



**From the Editor.....**

Dear Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends,

I hope you are all doing well. We are excited to be back and resuming, albeit cautiously, face-to-face teaching and activities on campus after a very difficult and challenging year and a half.

I'd like to welcome you to a special edition of *On the Margin*, your favorite Alumni Newsletter.

This special edition is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Randy Parker, who passed away in 2018.

Randy was a beloved professor who is greatly missed by his students and colleagues alike. Randy was famous for his ever entertaining and informative article “*Macro Corner*” that we excitedly used to share with you in our newsletter. In addition, he was an amazing golf player who created and organized our Annual Econ Golf Tournament, which helped to raise scholarship money for our students and funds for the department.

In this edition of *On the Margin*, we are happy to announce the dedication of our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament to Randy’s memory. We would like you to join us and attend “*The Randy Parker Memorial Golf Tournament*” on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Ironwood Golf and Country Club in Greenville, NC. We will share with you the details of this exciting event inside this special edition.

There are several ways you can be part of this event to celebrate Randy and commemorate his passion for golf. You can spend a day playing golf, participate in the online auction, or donate directly to Dr. Parker’s Scholarship Fund.

Meanwhile, to learn more about Randy’s life, achievements, and contributions to the Econ. Department, please read Dr.

Lester Zeager’s article “In Memoriam: Dr. Randall Parker”, a touching tribute to Randy!

In this special edition of *On the Margin*, we also like you to meet our new department Chair; Dr. Haiyong Liu. In his article, *View from the New Chair*, Dr. Liu will update you on the department’s progress. He’ll also share with you the achievements the department has made in the areas of undergraduate and graduate degree awards as well as the research awards and the funds secured during this past academic year- despite the colossal challenges posed by the Covid- 19 pandemic.

Moreover, *In the News, Notes and Milestones* section of this edition, we will give you the inside scoop on your favorite faculty member’s news and accomplishments.

*On the Margin* continues to be your eyes and ears to news, events, and developments in your beloved Economics Department. Thank you for supporting us. You are always a part of our Econ family.

My Best Wishes,

*Nehad Elsawaf*



**View from the New Chair...**

Dear Alumni and Friends!

My name is Dr. Haiyong Liu, and I am the new Chairperson of your Department of Economics. We are now at the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year. Looking back at the past year, we are extremely proud of what we have accomplished, We are also happy to report that as a department we continued to thrive in the past school year even though we encountered numerous unprecedented challenges. We have reached new heights in almost every measurable category, including teaching, research, and community service. The following data table provides a quick glance of our accomplishments in academic year 2020-2021 (Note that SCH and gFTE are key teaching output measures).

Productivity	
Undergraduate Degrees Awarded	98
Graduate Degrees Awarded*	18
SCH (fundable)	15,745
gFTE	24.61
Research Awards	\$614,019

*\*Interdisciplinary doctoral program data excluded*

This has also been a year of personnel changes for the department. Dr. Rick Ericson retired from East Carolina University after serving 18 years at our department, including 12 years as the department chair. Ms. Cindy Mills also retired from her position as the lead Admin of the department after 10 years of excellent service at our department. Dr. Qingxin He has become our newest Tenure-Track faculty member, whose research and teaching expertise is focused on industrial organization and environmental economics.

On behalf of the ECU Economics faculty and staff, I want to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude towards your ever continuing generosity, your flow of contributions, in all sizes, which has been essential to the success of the Department, to its ability to support students in the completion of their degrees. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Golf Tournament, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Ironwood Golf Course! If you are unable to attend this year, there are many other ways you can help. Please consider sponsoring a hole or even a golf contest as laid out in the sponsorship flier attached. The link to our ECU online store is [HERE](#). We welcome any items or services we can add to our online auction as well as any donation of your time.

Finally, keep in touch! Let us know how you are doing, and what you would like to see us doing. Feel free to stop by and visit me to talk about your department or about economics in general. You may also stay in touch with us on our Department Website (<https://economics.ecu.edu/>), which has links to our Facebook and Twitter pages.

