

Kautz-Uible Economics Institute

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

no. 4 | fall 2023



Enriching the lives of economics students, faculty, and alumni at the University of Cincinnati

GREETINGS

Debashis Pal, Director



Since we issued our Spring 2023 newsletter, the Kautz-Uible Economics Institute has continued with exciting activities to enrich the experience of economics students at the University of Cincinnati. This academic year, we are proud to be supporting over 30 students through Kautz-Uible Fellowships and Scholarships, including three new students in our Pathways to Success program.

It is with great enthusiasm that I announce the distinguished presence of Professor Joshua Gans, PhD, from the University of Toronto, who will be our esteemed James C. Kautz speaker for this year's event. Professor Gans is a prominent authority in the field, specializing in the profound influence of artificial intelligence (AI) on business, the economy, and society. His forthcoming presentation today will delve

into the far-reaching implications of AI on both existing and future employment, making it a particularly pertinent subject for our students.

I am also pleased to introduce our newest initiative, Future IDEAS: a student-led, faculty-guided program that explores the interrelationship between rapidly evolving digital experiences and their impact on consumers, companies, the economy, and society. Guided by Kautz-Uible Assistant Professor of Economics Michael Jones and Kautz-Uible Fellow Dipanjan Chatterjee of Forrester, students will blend traditional rigorous research practices with hands-on experimentation in labs at the University of Cincinnati's state-of-the-art Digital Futures interdisciplinary research facility, as they explore topics such as next-gen immersive customer experiences, the future of communications, and technology that's human at scale. We are excited to officially launch the program in Spring 2024.

This fall marks the one-year anniversary of the opening of the Kautz-Uible Cryptoeconomics Lab; in this issue, we share the innovative research that's taking place there. I would like to extend our gratitude to Ledger for recently donating their Enterprise Vault security solution for digital assets to the lab. Renowned for its rigorous security measures, Ledger's Enterprise Vault further enhances the university's technological capabilities for research

and education in the area of cryptoeconomics while offering hands-on experience to our students by preparing them for the future digital economy.

We hope you enjoy reading through this issue of our newsletter, which highlights several of our recent activities and features dedicated alums and friends who support the institute in various ways. Please visit our website at kueconomicsinstitute.org and join our LinkedIn company page at [linkedin.com/company/kautz-uible-economics-institute](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kautz-uible-economics-institute) for the most up-to-date information.

We sincerely thank our alums and friends whose generous support makes the activities of the Kautz-Uible Economics Institute possible. We encourage you to get involved with the institute and welcome your participation in our events, including our annual James C. Kautz Lecture, Kautz-Uible Women in Economics panels, and our annual economics homecoming event.

There's much you can do—mentor a current student, give a lecture, supervise a student's research project, donate to the institute, or create a named scholarship. Together, let's help our current students have an amazing educational experience.

Sincerely,

Debashis Pal

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Sarah Asebrook, Program Coordinator



We hope you enjoy the latest edition of our Kautz-Uible Economics Institute's newsletter. It's an honor to highlight the exciting developments made possible by the institute. If you would like to submit a news item for consideration for future publications, please don't hesitate to reach out via email at asebrosa@ucmail.uc.edu. Happy reading!

Cover Photo: 2023-24 Economics award winners pictured with Professor Hernan Moscoso Boedo, Guest Speaker and Alumnus Matt Miner, Lindner Dean Marianne Lewis, Economics Department Head Iryna Topolyan, Professor David Brasington, Institute Director Debashis Pal, Lab Director Michael Jones, Professor Asawari Deshmukh, Professor Nick Williams, and Associate Dean of Impact and Partnerships Chuck Sox at the 2023 Awards Banquet.

AMANDA WAIT FELLOWS STUDY ABROAD



Keya Nandi
Amanda Wait Fellow



Kellie Hannan
Amanda Wait Research Fellow

Back in 2019, UC economics alumna, Kautz-Uible board member, and UC Foundation trustee Amanda Wait (BA, '00) created a named fellowship through the Kautz-Uible Economics Institute with the mission of supporting economics students at UC on their journey to becoming confident professionals. Two Amanda Wait Fellows – Keya Nandi and Kellie Hannan – spent the past year studying abroad in Europe, immersing themselves in the culture and gaining valuable insights and experience along the way.

Learn more about their experiences on the next page.



Amanda Wait speaking with Lindner Dean Marianne Lewis before the 2022 James C. Kautz Lecture.

KEYA NANDI

As an international student, third-year Business Economics and Business Analytics student Keya Nandi understands the transformational impact a new environment can have on personal and professional growth. Hands-on co-op experiences were a major factor in her decision-making process when she was contemplating colleges and ultimately decided to attend the University of Cincinnati's Lindner College of Business. Although she initially thought that those experiences would take place in the US, she actually ended up achieving one of her biggest dreams this past year: studying abroad and working in Europe.

Keya's journey began in January, when she embarked on a study-abroad program as an exchange student at University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland, through which she was able to complete a variety of coursework exploring Economics and Business Analytics, one of her favorites being a Regional and Business Economics course, which focused on a deeper understanding of the role of spatial factors and how they affect productivity as well as the economic well-being of a region. In the course, Keya conducted research on Denmark and its measures of productivity, looking at data from sources like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat. She also accepted a research assistant position during this time to conduct economic research with Dr. David Butler and Dr. Robert Butler from UCC; as part of the research, Keya helped with data collection to develop a model to measure the impact of weather conditions on sports performance.



