

University of California, Berkeley  
Department of Economics

Commencement Ceremony

Hearst Greek Theater  
May 15, 2024

Welcome

Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare  
Chair, Department of Economics

Commencement Address

Professor Maurice Obstfeld  
Class of 1958 Professor of Economics

Student Address

Vidushee Mishra  
Class of 2024

## Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that Berkeley sits on the territory of xučyun (Huichin (Hoo-Choon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo) speaking Ohlone people, the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Muwekma (Muh-wek-muh) Ohlone Tribe and other familial descendants of the Verona Band.

We recognize that every member of the Berkeley community has benefitted, and continues to benefit, from the use and occupation of this land since the institution's founding in 1868. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university's relationship to Native peoples.

By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold the University of California, Berkeley more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Visit <https://cejce.berkeley.edu/nasd> to learn more

# Graduate Awards

## **Eliot J. Swan Prize**

Yahu Cong

The Eliot J. Swan Prize is awarded for the best performance in the first year of the Ph.D. program. It includes a cash component to recognize the discipline and dedication of this achievement. Eliot J. Swan was a graduate student, teaching assistant and instructor in the Department of Economics at UC Berkeley from 1932-1941. He then went on to a career at the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, where he eventually served as President. He retired from the bank in 1972, after 31 years of service.

## **George Break Prize in Public Finance**

Dustin Swonder

The George Break Prize in Public Finance is awarded to a student with outstanding performance in the Public Finance field courses. The prize was established in honor of George Break, a leading figure in public finance and a professor in the Economics Department for 40 years.

## **The Opportunity Lab/Stone Center Award for Excellence in Research on Economic Inequality**

Hadar Avivi

The Opportunity Lab/Stone Center Award for Excellence in Research on Economic Inequality is awarded to recognize graduating students who have produced exceptional work on economic inequality and opportunity through their Dissertation or Senior Honors Thesis. The goal of this award is to encourage and support rigorous, quantitative research on economic inequality and social mobility. The decision is made by faculty members from the Opportunity Lab and the James M. and Catherine D. Stone Center on Wealth and Income Inequality.

## **Public Policy Research Award**

Felipe Lobel

The Public Policy Prize is awarded to a student performing research in Economics relating directly to issues of Public Policy. Typical subjects include (but are not limited to) Public Finance, Regulation, Health, Transportation and Education. The decision is made by the faculty members who specialize in Public Policy.

## **Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Doctoral Dissertation Prize in Development Economics**

Nicholas Swanson

The CEGA Doctoral Dissertation Prize in Development Economics Prize is awarded in recognition of outstanding work or research in Development Economics completed during the academic year. Its goal is to support students in their thesis writing. The decision is made by the faculty members who specialize in Development Economics.

### **2024 Outstanding GSI Award Recipients**

Sarah Baker

Julie Chen

Peter Flo Grinde-Hollevik

Jingwen Hu

Ryan Keane

Junru Lyu

Daniela Paz Cruzat

Sebastián Puerta

Yassine Sbai Sassi

Nachiket Shah

Elaine Shen

Aidan Wang

Jacob Wu

# **Undergraduate Awards**

## **Steve Goldman Memorial Prize and Departmental Citation**

Meiqi Sun

The Steve Goldman Memorial Prize and Departmental Citation is awarded to the top undergraduate student in recognition of outstanding achievement in the Department of Economics. The Goldman Prize Fund was established in memory of Professor Goldman, who joined the Berkeley faculty in 1966. He was a micro-theorist, devoted mentor to many students, and strong supporter of academic excellence.

## **Mark A. Schimbor Award**

Rohan Jha

The Mark A. Schimbor Prize in Economics was established in 2012 in memory of Mark A. Schimbor, who passed away in 2012. Mark earned a degree in Economics with Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of California, Berkeley in 1967. The Mark A. Schimbor Prize in Economics enables the Department to celebrate excellence in the study of Economics, making note of Mark's legacy as an honors student, and recognizing the spirit in which the prize was established. The prize is awarded to the honors student that demonstrates not only academic excellence but also exemplary research abilities. The winner is selected by the Economics Undergraduate Committee based on the outstanding nature of their honors thesis.