With best wishes,

*Haiyong Liu*

*Alumni you can Help!*

*Play Golf on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Randy Parker Memorial Golf Tournament*

*Donate to Randy Parker's Scholarship Fund*  
<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/722/17/advancement/interior.aspx?sid=722&gid=1&pgid=2127&dids=474>

*Participate in the Online Auction at the Golf Tournament*



**In Memoriam:  
Dr. Randall E. Parker**

By: *Dr. Lester Zeager*

Dr. Randall (Randy) Parker (1960-2018) was born and raised in Chicago, IL, and became a life-long fan of the Black Hawks and Cubs. He received a B.S. in Economics from Northern Illinois University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Kentucky, where he developed a keen interest in college basketball and horse racing.

Dr. Parker was the first faculty member hired by the newly- founded Economics Department at ECU in 1986 and was assigned to teach macroeconomics, monetary theory and policy, and money and banking. His passion in research was macroeconomic history, especially the Great Depression. His publications in refereed journals include five articles in the widely respected *Economic Inquiry* (the official journal of the Western Economic Association International) and

one in the prestigious *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*. In later years Dr. Parker edited a series of books on the Great Depression (interviews with eminent economists who came of age in that period and seminal works on the topic). In 2008, he initiated a blog with daily commentary on the state of the macroeconomy.

During his years in Greenville, Dr. Parker was a colorful, memorable, and influential teacher for countless students. He insisted that his students arrive on time, stay awake, learn lessons well, and learn to behave professionally. Many of his students used this training to launch careers in banking. He received an Alumni Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award in 2000 and, ten years later, a University Scholar-Teacher Award in recognition of his impact on students.

While living in eastern North Carolina, Dr. Parker became an avid golfer, duck hunter, and ECU sports fan— particularly football and men’s basketball. In his last years of service to ECU, his love for students and golf merged in the creation of a golf tournament and a Wall of Fame to raise funds for scholarships for undergraduate economic students. The event became a homecoming for many former students and has raised,

directly or indirectly, more than \$200,000 in support for students based on merit and need. With his recent illness and passing, several of his former students took over leadership of the event, renaming it the Randy Parker Memorial Golf Tournament.



The department’s first endowed student scholarship, The Randall E., and Monica Parker Free-Market Economics Scholarship, was also created in honor of Dr. Parker. One of the most satisfying moments in a long career of service to ECU took place when four former students arrived at Dr. Parker’s home to tell him there would be “Parker Scholars” walking the halls of the department, which he helped to create, in perpetuity. It is a fitting tribute to such a memorable individual who devoted his entire professional life to the Department of Economics, ECU, and its students. We invite you to help us build up the Parker Scholarship endowment through the ECU University Advancement website:

<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/72/2/17/advancement/interior.aspx?sid>



[=722&gid=1&pgid=2127&dids=474](#)

or make checks payable to “ECU Foundation, Inc.” with “Dr. Parker Economics Endowment/ EC 3198” in the memo line. Our mailing address is ECU Economics Department, Mailstop 580, Brewster A-427, 1000 C 5th street, Greenville, North Carolina 27858.

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### News, Notes and Milestones...

**Dr. Rick Ericson**, the former chair of our department retired after 18 years at ECU. Dr. Ericson served 12 years as the chair of Econ. He was an amazing leader, colleague, and friend, who helped steer the department during some of its toughest times during the Great Recession. Rick retired right in the middle of the Covid pandemic, so we were not able to give him a proper send off for his amazing years of service then. So, this fall the department held a retirement party for Rick on August 28, 2021. The party was hosted by Drs. Meghan Millea and Jon Rezek at their beautiful New Bern home in NC. We will miss you Rick and we wish you a happy retirement with your beautiful family! Below are some of the pics from the party. Enjoy!



We will miss you, Cindy! Enjoy your time with your beautiful family and most of all with your adorable grandson, baby Mills!



