates with penalties for lateness, but by and large assignment completion is at the student’s discretion.

The diversity of thought through course offerings and flexibility of course design work together harmoniously to encourage students who would have never thought to study economics before to consider it as an option with serious potential for a rewarding career post-graduation. Economics as a field in and of itself is extremely interesting and relevant to so many career paths. What I am hoping to do is to draw a light to this incredible subject and change the perception of it to one that is approachable and highly applicable to everyday life for everyone.

— Dr. Jo Lugovskyy

DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTS PATHWAYS PROGRAM FOR UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES AND WOMEN (URMW)

As the new Director of Undergraduate Studies, it is my pleasure to announce the launch of the KU Economics URMW Pathways Program. The Pathways Program is both a recruitment and academic support system that solicits women and underrepresented minorities (Indigenous, Latinx, and African Americans) to the field of economics. For far too long, economics as a major and as a profession has struggled to recruit and subsequently represent all ethnicities and genders in proper proportion to American society. As a consequence, economic theories and policies too often maintain the status quo and not all socioeconomic demographics benefit as much as they can or should. The goal of this innovative Pathways Program is to affect this outcome by increasing diversity and promoting inclusion to the study of economics.

The Pathways Program encourages select students to pursue the Accelerated Master of Arts in Economics degree by providing additional academic support. Also known as the “4+1” program, the Accelerated Masters awards the graduate level degree in a fifth year of study beyond completion of either a Bachelor of Arts major or minor in economics. Once undergraduate students are accepted into the Pathways Program, they have immediate access through the fifth year of study to these additional services including upper-division tutoring, faculty mentorship, advising support, social interaction, and a minor cost-of-living stipend for the fifth year, amongst several others. The Pathways Program softly launches in Spring 2022 with full official launch planned for Fall 2022. Additional information about it and what the launch dates entail can be found on the Department of Economics website along with the official application form.

The first of its kind for the Department of Economics at the University of Kansas, the Pathways Program’s novelty and potential for growth is well-supported by not only department faculty, but the economics profession in general. The Pathways Program has recently received the 2021 American Economic Association (AEA) Departmental Seed Grant for Innovation in Diversity and Inclusion, a prestigious national award granted by the largest scholarly association for economists in America. The award was announced during the 2022 AEA Annual Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address where this year’s Nobel Prize winners in economics were also recognized. While still in its infancy, the Pathways Program is already shattering glass ceilings and is, hopefully, the first of many well-warranted changes the Department of Economics hopes to promote in the coming years.

— Dr. Jo Lugovskyy





KU's Dr. William A. Barnett has been ranked as a Top Economics and Finance Scientist.

BARNETT RANKED AS A TOP ECONOMICS AND FINANCE SCIENTIST; RESEARCH CITED IN WAPO AND SUBSTACK

Research.com in February released its ranking of "Top Economics and Finance Scientists in the World," and KU's Oswald Distinguished Professor of Macroeconomics, Dr. William A. Barnett, was the highest ranked Kansan of the only two Kansans who made

it onto that list. The website noted that its top scientist ranking was based on an examination of more than 7,800 scientists on Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic Graph and was based on publications, citations, and a special "h-index" evaluating the proportion of contributions made within the given discipline, as well as awards and achievements of the scientists.

Given recent concerns about the reemergence of higher inflation, it should also come as no surprise that the work of Dr. Barnett, renowned for decades for championing the superiority of Divisia monetary aggregates over simple sum aggregates as a more accurate measure of the money supply, was recently cited in the *Washington Post* (February 6) and in a popular Substack podcast on economics ("A 21st Century US Monetary Story with "Money" Properly Measured" - Marcus Nunes, *Money Fetish*, February 4).

Nunes cited a famous September 1983 example, in which Dr. Barnett gave an interview published in *Forbes* on the same day Milton Friedman's column in *Newsweek* laid out the monetarists' then-current reading of the tea leaves that the "monetary explosion" ultimately would lead to an explosion of inflation followed by high interest rates and then a recession. Dr. Barnett's contention ("What Explosion?" - *Forbes*, September 26, 1983) is that Friedman and others had been panicking unnecessarily about money supply growth, given what Divisia aggregates were showing at that time. Nunes said that the verdict of history came down on Dr. Barnett's side of the argument, pointing out that "growth remained robust in 1984 (and continued in 1985 and 1986). Inflation fell in 1984 (and continued on a downtrend in 1985 and 1986)." More information on this episode and a number of other instances involving Dr. Barnett's longstanding research on the more sophisticated Divisia monetary aggregates, including how the Federal Reserve's failure to use those aggregates was likely a major contributing factor behind the recession in the early 1980s and the

more recent Great Recession, are outlined extensively in his award-winning 2012 MIT Press book, *Getting it Wrong: How Faulty Monetary Statistics Undermined the Fed, the Financial System, and the Economy*.

