ECONOMICS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

**Steve Karson**  
Class of 2012  
Manager, Corporate Finance and Strategic Planning - Lionsgate Entertainment

"Economics is a broad discipline - and the program encouraged me to take a mix of Liberal Arts courses, hard sciences (Math/Computer Science), and business courses (Finance/Accounting). In my own career, I've shifted from software development to consulting to finance. I don't do econometrics on a day-to-day basis, but the program provided a strong foundation that has helped me connect the dots and navigate my career."

**Shantanu Banerjee**  
Class of 2016  
Senior Research Assistant at The U.S. Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington

"UT's Econ program prepared me for where I am now thanks to the broad exposure the program provides to economics, math, and finance. The business-economics option gave me the chance to take accounting and finance coursework without committing to another major."

**Angie Acquatella**  
Class of 2016  
PhD Student in Economics-Harvard

"I started my Economics degree with Intro to Micro in Hamermesh's giant classroom, and in that class, I didn't just find my life's vocation, but I also learned to apply the ideas of Economics to my own life and become the happiest I'd ever been. This happened because I started optimizing in my every day decisions, following the principles in the little "Economics is Everywhere" book we had to read for class. Doing Economics at UT led me to advisors who supported me and believed in me, even when I had nothing to show for myself on my resume."

**Juan Salem**  
Class of 2011  
Strategy and Operations, Lead - Google

"Majoring in Economics at UT provided me with a powerful toolkit for analyzing complex challenges and understanding how the economy operates. As a management consultant I routinely use concepts from Economic statistics, industrial organization, and financial Economics to study business issues and make informed recommendations.

My Economics degree was also really helpful while I was pursuing my MBA those last two years because Economics was the underlying framework for the majority of my strategy, marketing, and finance classes. Overall, majoring in Economics was among the best academic decisions I made while at UT because it provided me with an analytical method that can be applied to a very large number of business situations."
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Mireya Blankenship
Class of 2016
Business Development at Oracle + NetSuite

"The Economics Peer Mentor Program (EPMP) did an amazing job of connecting me to other UT students who had similar interests. The exposure to careers and off-campus experiences is amazing! EPMP helped make my UT experience so much better."

Academic Credentials:
- Intl. Relations and Global Studies Major
- Asian Studies Minor
- Business Foundations Program Certificate
- Global Management Certificate

Campus Involvement:
- Economics Peer Mentor Program Mentor (EPMP)

Internships:
- City of Austin, Economic Development Department
- Global Austin, Trade Intern in Shanghai, China

Austin Porter
Class of 2016
J.D. Candidate - University of Chicago Law School

"Having a strong quantitative background, especially in economics, is very useful in law school. People will be amazed that you can do basic math and use Excel functions. Economics forces you to think logically and systematically, which is very important in law school. It is also useful to be able to point out flaws in statistically-based arguments."

Academic Credentials:
- Plan II Major
- Accounting Minor

Campus Involvement:
- Liberal Arts Council
- Vice President of Omicron Delta Epsilon
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Dallas Fed Economics Scholars Program

Internships:
- Interned at Liberty Mutual Insurance
- Interning at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York

Graduate Program:
- University of Chicago Law School, J.D. Candidate, Class of 2019 (Focusing on Corporate Law)

Austin Curley
Class of 2015
Investment Banking Analyst (M&A Industrials) - Perella Weinberg Partners

"The economics program at Texas was invaluable in teaching me an alternative perspective on finance that is applicable every day in my position. It has been a differentiator against my peers that mostly studied finance and accounting. Economics teaches a perspective that differs from what they teach in business school, and helps me to add value on projects."

Academic Credentials:
- Business Economics Option Program (BEP) Finance & Accounting

Campus Involvement:
- Delta Tau Delta (Recruitment Chair & New Member Coordination)

Internships:
- Perella Weinberg Asset Management Division
- Vida Capital
- TraceCircle Dallas

Graduate Program:
- MS Finance, Vanderbilt University – Owen Graduate School of Management

Fahad Nadeem
Class of 2016
Financial Analyst - AIG

"Economics coursework is generally abstract, although with some exceptions. Still, don’t discount the value of abstract courses - they teach you how to think. While most of my coursework isn’t directly relevant to my day-to-day job, I certainly reason through issues and solutions differently than I did before going through my degree. Beyond that, economics coursework helps you develop a great mix of quantitative and writing skills - it’s not a pure math degree and not a pure liberal arts degree, but a bit of both. If you take the time to understand what you are learning and why you are memorizing what you’re being asked to memorize, you will get a lot out of this major. You’ll start to notice what you’ve learned show up in conversations about current events, and you’ll better understand the world around you. On a more applicable level - UT requires its economics majors to take econ stats and econometrics. You will learn a lot about regression analysis, and this has shown up in my job - it is constantly growing in importance across so many industries, so pay extra attention in those classes."

Academic Credentials:
- Mathematics Major
- Economics Honors Thesis

Internships:
- Corporate Finance, American International Group

More Spotlights can be found at http://sites.utexas.edu/ecoadvising/career/#AlumniSpotlights