

# The \$hort Run

## Student News & Views from Cal Poly Humboldt's Economics Department

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### In Memoriam: Professor Ted Ruprecht

A look back at the life of beloved Humboldt Economics professor

Dr. Ted Ruprecht was one of the early faculty members in the Economics Department at Humboldt State College, now Cal Poly Humboldt. He joined the college in 1958 and taught for 33 years. He planned to stay only a few years but ended up building his career and raising a family in Humboldt County.



He earned his undergraduate degree from Occidental College and completed his Ph.D. in Economics at UC Berkeley. His academic focus was on population and development economics. While still a graduate student, he published in the *American Economic Review*.

Dr. Ruprecht was deeply involved in international research. He received a Fulbright grant to study population growth in the Philippines, where he worked with world-renowned demographer Frank Lorimer. His work there led to a book, a textbook, and presentations at international conferences.

At Humboldt, Dr. Ruprecht gained a reputation for being a tough but fair teacher. Students often said his classes were the hardest they ever took. He was named HSU's Outstanding Professor by the student body. He also helped lead faculty governance as president of the Academic Senate's predecessor.

Dr. Ruprecht and his colleague Frank Jewett developed a computer model that explored how demographic changes affected individual households. Their work was published internationally and led to invitations to speak at global conferences.

Even after retirement, his impact continued. Former student Don Lewis, economics emeritus professor in Australia, created the Dr. Ted Ruprecht Research Assistantship to support student research in the department.

Outside of academia, Dr. Ruprecht was involved in the Ride & Tie Association, serving as both a board member and treasurer. He even managed two World Championship events held in Humboldt County. He also served in leadership roles for the Redwood Empire Endurance Riders. A passionate advocate for land conservation, he was a founder of Save Rural Trinidad and later joined the board of the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust.

Donations can be made to the Ruprecht Assistantship in Economics for students by visiting <https://giving.humboldt.edu/dr-ted-ruprecht-research-assistantship-economics> or mailing to the Gift Processing Center, Cal Poly Humboldt, 1 Harpst St, Arcata CA 95521. Please note "In Memory of Ted Ruprecht, Fund A6687" in the memo line.

## Homer Balabanis Economics Scholarship – Jonathan Juarez

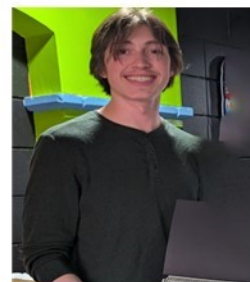
The Homer Balabanis Economics Scholarship was awarded to Jonathan Juarez this year. The accolade is given to an economics student annually based on academic achievement.



Jonathan is pursuing the math track within the Economics major, preparing for a PhD in Economics. He attributes his success to the support of family, friends, professors, and advisors, who encouraged him to pursue excellence. His favorite part of the program has been deep conversations about economic issues in developing countries, which inspired his interest in global development. Courses like Econ 306, 310, and 435 have been especially impactful. He encourages students to take every opportunity, connect with professors, and seek out guidance and mentorship.

## Bob R. Kittleson Economics Scholarship – Johnny Pacuraru

The Bob R. Kittleson Economics Scholarship was given to Johnny Pacuraru this year. In honor of long-time Humboldt economist Prof. Bob Kittleson, the scholarship is given out annually to an economics student who has demonstrated outstanding ability, especially relating to the study and understanding of the local economy and the problems of local economic growth.



Johnny is a double major in Accounting and Economics. He is strongly motivated to honor the sacrifices of his parents who immigrated to America. His favorite part of the Economics program has been the consistent support from the Economics department, both academically and professionally. He found Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 310) both challenging and rewarding due to its focus on real-world business decisions. Johnny advises students to build relationships with their department early.

## Adam Smith Award – Collin Miller

The recipient of the Adam Smith Award this year is Collin Miller. The Adam Smith Award is given annually to an Economics student in recognition of achievement and professional promise in the field of Economics. The award symbolizes the embodiment of Adam Smith's principles of economic theory and application.



Collin is an Economics major with a traditional economics focus, graduating this Spring. He hopes to work in public service or for a small business, driven by a desire to help people. Collin credits his success to the excellent economics faculty at Cal Poly Humboldt and the support of his family. His favorite class was Will Fisher's Energy Economics and Climate Policy course, which helped him see the world differently. Collin advises other students to read a lot to expand their perspectives.



## Academic Achievement Award – Will Streich

The Academic Achievement Award was given to Will Streich this year. The award stands as a symbol of recognition for unparalleled excellence in scholarship and a testament to the recipient's unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

Will is an Economics major with a business administration minor, graduating this Spring. His favorite class was Economics of the Developing World with Beth Wilson, which sparked his interest in international development. He also enjoyed leading the Econ 310L supplemental instruction course, which allowed him to support his peers. Will recommends not sweating the small stuff and urges students to be kinder to themselves during tough times. Will is also a recipient of the 2025 Outstanding Student Research Award for his project on the Humboldt County housing market.



## Don Lewis Economics Prize – Nico Dehlinger

The first recipient of the Don Lewis Economics Prize is Nico Dehlinger. The Don Lewis Prize, in honor of Alum Don Lewis, is awarded to a student based on outstanding performance in Economics classes.

Nico is majoring in Economics with a Spanish minor and is passionate about renewable energy and fighting climate change. He is thankful for the support of his professors and especially his parents, whose financial help allowed him to focus fully on school. His favorite class was Intermediate Macroeconomics with Nicola Matthews, which deepened his understanding of government operations. Nico is considering a career in clean energy to make a real-world impact. His advice to others is to have trust in themselves and believe that hard work pays off.

## Humboldt Economics Across the Decades

Isaiah ('25) and Don Lewis ('66)



## New Atkinson Econ Lounge!

See the improvements made to the Econ office

On Wednesday, March 5th, the Economics Department had its official open house for the new Atkinson Econ Lounge! The lounge is located in the Economics Suite in Siemens Hall 206. The funds for the lounge were generously provided by alumni Glen and Patricia Atkinson. There is new furniture, a microwave, and a Keurig Coffee machine. We also have fresh copies of *The Economist* on the coffee table for those who would like to catch up on economic news. This is a great spot for students and faculty to hang out and maybe get a quick snack or coffee in between classes.



## Remembering Dr. Ted Ruprecht

Kind words from Dr. Ruprecht's students

"He was my first exposure to Economics in 1961. How lucky for me."

-Don Lewis (Class of 1966, and founder of the "Dr. Ted Ruprecht Research Assistantship in Economics")

"I took my first Econ course (Econ 10) from Professor Ruprecht as an undeclared transfer in 1977, which got me hooked, and I then became an Econ major. I went on to take 6 classes from him. He was the hardest but best teacher I ever had dating back to kindergarten. Ted was the most significant person other than my parents in fostering my career."

-Donald Cresse (Class of 1985)

"He was a character, at least from the students' perspective. Occasionally he would show up for class with mud on his shoes and pants as the result of chasing his animals (goats I believe) who could never stay fenced. He was a good instructor and a personable individual. It is good that he stayed involved with the dept. and university. I know many will regret his passing."

-B. Patrick Joyce (Class of 1966)

"For me, I quite literally thought Ted Ruprecht walked on water. He was a member of a department where everyone was an exceptionally strong swimmer (to push the metaphor) and they each had their complementarities making for an extraordinary department of extraordinary individuals. They gave us every encouragement and every opportunity to succeed...My memory of Ted Ruprecht is that he would always approach [teaching] with energy, enjoyment and a twinkle in his eye."

-David Hammes (Class of 1973)