Nunes then makes a point about the response of monetary policy to the far more recent COVID crisis by looking at the broadest of the Divisia indices (M4) and the importance of continuing to follow Dr. Barnett's lead. Following the initial recessionary trough in April 2020 and the adoption of expansionary monetary policy by the Fed, conventional monetarists quickly went "ballistic" when year-over-year money supply growth had reached 30 percent in June and were "predicting a strong rise in inflation in 2021/22," Nunes observed.

"What they completely ignored was the huge drop in velocity. Just imagine if money supply growth had not increased. Instead of facing some increase in inflation, we would be facing the biggest depression in history! My take is that inflation was a 'problem' that substituted for a second Great Depression that would have materialized if 'old monetarists' had had their way," Nunes wrote.

In a second Substack ("Bosun's Holiday: A Couple of Things *EP* Didn't See at the Meetings," *Economic Principals*, January 10), David Warsh discussed some of Dr. Barnett's more recent work involving Shilnikov Chaos Theory, especially an important new article ("Shilnikov Chaos, Low Interest Rates, and New Keynesian Macroeconomics" by William A. Barnett, Giovanni Bella, Taniya Ghosh, Paolo Mattana, and Beatrice Venturi, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, January 2022). Warsh outlined the long and fascinating career path of Dr. Barnett, whom he describes as an "unusually interesting gadfly" and "talented outsider with a knack of connecting with talented insiders". (For more on Dr. Barnett's remarkable career path from rocket scientist to renowned economist, see this 2017 interview on the Center for Financial Stability website; or *KU Economist*, Spring 2018 issue.)

Chaos has always been an especially important component in systems theory and engineering, something about which Dr. Barnett knows a great deal from his days working on the Rocketdyne F-1 engine used in the US space program. Shilnikov Chaos Theory has proven to be widely relevant to natural phenomena and provides a unique tool that very few economists have utilized.

One important finding from the research outlined in that recent journal article is that US interest rates have tended to drift downward unintentionally during recent decades, as a result of the change in the economic system's dynamics caused by imposing an active interest rate feedback rule on the economy. In effect, what central bank policy has done is to turn the economy into a servomechanism displaying complex dynamics with drift. One potentially important conclusion coming out

of that work is the need for a second policy instrument (imposing a “terminal condition”) beyond short-term interest rates to prevent the long-term downward drift in rates, as evident from how low short-term rates have become.

A keynote address by Dr. Barnett at a special international conference last summer (see *KU Economist*, Fall 2021) also focused on the relevance of Shilnikov chaos to understanding the ultimate outcome of the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union.



PARK LANDS POST DOC POSITION AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Doctoral candidate Hojin Park has been accepted into a prestigious postdoc program at The Ohio State University housed within the medical oncology unit at the institution’s Department of Internal Medicine. Under the supervision of Dr. Ce Shang, Hojin ultimately expects to contribute to The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James’ Center for Tobacco Research (CTR) by focusing on substance use prevention and other related issues. Ongoing CTR projects are renowned for their use of stated preference methods and economic modeling to evaluate the impact of tax policy on substance use.

“I am likely to participate in at least one NIH-funded tobacco research grant and potentially join another marijuana research grant, the subjects of which are two of the major research interests I have developed during my studies at KU,” Hojin said. “I expect to receive training in a variety of research methods more common to medical and health research than they are to economics; and hope to then pursue a career as a multifaceted health economist.

“Given my research interests in health economics and substance use as well as extensive research support, I think this postdoctoral position is ideal for my future career as a health economist with research focus on substance use,” he added.

Hojin said that Dr. Donna Ginther, Dr. David Slusky, and Dr. Dietrich Earnhart had all been especially helpful in building his microeconomic-based professional development skills as an independent researcher during his days at KU, noting that it was especially beneficial to have participated in a regular Applied Micro Reading Group to go over papers of interest and practice academic presentation.



Dr. Tarun Sabarwal was recently named Associate Editor of a prestigious international journal.

SABARWAL NAMED ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

The *International Journal of Economic Theory (IJET)* announced in late November that KU’s own Dr. Tarun Sabarwal had been named as the publication’s Associate Editor.

IJET publishes original articles for international audiences in all fields of economic theory, including applied macroeconomics; theoretical macroeconomics; general equilibrium theory; international economics; microeconomics; game theory; mechanism design; behavioral and experimental economics; development economics; industrial organization; mathematical models; public economics; and welfare economics. *IJET* utilizes an international board of editors specifically to reduce editorial time and encourage submissions of the highest quality.

Dr. Sabarwal said that he was excited about the opportunity to serve as Associate Editor for such a prestigious publication.

“Having experienced first-hand some of the limitations of the publication process in economics, it will be my goal to improve the process to the extent I can,” he said.