### **Cindy Mills’ retirement party:**

The Econ department has also sent off another amazing colleague last year, Ms. Cindy Mills. Cindy retired on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, after a long and dedicated career with ECU. Cindy served as the lead Department Admin. Support Specialist during the last 10 years. “Her hard work and dedication have facilitated the department’s productivity and our individual productivity on many fronts. I’d say she has worked tirelessly, but that is not true. She has worked through exhaustion for the benefit of her colleagues, the alumni, and the students”. Said Dr. Millea about Cindy.





**Ironwood Golf & Country Club**  
200 Golf Club Wynd  
Greenville, NC 27834  
Phone: 252-752-6659

**Thursday, October 14th, 2021**  
10:00 am Registration Begins  
11:00 am Lunch Begins  
12:00 pm Shotgun Start  
4:00 pm Awards Ceremony

- Putting Challenge on the Practice Green
- Long Drive Contests
- Closest to the Pin Challenge
- \$20 Mulligan Packages

Would you like to help or have a question about the tournament? Feel free to contact one of the Advancement Council members below for help.

**Sponsorship Chair**  
Kelly Senkyr  
[kes1028@hotmail.com](mailto:kes1028@hotmail.com)

**Golf Chair**  
Joey Cuellar  
[Joey.Cuellar@gmail.com](mailto:Joey.Cuellar@gmail.com)

**Event Chair, Volunteer/Alumni Chair**  
Amber Thomas  
[ambercthomas@outlook.com](mailto:ambercthomas@outlook.com)

**Promotion/Auction Chairs**  
Victoria Hardy/Andrea Brokamp  
[HardyV10@students.ecu.edu](mailto:HardyV10@students.ecu.edu)  
[aecueck@aol.com](mailto:aecueck@aol.com)



**Scholarship Golf Fundraiser 4 Man Superball**  
**(Formerly the Economics Advancement Council Golf Tournament)**

Come celebrate with us at our **Rescheduled** 18th annual golf tournament! This year's event will be held **Thursday, October 14th, 2021** at the well-manicured Ironwood Golf and Country in Greenville, NC.

All Proceeds from The Randy Parker Memorial Golf Tournament go to providing scholarships within the Department of Economics at East Carolina University. Our whole mission and purpose is to support deserving students with need and merit-based scholarships well into the future.

As usual, this tournament continues to offer nostalgia and networking opportunities for Dr. Parker's colleagues, alumni, friends, family, and the next generation of ECU Economics enthusiasts.

**\$100 Golf and Lunch for 1**

**\$400 Golf and Lunch for 4**

Prices include 18 holes of golf with cart, range balls, gift bag, lunch before tee off, and cold beer on the course.

All participants for golf, Mulligan Packages, and Hole Sponsorships may pay **HERE** prior to the tournament to secure your spot. If you are paying for a foursome, please provide the names of your team members.



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**Sponsorship Chair**  
Kelly Senkyr  
[kss1028@hotmail.com](mailto:kss1028@hotmail.com)

**Golf Chair**  
Joey Cuellar  
[Joey.Cuellar@gmail.com](mailto:Joey.Cuellar@gmail.com)

**Event Chair, Volunteer/Alumni Chair**  
Amber Thomas  
[ambercthomas@outlook.com](mailto:ambercthomas@outlook.com)

**Promotion/Auction Chairs**  
Victoria Hardy/Andrea Brokamp  
[HardyV10@students.ecu.edu](mailto:HardyV10@students.ecu.edu)  
[asequeck@aol.com](mailto:asequeck@aol.com)



## Sponsorship Opportunities

Come celebrate with us at our 17th annual golf tournament! New name, same great tournament! This year's event will be held **Thursday, October 14th, 2021** at the well-manicured Ironwood Golf and Country in Greenville, NC.

All Proceeds from The Randy Parker Memorial Golf Tournament go to providing scholarships within the Department of Economics at East Carolina University. Our whole mission and purpose is to support deserving students with need and merit-based scholarships well into the future.

### **Putting Challenge Event- \$250 (1 Opportunities)**

Multiple mentions during the event, signage at the putting contest location, Social media post and sponsorship mention.