Keya pictured in front of the main building at UCC on her first day visiting campus.

As she was about halfway through her program in Ireland, Keya received some very exciting news that would extend her European adventure – she was accepted into University Alliance's Ruhr Fellowship program, "which connects highly motivated undergraduate students in the US with a unique experience to expand their portfolio and networks to one of the most dynamic and technologically advanced areas in Germany."

With the assistance of Director of International Programs Lee Armstrong, Prof. Asawari Deshmukh, Dr. Debashis Pal, Prof. Ruth Seiple, and Dean Marianne Lewis, Keya applied back in November but still pursued other study-abroad opportunities like that with UCC, given the low acceptance rate. Keya recalls her excitement when she got the news.

"I was honored to be one of the nine students from the US, representing various universities like Harvard, Lehigh, MIT, Princeton, and UC as a Fellow," Keya shared. The fellowship program began with a two-week academic and cultural program, followed by a six-week internship with Taros Chemicals, where Keya worked as a marketing intern.

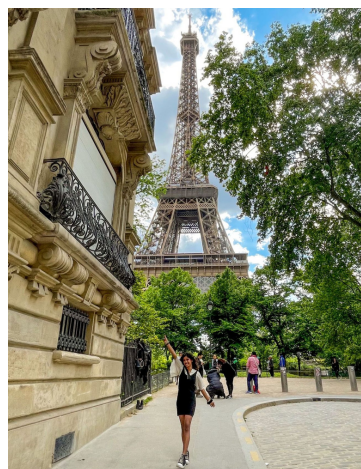
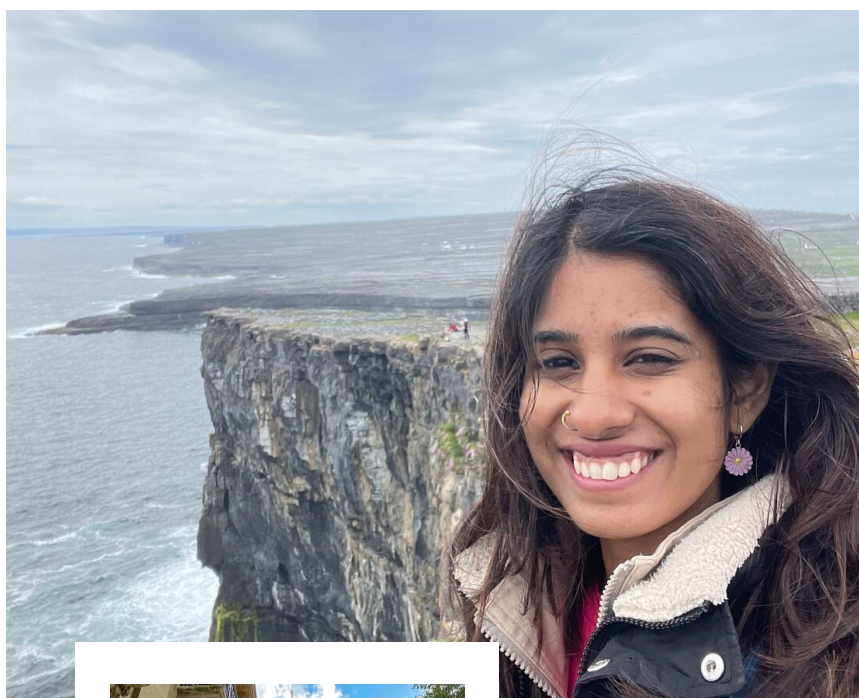
Throughout her studies, Keya discovered her passion for developing economic solutions and working in a multi-cultural environment. But much of her growth also took place outside of the classroom and workplace.

During her time in Europe, Keya impressively backpacked across the continent, visiting 17 countries and 55 cities and towns. Much of this travel was done solo, which was quite a teaching moment in itself. "Traveling by myself made me a lot more extroverted, as I opened up to the idea of branching out and making connections in new places," Keya shares. "Now I have friends all over the world."

Keya explains that prior to this journey, she was always the girl with a plan. But these experiences taught her to really enjoy the moment as it comes and be open to new experiences. Her advice to others? "Reach out and grab opportunities as you can," she shares. "Last year, when I pressed the submit button for the Ruhr Fellowship program, I thought to myself about the chances of me actually getting selected for this competitive program...and here I am today, having had the most eye-opening experience of my life."

During the rest of her time at UC, Keya hopes to get even more international exposure as well as continue making an impact and being a mentor to other students. After graduation, she has decided to pursue her master's at UC. In the long run, she hopes to move to Europe or anywhere where work and opportunities will take her.

Center photo: Keya pictured on the cliffs of Dún Aonghasa, located on a remote island off the coast of Galway called Aran Islands soon before she set off for Germany. **Bottom photo:** Keya pictured in front of the Eiffel Tower – the first pitstop on her backpacking trip and a childhood dream come true!





Kellie's first day arriving in London!



Felix, LSE's mascot, and Kellie pictured on campus during Welcome Week.