Earlier in November, Dr. Sabarwal, who serves as Director of the Center for Analytical Research in Economics as well as professor of economics, received kudos from KU for continuing to drive research engagement by being in the Top 10 percent of Authors on SSRN (Social Science Research Network) by total downloads within the previous 12 months.

KU had previously announced in September that he had been named as the newest trustee of the Self Fellowship programs (see Fall 2021 *KU Economist*, p. 3). The Self Graduate Fellowship and Self Memorial Scholarship programs provide generous and extensive support to KU graduate students “who demonstrate the promise to make significant contributions to their fields of study and society as a whole.”

KU subsequently announced in late March that Dr. Sabarwal had been selected for 2022 addition to the Public Scholars Group, an inter-disciplinary group of faculty focused on making the relevance of their scholarly research visible beyond academia.



FACULTY NEWS

Bernard Cornet has recently published several papers on his research agenda that focuses on the study of frictions and imperfections in financial markets, that is, anything that interferes with trade. The first paper “Fatou’s Lemma for Unbounded Gelfand Integrable Mappings (with V. Filipe Martins-Da-Rocha) in *Pure and Applied Functional Analysis* develops mathematical techniques that are needed and used in other papers. Two additional papers (“The Non-Additive Risk Neutral Probability with Market Frictions” in *Economic Theory Bulletin* and “Submodular Financial Markets with Frictions” recently accepted in *Economic Theory*) continue a long-term collaboration with Professor Chateauneuf that began when he visited his co-author at KU years ago. These two publications study arbitrage-free financial markets with frictions generating bid-ask spreads, such as currency markets, in which the buyer (ask) price may differ from the seller (bid) price. The first paper provides a formulation of the Fundamental Theorem of Finance in the presence of market friction with focus on the Market Non-Additive Risk Neutral Probability. The second paper studies and characterizes financial markets that are submodular in the sense that their super-hedging prices are submodular. (The submodular assumption on the super-hedging price, as the supermodularity usually assumed on utility functions, is the formal expression of perfect complementarity in economics, which dates back to Fisher, Pareto, and Edgeworth.) Dr. Cornet, KU’s Oswald Distinguished Professor of Microeconomics, has also recently been promoted to Secretary and Executive Director of the prestigious Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory (SAET), placing him on the 12-member SAET Executive Committee that includes two Nobel Prize winners in economics. SAET, the largest economic theory society in the world, was founded in 1991 to advance knowledge in theoretical economics and to facilitate communication among researchers in economics, mathematics, game theory or any other field deemed potentially useful to economic theory.

Donna Ginther has made a number of presentations over the past year, including “Does Mentoring Increase the Collaboration Networks of Female Economists? An Evaluation of the CeMENT Randomized Trial” at the American Economic Association Annual Meetings in January of 2022; “Do State TANF Policies Affect Child Abuse and Neglect?” at the University of Nebraska in October; “Sorting Out the Gender Gap for High Skilled Workers” at Oakwood University (Huntsville, AL) in September; and “Where are the Bottlenecks in STEM Majors and Careers in the US?” at the Instituto de Ciencias Matemáticas (Spain) in June. Recent publications by Dr. Ginther, formerly the Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Economics at KU (before recently being named the Kansas Board of Regents Distinguished Professor – see page 1) and also Director of the Institute for Policy and Social Research, have included “Gender, Race and Academic Careers – Does Economics Mirror Other Disciplines?” in *NBER Reporter*; “Association of Mask Mandates and COVID-19 Case Rates, Hospitalizations, and Deaths in Kansas” (with Carlos

Zambrana) in *JAMA Network Open*; “Did Medicaid Expansion Reduce Medical Divorce?” (with **David Slusky**) in *Review of Economics of the Household* (also released as NBER Working Paper W23139); and “Women in Academic Economics: Have We Made Progress?” (with Shulamit Kahn) in *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* (also released as NBER Working Paper W28743). In 2021, she received KU’s prestigious Steeples Service to Kansas Award (for faculty who have provided significant service to the people of the state as a purposeful extension of their teaching and research); and the American Society for Cell Biology Public Service Award (recognizing outstanding public service in support of biomedical research or advocacy of sound research policies) to acknowledge her historic research on race, ethnicity and NIH funding (see Fall 2021 *KU Economist*). Dr. Ginther has served since 2019 as Chief Academic Advisor for the Kansas Governor’s Council on Tax Reform.

