It is with great pleasure that the Department of Economics of Beloit College salutes its graduating class of 2015. We have watched this outstanding group of students develop their abilities during their time at Beloit College. We predict that these collegiate achievements will be matched by success in careers, graduate school and community leadership. We wish our new alumni all the success in the world as we look forward to a long continuing relationship with them.

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Professors Jeff Adams, Shatanjaya Dasgupta, Bob Elder, Laura Grube, Arielle John, Warren Palmer, Diep Phan
# Departmental Awards

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Note to Readers:

We hope you enjoy getting to know our Econ Seniors "in their own words". We celebrate their unique and authentic voices.

~The Editor

Zedal Araia

Will Brennan (River Forest, IL) is a Business Economics major. During his Beloit career he especially enjoyed his classes with Bob Elder and Pat Polley, specifically Money and Banking and Pacific War: Interactive Approach. After attending a private Catholic school his freshman year, he was quick to acknowledge the vast cultural differences at Beloit during his sophomore year. Will is looking forward to returning to the Chicago land area where he plans to day-trade as well as sell real estate.

Madeline Carpenter (Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa) graduated in December 2014 with a degree in Economics, and is now working as a Graduate Business Analyst with Aberdeen Asset Management. A Minnesota native, Beloit offered Maddie the opportunity to question her world-view both within the classroom and with respect to everyday life. Her involvement in organizations such as CELEB, the Beloit Public Health Initiative, Cross Country, and Kappa Delta Sorority allowed her to gain confidence in her leadership abilities, and emphasized the importance of collaboration within communities and groups for success. In particular, the economics department at Beloit played an integral role in her college experience. She would like to thank all of her professors and fellow students for inspiring her to challenge herself every day, and providing an environment of support as she discovered where her passions lie. She plans to continue to use her liberal arts education as she pursues a career as a financial analyst.

Maggie Cress (Gunnison, Colorado) is a double major in International Political Economy and Sociology. During her time at Beloit, Maggie has had the opportunity to pursue her interest in research completing research projects in both of her majors. In the summer of 2014, Maggie had the opportunity to conduct field work in Mai Chau, Vietnam where she studied Community Based Tourism with a student-faculty research team under the guidance of Professor Diep Phan. Other memorable experiences include her work as a senior manager in Belmark Associates, participation in the Duffy Community Partnerships, studying abroad in Mexico in the spring of 2014 and her four years of membership on the varsity cross country and track teams. Maggie will move to Boston for the summer of 2015 to work in the Economic Analysis branch of the Environmental Defense Fund. Maggie is deeply grateful for the mentorship and generosity of Beloit College faculty and staff, especially the economics and sociology faculty who have acted as both official and unofficial advisors, and her cross country coach, David Eckburg, whose support of her Beloit career has extended far beyond athletic practices.

Wenlin Dou

Zachary Draus, from Oak Park, Illinois, is graduating with a degree in Economics. During the fall of 2015 he will begin a career at Ameriprise Financial serving as an Associate Financial Advisor through a program called Advisors Ahead and working to obtain his CFP. His inspiration to become a financial planner came from taking Warren Palmer’s Life & Financial Planning class, which teaches students how to begin planning for their financial future. Zachary wishes to take this acquired knowledge and provide the necessary tools and knowledge for individuals to prepare them for their financial future. Throughout his time at Beloit, Zachary participated on the football team for three years and was awarded with Rookie of the Year and a Weight room Captain, and served as
treasurer for the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Zachary’s grown to understand that everything he has done here at Beloit has impacted him in some profound way that can be carried with him for the rest of his life. Experiences such as working in Middle College under the Vice President of Finance and as an international student tax preparer have assisted his future endeavors and provided great hands on experience. In the fall of 2014, he was awarded the David S. McConnell Scholarship for his Sigma Chi and economic coursework achievements.