KELLIE HANNAN

Kellie Hannan, a fourth-year Business Economics student, always knew studying abroad would be a priority during her college experience. When exploring her options, she asked herself where her dream place of study would be, and the answer was clear – the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Kellie took it upon herself to externally apply to LSE's General Course program and was accepted to spend the full academic year 2022-2023 in London, England. She chose from over 300 course options across all their departments, becoming fully immersed in the culture and a part of the student body. LSE's motto "rerum cognoscere causas" means "to understand the causes of things" and was a perfect academic fit for Kellie. Her classes rigorously blended economics and political science in a heavily application-based environment, always questioning how the topics covered have real-world policy implications.

Prior to this experience, Kellie was already thinking about how she could make a positive impact through her interest in economics and policy. She has published four articles and a book chapter thus far and has two more articles forthcoming. This research has focused on the influence of public opinion on public policy, sending out national-level surveys to see how people view policies related to criminal justice. Kellie has been fortunate to have fantastic academic mentors in her life who have shown her how she can use her intellectual curiosity in a meaningful way.

Her time at LSE confirmed her interests in research and policy and gave Kellie further perspective of how to continue through her path. She is especially thankful to have learned from the rich diversity of her professors and peers, listening to their experiences from many parts of the world and reflecting on her own gaps in knowledge. The entire year Kellie recalls she could "feel the gears turning" in her brain as it was a challenging yet deeply rewarding endeavor.

Kellie also found the experience to be a time of great personal growth. She loved exploring London with the close friends she made and was remarkably able to travel to 16 European countries throughout the year. The memories will stay with her throughout her life, such as solo traveling to Salzburg, meeting a Ukrainian refugee in her hostel in Germany, or hiking through Norway and Iceland. Kellie says, "The year seems so surreal looking back." She is proud that she lived the year out to its fullest, putting herself in positions where she would be challenged and coming out of them with an even greater confidence in her ability to adapt and learn.

Kellie is excited to be back at UC for her fourth year and apply what she has learned on campus and in her role as president of the undergraduate Economics Society. The economics department has been a "home base" for her time at UC, and she is eager to share her experiences and bring in new members to the society. Her LSE experience

has already inspired others and opened a pipeline for future UC students, as she knows a handful of people who have applied for next year; prior to her enrollment, there had not been any recorded UC students to have gone to the General Course program at LSE.

In terms of the future, Kellie will spend her fifth year at UC earning a master's degree in criminal justice, working on her publications, and preparing to apply to further graduate study.



Kellie pictured with Professor Asawari Deshmukh and four UC students during their visit to see Kellie in London. The group attended an LSE lecture, and Kellie gave a campus tour.

A close-up portrait of Nick Puncer, a young man with short, light brown hair and a bright smile, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a white shirt. The background is softly blurred.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

NICK PUNCER

Back in 2015, economics alumnus Nick Puncer (BBA, '10) of local independent asset and wealth management firm Bahl & Gaynor (B&G) was named a partner, becoming the youngest person to do so in company history. A shining example of the mission of the institute, Nick wants to show students where studying economics – and being open to new experiences and connections – can take you.

From early on in his college experience, Nick Puncer understood the value of economics. After taking his first finance course (his sole major at the time), he determined that he needed more of a background in economics to fully grasp the material. A fellow classmate, Susan Kayser, encouraged him to take an introductory-level course, and it opened up a path that made all the difference. “Economics is the foundation of finance,” Nick explains. “My understanding of finance was incomplete without it.”

Nick ultimately ended up double-majoring in finance and business economics, graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2010. During his time in the program, Nick remarks that he was very fortunate to have both Dr. Debashis Pal and Dr. Sourushe Zandvakili as advisors as he merged his finance studies with economics.

Nick was studying these two fields at a very pivotal time in history – right on the eve of the Great Recession. He recalls Dr. Zandvakili’s warning during one of his economics courses in Fall 2007 that we were likely heading into a recession. It just so happened right around this time, Nick was beginning his first co-op rotation at B&G in a position that he serendipitously found out about in a Business Pathways course, when a portfolio manager from B&G was presenting about career opportunities. As

fate would have it, a fellow classmate and UC alum, Krista Reider (née Detmer), sat next to Nick during that class. She shared that she was a B&G co-op who was graduating and asked Nick if he was interested in applying. “I walked into class that day not even knowing that this was a career path, and the rest is history,” he remarks.

During his co-op experience at B&G, Nick had a front-row seat to a market in crisis. Despite the recession, the firm did really well, Nick recalls, proving that B&G really helps people preserve and grow their wealth, even in the most trying of times. After graduation, Nick was offered a full-time position and has been there ever since.

In his first four years on the job, he focused on credentials, earning his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designations, while developing his knowledge of investments and interpersonal skills as he met directly with clients. Around 2014, he shifted to institutional business and ended up taking on research coverage for the tech sector along with serving as an ambassador to institutional clients, shifting his clients from families to asset allocators, the financial advisors who work with those families. About a year ago, he was promoted to managing director of B&G’s institutional group, representing the firm to the most strategic clients as he works with the investment committee to develop new strategies and vehicles to transform the firm over the next ten years. **(cont. on next page)**



Nick speaking with KU board co-chair Dan Kautz at the institute's annual homecoming event in Spring 2022.

Nick credits much of his success to the foundation that was created during his time at UC. After lamenting about the rising textbook prices to Dr. Zandvakili one day, Dr. Z encouraged Nick to apply for the Caroline Kautz Book Prize scholarship offered by what was then known as the Kautz-Uible Fund. It was during this time that Nick was becoming more and more interested in economics, and the scholarship allowed him to take more economics classes.