John Keating had his article “Implications of Endogenous Money Growth for Some Tests of Superneutrality and the Fisher Effect” accepted in a forthcoming special issue on “Recent Developments in Inflation Dynamics” for the journal *Economia*. He was awarded a sabbatical, but delayed taking it until Spring 2022 in hopes that Covid-19 would not interfere with travel, particularly for the University of Quebec at Montreal which invited him to work on new research. Professor Keating had the pleasure of attending the 2021 Society of Economic Dynamics Meeting at the University of Minnesota, his first in-person conference since the coronavirus emerged in North America. He continued to serve as Associate Editor for two outstanding field journals, *Macroeconomic Dynamics* and the *Journal of Macroeconomics*.

David Slusky has authored a number of recent publications, including “Health, Employment, and Disability: Implications from the Undocumented Population” (with George Borjas) in *American Journal of Health Economics*; “Did Medicaid Expansion Reduce Medical Divorce?” (with **Donna Ginther**) in *Review of Economics of the Household*; and “Health Care Following Environmental Disasters: Evidence from Flint” (with Shooshan Dangoulouian and Dan Grossman) in *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (accepted). Currently working abroad as visiting researcher at the Stockholm School of Economics and at Uppsala University (Department of Economics), as well as a guest researcher at the Swedish Institute for Social Research at Stockholm University, Dr. Slusky was recently named as the new Executive Director of the prestigious American Society of Health Economists (see page 2). A specialist in both health and labor economics, he made presentations at multiple seminars and conferences in both the US and abroad, including the Kansas Health Economics Conference, which he founded. During his stint as Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Slusky was responsible for a major administrative breakthrough that has now been implemented that authorizes exceptional students to do both the accelerated M.A. program (double counting 12 hours for both B.A./B.S. and M.A. degrees) and co-enrollment (taking in graduate

courses before completing a B.A./B.S.). The recipient of KU's Byron T. Shutz Award for Excellence in Teaching, he gave the Byron T. Shutz Lecture ("Teaching Economics Research") last May.

Shahnaz Parsaeian has new research "Optimal Forecast under Structural Breaks" (with Tae-hwy Lee and Aman Ullah) accepted for publication at *Journal of Applied Econometrics*. In this paper, the authors focus on developing a novel estimation method which results in optimal forecasts. Dr. Parsaeian's research works were presented at multiple conferences and seminars, including at George Washington University; the International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE); the Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (AMES); the 85th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Economics Association (MEA); the 41th International Symposium on Forecasting (ISF); the Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society

(AFES); Post BREXIT: Uncertainty, Risk Measurement and COVID-19 Challenges; and Computational and Methodological Statistics (CMStatistics). Dr. Parsaeian has recently been named a member of George Washington University's prestigious H. O. Stekler Research Program on Forecasting.

Additional Faculty Information

Information on faculty, their areas of research interest, and recent activities and publications may be found at <http://economics.ku.edu/faculty>.

Additional information on current working papers also is available at <http://econpapers.repec.org/paper/kanwpaper/>.

KU ALUM CHILDERS GRANTED TENURE, PROMOTION AT PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

Presbyterian College announced in February that Jayhawk alum Dr. Rachel Childers has been approved for tenure as well as promotion to associate professor, effective July 1. Dr. Childers received her Ph.D. from KU in 2016 and began teaching as an assistant professor at the liberal arts college in Clinton, South Carolina.

An applied microeconomist whose most recent publication was "Writing Tort Reform Laws: Do Differences Matter?" (*Journal of Health Law, Economics and Policy*), Dr. Childers is currently pursuing two major lines of research: (1) the effects of health policy changes and mental health treatment and outcomes; and (2) physician and patient behavior in emergency departments. Two associated works in progress being prepared for submission include "The Impact of Health Insurance on Heart Attack Outcomes" and "Using Super Learning to Stratify Patient Risk of Readmission Following Hospitalization". She presented most recently at the 2021 Southern Economic Association Meetings.

After having received both her undergraduate and master's degrees from Bowling Green State University, Dr. Childers said she applied to KU for her doctoral program in part because her mentor, Dr. John Hoag (PH.D. in economics from KU in 1972), spoke so highly of the Department as well as his days in Lawrence during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"Because of my growing interest in health economics, it probably comes as no surprise that I worked closely with David (Slusky) and Donna (Ginther) while I was in Lawrence, and still regularly interact with them," she said. "I also very much enjoyed teaching the undergraduate



Dr. Rachel Childers, who recently was awarded tenure at Presbyterian College, is an accomplished equestrian.

game theory and principles classes while I was at KU. And I was a GTA for Dr. (Brian) Staihr, who was always an excellent sounding board for doctoral students.

"But one of my favorite memories is probably defending my dissertation - not necessarily because I had finished, but because I so enjoyed talking in detail with my committee. Honestly, if I could replicate that experience every day for the rest of my life, I would be a very happy person."

An accomplished equestrian, Dr. Childers said she misses the college-town vibe that KU and Lawrence had and also remembers frequently driving to Stillwell, Kansas and Greenwood, Missouri to ride and groom horses. She currently owns a thoroughbred.