## **Thomas E. Bowman Award**

Henry Isselbacher

The Thomas E. Bowman Prize for Student Support in Economics is awarded to the student who has demonstrated not only academic excellence, but has shown an outstanding commitment to contributing to the department, the university, and the community. The award was established in honor of Thomas E. Bowman, who graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in Economics in 1947. The award is funded by the Better Business Bureau of Oakland, in honor of Tom's many years of service.

# **CONFERRAL OF DEGREES**

## **Ph.D. Candidates**

Professor Benjamin Faber

## **B.A. Honors Candidates**

Professor Edward Miguel

Professor Demian Pouzo

## **B.A. Candidates**

Professor Stephen Bianchi

Professor Ryan Edwards

## Ph.D. CANDIDATES

### **Felipe Arteaga**

“Essays on Empirical Market Design”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Handel

### **Hadar Avivi**

“Essays in Intergenerational Mobility and Inequality”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Patrick Kline

### **Martín Caruso Bloeck**

“Essays on Macroeconomic Expectations”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

### **Andrea Cerrato**

“Essays in Empirical Macroeconomics”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emi Nakamura

### **Bryan Paul Chu**

“Essays in Hospital Organization, Infrastructure, and Productivity”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Handel

### **Kevin Dano**

“Essays in Panel Data and Network Econometrics”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Bryan Graham

### **Nicholas Gebbia**

“Essays in Public and Labor Economics”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Patrick Kline

### **Abhi Gupta**

“Essays in Empirical Macroeconomics”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

### **Collin Jones**

“Essays in Financial Economics”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor David Romer

### **Sreeraahul Kancherla**

“Essays in Public and Labor Economics”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emmanuel Saez

**Felipe Lobel**

“Essays in Inequality and Tax Policy”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emmanuel Saez

**Michael Love**

“Essays on the Responses to Taxation by US Firms”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Alan Auerbach

**Joan Jennifer Martínez**

“Essays on Labor Economics, Economics of Education, and Inequality”

Dissertation Advisors: Professor Patrick Kline and Professor Christopher Walters

**Cesia Margarita Sanchez**

“The Effect of Early Economic Conditions on Young Adults’ Transition Into Adulthood, Occupational Characteristics, and Parental Labor Market Outcomes”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jesse Rothstein

**Yassine Sbai Sassi**

“Essays in Network Econometrics”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Bryan Graham

**Nicholas Swanson**

“Essays in Development Economics”

Dissertation Advisors: Professor Supreet Kaur and Professor Edward Miguel

**Andrew Tai**

“Essays in Microeconomic Theory”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Haluk Ergin

**David Qihang Wu**

“Essays in Development Economics”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Edward Miguel

**Kai Zen**

“Essays on Information Frictions in Labor Markets”

Dissertation Advisor: Professor David Card



## **B.A. HONORS CANDIDATES**

### **Melvin George Adams III**

“Racial and Ethnic Differences in Risk Attitudes: The Impact of Stock and Bond Market Experiences on Participation in the United States”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Ulrike Malmendier

### **Jeffrey Ambriz**

“Exploring the Relationship Between Market Capitalization and Employment in the Early 21st Century”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Emi Nakamura

### **Samin Bhalla**

“The Impact of Algorithmic Trading on U.S. Stock Market Volatility”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Demian Pouzo

### **Ria Bhandarkar**

“Gender Neutral Nationalization: The Nitaquat Program’s Effect on Female Employment in Saudi Arabia”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Frederico Finan

### **Nur Marsya Binti Zuhairi**

“Ethnic Dynamics and Economic Outcomes: Malaysian Immigrants in the US”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Ryan D. Edwards

### **Vaidehi Bulusu**

“Estimating the Effect of Development Interventions on Development Outcomes in Kenya”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Marco Gonzales-Navarro

### **Julian Chan**

“Causal Effect of Raising Minimum Wage on Company Stock Prices”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Benjamin Hermalin

### **Yijing Chen**

“Addressing Climate Change: The Green Comparative Advantage and Trade”

Thesis Advisor: Professor David Roland-Holst

**Joshua Choi**

“Inaccuracy in Uncertainty: Evidence from Inflation Forecasters”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

**Laura Costa De Carvalho**

“Economic Shocks and Violent Crime in Rural Brazil: Evidence from the 1989 Witches Broom Pest in Bahia”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Edward Miguel

**Ainslie Deanne Coughran**

“Roll the Dice: The Impact of Risk Tolerance on Consumers’ Financial Recovery from the Great Recession”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Julien Lafortune