Nick also became involved in the undergraduate Economics Society, which connects students with alumni and other professionals in the field, allowing them to learn more about their experiences and backgrounds. Jim Kautz – UC economics alum and founder of the Kautz-Uible Fund – actually spoke about his experience at Goldman Sachs during one of the sessions, Nick recalls. “I was enchanted by all the different applications of economics Kautz-Uible exposed me to,” he shares. “It reinforced to me why economics was such an important background to have; the fund did a really good job of infusing the value of economics in so many people.”

Nick is passionate about continuing this legacy in the future generations of economics students at UC. A longtime member of the Kautz-Uible Economics Institute’s Board of Trustees, he stays in touch with the economics department and frequents events held by the UC economics community and particularly enjoys interacting with current students.

It’s these kinds of connections that make the institute so special. Outside of economics-related opportunities, the institute aims to nurture a true community and an atmosphere through which students can make meaningful connections. After all, Nick explains, so many businesses like his are relationship businesses.

“In addition to knowing complex material, being able to communicate it to a variety of audiences is critical to success,” Nick explains. “Personal connections are what make things happen.”

“Personal connections are what make things happen.”

–Nick, on his advice to current students

His advice to students? Start cultivating those relationships now, and don’t be intimidated to reach out to somebody who is doing something that you want to do. Being an active participant in your life now can only lead you to great places in the future.

UC alums give back



Four UC economics alums have established named fellowships to support economics students at UC: **Sean Sullivan** (pictured far left with economics professor and KU board member Richard Curry); **Amanda Wait** (pictured second from left); **Nandita Jena** (pictured second from right with economics professor Nick Williams); and **Joni Lewis** (pictured far right with economics professor Sourushe Zandvakili).

If you are interested in creating a named fellowship, please reach out to Debashis Pal at palD@ucmail.uc.edu or Lauren Jacquot at johnsl8@ucmail.uc.edu.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE

Kautz-Uible Cryptoeconomics Lab



The Kautz-Uible Cryptoeconomics Lab is an innovative space dedicated to the study of how blockchain technology and digital assets impact the future economy. Housed in the university's state-of-the-art interdisciplinary research facility Digital Futures, the lab officially opened its doors back in Fall 2022. Since then, Lab Director Michael Jones, PhD, and the team have been busy exploring the emerging field of cryptoeconomics. Aligning with Digital Futures' mission, the lab aims to solve real-world problems and serve as a resource of blockchain education for the community.

Developing Innovative Business Solutions

Michael Jones recently teamed up with Jordan Tate, PhD, a professor of fine arts at DAAP, to develop a physical card that embeds a Web3 wallet to store digital assets. The card contains an NFC chip that stores and transmits the credentials of the cardholder as well as a QR code that displays the digital assets owned in the Web3 wallet.

Real-world applications of the card include:

- verifying the completion of corporate training programs;
- storing unique digital representations that embed the time and location of when a visitor was physically present at an event;
- identifying membership in a collective membership for an athletics program.

Jones and Tate filed a provisional patent on the technology through the Office of Research and completed the University of Cincinnati's Pre-Accelerator program in the 1819 Innovation Hub's Venture Lab. According to the Venture Lab, "Pre-Accelerator cohorts are teams comprised of groups of people and/or individuals who have participated in an 8-week program to further develop their scalable product idea. These teams have undergone an extensive application process and review and worked with industry and market leaders to further develop their product edge, impact, and scope."

As a result of success in the accelerator program, a startup company was formed to commercialize the technology.

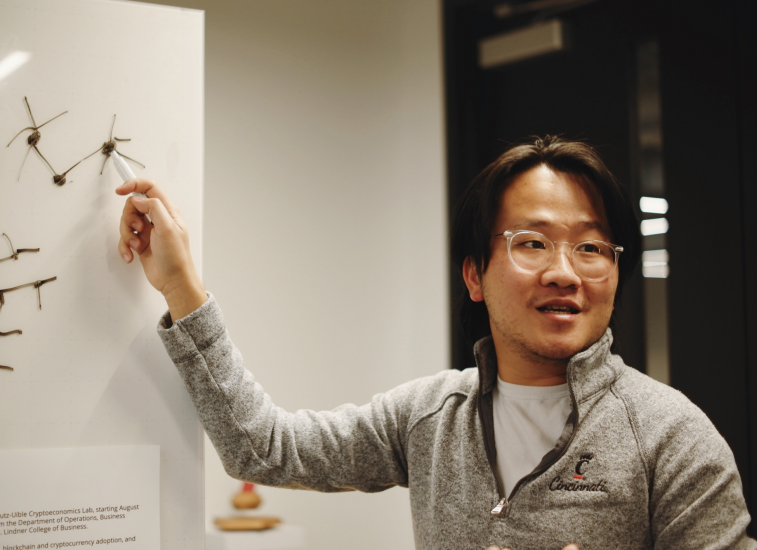
Lab Receives Generous Digital Security Gift from Ledger

The Kautz-Uible Cryptoeconomics Lab proudly announces that it has received a significant donation from The Ledger Company of its Enterprise Vault product - a cutting-edge digital asset security solution that will enhance the university's technological capabilities for both research and education in the cryptoeconomics area. This donation reaffirms UC's commitment to staying at the forefront of technology and digital innovation. The Ledger Enterprise Vault is renowned for its rigorous security measures, protecting digital assets from cyber threats while facilitating easy access and management for authorized users.

