



DEPARTMENT *of*
ECONOMICS



COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY

2026

2026

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

University of Michigan

APRIL 30, 2026 | 6:00 PM | CRISLER CENTER

333 E. Stadium Boulevard
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

PROCESSION OF GRADUATES

WELCOME

Mel Stephens

Professor of Economics

Interim Chair of Economics

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

J. Patrick Doyle

Executive Chairman

Restaurant Brands International (RBI)

AWARDS & HONORS

Presentation of the Jim Adams Award
for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Presentation of Undergraduate Award Recipients

Presentation of Undergraduate Honors Candidates

DEGREE CANDIDATES

Doctoral Degree Candidates

Master of Applied Economics Candidates

Bachelor's Degree Candidates

FAREWELL

Professor Mel Stephens

FACULTY RECESSIONAL

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS SPEAKER



J. Patrick Doyle

*Executive Chairman
Restaurant Brands International (RBI)*

Mr. Doyle (A.B. Economics, '85) has served as Executive Chair of the Board of Restaurant Brands International (RBI) since January 2023 and was appointed Executive Chairman of RBI in November 2022. Most recently, he served as an executive partner focused on the consumer sector of the Carlyle Group, a global diversified investment firm, from September 2019 through November 2022.

Prior to that, he served as the chief executive officer of Domino's Pizza from March 2010 to June 2018, having served as president from 2007 to 2010, as executive vice president of Domino's Team USA from 2004 to 2007, and as executive vice president of Domino's Pizza International from 1999 to 2004. Mr. Doyle has served on the board of directors of Best Buy Co., Inc. since November 2014 and has been the Chairman of Best Buy's board since May 2020. Mr. Doyle earned his M.B.A. from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business and his B.A. from the University of Michigan.

JIM ADAMS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Dr. Asenka (Asja) Asenova

Dr. Asja Asenova, Lecturer IV, joined the Department of Economics in 2015, teaching several undergraduate courses in statistics and econometrics. She currently teaches several core courses in probability theory and statistical inference, and econometrics, at both undergraduate and master's levels. Asja also serves as an undergraduate advisor for the Economics major and is a member of the Master of Applied Economics program committee.

Students consistently describe Asja as a truly outstanding instructor who combines expertise with genuine kindness. They praise how exceptionally clear, patient, and well-paced her teaching is, noting that she has a gift for making even challenging econometrics/statistics concepts feel approachable. Many highlight how impressively prepared and organized she is, how engaging and thoughtfully structured her lectures and discussions are, and how helpful her examples and real-world connections are. Just as importantly, students emphasize that she is approachable and highly supportive, leaving them feeling encouraged, cared for, and set up to succeed.

Asja earned her Ph.D. in Economics, specializing in labor economics and econometrics, from Michigan State University in 2015. She also holds a master's degree in economics from the Central European University and an M.B.A. from the University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria. Her research interests lie in the intersection of the labor and health economics fields.

The Jim Adams Undergraduate Excellence Fund supports and promotes excellence in undergraduate teaching, education, and program administration—including this teaching award in Professor Jim Adams' name and honor. The Department expresses its gratitude to all contributors to the Fund and congratulates Asja Asenova for her excellent leadership and service to our students.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

FERRANDO HONORS PRIZE

for the best graduating honors student in economics

Jack Handzel

Brady Nichols

Avani Singireddy

Jia Hui Samantha Vun

Dejia Zhu

HAROLD D. OSTERWEIL MEMORIAL PRIZE

for the most outstanding academic record and the
greatest social awareness

Isabella Horvers

Quentin King

Brady Nichols

Claire Rock

Jia Hui Samantha Vun

JOHN ELLIOT PARKER MEMORIAL PRIZE

for outstanding written contribution to labor economics
or human resources

Brady Nichols



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

SIMS HONOR SCHOLARSHIP

for students with outstanding academic records after their junior year

Sarah Fares

SERVICE AWARD

for exemplary contributions to undergraduate life in the Department of Economics

Avani Singireddy

HENRY CARTER ADAMS PRIZE

for excellence in undergraduate writing

Mary Carnell

Olivia Knapp

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS CANDIDATES

HIGHEST HONORS

Jack Handzel
Brady Nichols
Avani Singireddy
Jia Hui Samantha Vun
Dejia Zhu

HIGH HONORS

James Choi
Guoxin Ding
Sarah Fares
Alexander Gordon
Isaac Hintz
Dishita Mansukhani
Zachary Weissman
Ningyun Xie
Ziang Zhao