Jonathon Hammon (Janesville, Wisconsin) is a major in International Political Economy with a minor in Chinese Language. His postgraduate plans involve a master’s international degree program at Western Colorado State concerning Environmental Management with a focus on Sustainable Development and Resilient Communities. The completion of which will include volunteering for the Peace Corps in order to conduct masters research in his host community. He hopes that his current plans will eventually lead him into the State Department or the UN to take part in international diplomacy work. As a Beloiter, Jon has traveled to China and Vietnam. Most recently, in Vietnam, he researched the effects of community based tourism on sustainable development. Immediately after graduation he is set to travel to China again with Beloit faculty, in an effort to set up a short term study abroad program with a Chinese University. Jon would like to thank Beloit for giving him the spirit of a vagabond, “We travel not to escape life but so that life does not escape us.”-Anonymous

Kejia Hu (Chengdu, China) will graduate in December 2015 with a double major in Economics and Mathematics and a minor in Anthropology. She was inspired by Professor Laura Grube to combine two internships both in China and in the U.S. in one summer as one unique summer internship experience and was awarded the Jed Rhoads Internship Award from the department. She will be a marketing intern with CUNA Mutual Group in Madison during summer 2015 and is seeking marketing related job after graduation in the winter. An honoree of the Dean's list for all three years, she has also been elected to honor societies the Mortar Board. She has also worked for Beloit College as a T.A., Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Senior Survey analyst and will be the Admission Intern starting Fall 2015. She has also been the president of Korea Club for one and half year. She wants to thank the faculty in the Econ Department for their great classes, support, and guidance.
John Jefferys-White, a senior from Arden Hills, Minnesota, pursued an economics major during his time at Beloit College. He is currently on the career search, and is interviewing with firms such as Houghton Mifflin in the marketing department. Although he has some interesting career leads, he has yet to find a path that will appease his dream of achieving world peace. He will be moving to Chicago this summer. John was a member of the Frisbee team during his first three years, and then the track team during his senior year. He is the founder and current president of the Beloit Economic and Business Development Association (BEBDA), and the Economics Editor for the Beloit Undergraduate Review Journal. He was also a student senator for the Beloit Student Congress, and staff writer for the Round Table. John is a pretty cool guy, and is happy to have had such a great experience at Beloit College. He would like to thank his friends and professors for helping him learn and grow during his time here.

Dongping Jing (Tianjin, China), a double major in Economics and International Relations and Mathematics minor, will be joining the research team of Professor John List at the University of Chicago. During her time at Beloit, she has been given the opportunities to take on challenging tasks and responsibilities as well as to explore her various interests. She has grown immensely during her college life and the economics department at Beloit College has contributed a great amount to this growth. She is especially grateful for all the help and mentorship that she gets from Professor Jeff Adams and the great lectures from Professor Bob Elder. She has taken a lot of roles on campus, Co-Manager of the Belmark Associates, Residential Assistant, Senior Admissions Intern, Teaching Assistant, and Chair of the Model UN Club. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and the Pi Sigma Alpha honor societies. She has also received the Elaine and Les McAllister Award in Economics, Weissburg Human Rights Scholarship, and other funding scholarships from the LAPC, which funded her past summer internships and research projects.

Zoë Kent (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), a major in Business Economics, is excited to have an offer to join a prominent marketing analytics firm in Chicago upon graduation. During her time at Beloit, she has acted as a permanent overnight host for prospective students, a tour guide, student assistant to the Economics Department, and a community partner intern through the Duffy program with the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of Mortar Board Senior Honor Society. Zoë has grown in her time at Beloit, has made lifelong friends, and has learned a lesson: Sometimes it takes four years to get to know yourself. A sincere thank you to her professors in the department.