"We are immensely grateful for this donation," said Michael Jones. "With rapid changes in technology, it's crucial that we provide our students and faculty with state-of-the-art tools and infrastructure. This system will not only enhance our research, it will also offer hands-on experience to our students by preparing them for the future digital economy."

In collaboration with this generous donation, Fifth Third Bank came forward as a strategic partner to provide an off-site location for the secure backup of digital assets. This partnership showcases how academia and the financial sector can collaborate to foster innovation, ensuring that Cincinnati remains a hub for financial technology and education.

Photo: Michael Jones and Jordan Tate pictured upon completing UC Venture Lab's Pre-Accelerator program. Credit / UC's 1819 Innovation Hub



Lab Researchers Develop Crypto Literacy Scale

Back in our Spring 2023 issue, we explored the research Digital Futures Fellow Truong (Jack) Luu was conducting alongside Lab Director Michael Jones and OBAIS Professor Binny Samuel. At the time, the team was exploring the impact of crypto ownership on individuals and was in the initial phases of developing a valid scale to measure crypto literacy.

“People can be misled into thinking their knowledge of finance translates really well to their knowledge of crypto,” Michael Jones told UC News. “But that just isn’t always the case.”

Given its newness and inherently decentralized nature, there is a lot for the public to learn when it comes to crypto. Although literacy scales exist in more conventional areas of finance, a crypto scale had yet to be developed.

“As users continue to adopt digital currencies and government agencies introduce more regulatory legislation, researchers need to understand the general public’s degree of literacy in this field,” the team explains. “Measuring financial literacy has encouraged policymakers and educators to create programs that improve financial decision-making and increase financial empowerment.”

With that in mind, the team has created a Crypto Literacy Scale (CLS) – “a standardized measurement tool that contributes to ongoing efforts in financial education and regulation in the context of digital currencies and blockchain technology.”

Part of the Kautz-Uible Cryptoeconomics Lab’s mission is to provide resources like this tool in an effort to offer greater education in the cryptoeconomics space. After all, the team found that nearly 15% of UC students lost funds because they didn’t fully understand how cryptocurrencies work.

The team’s corresponding research article “Measuring Crypto Literacy” has been accepted by the Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS) conference, sponsored by the University of Hawaii’s Shidler College of Business. The team will present their research at the conference in January 2024.

Photo: Digital Futures Fellow Truong (Jack) Luu explaining his research in the lab.

LEARN MORE >>



Scan to listen to Michael and Jack’s recent interview with NPR’s Cincinnati Edition.



Scan to read Jacob’s articles on the UC Law Review Blog.

Lab Spotlight: Jacob Metzger, UC Law Student

One of the goals of the Digital Futures facility is to provide a space for interdisciplinary collaboration. The Kautz-Uible Cryptoeconomics Lab brings together researchers – including UC Law student Jacob Metzger – from the many different fields that intersect with cryptoeconomics.

Jacob Metzger knew he wanted to be a lawyer since his sophomore year of high school. “Since I went into undergrad already knowing this path I wanted to take, I was able to get a lot of good experience in early,” Jacob shares. While earning his Bachelor of Applied Science (BASc) in Paralegal Studies at the University of Toledo, he worked in the Toledo Municipal Court system in small claims and eviction court, which was when he determined he was interested in the civil side of law.

In the summer of 2022, after completing his first year at UC’s College of Law specifically focusing on coursework in the Innovation, Technology, and Intellectual Property Law track, Jacob had the opportunity to work with Alloy Development, a local nonprofit economic development organization that focuses on tech start-ups. Working closely with four small businesses to help solve their legal needs, he fully realized his passion for the tech field.

“Tech is where ingenuity is,” Jacob explains. “It’s where the creativity and innovation is.” Jacob wants to use his law background to help drive that innovation for others. That is precisely what led him to the Kautz-Uible Cryptoeconomics Lab.

In the lab, Jacob conducts legal research surrounding cryptocurrency regulations, licensing of intellectual property rights of NFTs (or non-fungible tokens), and data privacy regulations for applications using decentralized information.

This past year, Jacob has worked as a legal extern at The Kroger Co., where he researched, analyzed, and briefed FTC decisions. This summer, he also served as a law clerk in the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Indiana Attorney General, researching legal issues regarding cryptocurrency, antitrust, data privacy, securities law, and consumer litigation for use in policy and research memoranda.

Passionate about advocacy and consumer protection, Jacob focuses on educating people about these areas in the many roles he holds – including as Editor-in-Chief of UC’s *Intellectual Property and Computer Law Journal* and Associate Member & Blog Editor of the *UC Law Review*.

Completely student-run, the *Law Review* dates back to 1927; in more recent times, it established a blog to adapt to the changing times. “The goal of the [blog] is to further legal scholarship through shorter, quicker, discussion-based discourse,” the *Law Review* states.

To date, Jacob has published four blog articles, including one that explores the effects of artificial intelligence on personal safety and property interests, with two more publications exploring stablecoin regulations and NFTs, respectively, coming soon.