**Nick Deng**

“Using Electoral Cycle to Estimate the Impact of Police Funding on Violent Crime Rates in the United States”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Aaron Edlin

**Xiaogeng (Nora) Gong**

“Temporary Employment As A Leading Employment Indicator”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

**Sarah Jane Hager**

“Plugged In: Assessing Economic Incentives and Socioeconomic Factors in Relation to Electric Vehicle Adoption”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Aprajit Mahajan

**Sameen Islam Sakib Islam**

“Shifting Patterns: A Longitudinal Analysis of RMG Employment and Its Relation to Child Education in Bangladesh”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare

**Rohan Jha**

“Surprises and Fan Engagement: Lessons from Reddit”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Stefano DellaVigna

**Jinse Kim**

“The Relationship Between Plant-Based Diets and Mental Health”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Demian Pouzo

**Gunay Kiran**

“Quantifying Residential Water Demand in a Warming World”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Maximilian Auffhammer

**Joshua G. Klein**

“The Growth Equity Response to Monetary Policy Shocks: Evidence from NAM Venture Markets, 2003-2023”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Jón Steinsson

**Jasmine Lee**

“Examining the Impact of Gender, Marital Status, Education, Age and Family Size on Unemployment Examined Between 1971-2000 in Indonesia”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Enrico Moretti

**Carol Li**

“The Direct Impact of Remote Work (WFH) on Employment Patterns: A Shift in Restaurant and Retail Opportunities from Central Cities to Suburban Areas.”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Michael Reich

**Haocheng Li**

“Evaluating the Impact of California’s Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban: An Econometric Analysis of Environmental and Economic Outcomes”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Demian Pouzo

**Ryan Liou**

“Wage Legislation and Labor Markets: An Investigation of Causal Effects and Monopsonistic Considerations”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Michael Reich

**Vidushee Mishra**

“Understanding the Relationship Between Economic Performance and Voter Turnout in the Bay Area”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Gerard Roland

**Pallavi Murthy**

“Amending the Hindu Succession Act: Inheritance Rights Reform and Women’s Education and Employment in India”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Aprajit Mahajan

**Christina Isabel Owen**

“Replicating ‘Coherent Arbitrariness: Stable Demand Curves without Stable Preferences’”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Leif D. Nelson

**Ashley Sonali Pandya**

“Feeding Cycles: An Analysis of the Intersection Between Food Insecurity, SNAP Benefits, and Disordered Eating Behaviors”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Jonathan Kolstad

**Pranav Prabhakaran**

“The Impact of Hosting the Cricket World Cup on a Country’s Foreign Direct Investment Inflows”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Ryan D. Edwards

**Jennifer Ramirez**

“Transforming Education Through Community Schools: Evaluating the Impact of Caseworkers on Youth Violence in the City of San Pablo”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Anibel Ferus-Comelo

**Pietro Riso**

“The Effect of Unemployment Benefits and Nonemployment Durations on Wages”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Enrico Moretti

**James Rooney**

“Inequality Dynamics: The Effect of Monetary and Fiscal Policy Shocks on Wealth Inequality in the United States”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Regis Barnichon

**Timea Alexandra Ryan**

“Unveiling California’s Housing Market Vulnerability: Effects of Wildfires and Insurance Moratoriums”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Reed Walker

**Gian Singh Sandhu**

“Understanding the Effects of Hurricanes on U.S. Banking Resilience: A Localized Analysis”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Supreet Kaur

**Nicolas Issei Sarullo**

“Horizontal Inequalities and Conflict Duration”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

**Anand Shankar**

“U.S. Air Travel and the COVID-19 Pandemic”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Nano Barahona

**Yilin Shi**

“Playing with Emotions: Investigation of How Dynamic Expectation Influence Happiness in Gambling”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Ming Hsu

**Griffin Shufeldt**

“Analyzing The Demand Elasticity of Public Transportation, a Taiwanese Case Study”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Benjamin Faber

**Eaton Marie Chi Sia**

Thesis Advisor: Professor Demian Pouzo

**Gregory Simitian**

“Effects of Macroeconomic Surprises on Digital Assets”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

**Aayush Singh**

“Unions in a Tea Party Era: The Effect of Right-To-Work Laws on the Female Unionization Rate from 2007 to 2019”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Enrico Moretti

