

# ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

## FACULTY PROFILES: DR. KRITIKA SEN CHAKRABORTY



Dr. Kritika Sen Chakraborty is the newest member of the Economics Department. She is from India and got her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico.

### **What motivated you to become an economist?**

During my undergraduate education, I was initially pursuing a career in accounting. I soon realized that I hated some courses and could better apply my skills in a field like Economics where there is a scope to conduct impactful research.

### **What is your field of expertise?**

Applied Microeconomics with interests in Development Economics and Gender. My work centers around the gender-differentiated impacts of government programs and climate shocks on human capital and labor outcomes in developing countries. Adolescence is a critical growth period that is marked by rapid biological changes and socio-economic transitions. Yet it is an understudied phase in economics. I am particularly interested in understanding how welfare programs can improve human capital development during this crucial phase, that can have long-lasting implications for socio-economic outcomes.

### **Can you briefly describe one of your research articles?**

In one of my works, my co-author and I examine the effect of the Child Support Grant, an unconditional cash transfer provided to age-eligible poor children in South Africa, on nutritional outcomes of adolescents. We exploit the changes in the age-eligibility criterion as the source of exogenous cohort variation and find that the grant improves female nutritional outcomes.

## FACULTY PROFILES: DR. SEN CHAKRABORTY

(Continued from Page 1)

### What research topics are you currently working on?

My current work evaluates the impact that a government-led campaign focused on the survival and education of girls has on early marriage and educational outcomes of adolescents in India in the short and medium term.

### Which courses do you teach at PC?

At PC, I teach Principles of Microeconomics and Introductory Econometrics with Lab courses. These are my favorite courses as these are closely connected with my research interests. I enjoy engaging students with the real-world applications of economic theory and developing their skills to conduct data analysis using statistical methods.

### What do you like about teaching at PC?

I love that I get to teach my favorite courses at PC. I enjoy interacting with students through class exercises and mentoring them.

### What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy painting in my free time.

### What is your favorite book?

I am a fan of mysteries, particularly Agatha Christie novels.

## FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

**Dr. Fang Dong, Fr. William Marquis and Patrick J. Thygesen '24** published "Social Media Use in the United States and its Educational Effects on Young Adults: A Longitudinal Study" in the *Journal of Educational Thought*. Patrick majored in *Quantitative Economics* and *Mathematics*. He also completed the *Business Analytics* graduate program at PC.

"Music Majors and Musician Income", an article by **Dr. James Bailey** and **Sean R. Smith '24**, was published in the academic journal *SN Social Sciences*. Sean had the initial idea for this paper and wrote the first draft for the *Economics Capstone* course (ECN488). Then Dr. Bailey joined as coauthor to help get it ready for journal publication.

## CAREER CORNER

### A Semester of High-Impact Career Events

Throughout the Fall 2025 semester, the Economics Department offered a series of high-impact career events cohosted by **Dr. MaryJane Lenon**, economics career advisor, and the **Providence College Economics Club**.

**Resume Workshop — Ryan Hall Computing Lab** The semester kicked off on September 24<sup>th</sup> with a packed resume workshop tailored specifically for economics majors. The computing lab in Ryan Hall was filled wall-to-wall with sophomores and juniors eager to refine their resumes and learn how to present their academic and professional experiences with clarity and confidence.

**Internship Panel Discussion** Next came a dynamic panel on October 6<sup>th</sup> featuring three economics majors (see article that follows for details) who shared candid insights about their internship searches and on-the-job experiences. With roughly 40 students in attendance, the conversation ranged from application strategies to navigating workplace expectations — offering peers a valuable, real-world look at the internship landscape.

**Networking Workshop with the Chirico Career Center** The final event of the semester on November 17<sup>th</sup> brought **Jessica Valloto** from the Chirico Career Center to campus for a hands-on networking workshop. Students learned how to leverage FriarLink to connect with PC alumni and practiced their networking skills through guided activities. The session emphasized the power of relationship-building in opening doors to internships and full-time roles.

### One-on-One Guidance for Over 50 Students

Beyond group programming, Dr. Lenon provided individualized advising to more than 50 economics majors throughout the semester. Students received support on every aspect of career preparation — from internship search strategies and resume development to crafting compelling cover letters and sharpening interview skills.