Photo: UC Law student Jacob Metzger, research analyst at the KU Cryptoeconomics Lab.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

ISABEL SCHEMMEL

The Kautz-Uible Pathways to Success program offers scholarship and mentoring to incoming economics or business economics students who have a diverse background, based upon factors including but not limited to socioeconomic status, parental education, cultural awareness, and history of overcoming adversity. We are proud to introduce this year's recipients: Gregory Burns, Jazmin Garcia-Zetina, and Isabel Schemmel. In this issue, we are highlighting Isabel – learn more about her below.

Can you share a little about yourself?

I grew up here in Cincinnati and went to Walnut Hills High School. I have three brothers and a dog named Scout. In my free time, I enjoy running, hiking, reading, trying new foods, and baking.

Why did you choose to study at UC?

I really love this city and UC's business school. The co-op program was one of the main reasons I was drawn to UC. As a high-schooler, I also went to Business Fellows events and Lindner Women Empowerment Day, and those experiences highlighted the amazing community and opportunities available here. I love that we're so close to the city but also that there is a very close college community feeling on campus.

What about economics interests you?

The versatility of its application. I appreciate the many directions it can be explored. I'm interested in the macro side of economics and looking at global trends and how economies interact.

What are you most excited to experience while at UC?

I'm most excited to experience co-ops and gain real-world experience. I'm also excited for networking opportunities and to study abroad.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years, I see myself having a full-time job offer at a company that gives me career satisfaction and makes a difference in the community. I will have years of experience under my belt and have found a career that I can enjoy.



Kautz-Uible Pathways Fellow Isabel Schemmel.

“ Unique.
Exciting.
Eventful. ”

-Isabel, on her UC experience so far



Iryna Topolyan, PhD

Department Head Iryna Topolyan presented her latest research publication “Correlated Play in Weakest-Link and Best-Shot Group Contests” at the 22nd SAET conference in Paris this past July, which gathered leading scholars in the area of economic theory from all over the world. Above, she is pictured in front of the Eiffel Tower during her time in Paris.



David Brasington, PhD

Kautz Chair in Political Economy David Brasington's research article “The Effect of Open Space Maintenance Spending on House Prices” was recently accepted for publication by the *Journal of Regional Science*. David also made media appearances for WLWT-TV, Ohio Business Magazine, Life and Money by Citi, WKRC Local 12, and WCPO-TV and presented at the Western Regional Science Association's Annual Meeting in Hawaii and the Urban Economics Association's North American Meeting in D.C.

In 2022, David's paper “Transit Finance, Growth, and Equity: A Dynamic Panel Data Analysis on the Effect of Transit Revenues on Low-Skilled Employment” was published in the *Annals of Regional Science*; it was co-authored by Seunghoon Oh, a PhD candidate in Regional Development Planning at DAAP who also earned his MS in Applied Economics from UC in 2019.



Olivier Parent, PhD

Olivier Parent authored a paper entitled "Beyond homophilic dyadic interactions: the impact of network formation on individual outcomes," which was published in the journal *Statistics and Computing*. This publication was a collaborative effort with Huibin Weng, who obtained her PhD in Economics at UC in 2001 and currently holds the position of assistant professor at Soochow University in China.

Furthermore, Olivier took the lead as the primary author on a paper titled "Estimating the Socioeconomic Impacts of Flooding on Regional Economies with a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Model." This paper, published in *Water Resources Research*, was co-authored with Rainer Vom Hofe (DAAP) and Lilit Yeghiazarian (CEAS). Research was conducted as part of a broader initiative funded by a \$5 million NSF convergence accelerator award, which aimed to address issues related to urban flooding.

— Economics faculty updates

TENURE-TRACK FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Jones, PhD, who served as Associate Professor-Educator, was named Assistant Professor in August 2023.

Dongchen Zhao, PhD, from UT Austin will join the department in January 2024 as an Assistant Professor.



PRESENTING THE 2023 KAUTZ LECTURE

How Disruptive Will Artificial Intelligence Be?

A Hard-Headed Approach

Joshua Gans, PhD
University of Toronto

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

5:45 - 6:45 PM

LINDNER AUDITORIUM

The Kautz-Uible Economics Institute is proud to announce that this year's James C. Kautz Lecture will be given by Joshua Gans of the University of Toronto. Professor Gans is an expert on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and explores the effect of AI on current and future jobs.

In the talk "How Disruptive Will Artificial Intelligence Be? A Hard-Headed Approach," Gans delves into the multifaceted impact of AI on economies worldwide. Straying away from hyperbolic predictions and sensationalist claims, he provides a rigorous, data-driven analysis of how AI is likely to reshape labor markets, influence income inequality, and affect global trade. By blending economic theory with real-world case studies, the talk offers a nuanced understanding of the disruptive potential of AI, urging policymakers, business leaders, and the public to prepare for both the opportunities and challenges ahead.

INTRODUCING FUTURE IDEAS

Future IDEAS is a student-led, faculty-guided initiative that explores the interrelationship between rapidly evolving digital experiences and their impact on consumers, companies, the economy, and society. Students will blend traditional rigorous research practices with hands-on experimentation in labs at the University of Cincinnati's state-of-the-art Digital Futures interdisciplinary research facility and explore topics such as:



NEXT-GEN IMMERSIVE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCES

The evolution of immersive worlds and spatial computing (through various virtual and augmented reality platforms) as an effective customer experience touchpoint for brands.