HONORS

Duncan Beecroft
Shaoteng Ke
Lauren Young-In Kim
Oluwadamola Olaiya

DOCTORAL DEGREE CANDIDATES

Peter Choi

Essays in Business Taxation

Zoey Chopra

Essays on Patient, Provider, and Policy

Alvin Christian

Essays on Education Policy and Domestic Violence

Alexander Fertig

Three Essays in Development Economics

Ana Paula Franco Carruitero

Essays on Taxation in Developing Countries

Luciana Galeano

Essays in Public Economics and Inequality

Erin Gibson

Essays in International Macroeconomics

Chandler Inman

Child Allocation and Public Policy: Essays in the Economics of Adoption and Foster Care

Razi Iqbal

Essays in International Economics

DOCTORAL DEGREE CANDIDATES

Andrew Joung

Essays on Labor Markets, Health, and the Family

Tammy Sunju Lee

Essays in Labor Economics: Fertility, Beliefs, and Workplace Policies

Xiaomeng Li

Essays in the Economics of Human Capital and Gender

Nelson Ayrton Oviedo Soria

Essays on the Industrial Organization of Higher Education

Mary Angela Quiroga

Essays in Public and Environmental Economics

Jiaming Soh

Essays on Government Procurements, Entrepreneurship and Labor Markets

David Van Dijke

Distributions & Discontinuities

Esteban Verdugo Pedreros

Essays in Macroeconomics

Clay Wagar

Essays on Financial Economics

DOCTORAL DEGREE CANDIDATES

Germano Wallerstein Ferreira Gomes

Essays on International Economics

Candice Wei Wang

Essays in Industrial Organization

Eva Yiyun Wang

Essays on Corrective Taxes and Subsidies

Yuyao Wu

Essays on International Economics and Finance

Meifeng Yang

Essays on Economic Security of Older Americans

Niaoniao You

*Essays on Household Demographics and the Economics
of Decarbonization*

Qinyue Zhou

Essays on Applied Microeconomics and Banking

Xinrui Zhou

Essays on Inflation, Supply Chains, and Global Macroeconomics

MASTER OF ARTS - APPLIED ECONOMICS CANDIDATES

Zihe Ban

Ching-Hao Chang

Dionisius Andre Kusuma Dewa

Qilin Feng

Xiangyu Gao

Zexu Gu

Hankun Huang

Jiayi Huang

Yue Li

Yicen Liu

Xingyue Ming

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Pamnani, Shriya	Pfeffer, Parker
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Pandola-Goldstein, Thomas Guy	Pindiprolu, Devan
Panos, Stavros William	Piwko, Annika Marie
Parento, Jack	Ploch, Emma Grace
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Tse, Tsz Hang Arthur	Wang, Haoyu
Tucci, Francesca	Wang, Irene
Tungate, Keagan A	Wang, Ivan
Turner, Grant Marcus	Wang, Joy
Ugolnik, Marcin Robert	Wang, Ruilin
Ulusarac, Selin Bircan	Wang, Yiwen
Vaccaro, Brett Mathew	Wang, Zijing
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Xie, Ningyun	Zhu, Edgar
Xiong, Liangzhe	Zhu, Xuezhen
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Yaldoo, George	Zimlich, Mary Elizabeth
Yates, Victoria	Zitzman, Jack Perry
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Yeatman, Kieran Dooley	Zugay, Abigail Lynn
Yeung, Eric J	Zybin, Fedor



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