### **Closest to the Pin Contest- \$250 (4 Opportunities)**

Multiple mentions during the event, signage at the Par 3 location, Social media post and sponsorship mention.

### **Long Drive Contest-\$250 (2 Opportunities)**

Multiple mentions during the event, signage at the long drive contest hole location, Social media post and sponsorship mention.

### **Beer Cart Sponsorship- \$600 (2 Opportunities)**

Multiple mentions during the event, signage on beverage cart, Social media post and sponsorship mention.

### **Hole Sponsorship- \$100 (Unlimited Opportunities)**

Hole Sponsorship provides a sign designed to your satisfaction posted at a golf hole with exposure to over 100+ participants.



## More News, Notes and Milestones...



**Dr. Jamie Kruse**, Harriot College Distinguished Professor of Economics and Director of the ECU Center for Natural Hazards Research, is stepping down after 17 years of service to the center. “Through her leadership, CNHR has successfully fostered a multidisciplinary research community that conducts impactful research on economic, social, and physical aspects of natural hazards affecting eastern North Carolina, the United States, and the international community,” said Dr. Haiyong Liu, professor and chair of economics. “. Dr. Kruse will return to the Department of Economics as a full-time faculty member. Welcome back Jamie! Thank you for your hard work and dedication.



**Dr. Meghan Millea** has been named interim director of ECU’s Center for Natural Hazards Research effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Millea came to ECU in 2017 after 19 years of teaching, research, and service at Mississippi State University. She is an award-winning professor whose primary research interests lie in the field of applied microeconomics as it relates to education and the labor market. In her role as interim director of the CNHR, Dr. Millea will be an advocate for the center’s interests as well as the broader interests of the university, its students and faculty. Congratulations Meghan! We wish you the very best in your new leadership role.



**Dr. Nick Rupp’s** HNRS 2013 – Economics of Wine and Craft Brewing class was recognized by the Harriot College Arts and Sciences as a “Cool Class” offering. The students in this course are taking two field trips as part of the experiential learning experience. They will visit Nauti Dog brewery in Winterville later this month and in October are touring Duplin Winery. The students will learn from an ECU Economics alumnus, David Fussell, about operations at Duplin. Moreover, Dr. Rupp is offering our undergraduate Econ students the chance of earning up to 6 credit hours of Econ classes studying at Costa Rica, as part of the study Abroad program in summer 2022. These classes are (ECON 3323- Costa Rica Eco- Tourism Industry and ECON 3323- Costa Rica Agricultural Industry). Congratulations Nick! Thank you for enriching the experience of our Econ undergrads.

**More News, Notes and Milestones...**



**Dr. Greg Howard** is a co-PI on a project that has been funded by the National Science Foundation's Coupled Human and Natural Systems program. The project is titled "**An integrative analysis of perceptions, policy, and land use impact on coastal agricultural watershed resilience**". Dr. Howard's Project received funding of \$1.5 million over the four-year span of the project. Congratulations Greg! Well, deserved!

**Dr. Qingxin He** was promoted to a Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Economics this Fall, and she's thrilled to be starting this new chapter! Dr. He joined ECU in Fall 2018 as a fixed term Assistant Professor. She teaches classes in

Microeconomics, Managerial Economics, and Comparative Economic Systems. Here is a picture of Dr. He with her adorable daughter, Harper! Congratulations Qingxin we wish you continued success!



Meet and welcome our newest member of the department **Ms. Lyndsay Edgerton.**



After working at ECU School of Dentistry for more than 4 excellent years, Ms. Lyndsay Edgerton joined the Department of Economics as

Administrative Support Associate in January 2021. Lyndsay quickly transitioned into her new position despite all the challenges during the pandemic. Welcome aboard Lyndsay! We are happy to have you in our Econ family!

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PLEASE HELP SUPPORT GOOD TEACHING, STUDENT, AND FACULTY RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

SEND YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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BREWSTER 427 A  
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY,  
GREENVILLE, NC,  
27858-4353

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!