THE FUTURE OF COMMUNICATIONS

The role of technology in the future of communications and its economic and social implications, e.g., new modes of person-to-person communication and collaboration, impact on mental health and productivity, etc.



TECHNOLOGY THAT'S HUMAN AT SCALE

Best practices that make today's plethora of technology experiences (chat, generative AI, voice assistants, human-like robots) a more empathetic, relatable, and effective digital touchpoint for companies

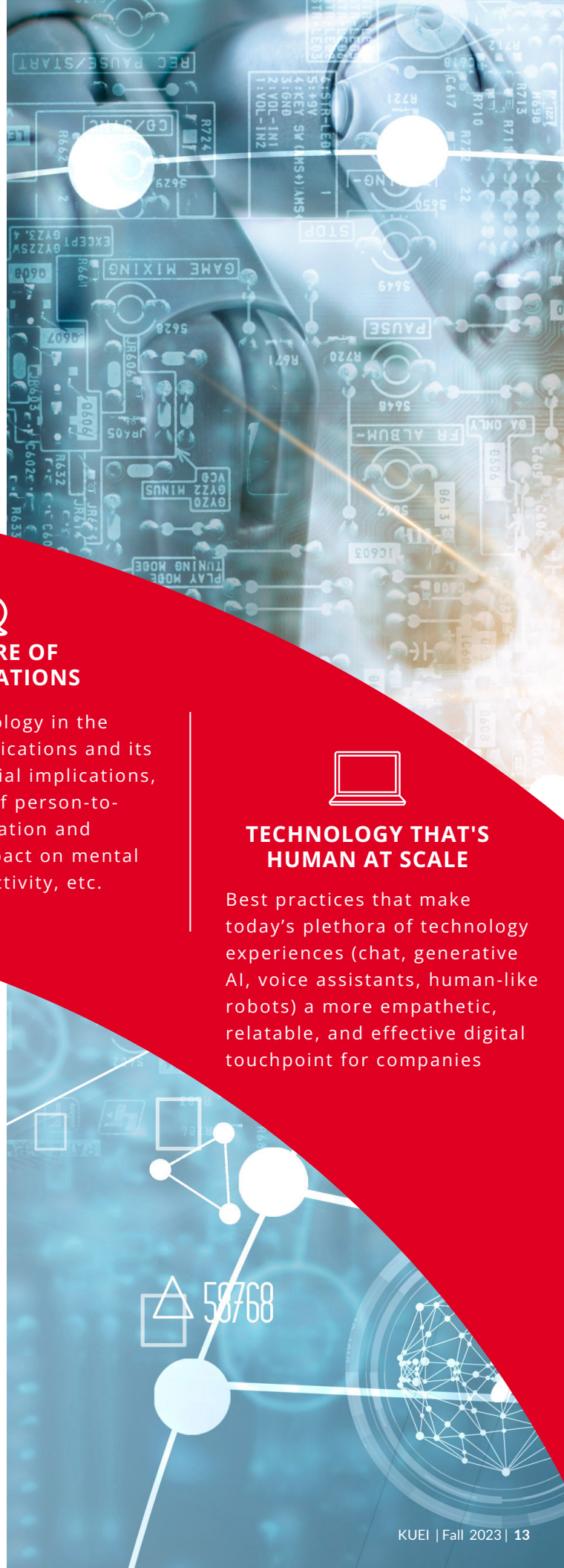


COURSE DETAILS

Students will enroll in a semester-long independent study (ECON 5099) in Spring 2024, exploring topics like those described above. Kautz-Uible Assistant Professor of Economics Michael Jones (pictured left) and Kautz-Uible Fellow Dipanjan Chatterjee of Forrester (pictured right) will teach the course. Collaborative in nature, the course allows students to work in groups to design experiments, conduct research, gather data, distill findings, and make recommendations.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Contact Michael Jones at jonm9@ucmail.uc.edu.



SPRING EVENTS

2023



In Spring 2023, alums Nandita Jena (pictured top, far left), Amanda Wait (pictured top, second from left), and Claire Koontz (pictured top, second from right) led a Women in Economics panel discussion that focused on providing tips to current students to maximize their internships. The panel was moderated by KU Amanda Wait Fellow Giulia Zattoni (pictured top, far right) soon before she graduated with a BBA in Business Economics and International Business this year.

Also during the spring semester, the Kautz-Uible Economics Institute hosted our annual homecoming event (pictured right) at the Cincinnati Country Club, where we had the pleasure of gathering with members of the UC economics community.



30+ fellowships & scholarships

AWARDED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR*



Abhigyan Acherjee
KU Fellowship



Sneha Amrit
KU Amanda Wait
Renewable Research
Fellowship



Joseph Book
KU Renewable
Research Fellowship



Carlo Bronzie
KU Study-Abroad
Scholarship



Eugene Burse
KU Study-Abroad
Scholarship



Gregory Burns
KU Pathways to
Success Fellowship



Noah Buttermore
KU Caroline Kautz
Book Prize



Dominic Capannari
Joseph C. Gallo
Scholarship



Michael Connolly
KU Renewable
Fellowship



Colin Crank
KU Renewable Research
Fellowship



Ethan Deep
KU Renewable Research
Fellowship



Jerome Dou
KU Study-Abroad
Scholarship



Lance Entsua
Citicorp Scholarship



Jazmin Garcia-Zetina
KU Pathways to
Success Fellowship



Luke Grothaus
KU Renewable
Research Fellowship



Sonali Goyal
KU Amanda Wait
Fellowship



Kellie Hannan
KU Amanda Wait
Renewable Research
Fellowship



Annie Hugenberg
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Prince Kalala
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Daniel Kiley
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Adam Kent
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Kunal Kewalramani
KU Cryptoeconomics
Lab Scholarship