Even in a challenging labor market, marked by tighter internship availability and fewer entry-level openings, economics majors continue to secure meaningful opportunities thanks to their persistence and preparation.

## CAREER CORNER

### A Semester of High-Impact Career Events

*(Continued from Page 3)*

#### Student Success Stories

Several students have already turned their hard work into exciting professional experiences:

- **Bella Feher '26** will continue her 2025 internship with Revenge Capital in New York City during the spring 2026 semester.
- **Luke Roberts '27** completed an internship with the City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island in the Finance Department and has accepted an internship with Acrisure Re in New York City for summer 2026.
- **Meredith Ernst '27** who will be applying to law schools next year, has accepted an internship with the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts for summer 2026.

As the department looks ahead to Spring 2026, the momentum is unmistakable. With continued support from Dr. Lenon, the Economics Club and the Chirico Career Center, economics majors are building the skills, confidence and connections they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving job market.

## FACULTY NEWS



Dr. James Bailey

**Dr. James Bailey** received one of the two Faculty Fellowships awarded by the Provost this academic year. These fellowships recognize faculty members for their excellence in their research and teaching. Dr. Bailey's research focuses on measuring the effects of regulations, particularly those targeting health insurers and healthcare providers in the United States. He has published more than 30 articles in academic journals, including four articles coauthored with PC students. A recent study conducted by Dr. Bailey was cited in the 2025 Economic Report of the President.

## PC ECONOMICS CLUB

By Andrew Murray '26

The **Economics Club** is motivated to build on the strong progress and increased student engagement seen last semester. Working closely with the Economics Department, the Club focused on expanding membership, strengthening communication, and creating meaningful opportunities for students to explore economics beyond the classroom. As a result, membership has grown to nearly one hundred students, and the Club has become a valuable academic and professional resource for majors and non-majors alike.

In the Fall semester, the Club organized three well-received events, including a resume-building workshop led by **Dr. Lenon**, an Apollo speaker session with the **Friars Consulting Group**, and a networking workshop conducted in partnership with the **Chirico Career Center**. These events reflect our core mission: to create opportunities for students to enrich their understanding of economics, learn from alumni and industry professionals, and develop skills transferable beyond the classroom. Meetings

have provided a space for students to discuss careers, research interests, internships, and the practical application of economics.

Looking ahead to this Spring semester, the Economics Club is planning four major events, including an alumni networking night, a student research and internship panel, a faculty speaker panel, and a keynote speaker event. Dates and details for these events will be announced at the beginning of the semester, and the executive board is excited to continue creating opportunities for students to form connections and deepen their understanding of economics.

The executive board consists of President **Andrew Murray '26**, Vice-President **Logan Baker '27**, Treasurer **Jack Ryan '26**, and Secretary **Dante DiMartino '26**. If you are interested in joining the Economics Club or learning more about leadership opportunities, please contact Andrew Murray at [amurray8@friars.providence.edu](mailto:amurray8@friars.providence.edu).

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Dean Williams '21** just completed his economics PhD at Clemson and is starting a job as a Pro Scouting Analyst for the Baltimore Orioles. Congratulations!

## CAREER CORNER

### Economics Students Share Internship Insights at Career Panel

Three economics students recently took center stage at the Economics Department Career Panel, speaking to an audience of roughly 40 majors on November 17<sup>th</sup> about their internship searches and the hands-on experiences that shaped their professional growth. Their stories showcased the breadth of opportunities available to economics students—from Wall Street to Silicon Valley to state government—and highlighted how classroom skills translate into real-world impact.

#### Noah Rosa: Navigating High-Value Deals on Wall Street

Business Economics major **Noah Rosa '27** spent ten fast-paced weeks in New York City as part of the investment banking team at Chardan Capital Markets. Immersed in the world of digital assets, healthcare, and biotech, he contributed to two major digital asset Treasury deals totaling **\$1.2 billion** and supported several live transactions by joining investor calls, building pitch decks, and developing financial models.