**Natania Wong**

“First-generation Immigrants’ Upward Mobility: Exploring the Effects of Language Spoken At Home”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Nano Barahona

**Sophie Xue**

“The Impacts of Pay Transparency Law on the Gender Wage Gap: Evidence from Illinois Public Universities”

Thesis Advisor: Professor Enrico Moretti

## BACHELOR OF ARTS CANDIDATES

Patrick Aboosleiman  
Carolina Accorsi Albaneze  
Ciara Cherise Acosta  
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Cameron Agapito  
Rohan Agarwal  
Varun Agarwal  
Siddhant Agarwal  
Aisha Ahmed  
Tara Ahsan  
Amy Muyan Ai  
Saif Ali  
Abdel Alkam  
Saruul Amarbayar  
Jeffrey Ambriz  
Melissa Mariko Angel  
Sara Arango Gomez  
Awsaf Tamjid Arko  
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Bohan Bai  
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Ella Lura Beberta  
Trey Benedict  
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Zhining Cui  
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Deven Michael Enos  
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Olivia Fong  
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Hari Ganeshan  
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Guramrit Singh Ghoman  
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Yishi Sherry Huang  
Yichia Huang  
Jingrou Joyce Huang  
Joyce J.Y. Huang  
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Henry Francis Isselbacher  
Nikki Iyer  
Sarah Izadi  
Sarah Jeong-Bin Jang  
Daniel Jang  
Rohan Jha  
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Bikramjit Singh Kandola  
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Ethan Liao  
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Tino Jirapat Limkhaewprasert  
Wenxin Lin  
Isaac Rey Chung Lin  
Patrick Ling  
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Dede Liu  
Tiffany Liu  
Huaji Liu  
Stephen Liu  
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Xiaolu Liu  
Yao-Sheng (Justin) Liu  
Junlong Liu

Yingcong Liu  
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Daniel Lopez  
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Cynthia Luo  
Qing Luo  
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Meixin Ma  
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Logan Everson MacKinney  
Shefali Sai Maddali  
Arya Majjiga  
Natalie Elise Malik  
Ava Mann  
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Jahnvi Mehta  
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Yanglingxuan Meng  
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Lucas Mirani  
Vidushee Mishra  
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Sona Mkrтчyan  
Atman Mohanty  
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Ayu Morioka  
Sneha Mukherjee  
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Pallavi Murthy  
Mya Myitzu  
Bryce Daichi Nakahara  
Inhae Nam  
Isabella Nance  
Sukkriti Nath  
Minh P Nguyen  
Emily Thanh Calingo Nguyen  
Jacqueline Que Anh Nguyen  
Anh Thu Thi Nguyen  
Ellen Nguyen  
Phước Hải Nguyễn  
Murdo Alekisio Nicolson  
Roy Numa  
Cristina Ochoa  
Yoobin Oh



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Jashan Singh Pabla  
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Vinaya Parimi  
Catherine Chaewon Park  
Alex SJ Park  
Archer Ming-yan Parry  
Neil Pate  
Samaya Patel  
Aneesh Patel  
Aditya Pattani  
Giacomo Pellegrini  
Logan Sean Pence  
Carolina Pereira Bulcão de Figueiredo  
Vanessa Perez  
Dmitry Pokhilko  
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Pranav Prabhakaran  
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Yunzhe Qian  
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Nikhil Rajagopal  
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Huiyan Ren  
Fernando Rendon Hernandez  
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Pietro Riso  
Olivia Anne Robarts  
Wrenn Marceau Robinson  
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James Rooney  
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Timea Alexandra Ryan  
Tamara Rychkov  
Jason Ryoo  
Bilal Sabry  
Samara Saigal  
Carlos Daniel Salazar  
Veronica Saldarriaga Arango