Sunil Kollipara
Citicorp Scholarship



Bhanesh Manoj
KU Fellowship



Keya Nandi
KU Amanda Wait
Renewable Fellowship



Vanshika Rana
KU Nandita Jena
Renewable Fellowship



Alena Rapien
KU Caroline Kautz
Book Prize



Sunshrutya Rawat
KU Study-Abroad
Scholarship



Heidi Reppart
KU Nandita Jena
Renewable Research
Fellowship



Richy Richardson
KU Renewable
Research Fellowship



Kelly Roden
KU Joni Lewis
Renewable Research
Fellowship



Isabel Schemmel
KU Pathways to Success
Fellowship



Jacob Schutte
KU Renewable
Fellowship



Khyati Shinghal
KU Study-Abroad
Scholarship



Daniel Shisler
KU Don Wellington
Scholarship



Jessica Simcox
KU Study-Abroad
Scholarship



Keilana Slaughter
KU Amanda Wait
Renewable Fellowship

*Citicorp Scholarships and the Joseph C. Gallo Scholarship are awarded by UC's Economics Department.

ENGAGEMENT

The institute sincerely thanks the following alumni for their engagement. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Debashis Pal at debashis.pal@uc.edu.

Aziza Banerjee Lyons (BA, '16; MS, '17) • Alex Boerger (BA, '09; MA, '10) • Britany Bostic (BS, '09) • Candice Matthews (BA, '04) • Dinushki De Livera (BBA, '15; MS '16) • Mary DeStefano (BS, '15; MS '16) • Krista Fehring-Gustavsson-Bronzie (BA '05; MA '07) • Vanessa Finzer (BS, '13; MS '16) • Sara Ford (BA, '02) • Abdou Ndao (BBA, '20) • Nick Puncer (BBA, '10) • Inna Tobin Poliakov (BA, '99)

SCHOLARSHIPS

The institute sincerely thanks the following alumni for mentoring and creating scholarships for our students. If you are interested in creating a scholarship to support a current student, please contact Debashis Pal at debashis.pal@uc.edu or Lauren Jacquot at johnsl8@ucmail.uc.edu.



Nandita Jena (MS, '03)
Head of Operational Resilience
CIBC



Joni Lewis (BBA, '08)
VP of Finance
BAND-IT
IDEX Corporation



Sean Sullivan (BA, '09)
Senior Level Options Trader
Chicago Trading Company



Amanda Wait (BA, '00)
Partner, Head of Antitrust
Norton Rose Fulbright

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Thank you!

We are truly grateful to our alumni and friends who have supported us this past year. Your generous support makes it possible for us to enrich the experience of the economics students.

- Sally K. Amkoa
- Ryan Azbell
- Peter P. Baden
- Soumya Bag
- Khamida Barlybayeva
- Benevity, Inc.
- Bobby Blue
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- Diya Hussein
- Nandita Jena
- Michael D. Jones
- Dan Kautz
- Kautz Family Foundation
- Erin N. Keller
- Samuel C. Kirschner
- Leo H. Lackner
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- Joni Lewis
- F. Clark Lydic
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- Aigul T. Mukanova
- Scott F. Mulhauser
- Sandesh M. Nagrare
- Philip Nunoo
- Debashis Pal
- Gulnara Petalver
- Nicholas W. Puncer
- Ashwita Saxena
- Michael J. Stoepel
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- You Wang
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KEIANA SLAUGHTER
KU AMANDA WAIT FELLOW

"Being part of the Kautz-Uible Amanda Wait Renewable Fellowship Program has provided me with an incredible network of professionals within economics. The opportunity to connect with individuals who share my passion for economics will be truly impactful. The program's emphasis on fostering a supportive community has created an environment where I can engage in meaningful discussions, receive valuable guidance, and build lifelong connections."

ABHIGYAN ACHERJEE
KAUTZ-UIBLE FELLOW

"Receiving this scholarship has been a transformative experience for me. It gives me the freedom to put time into my academic pursuits without the constant worry of financial constraints. As such, this scholarship has not only provided me with financial assistance but has also instilled in me a sense of confidence and motivation. This award has provided me with more than just a scholarship; it has given me hope, encouragement, and the chance to fulfill my dreams."

ALENA RAPIEN
KU CAROLINE KAUTZ BOOK PRIZE RECIPIENT

"The scholarship allows me to spend time being more active on campus and take a more dynamic role as the Director of Marketing for the Undergraduate Economics Society. This incredible opportunity makes it possible for me to focus on my studies and pursue my dreams."



In Spring 2023, economics professors Debashis Pal (second from left) and Asawari Deshmukh (third from right) led a study-abroad program to Norway and Denmark. Joined by co-chair of the Kautz-Uible Board of Trustees Dan Kautz (far left), the group is pictured here in front of the LEGO HQ in Billund, Denmark, where the students learned about LEGO's business model and sustainability efforts. The institute was proud to support two students in the program - Annika Braaten (sixth from left, back row) and Sonali Goyal (seventh from left, back row).

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