Noah also took ownership of the firm's weekly market update, a report circulated to all banking staff summarizing IPOs, PIPEs, Registered Direct offerings and other public-market activity. Beyond deal work, he attended "teach-in" sessions led by senior bankers across tech, healthcare, M&A, SPACs, equity research and corporate access. He described the internship as an "incredible experience" that sharpened both his technical and interpersonal skills while giving him a clearer picture of what success in the financial industry requires. Clearly Noah's performance made an impression: Noah has accepted Chardan's offer of employment post graduation!

#### Penelope Tejada: Building Data Tools That Power Apple's Global Teams

Finance major **Penelope Tejada '27** spent her summer at Apple Financial Services, the division dedicated to making Apple products more accessible for schools and businesses nationwide. Despite the team's lean structure, Penelope found herself at the center of three major projects that stretched her analytical and collaborative abilities.

She began by overhauling an Education Sales dashboard, meeting with sales representatives across the country to understand their needs and redesigning the tool in Tableau to deliver clearer, more actionable insights. She then built a brand-new consumer retail dashboard from the ground up—an adaptable tool that allowed teams to analyze bank-specific programs,



## CAREER CORNER

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track lease expirations, and tell stronger data-driven stories. The project connected her with colleagues in Ireland, Shanghai and Australia, giving her a global perspective on Apple's operations.

Penelope also evaluated more than **\$2 million** in exception-based financing requests, modeling each scenario and advising managers on portfolio impact. The experience, she said, pushed her in the best possible ways—and she looks forward to returning to the Bay Area after graduation as part of Apple's Finance Development Program.

### Meredith Ernst: Advancing Economic Policy in Rhode Island

Economics major and French minor **Meredith Ernst '28** spent her semester interning with the Rhode Island Executive Office of Commerce, where she worked closely with the Budget and Policy team. Her role centered on research that supported grant programs and policy proposals aimed at strengthening small-business resilience and statewide economic development.

Meredith's research spanned topics such as renewable energy, the ocean economy, and the state's annual economic report. She also collaborated with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, whose teams focus on initiatives ranging from offshore wind development to minority-owned business support and business-attraction efforts. In addition to attending meetings and contributing to day-to-day tasks, she undertook a long-term project analyzing the Ocean Economy—a sector especially vital to Rhode Island's identity and future growth. The experience gave her a specialized understanding of an emerging global field that she expects will continue to shape her academic and professional path.

Together, these students demonstrated to their peers that economics opens doors to diverse and meaningful career paths. Whether modeling billion-dollar deals, building global data tools, or shaping state economic policy, they showed that curiosity, initiative, and a willingness to learn can turn an internship into a transformative experience.

## LITTLE FRIARS

Last year, Dr. Chris Limnios (Economics Dept.) and Dr. Olga Limnios (English dept.) welcomed their second daughter, Alexandra Antonia Limnios. Congratulations to their family!



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## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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GO FRIARS!

## LATEST RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- ♦ “A Dynamic Theory of Political Slant in News Media” by **Dr. Tom Hamami** and Dr. Philip Marx, published in the *International Journal of the Economics of Business*.
- ♦ “An Investigation of Monetary Autonomy under Corner Solution and Middle Ground: A Panel Data Analysis” by **Dr. Fang Dong** and **Fr. William Marquis**, published in *International Economics*.
- ♦ “Music Majors and Musician Income” by **Dr. James Bailey** and **Sean R. Smith ‘24**, published in *SN Social Sciences*.
- ♦ “Social Media Use in the United States and Its Educational Effects on Young Adults: A Longitudinal Study” by **Dr. Fang Dong**, **Fr. William Marquis** and **Patrick J. Thygesen ‘24**, published in the *Journal of Educational Thought*.
- ♦ “The Desire to Win: Compensating Wage Differentials in the NBA” by **Dr. Leo Kahane**, published in the *Eastern Economic Journal*.
- ♦ “The Nuns and the Nones: The Decline of U.S. Catholic Elementary Schools, 1970-2020” by **Dr. Tom Hamami** and **Fr. Antoninus Samy**, published in *Education Economics*.
- ♦ “Using Digital Devices for Fun: What are the Impacts on Academic Outcomes?” by **Dr. Fang Dong** and Dr. Maria Kula, published in the *Atlantic Economic Journal*.

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**HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OR IDEA FOR THE NEWSLETTER?**  
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