Cesar Antonio Sanchez  
Gian Singh Sandhu  
Ana Teresa Sannia  
Nicolas Issei Sarullo  
Ichchitaa Sachin Sawrikar  
Ishan Saxena  
Adit Saxena  
Olga Sebastian  
Mansi Seth  
Kwee Velizca Mackenzie Setiawan  
Nathan Setokusumo  
Carolyn Shan  
Anand Shankar  
Coco Sheng  
Yuege Shi  
Jieming Shi  
Yilin Shi  
Griffin Shufeldt  
Eaton Marie Chi Sia  
Ivy Sim  
Gregory Simitian  
Catherine Giovanna Simon  
Jai Singh  
Suryaveer Singh  
Aayush Singh  
Xiaoqiao Situ  
Benny Situ  
Charlotte Elisabeth Röell Smith  
Ethan Brody Smith  
Danielle Sarah Sobkin  
Vrinda Sonkiya  
Kaiden Skye Stanley  
Christian Ryall Stec  
Matthew Walter Stevens  
Jajanai Imani Stradford  
Aiko Sudijono  
Rina Joyce Sulit Velasquez  
Tianyu Sun  
Meiqi Sun  
Xiaojian Sun  
Siqi Tan  
Shuqi Christy Tang  
Yaqian Tang  
Joel Tesfai  
Shucheng Tian  
Lily Halston Tolentino  
Hiroyuki Tominaga  
Paloma Maria Torres  
Elena Tentcheva Toteva  
Rafael Trombini Saviano Teodoro Silva

Dan Truong  
Amanda Tsu-An Tsai  
Yeuk Hin Tse  
Reese Elizabeth Turner  
Taryn Naraea Ustoy  
Maneesh Vallurupalli  
Sadhika Vedurmudi  
Kevin Vega-Guevara  
Rohan Venkateswaran  
Zoë Karen Verma  
Hannah Viller Møller  
Brandon Vong  
Vivian Cao Vu  
Yasunari Wada  
John Wang  
Ning Chuan Wang  
Zerpeng Wang  
Sze Yu Wang  
Bowen Wang  
Nicholas Qin Wang  
Renzhi Wang  
Jane Wang  
Ximiao Wang  
Xiaoyu Wang  
Yuhui Wang  
Ron Yifeng Wang  
Ryan M. Watada  
Lai Wei  
Arianna Joli Weiner  
Izzy Kathryn Weiss  
Romina Weng  
Tyler Whitehead  
Sophia Grace Wiener  
Christian Antonio Pagayon Williams  
Kerry Sin Wong  
Chiu Wing Wong  
Natania Wong  
Xiayi Wu  
Becky Wu  
Qiyao Wu  
Jacob Wu  
Xinran Wu  
Emily Xiao  
Winnie Xiao  
Charlotte Xue  
Sophie Xue  
Ruby Yan  
Cecilia Yu Xi Yang  
Justin Yang  
Max Yang

Sophia Yang  
Tzu Ti Yang  
Aldrich Carl Reyes Yanga  
Gengzhu Yao  
Emily Ye  
Garvin Ye  
Kyaw Swar Ye Myint  
Su Shwe Yee  
Alphonsus Yong  
Jingnan Yu  
Yikang Yu  
Jiahui Yu  
Sherin Yueksel  
Iago Zavala  
Trista Zhang  
Catherine Zhang  
Trista I Zhang  
Mitchell Chen Zhen  
Serena Zheng  
Jayden Zheng  
Qianhao Zhong  
Lydia Zhong  
Ling Zhu  
Lidan Zhu

## **In Memoriam**

“Those we love we never lose,  
For always they will be,  
Loved, remembered, treasured,  
Always in our memory.”

- unknown

## HAIL TO CALIFORNIA

Hail to California,  
Alma mater dear;  
Sing the joyful chorus,  
Sound it far and near.  
Rallying round her banner,  
We will never fail;  
California, alma mater,  
Hail! Hail! Hail!

Hail to California,  
Queen in whom we're blest;  
Spreading light and goodness  
Over all the West.  
Fighting 'neath her standard,  
We shall sure prevail;  
California, alma mater,  
Hail! Hail! Hail!

"Hail to California," composed by Clinton R. "Brick" Morse in 1896

Congratulations to the Class of 2024, and welcome to the global Berkeley Economics Alumni Network. As alumni, you will have access to a wide range of events, networking opportunities, and volunteer roles. To get started, please use the QR codes below to complete your graduating student survey, join our LinkedIn group, and to support the Berkeley Economics class gift. New graduates are able to enjoy the benefits of our annual giving society at a reduced rate, with a wide array of events and volunteer opportunities. Congratulations again and stay in touch.

Please visit the "Alumni" tab on the Berkeley Economics website to learn more. I look forward to seeing you at an alumni event soon.

Congratulations and Fiat Lux!

Andrés Rodríguez-Clare  
Chair, Department of Economics

### Graduate Survey



### LinkedIn Group



### Give to Economics