Yeji Lee (Summa Cum Laude, PBK member, Seongnam, South Korea), a major in Business Economics, will be joining Kerry Group PLC, a global food, food ingredients and flavours company based in Tralee, Ireland, as a Market Research Analyst upon graduation. Yeji did an internship at Kerry MRCI (Market Research and Consumer Insights) last summer. During her time as a Beloiter, Yeji has kept busy by involving herself in a number of co-curricular activities as well as off-campus internships. She was awarded an Honors Term for spring semester 2015, Yeji served as an institutional research and assessment analyst at the Beloit College Office of Institutional Research. Of most recent, Yeji also served as a leader of Intervarsity Christian Club, student representative on the Economics Department Search Committee, and a market research analyst intern at Kerry North America HQ office as a continuation of her summer internship. Yeji was nominated and selected to participate in fully funded job shadow experience at Charles Schwab headquarters in San Francisco during her sophomore year. Her other activities during her time at Beloit include serving as a class representative in...
Beloit Student Congress, conducting Korean language classes for three semesters, and helping international students on campus preparing tax returns. Yeji fully embraced a liberal arts education by exposing herself in various fields of subjects including anthropology, philosophy, economics, history, international relations, French, music, and art, since that is what she has perceived as the duty of a liberal arts college student. Her favorite non-Economic classes include political theory classes with Jill Budny, logic with Gene Miller, programming with Steve Huss-Lederman, writing classes with Chuck Lewis, the Duffy Partnerships with Carol Wickersham and a number of philosophy classes. Yeji is also a violinist. She loves playing violin and played violin in Beloit College Orchestra and Beloit College String Quartet.

Mengde (Harley) Liu (Beijing, China), pursued double majors in Economics and Mathematics. He is going to the Applied Economics Ph.D. program at Tulane University in New Orleans. Between May to July, he will go back China and help his father with business. In his last four years, he is grateful to his academic as well as FYI advisor, Professor Jeff Adams. Many people in this department are afraid of Professor Adams, but Harley thinks Professor Adams as his friend more than a professor since they first met in the fall 2011. Adams has been giving a lot of great advice to Harley, includes recommending him to the Ph.D. program, in addition to many other great advice. He will always be proud of being his advisee. Professor Adams is also going to retire from teaching this year, and Harley wants to send great wishes to this lovely professor. They will be friends forever. He also wants to thank Professor Bob Elder. He will never forget taking Principles of Economics with Professor Elder in his first semester at college. Bob’s amazing lecture made Harley decide to major in Economics. Professor Elder also wrote the recommendation letter for Harley to the graduate school. He also wants to thank Professor Diep Phan and Professor Warren Palmer, they all have mentored him to become a successful graduate student. There is not enough space here for him to express all his appreciations to this great department and these lovely faculties. The college life has influenced him a lot, and these people will be his best mentors forever. Best regards.

Minh Nguyen Huu (Warsaw, Poland) is graduating with a major in Business Economics and a minor in Philosophy. He is currently exploring career opportunities in financial industry and plans to go back to Warsaw the year after graduation. During his four years at Beloit College, he actively participated in a number of student-run club organizations; he was a Secretary of the International Club, a Co-Founder and Treasurer of Wealth Gap Club, a Secretary of Spanish House, a captain of IM Volleyball, IM Basketball, and IM Soccer teams. He enjoyed interacting with people from different backgrounds and learning about different perspectives on the topics of wealth inequality, cultures, identity, and mindfulness. He feels extremely grateful to Beloit College for all the challenges and opportunities that helped him grow as person and become a more responsible individual. Thanks to Beloit, he developed intellectual curiosity, work ethic, and courage to pursue his passions. He made sure not to remain passive during summers and was fortunate enough to complete internships at two major Polish banks and at a major Vietnamese IT outsourcing company. He enjoys traveling, so he also decided to intern as an AIESEC exchange trainee at NGOs in Mumbai and Buenos Aires. He would like to extend thanks to Economics Department for all the wonderful learning opportunities and networking events.

