UCDAVIS
AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

UCDAVIS
ECONOMICS

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS COFFEE HOUR

Please join us on

Wednesday, November 15th from 2:00-3:30pm

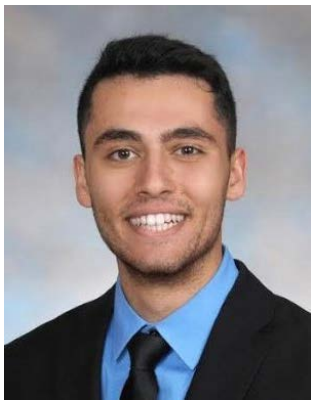
Gold Room, SSH 1131

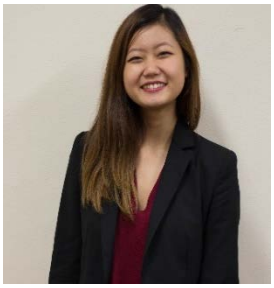
(Coffee and light refreshment provided)

Meet the 2017-18 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Students in Managerial Economics and Economics!

For more information contact:
Kristin Kiesel (thesis coordinator)
e-mail: kiesel@ucdavis.edu
Office : SSH 2147

Managerial Economics (Agricultural and Resource Economics):

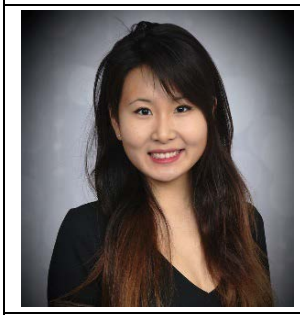
	Siuzanna Arutiunova **Thesis topic:** I am very interested in researching inequality between women and men in the workforce. In particular, I want to explore the reasons behind women's limited involvement in business and economics fields. I also want to analyze how women have contributed to the US economy in the last 50 years. **Faculty Advisor: Tu Jarvis**
	Emily Eby **Thesis topic:** Obesity is an enormous problem in our health care industry, and changing the habits of children from an early age seems to be the best way to address these problems for the next generation. This year, I will be studying the effects of three styles of food literacy programs on fourth graders--the emphases being nutrition, gardening, and culinary--and taking into consideration the timing of their recesses to then determine whether their cafeteria food and waste choices have been changed for the better. **Faculty Advisor: Kristin Kiesel**
	**David Heifitz** **Thesis topic:** This paper examines the fluctuations in the Chinese Stock Market in 2015-2016 by using a behavioral approach to explain the unusually large upward and downward shifts in the market. We use phenomenon from behavioral finance such as herding behavior, prospect theory and overconfidence to demonstrate how retail investors, who owned more than 85% of shares in the Chinese markets, were responsible for the turbulence in the market. More specifically, we use the equity return dispersion approach of Chiang and Zheng (2010) to test the existence of herd behavior among investors in the Chinese A-share stock market. Our findings can be used to explain future market crashes in the Chinese equity markets, including the most recent 'Black Monday' that occurred on July 17, 2017. **Faculty Advisor: Jens Hilscher**
	Andrew Le **Thesis topic:** My thesis will be exploring the course pathways for undergraduate students graduating in Managerial Economics, determining indicators for when academic assistance will be effective. Targeting a sudden dip in academics or an identifiable trend in overall underperformance will help the Managerial Economics department optimize its finite resources to students who need it the most. Predicting these groups can help faculty act preventatively, rather than reactionary, to boost student scores and well-being. **Faculty Advisor: Jeffrey Williams**



Isabel Ma
Thesis topic:
I plan to research the effects of the National Higher Education Entrance Exam (also known as the “gaokao”) on China’s innovation levels, which I plan to measure through metrics such as start-up activity, patent volume, and R&D spending. I will be conducting econometric analysis using cross-national data to examine the impact of China’s gaokao-style education system on the country’s ability to grow and innovate.
Faculty Advisor: Michael Carter

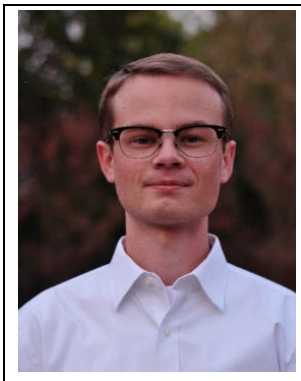
Economics (All students advised by Giovanni Peri):

Matthew Dimon
Thesis Topic:
Technology has become nearly ubiquitous across the modern world. Many commonplace objects now serve many functions due to their enhanced technological abilities: cars now have built-in GPS systems, so-called “smart watches” serve a variety of functions above those of a normal watch. Certainly, these additional features impact people's willingness to pay and my research will quantify this. I will look at the secondary-market prices of Nintendo’s collectible figurine line: Amiibo. Amiibo are an interesting good in that they have both a clear function as collectibles (that is, they are physical models of Nintendo’s most popular characters) and as useful pieces of technology in Nintendo’s video games. My research analyzes what features of the figure affects its price in the secondary market and how long it takes for these changes in features to be transferred into demand and prices.



Tiffany Jiang
Thesis Topic:
I'm excited by the potential of machine learning as a tool to answer economics questions. My project uses machine learning methods to analyze text from 10-k's to predict whether a firm would be an acquirer or a target of an acquisition. The textual analysis can then be used to confirm previous economic theories such as the Q-theory of M&As and opens more potential for exploration with unstructured data.

Qiuyun Lin
Thesis Topic:
A transition from cash payment to digital payment is undergoing globally. However, cash remains the primary currency used in the shadow economy due to its difficulty to be traced. Therefore, it is important to scrutinize cash in the study of underground economy. My thesis studies whether cash circulation in the market significantly influences crime activities in the market. Specifically, I will apply instrumental variables in the model in order to address the endogeneity problem caused by other economic variables. For policy implication, I will analyze relevant indices that motivate people to decrease the adopt digital payments.



James Newbre

Thesis Topic:

In the past 20 years, student enrollment has increased in US colleges. In order to compensate for enlarging student populations, colleges are promoting early graduation through summer classes and discouraging stragglers who take longer than the usual four years. But these stragglers, known as super-seniors, might be staying to complete a minor or second major. Colleges' efforts to curtail the number of super-seniors may decrease students' future wages because students may have less skills and employability. In contrast, being a super-senior might be a negative signal to employers that the potential employee took longer to complete a bachelor's degree due to lower ability stemming from retaking classes. Specifically, I am interested in the effect of being a super-senior on future wages and probability of employment.

Christina Skandalis

Thesis Topic:

An unfortunate common occurrence on both political and corporate decision-making boards is the lack of female representation. While many countries, primarily in Europe, have taken strides towards gender parity or increasing female participation through the implementation of gender quotas, what are the quantitative top down implications for the regular woman in the labor market? Utilizing panel data of EU countries and their passage of political and corporate quotas, I will be analyzing if the kind and combination of quotas impacts female labor market indicators through a fixed effects model.

Qiaoying Yuan

Thesis topic:

Consumption is an important component of GDP and a low consumption rate could become a concern for policy makers. In China, many people believe that high saving rate (low expenditure rate) is the result of people's uncertainty about future income and expenditure, and an imperfect system of health care, education, and housing policies are motivators behind such saving behavior. In this paper, I will explore the effect of a Chinese law enacted in 1986-" The Law on Nine-Year Compulsory Education" on today's consumption rate. That is, whether people who were benefited from this 9-year free education policy will have higher or lower consumption rate today than people who were not benefited from this policy.