Michelle (Yixuan) Ping (Dalian, China), is graduating with a double major in Economics and Mathematics. Throughout the three and half years she spent at Beloit, Michelle kept herself busy with her coursework and an internship at the Vice President Office for
Finance and Planning. She has received the Warden Family endowed internship and been exposed to a policy world. Looking forward, she is still exploring her fields of interest, and hoping to meet every challenge with joy. Michelle is extremely grateful to all the faculty and would especially like to thank her advisor Bob Elder, her best professor friend Laura Grube, the Upton Forum star Warren Palmer, and the “stick” but nice Jeff Adams, for their generous help during all her time at Beloit.

Pilivesburg Salanoa (Pago Pago, American Samoa), a major in Business Economics, plans to enjoy his summer traveling to different islands in the South Pacific, and will return to American Samoa to work for the Department of Commerce. He is currently applying to be an officer candidate for the United States Marines Corps, and he hopes to be commissioned as a second lieutenant two years from now. During his time at Beloit College, Pilivesburg was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and was a cofounder and vice president of the Business Economics and Development Administration. He is very grateful to the Economics Department faculty for their support and guidance, especially Warren Palmer and Marta Podemska-Mikluch.

Yinan Wan, a Business Econ major student, has been growing tremendously in his past four years of experience at Beloit. He wants to offer his special thanks to all professors in the Econ department. He plans to go to California and then moves on to graduate school. Well, in fact, he has no idea where he is heading, which is the fun part. Life is full of uncertainty, for that he always appreciates, not only for what he had, but what he has and will have.

Minyue Xu

Wenxin Xu is a double major in Economics and Education and Youth Studies. She will move to New York in the fall to pursue a master degree in Economics and Education at Columbia University Teachers College.

During her time at Beloit College, she made the Dean’s List every semester, and became an elected member of Phi Beta Kappa Society. In her third year, Wenxin was fortunate enough to go back to Beijing, China and did a research project in her high school for a semester. During the recent summer, she went to Vietnam with Professor Diep Phan and three other Beloit College students to conduct economic research there. Wenxin would like to extend her deepest thanks to the Economic Department Faculty for their supporting and dedication to her development. She would like to specially thank Diep Phan for giving her great opportunities and advice. She would also like to thank Warren Palmer and Bob Elder for always giving her support and guidance.

Chensihui (Cecilia) Yan (Changchun, China) is graduating with a major in Business Economics. After graduation, she plans to apply for the OPT and find a job related to accounting. In the meanwhile, she will not give up pursuing higher degree. She anticipates to apply for graduate school and keep her studying in Accounting field one year after graduation. During her four years at Beloit College, she made the Dean's List several times. And due to her high enthusiasm and outstanding performance of learning Japanese language, she was invited by the Beloit College Chapter of Phi Sigma lota. Cecilia wants to say thanks to all the professors of Economics Department, especially Professor Warren Bruce Palmer, her advisor, for providing her with a good education experience, building up her confidence and stimulating her interest in economics.

Kevin Zenn (Vernon Hills, Illinois) is graduating with a Business Economics major and Spanish minor. He plans to move back home and pursue banking or marketing positions. He is particularly grateful for the opportunities received his senior year, where in the Fall semester he was an assistant to the VP of HR & Operations and in the Spring
semester was an intern at Kerry Group as part of the Duffy Partnership. Kevin also became a member of the Phi Sigma Iota Honor Society and enjoyed helping international students with their tax returns for two seasons. After taking his first Economics class on a whim, his interest in the subject grew exponentially; he appreciates all the challenges, guidance, and encouragement that his professors have given him in addition to the maximum precision that accompanies Bob’s lectures.

Haoda Zhong (Beijing, China) pursued majors in Economics and Biochemistry. He plans to stay in Beloit area and pursue a career in the Pharmaceutical field. He is a proud brother of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. During his four years at Beloit College, Haoda received the Stafford C. Whitehorse Memorial Endowed Scholarship twice. Haoda wants to thank all his professors and peers who helped him along the way to graduation.